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First Selectman's Corner

Westbrook, several years ago, received state funding to encourage the development of a plan of action for energy conservation. In our regional monthly First Selectman meetings all of us made personal commitments to support the many benefits that accrue by the fostering of energy initiatives in our respective towns. Accordingly, I direct your attention to the following information that was compiled by Bill Fish a member of Westbrook's Energy Committee.

Westbrook's Energy Committee previously voted to recommend that the Town become a Clean Energy Community and the Board of Selectmen subsequently reviewed the agreement and voted to approve it. As a Clean Energy Community, Westbrook has already taken steps to reduce its energy consumption and meet its pledge. The Town has made great strides in reducing energy consumption and achieving budget savings by installing new boilers or burners to enable the schools to burn natural gas or oil, re-lamping the Town Hall and all three schools, installing new windows at the Riggio building, installing electric and hot water solar panels on the High School and upgrading school parking lot lighting to LEDs.

By becoming a Clean Energy Community, Westbrook also qualifies to receive cash grants and free solar photovoltaic panels from the Energize CT programs that are funded via surcharges

on statewide electric and natural gas bills. Cash grants for energy conservation purpose are earned by the Town when enough residents participate in the Home Energy Solutions (HES) program, make their homes more energy efficient or upgrade heating and air conditioning systems. Solar panels are earned by Westbrook when residents purchase half or all of their electricity from renewable sources through the CT Clean Energy Options program or install solar panels to produce electricity (through the CT Solar Challenge program) or solar hot water. For more details on how you may participate and save money, please see the two articles in this magazine and visit the EnergizeCT.com web site.



First Selectman Noel Bishop

Important announcement from the Selectman's office: We are now in hurricane season. Please be prepared and have an appropriate disaster plan and disaster kit in place in the event of an emergency.

First Selectman Noel Bishop

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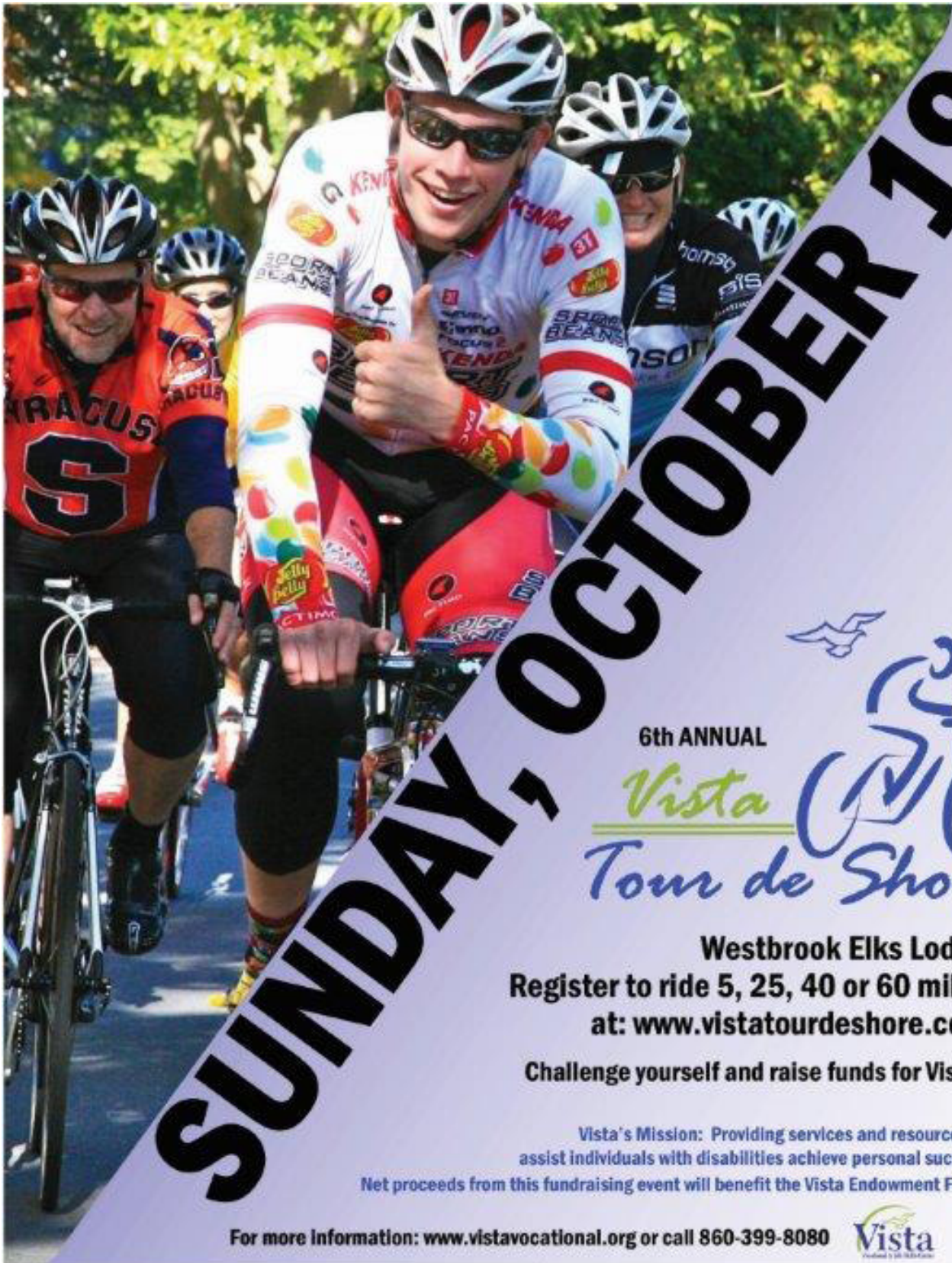
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Challenge yourself and raise funds for Vista!

