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SHELTON *Life*

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

JUNE 2016
VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2



JUNE ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

Welcome from the Editor



On what publication could you find a police dog named "Stryker" but on the front cover of *Shelton Life*! We are honoring the Shelton Police Department for their dedication in serving the residents of Shelton and especially Officer Dan Loris for training Stryker. Now, if only Stryker could be taught how to drive! This is also the issue we highlight the Art Contest that showcases the talent of our students and leadership of the art teachers in our Shelton Schools, led by Art Chairperson Ellen Cox.

Fred Ruggio
Editor

Shelton Life Community & Business News

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A Greeting from the Mayor



Dear Shelton Residents and Businesses:

Welcome to our second edition of *Shelton Life* for 2016.

Shelton Life continues to be the best source of up to date business and city news delivered free of charge to our residents and businesses. We have an energetic Shelton Life Committee, led by Economic Development Commission Chair Fred Ruggio, that insures each story meets the highest standards and is interesting, timely, and educational.

A family friendly cover features one of our star city team members, your children will love it! You will be introduced to "Stryker" and his many talents.

I am pleased to note the Brownfields update that is included in this edition from a conference held in Hartford on May 17th. Shelton was featured and noted as one of the first Connecticut communities to embrace the Smart Growth principles associated with the reclamations of vacant, abandoned, and contaminated sites. We were able to provide wonderful before and after examples of the significant impact we have undertaken on your behalf in downtown. I attended with SEDC Chair William Partington, and Jimmy Ryan and Paul Grimmer of the SEDC staff. Paul will be assuming Jimmy's responsibilities later this summer when he retires and we feature Paul in one of our Shelton Life Articles.

The balance of this edition does a splendid job with a feature on the Trails Committee's "marathon," and of special note a detailed report on the Valley Community Foundation's grant making results this year. The VCF as you know has become the focal point for long term Shelton and Valley philanthropic efforts and our local residents and former residents of the Valley have helped grow the Valley Community Foundation's family of funds to over \$20 million in only ten years. Team work rules the day in Shelton and the Valley.

In closing I offer my annual tip of the hat to all of Shelton's highly talented volunteers. The volunteers insure that Shelton's quality of life is the highest of priorities.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton



The Balanced Plan for Shelton's Future
Vision to See, Faith to Believe, Courage to Do...

© Michael Connolly, "The Closers"

Shelton Economic Development Corporation Hires New President

The Shelton Economic Development Corporation's Chairman, William Partington, announced that Paul J. Grimmer, a Shelton resident, will be appointed as the next President of the Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) after incumbent Jimmy Ryan retires in early August this year.

Mr. Grimmer began his work on May 2, 2016 as Vice President of the SEDC and will work under the supervision of Jimmy Ryan for 90 days to bring him up to speed



Paul J. Grimmer

with the many programs that the Corporation administers. Mr. Grimmer will assume the title of President after Mr. Ryan's official day of retirement.

The SEDC feels confident that under Paul's leadership the proud legacy of achievement working with

Mayor Mark Lauretti and the City of Shelton on the complex issues associated with downtown redevelopment will continue to move forward without any interruption.

Mr. Grimmer added "Stepping into this new position with the Shelton Economic Development Corporation is incredibly exciting and a challenge I gladly accept." Grimmer started his career as an intern with the SEDC in May of 1987 while attending Pennsylvania State University. "I wish to thank the SEDC's Board of Directors, their Chairman William Partington, Mayor Mark Lauretti and Jimmy Ryan for their confidence in granting me this opportunity to serve my hometown."



Mr. Grimmer has served as the Executive Director of the Orange Economic Development Corporation since September 2001. "My life has come full circle. I grew up fishing along the Housatonic River and hung out on the very streets that I now have a chance to revitalize. My parents and grandparents worked in many of these factories. It is all very nostalgic," Grimmer added.

Jimmy Ryan stated "Paul Grimmer is the right man at the right time with all of the skills and enthusiasm necessary to maintain the Shelton Economic Development Corporation's tradition of core values that lead to success." Mr. Ryan also noted that "Paul is a man of integrity and ethics that are fundamental to the public responsibilities associated with the position," and it is "a pleasure to pass the baton to Paul." ♦



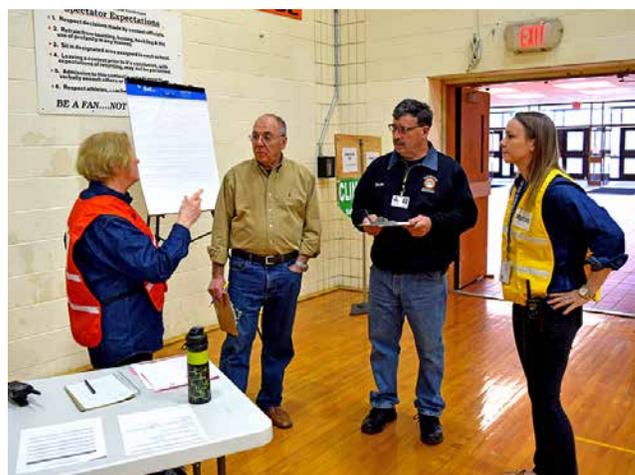
(l to r) Incoming SEDC President Paul Grimmer, SEDC President Jimmy Ryan and SEDC Chair William Partington

Naugatuck Valley Health District Hosts Mass Dispensing Exercise

The Naugatuck Valley Health District (NVHD) participated in an Emergency Preparedness Medical Countermeasures exercise the week of April 11-15, 2016. Staff were provided two classroom training sessions and participated in planning and briefing meetings leading up to the functional exercise on Thursday April 14, 2016. The purpose of the exercise was to test the District's ability to order, receive, and distribute medications from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in the event of a public health emergency.

The exercise was part of a statewide medical countermeasure exercise that was conducted concurrently and sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response. An infectious disease outbreak that required mass dispensing of certain medications was simulated. The exercise tested the effectiveness of the state and local emergency response system, including communications, resource allocation, and overall response coordination, in the event of an infectious disease outbreak such as pandemic influenza. NVHD response plans are compliant with the National Management Systems (NIMS), follow an Incident Command System (ICS) structure and are updated annually to ensure accurate and updated information.

NVHD staff practiced logistic operations through setting up one point of dispensing (POD) clinic site.



(left to right) Karen Spargo, NVHD Director of Health, Michael Maglione, Shelton Director of Public Safety & Emergency Management Services, Tom Eighmie, Seymour Emergency Management Director, and Jessica Stelmaszek, NVHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Naugatuck Valley Medical Reserve Corps Unit Leader.

Medical countermeasures were delivered to an off-site location by the CT Department of Public Health where receiving, storing, and staging was tested. Actual throughput of the medical countermeasures was not tested by NVHD. The exercise was observed and evaluated by the Emergency Management Directors of Shelton and Seymour. Following the exercise, NVHD hosted a hot wash, an immediate after-action meeting where the participants shared their perspectives on key strengths and areas for improvement.

NVHD will be conducting two more functional or full-scale exercises throughout its jurisdiction (Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour & Shelton) by the year 2020.

If you are interested in volunteering at future NVHD emergency preparedness activities, please visit the Naugatuck Valley Medical Reserve Corps website www.nvmrc.com for more information. No medical background is required.

For questions regarding Public Health Emergency Preparedness, please contact NVHD Public Health and Emergency Preparedness and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, Jessica Stelmaszek at 203-881-3255 or jstelmaszek@nvhd.org.



Jessica Stelmaszek provides NVHD staff with Just-in-Time training prior to the start of the exercise.

Center Stage Theatre Receives Support from the Great Give®

The Great Give® is the annual online giving event on giveGreater.org, a local resource for learning and introduced locally in 2010 by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to increase philanthropy in the Greater New Haven region of South Central Connecticut as well as the Lower Naugatuck Valley. The Valley Community Foundation promotes this campaign to all valley non-profits, and this year Center Stage Theatre walked away a winner raising close to \$50,000.



Fran and Gary Scarpa

Center Stage Theatre founders Gary and Fran Scarpa attribute their organization's success in The Great Give to their "community spirit" which goes into all of their productions.

"All of us together can accomplish great things and everyone that participated or donated in the Great Give contributes towards that goal," said Fran Scarpa. "Our regular customers at Center Stage know when this fundraiser is happening each year and understand how important it is to us. Our philosophy has always been to let the organization stand on its own, here we are and this is what we do. Bring your kids and if you enjoy it, then help support."