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Net proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit the Vista Endowment Fund.

For more information: www.vistavocational.org or call 860-399-8080



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From Abolitionists to Ice Cream?



30 Westbrook Place (North Main Street)

Pictured above is one of approximately eight remaining historic properties in Westbrook's town center. While most old homes have an interesting tale to tell, it might be of interest to know that this house was built by a group of abolitionists who

separated from their mother church because they felt unable to speak freely against the common use of slaves.

Back in February, 1846, prior to the Civil War, Edward B. Lay, Josiah C. Dibble, Horace Butler, William Dibble, William Wright, Sarah Butler, Louisa Dibble, James A. Chapman and Harriet Chapman petitioned the First Ecclesiastical Society for "dismissal" from the church. This small group of people believed that they could not effectively speak of their anti-slavery beliefs within the context of the church's stance at that time. In June, 1847, the newly-formed Second Ecclesiastical Society purchased this property from Jared A. and Andrew B. Spencer and focused on building a new house of worship which continued for about ten years. By 1856, ten members of the Society were unanimously readmitted into the "Congregational Church."

By 1867, the house's ownership was transferred out of the church's hands to private owners. Over the years, it has been home to some and a business address to others. Its walls have witnessed the highly charged discussion of human dignity to the value of antiques to the pure delights of an American favorite...ICE CREAM!

*Catherine Neidlinger Doane,
Westbrook Historical Society*

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Westbrook Garden Club Grow with Us!



Buy bulbs at the Fall Mum Market and plant in fall to herald spring.

We've been busy! After stocking 49 town window boxes and planters in May, we began tending the new landscaping of the town green's gazebo and the Visitors' Center on I-95. In June we hosted a potting bench at Family Day, helping over 80 kids to plant and decorate a pot to take home. We're grateful that our growing membership makes this all possible.

The club awarded our 2014 college scholarship of \$1,000 to Matt Winschel. Matt is finishing the horticulture and landscape design program at Naugatuck Community College. Congratulations, Matt!

Now we're looking forward to our September 13 Fall Mum Market, featuring chrysanthemums in gorgeous colors along with a selection of perennials from members' gardens. Lovingly nurtured by your neighbors, these plants are perfectly adapted to growing conditions on the shoreline. And while it may seem counter-intuitive to plant in the fall, autumn is truly the best time to establish perennials, whose size and beauty will increase with the years. Cooler temperatures, increasing moisture, and longer periods of darkness give new additions to the garden a chance to develop the strong root systems they'll need to flourish and flower the following season.

Plan to drop by the green September 13 for marvelous mums and perfect perennials, bulbs, wreaths, and whimsical garden art, all at appealing prices, and a raffle basket of gifts from local merchants. Pre-order mums for a discount – \$5.25 each 9" pot, or 6 pots for \$30 – by calling Carolyn Fish, 860-399-6126.