The official numbers haven't been released yet, but according to Gary Scarpa, Center Stage collected nearly \$50,000 in the form of more than 500 donations. Scarpa said the organization could earn extra prize money as the fundraising event also has some competitive aspects to it.

In 2014 Center Stage earned additional prize money

for having the second most donors out of all the non-profits, and in 2015 they earned extra prize money for having the most money raised out of all the non-profits.

"Our customers really want us to continue doing what we are doing and it shows each year when The Great Give comes around," said Gary Scarpa. "People don't always want to drive to New York or New Haven. We're local and high quality and residents want us to keep going."

With the success and awareness this campaign has brought to Center Stage three years in a row, the Scarpas remain humble and said the money goes towards producing more of the work the community has enjoyed over the years.

"Our tagline is 'building community one performance at a time,'" said Gary Scarpa. "As this business evolved, at first, we were hesitant to even use the term "community theater" because it can have a negative connotation, even though there is some great community theater going on around the state. We eventually came up with the concept of building community one performance at a time by building confidence in kids and also by allowing senior citizens to come see a show locally for a price they can afford."

The Scarpas and Center Stage staff are really a tight knit family. "We have a certain gift to make everything here a family experience. We're here at every show and our patrons appreciate that we are on that friendly basis with them. When they feel comfortable, they usually come back," said Gary Scarpa. "We are community theater at its best," said Fran Scarpa. "We couldn't do it without them. We really take all of the support we receive to heart."

Center Stage's Youth CONNecTion, a group of actors consisting of high school and college age students, will present "In the Heights" this summer.

For more information on upcoming productions or how to get involved with Center Stage Theatre call (203) 225-6079, visit their website at centerstageshelton.org or email Gary Scarpa at garyscarpa@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all those involved. Bravo!

Excerpts reprinted with the kind permission of the Shelton Herald Editor, Aaron Berowitz.

Valley Community Foundation Grants Support Local Programs



Over 200 people recently attended the Annual Meeting of the Valley Community Foundation ("VCF") held on April 28th at Brownson Country Club. The support of the VCF and the support of the Valley's nonprofits continues to grow. Recently, through its Community Grants Program, over \$27,000 was awarded to the Valley's nonprofits. Thirteen community groups serving the Valley will receive grants supporting museum exhibitions, food distribution to families in need, the hearing impaired and tours of college campuses.

"VCF is proud to support these 13 organizations with nearly \$30,000 in Community Grants," said Sharon Closius, President and CEO of the Valley Community Foundation. "Community Grants are responsive to groups that are volunteer or nonprofit in nature with very limited staffing, capacity and serve our five-town region. Using this grant support, these small dedicated organizations can work on issues that make a big difference in our community."

Listed below are this year's recipients:

Annual Thanksgiving

To support the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items for distribution of Thanksgiving baskets to fifty families in need. \$2,000

City of Derby, Youth Service Bureau

To support "Before You Text," a new sexting prevention curriculum for Derby middle and high school students. \$2,500

College Access for All Kids, Inc.

To support access to colleges, universities and other higher education possibilities to middle and high school students in Ansonia and Derby. \$2,500



House of Prayer

To support the distribution of food and clothing in the Valley. \$1,550

Kidnetic Clubhouse

To support the purchase of a Kids' Corsair to serve as a mobile exhibit at various community events, fairs and festivals. The Corsair is scheduled to become a permanent exhibit in the Kidnetic Clubhouse once a final location has been selected. \$2,500

Restoring Hope Ministry

To promote family-focused activities and experiences designed to build strong bonds and relationships. \$2,100

Seymour Soccer Association

To support the cost of providing Futsal training to youth in the Town of Seymour and surrounding communities to help develop soccer. \$2,000

Shelton Farmers Market Association

To support awareness building. \$2,000

Southford Falls Quilt Guild

To support classes, team workshops, speakers and instructors who will educate members and enhance quilting skills. \$2,500

St. Joseph Catholic

To support CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training, a Heart Wellness Education program and the purchase of an AED replacement battery. \$555

St. Thomas Parish Nurse Program, Oxford

To support the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), CPR AED training and Health and Wellness Education programs & screenings. \$2,100

Valley Deaf Club

To support expanding programs for sports and workshops for Deaf Club members. \$2,500

Youth 2 Youth

To support the cost of sending as many high school students as possible to the Youth 2 Youth National conference in RI. \$2,500

For further information on the Valley Community Foundation, please visit their website at valleyfoundation.org or call (203) 751-9162. ♦

Shelton's Stryker at Work Partnering Against Crime with Officer Dan Loris

In 2008 the Shelton Police Department reinstated the K-9 unit after it had been inactive for years. At that time, Officer Chris Nugent and his partner Jaeger, which means hunter in German, attended the 14-week State Police K-9 Academy. Jaeger was purchased from a breeder in New Hampshire for \$2,500 owing to the generosity of Peoples United Bank. The team graduated top in their class, beating out nine other teams. Jaeger retired in 2014 when his partner was promoted to detective.

In 2014 a new canine was purchased and named "Stryker" and was partnered with Officer Dan Loris. As Shelton's K-9 Jaeger and Detective Nugent had previously trained, this new team began the same 14-week rigorous and intense



Officer Dan Loris and Stryker at graduation

course at the State Police Training Academy in Meriden. All canine teams are trained to work patrol along with the basic areas of tracking, handler protection, evidence recovery, building searches, obedience, and classroom education. All of the canines are German Shepherds.

On May 28, 2015, the Connecticut State Police Canine Training Unit held a graduation ceremony of the 173rd Patrol Dog Training Troop at the Academy. A total of 12 canine teams graduated.

Officer Dan Loris and his K-9 partner Stryker also received the Daniel "Danny" Wasson K-9 Memorial Award. This award is given in memory of Officer

Danny Wasson of the Milford Police Department who was killed in the line of duty to a member of the graduating class that best exemplifies Danny's motivation and enthusiasm in the field of K-9 training. ♦



Saint Lawrence Parochial School Celebrated 50 Years

Tucked away just off Huntington Green, Saint Lawrence School (SLS) has been educating Shelton children for the past fifty years. In 1965, with dedication and a desire to offer their children an educational option grounded in faith, the parishioners of Saint Lawrence parish began the process of building a school adjacent to the church.

Saint Lawrence students and their families have strong ties to the City of Shelton, as 87% of SLS students are Shelton residents. These families enjoy the warm, family atmosphere of Shelton and find that same warmth within the SLS community. Over 10% of SLS students are actually the children of alums; young families who decided Shelton was a great place to raise a family and SLS a great place to educate their children.

Currently, there are 200 students enrolled, preschool through the eighth grade. This mix of ages leads to a family atmosphere and provides opportunities for leadership and role modeling for the middle school students who serve as big sisters and brothers to the youngest students. Within this small community, every student is known and acknowledged.

This year, SLS celebrated its 50 year anniversary. The



mission of the school has endured while the curricular offerings for students have moved firmly into the 21st century. Today, every SLS classroom has an interactive Smartboard for instruction, students have access to a lab with 30 desktop computers, and tablets are incorporated into classroom instruction at all levels. To prepare students for a global environment, Spanish instruction begins in preschool. The world language curriculum includes

geography, culture, and language acquisition.

Thinking globally and acting locally, students participate in various outreach projects each year. They have collected food and baked bread for the Spooner House Food Pantry, knit prayer shawls for oncology patients at Saint Vincent's hospital, and donated the money earned from doing household chores to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. The students also send cards monthly to the Saint Lawrence parishioners who are home-bound. These acts of service and kindness reinforce the values which are woven throughout the fabric of the school.

The children and families of Saint Lawrence School are proud to be part of the larger Shelton community. For further information please contact the school at (203) 929-4422 or visit their website at stlawrenceshelton.com. ♦



2016 Shelton Trails Marathon



This summer, residents are invited to participate in a trails challenge hosted by the Shelton Trails Committee. Hike the marathon distance of 26.2 miles in Shelton along designated routes, and receive a commemorative path tag (see image).



The challenge kicks off on Trails Day, June 4, when the Shelton Trails Committee will host a guided hike along the Paugussett Trail from Birchbank Mountain to Indian Well State Park. This is the most difficult of the listed hikes, and there will be cars spotted at the end so there's no need to trace steps. The challenge will end with the traditional Turkey Trot hike on Thanksgiving Day weekend.

How to participate: Details and forms are posted on the Trails Committee's blog, accessible via the Conservation Commission's website at sheltonconservation.org. Informational packets will also be available at the Community Center and City Hall.

1. Download the 2016 Shelton Trails Marathon Form, or pick up a copy.
2. Hike the thirteen listed hikes in any order you like. There is no need to complete a designated hike in one day if it's too long. The hikes are listed below in order of how difficult the footing is. Be sure to check the special trails description and map for each hike.
 1. Shelton Lakes Recreation Path (4.0 miles one way) Easiest footing
 2. Gristmill Trail (0.6 mile out and back)
 3. Oak Valley Trail (2.1 mile lollipop loop)
 4. Bluff Walk at Riverview Park (1.2 mile out and back)
 5. Nells Rock Trail (1.5 mile loop)
 6. Dog Paw and Flower Path (1.6 mile loop)
 7. Turkey Trot Trail (2.0 mile loop)
 8. Boehm Pond loop and spur to pond (1.1 mile)
 9. Nicholdale Farm Perimeter Trail (1.4 mile loop)
 10. Birchbank Trail (1.9 mile lollipop loop)
 11. Tahmore Trail (1.3 mile loop and spur to overlook)

12. Paugussett Trail - Indian Well Falls to Buddington Road (5.0 miles one way)
13. Paugussett Trail - Birchbank chimney to Indian Well Falls (2.5 miles one way) – This hike has the most difficult footing
 3. Optional: Participants are encouraged to share at least one photo of their adventures. Photos may be posted on the website's blog and/or the Shelton Trails & Conservation Facebook Page. Email photos to conservation@cityofshelton.org.

4. Submit your completed form to: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Department, City Hall, 54 Hill Street, Shelton, Connecticut 06484. Forms can also be emailed to conservation@cityofshelton.org or dropped off in Teresa's office located at City Hall in Room 102. Forms will be accepted through the end of the year. Be sure to include your mailing address so they can send you a commemorative path tag.

Sponsored by the City of Shelton Trails Committee and Conservation Commission.
www.sheltonconservation.org. ♦



Serra and DelVecchio Insurance

Fred Serra grew up in Shelton, graduated from Shelton High School, and dreamed of having his own business one day. After hard work and strong determination, Fred is the CEO of over fifty employees right here, where he grew up. To say his dream came true is an understatement.



Fred Serra

Fred is the CEO of Serra & DelVecchio, an independent full service Connecticut insurance agency, located at Two Corporate Drive in Shelton. Fred started his insurance career in 1985 with John Hancock Financial Services selling life insurance. After a short time, Fred then joined The Travelers Insurance Company as a financial services specialist and worked with independent property and casualty insurance agencies to sell life, health, disability and investments to their clients. This work continued until 1991 until Fred transitioned out of the corporate side of the business into a privately-owned full line insurance agency in Connecticut to set up and run its financial services division. This experience cultivated the thought that Fred might consider branching out on his own.

In 1997 Fred did just that and started F. W. Serra, Inc. with one employee. The business originally was located on Coram Avenue across from Shelton's City Hall. It was relocated in 2003 to 112 Huntington Street in an old white Victorian house (which Fred purchased) and where the business remained until 2015. In the early part of Fred's career he started off selling insurance policies. "I never dreamed of being an insurance agent, however, I ended up being a top salesman. I was still not convinced that this was my future until one of my clients passed away leaving a family behind. I delivered my first death claim check, and I then knew what this business was all about and it changed my life and how I felt about the insurance business forever."

From 1997 thru 2008 Fred built his company one employee and one client at a time. However, in 2008



Fred was concerned with healthcare reform and with that in mind, revisited what direction his business would take. Instead of planning for a reduced role in

the industry, he built a very strong employee benefits and compliance team and his actions proved to be the right decision. During that year Fred brought in Justin DelVecchio, a young energetic and talented insurance broker, and the property and casualty division was added. The agency was now full service, Justin became a partner and President and F. W. Serra, Inc. became Serra & DelVecchio. Home to over 50 employees, Serra & DelVecchio is one of the largest independent agencies in Connecticut with offices in Shelton, Middletown, South Windsor and Glastonbury.

As CEO, Fred's main focus is making sure the company follows its strategic goals which is a balance of organic and acquisition growth. Over the past three years, Serra & DelVecchio has acquired eleven companies. Fred commented "we are looking for a synergistic fit with the companies we buy. In 2015, we bought five companies which placed Serra & DelVecchio as a leader in the Mergers & Acquisitions marketplace."

With running the day-to-day operations, Fred still finds time to give back. Serra & DelVecchio provides financial support to over one hundred companies in Connecticut and continues to do so each year. In addition, they allow their employees to participate in community projects on work time. "We contribute our success to having a great team and part of being on our team is to demonstrate that we know the communities we serve in need help. We empower our team to get involved and do they ever!" In 2015, Fred was a recipient of the Gold seal award from the Valley Chamber of Commerce, an award that recognizes community service. Fred is also an active board member of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Boys and Girls Club. He resides in Shelton with his wife Lisa and their six children.

Serra & DelVecchio can help you with all your insurance needs and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Their office, located in Scinto Towers at Two Corporate Drive, Suite 234, can be reached at (203) 926-0001 or you can visit their website at sdinsurancegoup.com. ♦

Shelton's Park and Recreation Department Staff and Volunteers Keep Busy



With summer fast approaching, the City of Shelton's Park and Recreation Department has their hands full.

The Parks and Recreation Department organizes and runs year-round sports programs and leagues, a summer playground program, a year-round swimming program and a variety of activities at the Shelton Community Center. The Community Center also has several areas designated for classes, seminars and parties.

The department is also responsible for maintaining over 375 acres of park land and athletic fields (including school grounds). Ron Herrick is the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department and has been for over 15 years. His staff consists of 11 full-time employees and many part-time.

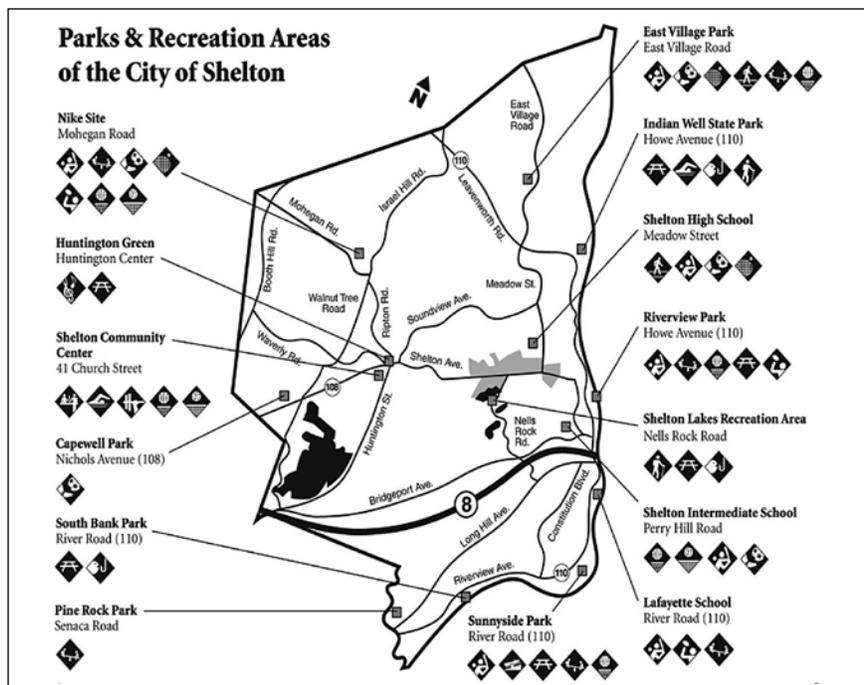
A 12-member appointed board makes up the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission has the task to set policies that are followed by the Parks and Recreation Department including planning of new facilities and fee schedules. They also direct the maintenance of outdoor city properties, operation of the Shelton Community Center and other programming offered for residents of all ages in the city

including the popular concerts on the green and fireworks show. The group meets monthly at the Shelton Community Center on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. Volunteers who serve on this Commission are John Papa, Chairman; David Zamba, Vice-Chairman; Stanley Kudej, Joseph DeFilippo, Michelle Haywood, Jeffrey Van Scoy, Debra McGlone, Terrence Gumbs, Gary Cahill, Anne Gaydos, Lorenzo Durante and Robert Zuraw.