For town updates & information:

www.westbrookct.us

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158 Main St., Deep River

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Lunch Sat & Sunday

RedHouseRestaurantCT.com





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2014-2015 Heating Season



1000 gallons or more (price break)	Pay by Credit Card	Pay by Check
\$3.67 Per Gallon	\$3.74 Per Gallon	\$3.69 Per Gallon
600min	\$2,224.00	\$2,214.00
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800	\$2,992.00	\$2,952.00
900	\$3,366.00	\$3,321.00
1000	\$3,720.00	\$3,670.00
1200	\$4,464.00	\$4,404.00

Cap & Budget Programs Available ( call office for further information)

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ATTENTION

The state of Connecticut has passed new legislation:

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News from Westbrook Social Services

Renters Rebate Program

The Town of Westbrook is accepting applications for the State of Connecticut's Renter's Tax Relief (Renters' Rebate) Program. The Renters' Rebate Program runs from April 1, 2014 to October 1, 2014. Due to the high volume of applications for this program, residents interested in applying must do so by appointment only. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

The state program provides a one-time yearly reimbursement for Connecticut renters based on income, rent and utilities that were paid from the previous year (2013). The program is available to residents age 65 or older as of December 31, 2013, or residents at least age 18 by December 31, 2013 who have been found by a government agency to be permanently and totally disabled. Income must be no more than \$34,101 for single individuals or \$41,600 for married couples.

Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program.

To schedule an appointment please call: Westbrook Social Services Department at 860-399-3040 x 154.

CRT Winter Heating Assistance Program

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households whose incomes fall at or below the federal poverty guidelines.

On behalf of eligible households, the winter heating assistance pays for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal and wood.

Homeowners and renters may apply. Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills.

The Connecticut Energy Assistance is administered by the Department of Social Services and coordinated by regional Community Action Agencies, in cooperation with municipal and other non-profit human service agencies.

Applications will be taken by appointment only. Interested Westbrook residents may call Westbrook Social Services at 860-399-3040 (ext.154) for general information.

Appointments will be accepted October 15th, 2014 through March 13th, 2015.

Transfer Station Hours:

Mon., Wed., Sat.

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CLINTON - \$499,900
 CAPE Cod style Home. Wonderful master suite captures views from the second floor. Cul-de-sac location. SARAH MARCINEK 860-227-1592.



CLINTON - \$199,000
 Year round condo across from the beach. Totally remodeled. Sound views from the front. Enjoy the shore all year long. FRANK PURDUE 860-575-2351.



CLINTON - \$268,500
 Living room with inviting fireplace, Family room in lower level. Expanded deck. Freshly painted interior, new vinyl siding. SARAH MARCINEK 860-227-1592.



DEEP RIVER - \$399,999
 Private 3 bedroom Colonial with beautiful landscaping. Sunroom with gas fireplace for extra living area. CAROL DRAG 860-662-0998.



CHESTER - \$295,000
 Well maintained 3 bedroom home near the village of Chester. Great room with cathedral ceilings. 16X24 deck with a hot tub. COOKIE ROBERTSON 860-575-9317.



OLD LYME - \$519,000
 Spectacular views from this Year Round Waterfront Cape. Make it your dream lakehouse. Dock - Seawall. FRANK PURDUE 860-575-2351.



CLINTON - \$285,000
 Spacious Ranch. Hardwood floors, and a 4- season sun porch. Right of way to the Menucketesuck River for fishing or kayaking. MARY BETH JOYCE 860-227-5801.



MADISON - \$415,000
 Beautifully maintained Kitchen with custom cabinets, appliances (Sub Zero, Bosch, Viking). Hardwood floors, generator, newer roof. PAUL PHILPOTT 203-444-3903.



OLD SAYBROOK - \$1,100,000
 Large Tract of Developable Land Along I-95. Additional Frontage on CT Route 166. Maps and Soils Testing Data Available. JOE WREN 860-202-0693.



CLINTON - WATERFRONT \$1,150,000
 1/3 acre with 160 ft of Water frontage, 13 feet of sea wall with private beach area. Vinyl siding, enclosed porch. PAT REED 860-395-7412



WESTBROOK - \$289,900
 NEW CONSTRUCTION! 1498 sq. ft. condo with central air, granite counters. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a 1 car garage. JOE WREN 860-202-0693.



CLINTON - \$355,000
 Colonial - On 1.8 Beautiful Acres. Open Kitchen To Cathedral Family Room W/ Fp. Finished Walk Out Basement, 3 Br 2.1 Baths. In-Law Possibilities. FRANK PURDUE



WESTBROOK - \$550,000
 Gorgeous property 100 yards down private ROW to deeded rights at Quotonset Beach. Mature landscaping, screened porch. PAT REED 860-395-7412.