A summer schedule of concerts for the upcoming season can be found on page 29.

The Parks and Recreation office at the Community Center is open Monday through Friday, 6:30 AM until 9:30 PM and Saturday 7:30 AM until 3:45 PM. The pool is open from Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM until 8:45 PM; Saturday from 7:30 AM until 3:30 PM and on Sunday from 8:00 AM until 3:30 PM.

For further information please contact Ron and his staff at (203) 925-8422 or visit their website at sheltonparksandrec.org for information on upcoming summer camps, adult programs, aquatics, children's programs, leagues and rentals. ♦



Rudbeckia Fulgida “Goldsturm” Proclaimed Shelton’s City Flower

The Olde Ripton Garden Club (“the Club”) of Shelton will celebrate its 40th Anniversary of continued service to the Shelton community in 2016. With the theme “Growing Together,” the Club plans a number of new projects this year in the City.

One of these projects came in the form of an announcement and proclamation by the City Board of Aldermen at their meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11 to designate the “Orange Cornflower” (*Rudbeckia fulgida* “Goldsturm”) as the City of Shelton’s Official flower. The Club is encouraging residents and businesses to grow this flower in their gardens and around the City.

The large, daisy-like flower is named for its orange-tinted petals in keeping with Shelton schools’ colors. It is easy to grow and can be grown in containers or naturalized in meadows and planted freely around homes. The Orange Coneflower, also known as “Black Eyed Susan,” is a native plant that will grow readily in our area and is a perennial assuring that it will return to our gardens year after year. It is attractive to birds, bees and many pollinators that are needed for our gardens to thrive. It blooms from midsummer through the fall and provides a long season of color.

The Club offered the plant for sale at its May 14 annual plant sale, at St. Paul’s Church parking lot across from the Huntington Green. All proceeds go to the purchase of city flowers that will be planted in the gardens maintained by the club at many locations throughout Shelton including the libraries, the green, and the Community Center where the focus this summer will be on developing pollinator gardens in our community.

The Club is also planning a first-time ever Garden Tour in July where the city flower will also be featured. Displays of garden club memorabilia will be set-up around town.



Orange Cornflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida* “Goldsturm”)

The Olde Ripton Garden Club was organized and federated in 1976 by a handful of enthusiastic gardeners to encourage the betterment of the community through projects that beautify neighborhoods and protect natural resources. The Club is proud to still have founding members participating today.

Anytime the city needs beautification, the Olde Ripton Garden Club has provided that service to make Shelton more beautiful. The club members work together to grow or buy flowers, or arrange them to be donated. They also have donated their time planning, planting and watering the gardens around Shelton for the past 40 years.

Today the Club has approximately 45 active volunteers who participate on committees of their choice such as working on community gardens, decorating the Valley’s Osborndale Museum for the holidays, making fresh evergreen wreaths for public places for the holidays, and a garden therapy program for an assisted living community. The club also provides a High School Scholarship annually to a Shelton High student planning to study in a related field.

Meetings are held monthly (except January and February) on the first Monday of the month at the Plumb Memorial Library. Each meeting features guest speakers, a garden-themed program as well as horticulture and artistic floral displays plus a festive potluck lunch.

For more information, visit www.OldeRiptonGardenClub or call Renee Protomastro at 203-775-6645 or Joyce Donnelly at 203-929-9988 for details about the anniversary programs.

Reprinted from the Shelton Herald, Thursday, February 18, 2016 ♦

10 Reasons to Buy Local Food



From "With an Ear to the Ground" by Vern Grubinger

1. Local food tastes better. Food imported from far away is older, has traveled on trucks or planes, and has sat in warehouses before it finally gets to you.
2. Local produce is better for you. The shorter the time between the farm and your table, the less likely it is that the nutrients will be lost from fresh food.
3. Local food preserves genetic diversity. In the modern agricultural system, plant varieties are chosen for their ability to ripen uniformly, withstand harvesting, survive packing, and last on the shelf, so there is limited genetic diversity in large-scale production. Smaller local farms, in contrast, often grow many different varieties to provide a long harvest season, in an array of colors and flavors.
4. Local food is safe. Local farmers aren't anonymous and they take their responsibility to the consumer seriously.
5. Local food supports local families. Wholesale prices that farmers get for their products are low, often near the cost of production. Local farmers who sell directly to the consumer cut out the middleman and get full retail price for their food, which helps farm families stay on the land.
6. Local food builds community. When you buy direct from a farmer, you're engaging in a time-honored connection between eater and grower. Knowing the farmer gives you insight into the seasons, the land, and your food.
7. Local food preserves open space. When farmers get paid more for their products by marketing locally, they're less likely to sell their farmland for development. When you buy locally grown food, you're doing something proactive to preserve our agricultural landscape.
8. Local food keeps taxes down. Farms contribute more in taxes than they require in services.
9. Local food benefits the environment and wildlife. Well-managed farms conserve fertile soil and clean water in our communities. The farm environment is a patchwork of fields, meadows, woods, ponds, and buildings that provide habitat for wildlife.
10. Local food is an investment in the future. By supporting local farmers today, you are helping ensure that there will be farms in your community tomorrow. ♦

See this year's Farmers Market schedule on the back cover.

Shelton History Center Seeks Your Input Can You Identify These Photos?

Almost twenty years ago Phil Jones donated a collection of glass plate negatives to the Shelton Historical Society. At the time, the only way to see these negatives was by having them printed out and made into photographs, a process that was time consuming, expensive and potentially dangerous to the negatives themselves. Due to technological developments, the staff of the SHS is now able to transform these images in-house into digital files and then manipulate that file to produce a photographic image.

These photographs appear to have been taken around the turn of the 20th century in the greater Shelton area. There is no information about the photographer or their subjects. If you recognize anything or anyone, please contact the Shelton History Center at (203) 925-1803. The staff is always happy to learn more about Shelton's shared community's history. For further information you can also visit their website at sheltonhistoricalsociety.org. ♦



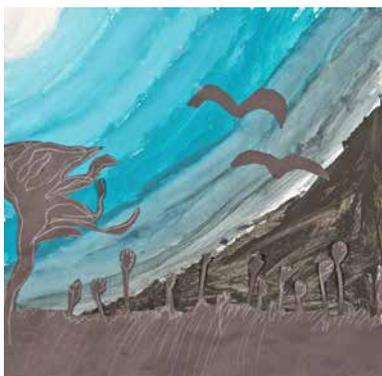
COMMUNITY NEWS



Student Art Contest Winners

Burgeoning Artists Showcase Talents

Grades 2 - 4



\$100 1st Place, Grades 2-4
Stephanie Liebensohn
Grade 4, Sunnyside School



\$75 2nd Place, Grades 2-4
Joao Sousa, Grade 4
Elizabeth Shelton School



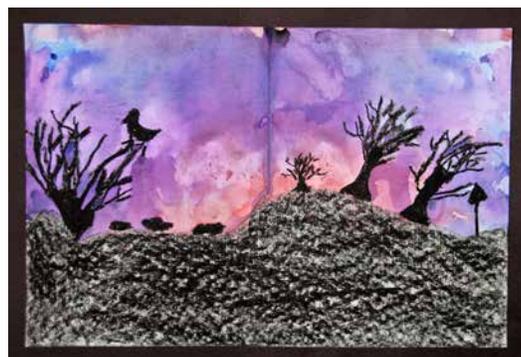
\$50 3rd Place, Grades 2-4
Samuel Kim, Grade 3
Sunnyside School



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4
Samantha Prodan, Grade 3
Elizabeth Shelton School



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4
Deborah Lesnick, Grade 2
Long Hill School



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4
Stacey Ritenour, Grade 4
Mohegan School



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4
Reese Vartelas, Grade 2
Booth Hill School



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 2-4
Lucas Kellogg, Grade 3
Mohegan School

SCHOOL NEWS

The Shelton Public Schools Art Department has enthusiastically participated in an art contest sponsored by the city's Economic Development Commission (EDC) which highlights the work of the schools' talented students. In its tenth year, this collaboration between the EDC and the Board of Education has become an integral part of the Art Department's curriculum with over 100 submissions. Students from 2nd grade to high school submit artwork they have worked on in their art classes. It continues to be a terrific effort by all who participate and everyone deserves to be congratulated.

The categories for the awards are broken down as follows: Grades 2-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-12 2Dimensional and 9-12 3Dimensional. The prizes awarded are \$100 – first place; \$75 – second place; \$50 – third place; and \$25 for five honorable mention prizes.

Judging took place in May 2016 with judges consisting of art teachers, local artists, a photographer, and the Chairman of the EDC. The awards will be presented at the Board of Education meeting. ♦



\$100 1st Place, Grades 5-6
Christopher Buchetto
Grade 5, Perry Hill School



\$75 2nd Place, Grades 5-6
Kylee Taylor, Grade 5
Perry Hill School



\$50 3rd Place, Grades 5-6
Marisa Savino, Grade 6
Perry Hill School



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 5-6
Marissa Mustaka, Grade 5
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 5-6**
Sofia Gasbarro, Grade 6
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 5-6**
Nicole Perry, Grade 5
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 5-6**
Jena Gambardella, Grade 5
Perry Hill School



**\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 5-6**
Samantha Randall, Grade 6
Perry Hill School

SHELTON COMMUNITY & BUSINESS NEWS

SCHOOL NEWS

Grades 7 - 8



\$100 1st Place, Grades 7-8
Anoushka Jayasuriya
Grade 8 - SIS



\$75 2nd Place, Grades 7-8
Hannah Mussatto, Grade 8 - SIS



\$50 3rd Place, Grades 7-8
David Niski, Grade 8 - SIS



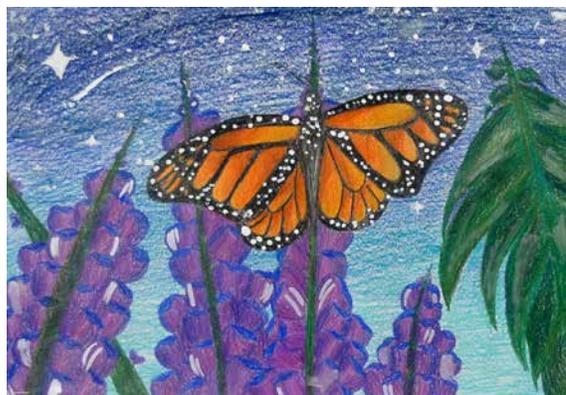
\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 7-8
Christina Marino, Grade 8 - SIS



\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 7-8
Magdalena Martins, Grade 8 - SIS



\$25 Honorable Mention Grades 7-8
Bridgette Kline, Grade 8 - SIS



\$25 Honorable Mention Grades 7-8
Melaina Roberto, Grade 7 - SIS



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 7-8
Gladiola Teodori, Grade 8 - SIS

SCHOOL NEWS

Grades 9 – 12 2Ddimensional



\$100 1st Place, Grades 9-12
Azalea Brown, Grade 12 - SHS



\$75 2nd Place, Grades 9-12
Erika Sabovik, Grade 12 - SHS



\$50 3rd Place, Grades 9-12
Jordan Oakes, Grade 12 - SHS



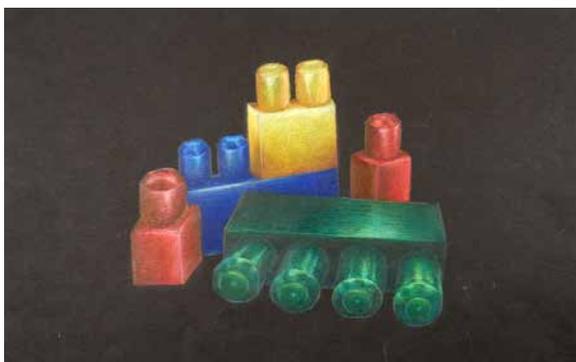
\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12
Madison Olsen, Grade 10 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 9-12**
Andrew Clark, Grade 12 - SHS



**\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 9-12**
Stephen Casinelli, Grade 12 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12
Amanda Nettle, Grade 11 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12
Nicole Keith, Grade 9 - SHS

SCHOOL NEWS

Grades 9 - 12 3Dimensional



\$100 1st Place, Grades 9-12
Julie Turner, Grade 10 - SHS



\$75 2nd Place, Grades 9-12
Kailee Hudak, Grade 12 - SHS



\$50 3rd Place, Grades 9-12
Alyssa Doolan, Grade 11 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 9-12
Megan Sampson, Grade 12 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 9-12
Chrishaun Goins, Grade 11 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention
Grades 9-12
Kelsey Gillen, Grade 10 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12
Julia Falaguerra, Grade 11 - SHS



\$25 Honorable Mention, Grades 9-12
Victoria Gould, Grade 10 - SHS

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Three Bridges Coffeehouse Opens 415 Howe Avenue

Located street-side in the Conti Building in downtown Shelton, Three Bridges Coffeehouse is the perfect spot for an informal meeting, gathering for friends, "date night" or just a getaway from a hectic day.

A local gathering place featuring fresh brewed gourmet coffee and tea, espresso, cappuccino and latte, paired with light fare. Enjoy biscotti, scones, muffins, cookies, cakes and pie in a casual atmosphere.

Three Bridges Coffeehouse was created to provide an atmosphere of comfort, to enjoy a first-rate cup of coffee or tea, delight in a delicious salad or sandwich,



or enjoy one of their numerous decadent desserts. Unassuming and relaxed, the atmosphere is genuine; a look back to a bygone era of industrial elegance of Shelton's old mill buildings. Combining a passion for tasty food and aesthetic appeal, Three Bridges Coffeehouse

was founded on the principal of providing artisan quality food and beverage in a comfortable setting.

www.3bcoffee.net

info@3bcoffee.net

Facebook & Instagram: Three Bridges Coffeehouse
203.513.2163 ♦

Images provided by Jessica Smalley Photography



(l to r) SEDC's incoming President Paul Grimmer, Three Bridges owner Judy Rockwell, Aleta Miner of SEDC and Fred Ruggio, Chairman, Economic Development Commission.



2016 MUSIC UNDER THE STARS Summer Concert Series

Presented by the Shelton Parks and Recreation Dept.

| DATE | BAND |
|-----------|--|
| June 25 | The Bernadettes |
| July 3 | The Glamour Girls **Downtown Shelton with fireworks to follow (raindate 7/5/14) |
| July 9 | The Navels |
| July 16 | The Highland Rovers **Downtown Shelton |
| July 23 | Gunsmoke |
| July 30 | Fools on the Hill |
| August 6 | Lynn Lewis & Friends at 6:00 PM |
| August 13 | Silent Majority |
| August 20 | Midnight Rodeo |
| August 27 | The Barons |

FREE Evenings of Great Music on the Huntington Green. Every Wednesday June 25 – August 27, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Raindate is the following night (unless otherwise noted)

Cancellation Line: Call 203-331-4120

The White Hills Elementary School 1938-1944

As told by S. Guy Beardsley

Long before the Elizabeth Shelton Elementary School on Soundview Avenue was built, a two-room elementary school stood at the corner of School Street and East Village Road. Each day started at 9:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.

The building, which has had many additions, stands opposite the White Hills Fire House and serves as a community meeting place. Today's students would find it a unique experience if they were to attend that school.

When I started school in 1936, there were only two rooms: Miss Francis Plumb taught first through fourth grade and Miss Elizabeth Shelton taught fifth through eighth grade. In 1940, all eight grades were combined into one room under the strong guiding hand of Miss Shelton.

There were no buses and the Dimon kids and my cousins living at the North end of Beardsley Road had a two plus mile walk to and from school. The Bakliks living at the bottom of Leavenworth Road had an equally long trek.

There was no homework in those days because the children, who were mostly from farming families, had their farm chores to do both before and after class.

During an hour-long lunch break some students would walk home, while others brought bags or simply didn't eat at all. Occasionally, Miss Shelton would

make an Indian succotash: beans, bacon, and corn for everyone to share.

Once a week a music teacher and an art teacher would come for an hour or so. Farmer Harold French raised and lowered the flag and tended the furnace during the cold months. At Christmas time, the teachers would organize skits employing all students and presented the entertainment at the White Hills Baptist Church on School Street. Miss Shelton made sure each student received a wrapped present from Santa Claus.

During World War II, each student made a one-foot square of knitted wool each month. Knitting needles and yarn were provided by the teachers. Dodge ball and a simplified version of baseball were the playground sports. When the weather was bad, recess was held in the basement.

Both students and teachers used outdoor privies; one for boys and one for girls, about 150 feet from the classroom. Miss Shelton leaning out the window and ringing a hand bell brought an immediate response from all students to return to class.

Miss Shelton, a big strong farm girl herself, could handle any problem students might present.