WESTBOOK - \$365,000
 Professionally Landscaped Colonial with Inground Pool. 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen Open To Living Rm. 800 Sq Ft "In Law" In Lower. MARY BETH JOYCE.



OLD LYME - \$229,000
 Property Is A Garage/Barn On 4.19 Acres In An R40 Neighborhood. CALL CAROL DRAG.



MADISON - \$319,000
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From the Desk of the Animal Control Officer

The Animal Control Department is available for emergency calls 24/7. I handle mainly domestic animal calls and some wildlife issues. The town now shares a regional shelter with the Town of Clinton and the Town of Madison. The shelter is located behind the Clinton Public Works Department at 117 Nod Road, Clinton, CT. We don't operate regular visiting hours. You can reach me anytime at 860-790-1075 with animal concerns. On Facebook, "friend" Westbrook Animal Care and Control so you can find lost or found pets as well as adoptions and other animal related facts. It is a pleasure to serve the Town of Westbrook and to be working to keep the residents and their pets safe.

Sandy Bannon
Animal Control Officer

From the Public Library

The Library now offers free access to Learning Express Library on the library website – westbrooklibrary.lioninc.org. Learning Express offers online resources to improve academic skills at all school levels and to prepare for examinations for high school equivalency, citizenship, college and graduate school, and a variety of careers. Learning Express also offers an online computer skills center to learn popular software and graphics programs and more about computers. Visit the library or call 860 399-6422 to find out more.

Westbrook Senior Travel

Looking Ahead! September 16-17-18 (Tuesday-Saturday) Lancaster, PA to see "Moses" – Dutch Apple Theatre (*Hairspray*) Amish Country Tour, Kitchen Kettle Village \$389. Deposit \$75 at sign up, balance due August 19th. Insurance \$30 available at sign up.

October 9, Thursday – Platz Bauhaus Pamona, NY. Hearty German menu – chicken, roast pork platter, sauerbraten. Served family style bratwurst, spare ribs, cabbage, beer/soda/wine served till 5:00 pm. At 4:00 pm standing rib roast sandwich for ride home \$90. Music/dancing.

November 10, Monday – Taste of Providence following lunch at Geppetto's. We go to Vanda Ravioli's Food Emporium, ending at Scialo Brother's Italian Bakery. \$70.

December 9, Tuesday – Sturbridge Village with lunch at Oliver Wigh Tavern followed by a short walk to the theater for the cabaret filled with holiday songs and celebration. Followed by a visit to the museum and New England Book Store. \$80

For further information contact Lucile Spanilo (860) 399-6065.

If It Sounds Too Good To Be True, It Probably Is

Telephone and mail offers come from different electric companies and they came often; promising big savings. Many people have decided to make the switch hoping for a good deal.

Deregulation in 2000 opened the door to third party suppliers and there are dozens of electric companies operating in CT. They provide options beyond the default companies already operating in CT - CL&P and United Illuminating. Some of these companies offer green energy options while others promise savings. According to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, since deregulation, as of May 2014, 48 percent of customers in the state had switched to a third party supplier. Consumer advocates warn it's a buyer beware marketplace.

Any one company can have several options, and sorting through them can be very confusing. In some cases, a supplier will have a fixed rate that consumers can expect. Others will offer teaser rates that last from one to several months, but then those rates can vary after those initial offers expire. Some companies are completely variable, allowing for the potential for large swings in rates.

Customers may get a short term savings, but if in the long term it takes you a few months to realize your rate has basically doubled, any short term savings you've seen is easily eaten up.

Many consumer inquiries about this situation revolve around a tactic known as bait and switch – lure customers with low teaser rates, only to have those rates spike later.

Lawmakers in CT are considering several new regulations to protect consumers. One would require all electric suppliers to give customers three weeks advance written notice if their electric generation rate is about to go up.

In order to be proactive, should you decide to switch suppliers, be sure to write down the expiration date of the introductory rate and check your monthly bill faithfully.

Help Wanted

If you have extra time, you can earn extra money! Part-time Sales Representatives needed due to our recent growth. Set your own work schedule. Sales experience helpful but not necessary. Ideal for persons interested in supplementing their current income. Grow with us! Send resume and cover letter to print@essexprinting.com. No phone calls please.