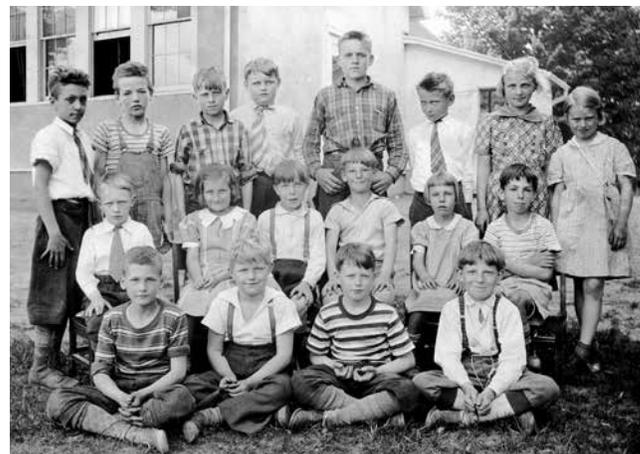
First grade students, at the smallest desks in front of the teacher, changed to larger desks in the back as they moved from grade to grade.

It was a wonder, in retrospect, how all eight grades were kept engaged with their lessons. It was my

continued on next page



Guy's class in 1936 (Guy is front center)



Guy's class in 1939 (Guy is front 2nd from right)

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Aroma J's Opens in Downtown Authentic Middle Eastern Food

After moving his family to Shelton in 2013 and witnessing first-hand the ongoing growth within the city, Saad Dib saw the opportunity to start a business.

Mr. Dib, born in Syria, found that middle-eastern food is not as commonly offered as some other authentic cuisines in the valley. So in January, the Dib family opened Aroma J's at 507 Howe Avenue. Between Saad Dib and his cousin, Ola Swata, who can be found in the restaurant daily cooking fresh dishes, they have over 12 years of experience.

Aroma J's offers authentic Mediterranean food such as falafel (ground garbanzo beans, garlic and



Owner Saad Dib and his cousin Ola Swata at Aroma J's



parsley); hummus (a pureed mixture of garbanzo beans, tahini and lemon juice), beef shawarma (marinated beef in spices) and shish tawook (marinated chicken breast cubes charbroiled).

The restaurant is open six days a week from 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM Monday through Saturday.

They can be reached at 203-513-2152 or by email at Aromajs507@gmail.com. The restaurant also can be found on Facebook at AromaJs. . The Dib family looks forward to meeting you. ♦

Beardsley, continued from pg. 21

impression that Miss Shelton loved numbers, and sometimes on a slow day, she would dismiss the students in a challenging way. She would call off a list of numbers and the first person to add them up in their head would raise their hand and if the answer was correct, the student was able to leave early.

In addition to math, Miss Shelton was a history buff. She was interested in personalities rather than dates. I particularly remember that she required her graduating students to know all members of the President's cabinet.

Occasionally, an enterprising student from one of the lower grades would become involved in the discussions of the upper grades. Since brothers and sisters were in

the same room, they could and would help each other.

The Weekly Reader gave us the national news. During World War II Miss Shelton would summarize significant events that were occurring around the world.

The last graduating class was in June 1944. I was at the bottom of that three-student class. The next year all White Hills students were bused to Huntington School and Miss Shelton became a fifth-grade teacher there.

Today the city is home to five elementary schools, a fifth and sixth grade school, an intermediate school which houses seventh and eighth grades and a high school. Total enrollment of Shelton students as of October 1, 2015 is 4,907.

There are also two parochial schools in the city. How things have changed. ♦

Shelton Youth Service Bureau

The Shelton 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. It provides educational and recreational programs that encourage youth and families to make healthy choices.

With a staff of four part-time employees and a board of directors comprising of 22 members, the bureau implements many programs and services. The following is a synopsis of what programs and services are offered:

- The Juvenile Review Board is an alternative to the Juvenile Court and was established as a collaborative effort between police, community and families.
- Spotlight on Youth highlights youth who have given back to their school or community through volunteer hours for acts of kindness.
- Youth 2 Youth Peer Advocates are students in intermediate and high school who live in Shelton and meet weekly to explore youth issues, plan community service projects, learn new life skills and train to become youth mentors/educators. This peer/community service group prepares young people for their roles in society in the areas of personal growth, leadership and community involvement.
- Community Education is a service provided for small group discussions involving parents and other

caregivers to address youth issues such as homework help for parents, bullying, stress management, alcohol and other drug information.

- Youth life skills classes are offered whereby substance abuse prevention is addressed and is available upon request to students in grades 3-12 in Shelton.
- Halloween Trick or Trunk Night is a safe and fun Halloween experience for the families of the community. Families, individuals, businesses and clubs are invited to decorate their vehicles in a Halloween theme and provide wrapped treats for the children who attend. A DJ provides music. The event is held at the Shelton Intermediate School parking lot on October 31.
- The Community Alert Program is Shelton's substance abuse prevention council and sponsors many prevention and awareness activities throughout the school year.
- Offered four times a year, Safe sitters is a course designed to teach young people ages 11-13 the skills to become self-confident and competent babysitters or mothers' helpers, as well as learning important life skills.
- Youth Speaks Out contest is a picture/essay contest offered to students in grades kindergarten through 8 and deals with different issues concerning the community's young people.



community's young people.

- Prom Safety Awareness Night is a valley-wide information session for parents and youth emphasizing smart choices..
 - Community Award Ceremony is a program honoring volunteers and youth who have done outstanding work in the community.
 - The Tween/Teen Center offers monthly programs to Shelton youth in grades 5, 6 and 7. Activities
- continued on next page*

Karen Meade Bentlage Encouraging Volunteerism



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF THE LOWER NAUGATUCK VALLEY



Karen Meade Bentlage, a Shelton resident, is chairing the Annual Back-A-Kid Campaign for the Lower Naugatuck Valley's Boys and Girls Club. Giving back is Karen's philosophy and being involved with the Club of the

Lower Naugatuck Valley is a cause she is passionate about. Karen, award winning Hall of Fame athlete, wife and mother, has been involved with the club for almost 10 years and as a director since 2011.

A business owner since the early 1980s, Karen currently is President of Future Industries and a Regional Developer for the European Wax Centers. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and also served as President of the Connecticut Chapter of the Entrepreneurs' Organization, the first female president in Connecticut chapter history.

With a wealth of knowledge and experience amassed over the course of an illustrious career, Karen strives for excellence in her endeavors to champion the initiatives of her companies. Karen is doing the same for the Boys and Girls Club.

As busy as Karen may be, she can be found many days at the Club assisting in any way possible. The mission of the Boys and Girls Club is to provide, in a safe environment, programs that inspire, educate,

guide, and enable all young people, especially those who need the club the most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. The Boys and Girls Club fills the gap between school and home by providing welcoming, positive environments in which kids and teens have fun, participate in life-changing programs, and build supportive relationships with peers and caring adults. Along with the club in downtown Shelton there is an after school program at Elizabeth Shelton School, a unit in Seymour and a club in Ansonia. These locations cumulatively serve 2,912 youth – 2,312 are registered members and 600 youth served through community outreach.

Statistics show 22% in the lower Naugatuck valley fail to graduate on time; 10% of all arrests in Connecticut were of juveniles under the age of 18, that is almost 12,000 arrests; and 22,000 of Connecticut's teens ages, 12 to 17, participate in binge alcohol drinking. 25,000 in the same age group use marijuana.* "Keeping kids off the streets and in an environment that only promotes and encourages success is an investment well worth making," stated Karen. "I am proud to be involved with this great organization and look forward to a successful campaign to support these wonderful programs overseen by our great staff."

The Boys and Girls Club, which was recently spotlighted as one of the country's top clubs, can be reached at 203-924-7462 or at www.bgc-lnv.org. For further information you can call Karen directly at 203-922-2770. ♦

*(source dpweinerlaw.com/datacenter.kidscount.org)

YSB, continued from pg. 23

include extreme recess, swim nights and dances.

- Library Resource Centers offer information on a large variety of family issues. These resource centers are located in the both public libraries and in the nurse's office at the high school.

The Youth Service Bureau coordinates free Family Movie Nights held downtown at the Riverwalk-Veterans Memorial on Canal Street.

As previously stated, Spotlight on Youth which rec-

ognizes Shelton students/residents between the ages of 12 through 18 who have made a positive contribution in the community, seeks nominations. Forms are available on the Shelton Youth Service Bureau website www.cityofshelton.org or by calling 203-924-7614. If you know of a youth you would like to nominate, please submit a nomination form to the Shelton Youth Service Bureau, 120 Meadow Street, Shelton. Those chosen are recognized at an Awards Ceremony and acknowledged in the Shelton Herald. ♦

“Out of the World” Project Earns Excellence in Teaching Award



Weller Award recipient Courtney Dishian

Ralph Waldo Emerson quotes that “Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful,

and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” This statement truly reflects the character of Courtney Dishian, fifth grade teacher at Perry Hill School who recently won The Weller Foundation’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Weller Foundation is a non-profit organization that was established in 1962 to provide financial assistance to educational, charitable, and civic organizations. The primary objective of the foundation named for Barton L. Weller is to stimulate more responsible individual contribution to our community.

Dishian, who has been in the Shelton School District for nine years, received a monetary award of \$1000 and was honored with other recipients at a reception earlier in the month. Her successful curriculum project entitled “Out of the World Alien Project” originated at the beginning of the school year after introducing the first unit of study in Science about the Earth, Moon and Sun relationship. Recognizing her students’ interest and excitement to know more, she latched on to their enthusiasm and developed the research based project for the class. Each student

researched a planet of their choosing and constructed a 3-D model of an alien that could live on their planet based on the planets features. Students presented their findings as a passport which allowed their alien to travel to Earth and visit their classroom. Aliens were created out of recycled materials, the passport detailed their alien’s features connecting it to real facts that were researched, and also contained additional information on the planet. Students presented their information by visiting the International Space Commissioner, Ms. Dishian, and showing their completed passport. Included in her project were Alien Project Parent Letters to explain the in-class project, Alien Project Requirements, an Alien Project Rubric for scoring the projects, an Alien Project Passport Outline (including modified versions) as well as Alien Project Research Organizers(including modified versions). All of these materials and information was provided on the teacher’s website and in Google Docs. The entire project was completed in class and totaled approximately 3 weeks from beginning to end. Materials were gathered from recycled objects and craft items the students found around the house. Nothing had to be purchased and many students brought in extra materials to share with their peers.

Courtney believes that this project was very successful because it appealed to many different learning styles, differing abilities, and social/emotional needs. This project afforded each student with a chance to shine and succeed

continued next page



Courtney Dishian with her homeroom class

Nationwide Crenshaw Food Drive Elizabeth Shelton School Wins 2nd Place Nationally

Crenshaw is a children's book authored by Katherine Applegate. The book's focus is on an imaginary character, a cat named Crenshaw, and how he helps a boy named Jackson deal with his family's coping of the hard times they are facing. There's no money for rent, not much money for food either. There's also a possibility that the family will have to live in their minivan...again!

From this story a fight to end hunger evolved with the Nationwide Crenshaw Food Drive in which students were encouraged to organize a food drive for their school or community. This project was in conjunction with Dorothy Sim-Broder from Written Words Bookstore on Howe Avenue in Shelton. Sim-Broder has continuously worked and supported Shelton schools by bringing in famous authors to students in almost every grade level over several years. She has endeavored a win-win partnership in promoting literacy in the valley towns.

Victoria White, Supervisor of Literacy, Assessment and Professional Learning for Shelton Public Schools, proudly announced that "of our participating Shelton schools, Elizabeth Shelton School (ESS) came in 1st in the district, collecting 901 donated items. Furthermore ESS won 2nd place in the nation! As the 2nd place nationwide winner the student population would receive a Skyped author visit with Katherine Applegate."

Prior to the visit, students participated in read alouds, author exploration, and question-writing activities. The students from representative grade levels participated in the Skyped visit by asking thoughtful and inquisitive questions of the author as the other 450 enthusiastic attendees oohed and aahed and giggled and smiled in the school's gymnasium. In addition to

learning that Katherine published her first book when she was in her forties, that she lives in San Francisco, wrote a lot of books as a ghostwriter for Disney, loves dogs, reading and napping, the students also learned about the craft of writing children's books.

One third grade student was surprised to hear that the author didn't really like to read when she was a kid and grinned when she told them to cover their ears and pretend they didn't hear that!

The visit lasted about one hour and at the conclusion, Victoria White thanked all the faculty, staff, Central Office administration and technology department for their collaborative efforts to make the author visit a truly unforgettable experience.

Principal Beverly Belden was not surprised by the accomplishment of ESS students...after all Elizabeth Shelton School is known as the school of The Rising Stars and they certainly reached the stars with the number of food items collected! ♦



Students earned Skyped visit with author Katherine Applegate

Weller, continued from page 25

while learning new things. This project extended their knowledge of the curriculum and appealed to their creative side. She summarized her feelings by stating: "Each student, no matter their prior knowledge or ability, blew me away and when it comes down to truly honoring the winner of this award, it's not me...it's the 47 brilliant minds that enter my door each day ready to give it their all and try new things. The end product of this project exceeded my expectations and brought a whole new level of learning into the four walls of Room 244."

Mrs. Williams, Principal of Perry Hill School, had the

opportunity to see the students present their final project and commented what great skills were evident. Their research, collaboration and presentation were "out of this world". She stated that "Courtney Dishian is an exemplary teacher. Her Weller project was outstanding! Courtney is quickly developing into a school leader. She is a technology integrator, advises the school newspaper, and is a member of the math curriculum team." Looking through the binder filled with information, student work samples, and pictures it is evident that this "Out of the World Alien Project" is only one aspect of this Weller Award teacher's powerful engine of enthusiasm and success. ♦

Long Hill School Launches Junior Achievement in a Day Program

What is JA? Junior Achievement (JA) is a non-profit youth organization founded in 1919 by Horace B. Moses, Theodore Vail and Winthrop M. Crane. Junior Achievement works with local businesses and organizations to deliver experiential programs on topics of financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship to students in grades kindergarten through high school. The program is committed to developing and implementing programs designed to help students become entrepreneurial thinkers and help to make them work and career



Kathy Yolish works with 1st graders

ready. Through hands-on activities in an interdisciplinary program students who participate in the grade appropriate program attain not only academic standards but also focus on skills across the curriculum in social studies, business, ethics, reading, writing, and mathematics.

What is JA in a Day? This high impact program is a way to deliver JA's lessons for a particular grade level all in the same day. Some schools choose to receive JA programming on the same day because it is a unique opportunity that offers its volunteers a great opportunity to get involved without having to juggle schedule conflicts or long term commitments. It also affords teachers to have academic continuity in keeping up with curriculum pacing. For these reasons, Long Hill School hopped on the JA in a Day Program and found it to be a great success for all involved.

JA's elementary school programs form the foundation of its K-12 curricula. Six sequential themes, each with five hands-on activities, work to change students' lives by helping them understand business and economics. Steven Kiman, Jessica Sciamanna, Beth Jones and

Cameron Evens volunteered in Kindergarten and taught a program called "JA Ourselves" where they read compelling stories along with hands-on activities to demonstrate helping, working, earning and saving. In 1st grade, the focus was on the roles people play in the local economy as well as engaging activities about needs, wants, jobs, tools and skills, and interdependence. This program called "JA Our Families" was taught by volunteers Maura Galtier, Jenn Sanborn, Elizabete Soares and Kathy Yolish. "JA Our Community" was the theme for 2nd



JA volunteer working in Kindergarten

grade and volunteers Samantha Libby, Jamie Matunas and Bob Wood provided exploration of the independent roles of workers in the community, the work they do, and how communities work. Third graders were taught about careers, the skills people need to work in specific jobs and how businesses contribute to a city. Mark Holden, Rick Lawless, Julie Pinard and Mike Sciamanna were the presenters of "JA Our City." Introducing students to entrepreneurship and how entrepreneurs use resources to produce goods and services in a community was the key component in the 4th grade program, "JA Our Region." Volunteers for this grade included Rachel Andou, Mary Ann Cacchillo, Michele Collings and Sue McColl.

The 5-6 hour long day proved to be enjoyed by students, staff and volunteers. Principal Kristin Santilli commented that the program coordinated by parent volunteer Carla Bucherati was so successful that all of the volunteers signed on to come back for next year's program, and that she thinks is a sure sign of happy learning, gratifying teaching, and a valuable program! ♦

Connecticut Brownfields Conference

The City of Shelton joined 400 participants in the first State of Connecticut Brownfields Conference held on May 17, 2016 at the Convention Center in Hartford. Governor Malloy welcomed local, state, and federal officials to review and discuss the progress that has been achieved over the last decade in the State of Connecticut in the assessment and remediation of sites which have lain fallow for many decades waiting for the Connecticut team approach to be implemented. Numerous case studies were featured and Mayor Mark Lauretti joined a panel of local elected officials, along with the mayors of Hartford, New Britain and Waterbury to discuss their own experience and how they approached the many challenges that must be considered in undertaking this complex process.

Shelton's efforts were described by conference leaders as ground-breaking as the City of Shelton began the process in its downtown revitalization process well before national and state officials started calling these areas of contamination "Brownfields" sites. Examples from Shelton included the former Petrol Plus gas station, the former BF Goodrich site, the Shelton Farm and Public Market, former Asphalt Plant, with emphasis on the the creation of landmark spaces and the new private investment which has occurred with the Avalon building program as the prime example. Mayor Lauretti commended



Mayor Lauretti at the Brownfields Conference

State Officials (CT DECD and CT DEEP) and Federal Officials (US EPA) for their commitment to partnering with communities through their technical services and grant programs to make the Shelton progress a reality. Shelton is planning on competing next year for possible recognition from the US EPA under their Phoenix award program. The SEDC and the EDC are working collaboratively on the creation of the Shelton brownfields history. ♦

The City of Shelton has been awarded the only "clean-up" grant by the US EPA in Connecticut, in the latest national competition announced this week in Waterbury, CT. This grant will be applied to the demolition and remediation of the Chromium Process building which will be undertaken this summer.



Summer Action at Shelton's Libraries

At Plumb Memorial Library it is Ready, Get Set, READ! Summer features include weekly guest performers each Wednesday: musicians and magicians, science and live animals. The fun begins Monday June 13. Look for special summer programs – Movies & Popcorn, Wacky Sports, Maker Mondays and more as well as story times for all ages as the summer gets into full swing.

Children starting Kindergarten through Grade 6 in September earn Kids Cash by completing Bingo cards with easy challenges and reading goals. And once registered kids receive members-only email invitations to special activities: yoga, dance, karate, hula hooping, cooking and trail walks. Their Kids Cash can be spent at Plumb's Kids Only Store. Plus kids can earn tickets for special raffle prizes, too.

At Huntington Branch Library, the Reading Rock Star program offers prizes for age-appropriate BINGO card challenges meant to inspire a love of reading, the library, and music. Special events include a Multicultural Drum and Dance, a Sing-Along with Nappy's Puppets and the Precious Prom for toddlers, preschoolers, and their teddy bear dates. More fun events include reading to a therapy dog (Wednesdays in July), meeting real live Llamas and a Chinese Acrobat! Elementary-school children are invited to Throwback Thursdays, an afternoon series featuring stories and music from the 40's to the 90's, the ones parents and grandparents grew up on. The Branch Library will continue to run several of its regular storytimes for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers throughout the summer.

Unique Branch activities for teens and teens include a Quesadilla Cooking Class, a High Energy Juggling Demo, FAQ's about Checking and Debit Cards, the chance to experiment with the library's synthesizer kit and the Science of Sound with a guest electric violinist plus other cooking and craft events.

Shelton's popular Adult Summer Reading Program returns for the 8th year. Sponsored by the Friends, this summer long challenge invites adults to read and submit short reviews. Each week a name is pulled at each library to win the featured prize. The Friends of the Shelton Libraries provide gift cards and certificates to



local businesses. More prizes and refreshments are on offer at the final party; drop into either library soon and pick up some review forms.

"Focus on Friends" runs Thursday evenings through the summer at Plumb Memorial Library. Community guests and casual conversation are on offer from 6-8 p.m. in the Plumb Reading Room. Guests booked include the Olde

Ripton Garden Club and the Shelton Conservation Commission, look for a local chef, adult coloring and the Historical Society plus tips on Tag Sales from a local author. Each week door prizes offer flowers or vegetables, a gift card and a free book. This series is underwritten by the Friends of the Shelton Libraries and new members are welcome.

For a full calendar with more information about these and additional events, pick up a calendar at the library or visit www.sheltonlibrarysystem.org/events and click on Online Event Listings. ♦

2016 FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

Free Movies at the Riverwalk/Veterans' Memorial Park on Canal Street

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, July 23 | Inside Out (PG) |
| Saturday, July 30 | The Good Dinosaur (PG) |
| Saturday, August 6 | Minions (PG) |
| Saturday, August 13 | Aladdin (G) |
| Saturday, August 20 | Hotel Transylvania 2 (PG)) |

Movies are shown at the River Walk- Veterans' Memorial Park on Canal Street in Shelton. Bring your own refreshments, seating and bug spray. No alcohol please. All movies start at dusk – approximately 8:30pm. Free family fun! The movies are also posted on the City of Shelton website.

Sponsored By: City of Shelton
Youth Service Bureau
Shelton, CT 06484 • (203) 924-7614

Community Calendar

SHELTON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

Please call (203) 924-7614 for more information.

SHELTON SENIOR CENTER

Shelton Senior Center Direct Line: (203) 924-9324. Come join the center, be a member and receive a monthly newsletter. Daily activities for everyone. Transportation for senior members to the center is available through "Valley Transit" (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) Ever thought of being a volunteer? If interested, please contact Doreen at the center for the lunch program.

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

Flag Day at Shelton

Huntington Branch Library and the Sarah Riggs Humphreys-Mary Silliman DAR chapter will present a Flag Day Program on Saturday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Huntington Branch Library, 41 Church Street, Shelton. For information, call 203-926-0111 or visit <http://sheltonlibrarysystem.org/huntington-branch-library/>

PARKS & RECREATION

Summer Camps

Offering over 30 specialty camps, spanning the range from sports and physical activity to science and the arts, there is a camp for everyone! Camp listings and information can be found on www.sheltonparksandrec.org. Along with these specialty camps, the Parks & Recreation

Department continues to offer its Free Summer Playground Program. The program offers free, supervised fun to all Shelton residents ages 6-14. Locations include Booth Hill School, Elizabeth Shelton School, Mohegan School, Long Hill School, Sunnyside School, and Pine Rock Park (participants must go to the location nearest their home). The program offers arts and crafts, kickball, basketball, field trips (additional fee), and more!

Summer Concerts

The weekly summer concert program begins on Wednesday, June 29 at 7pm. Green in a family friendly environment. Along with the weekly concerts, there will be a concert and fireworks on Friday, July 1, downtown at Veterans Memorial Park. The Shelton Community Center located at 41 Church Street now has a brochure and is online. Access to the City of Shelton's website, www.cityofshelton.org, go to the upper right hand corner under Parks and Recreation and information can be found on the Shelton Community Center Parks and Recreation's Facebook page. Registrations for all classes take place at the Shelton Parks and Recreation office, located at the Shelton Community Center.

For information on class schedule and fees or any general inquiry call the office at 203-925-8422. For cancellation/information call our daily prerecording at 203-331-4120. For program related questions please email Shauna Laucella Dumas at s.dumas@cityofshelton.org. Please also LIKE their "Shelton Community Center Parks and Recreation" Facebook page to receive all the daily and weekly updated information on classes, programs, camps, events, sports, and cancellations.

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

John Jack Finn (203) 929-0786
Anthony Simonetti (203) 926-0922

2ND WARD ALDERMEN

Stan Kudej (203) 924-2403
Eric McPherson (203) 924-5862

3rd WARD ALDERMEN

John Anglace (203) 929-1515
Lynne Farrell (203) 824-3340

4th WARD ALDERMEN

Noreen McGorty (203) 926-1638
Jim Capra (203) 925-0758

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

Farm Market Opens for the Season

2016 SHELTON FARMERS MARKET



Shelton Farm and Public Market
100 Canal Street

2016 Season Opens
Saturdays, May -Thanksgiving
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Wednesdays,
3:00 - 6:30 PM June - October

The following vendors can be found at the certified "Producer Only" market:

Bar 140
Biscotti, Etc.
East Village Farm, LLC
Grassy Hill Farm
Hall's Farm
Jones Family Farms
Liquid Lunch/GROW
Oronoque Farms
Stone Gardens Farm + Cut Flowers
The Little Dog Laughed
Three Bridges Coffeehouse
with new and assorted guest vendors and food trucks joining throughout the season.

www.sheltonctfarmersmarket.com
SheltonCTFarmersMarket@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
for updates and special events.