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Drilling Down On Drones

The legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) has voted to study current and potential drone use regulation in Connecticut. Drones – unmanned aircraft, which are also referred to as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) – are an area of emerging use, availability and interest. Drones are operated via remote-control using radio frequencies, but can also be operated semi-autonomously via internal computer.

Up until recently, drones have been most closely associated with military use for combat, surveillance, and reconnaissance. However, potential government, commercial and personal applications are under current consideration. Federal drone regulation is presently administered by the Federal Aviation Authority. The FAA anticipates that by 2030, there will be 30,000 public and private drones flying in U.S. airspace. This anticipated proliferation has raised issues regarding drone



use including privacy concerns (the use of drones for surveillance activities), safety issues (drone interference with manned aircraft), and commercial activity uses.

The Program Review and Investigations Committee's study will analyze the following:

- Examine drone use in commercial, governmental, law enforcement, emergency response, personal and criminal activities
 - Identify privacy, safety and security issues and concerns related to drone use
 - Describe current federal and state drone use regulations
 - Determine if and what drone use regulation could be necessary in Connecticut
- The PRI study will commence this Fall.

*State Rep. Marilyn Giuliano
Representing Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and coastal Westbrook in the Connecticut General Assembly.*

Westbrook Senior Center

Attention! Date change for Luau August 28th is our **Annual Luau**. The ladies of Dancin' in the City will be back to entertain you with their beautifully choreographed Hawaiian Dancing. **September** celebrates **National Grandparents Day**. On September 25th the Senior Center in conjunction with WYFS will host: "Who makes my life "Grand"? This program is an opportunity for kids and teens to bring their Grandparent or senior buddy to the Westbrook Senior Center and join us for dinner, music, crafts, and celebrate your special bond. Once again in conjunction with WYFS we will host a Halloween themed Intergenerational **Bingo on October 16th**, and finally, our **annual Halloween party will be October 30th**. For more information, or to RSVP to any of these programs. Please call 860-399-3048.

The goal of the Westbrook Senior Center is to improve the quality of life for the Senior citizens of Westbrook and our neighboring shoreline towns. The senior center welcomes citizens 60 years of age or older to participate in our many daily activities directed by staff and volunteers. The goal of these programs is to promote the physical and mental well-being of our senior community. To see our scheduled calendar of events and upcoming special events, please come down to the center Monday-Friday. We look forward to seeing you.

Courtney Burks, Director



Linda Nolf

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WILLIAM RAVEIS

— EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES —

A Note About Signage In Town

Signs do affect the appearance of the town. Trying to blend between economic and aesthetic values is a challenge.

Please do not assume that a permit issued for one sign means all the other signs are in conformance.

What you need to know before purchasing signs for your business.

DO:

- Get an approved Zoning Permit for your sign through the Town's Zoning Department.
- Have a sign contractor get a building permit for installation. To determine if a Building Permit is required, contact the Building Department at: 860-399-3047.
- Visit the Town's Website or email, call or visit the Zoning Department with any sign-related questions.

DO NOT:

- Install signs without obtaining a permit.
- Place signs or sandwich boards in the public right-of-way.
- Put up banners, pennants, streamers, or other animated signs.
- Place signs at locations other than the property on which the business is located.

The Sign Regulations can be found in Section 10.20.00 of the Zoning Regulations and are available on the web at: <http://westbrookct.us/Docs/zoning/Zoning%20regs%2004-19-2013.pdf>.

Each Zoning District within the Town of Westbrook has different allowable size and types of signs. To verify zoning

on a particular property, please contact the Zoning Office at: 860-399-3046 or check the Zoning Map on the web: <http://westbrookct.us/Docs/WestbrookCT-ZoningMap-Final-2010-11x17.pdf>.

Signs may not move, blink or draw attention through any form of movement. Internally lit signs are not permitted in any district, except the TIC-65.

Sandwich board or "A" frame signs require a bi-yearly Portable/Temporary sign permit.

Some signs are not allowed in every Zoning District.

Upcoming Fairs & Festivals

Haddam Neck Fair

August 29th • 26 Quarry Hill Road

Mystic CT Fall Show

August 30-September 1
Olde Mystic Village, Mystic

Hebron Harvest Fair

September 4-7th • 347 Gilead Street

Durham Agricultural Fair

September 25-28 • Town Green



www.TeamJermaine.com

It's hard to believe we're already half way through 2014. We've been busy, busy, busy - Helping both sellers and buyers. Hey - it's what we do. Here's what they have said about how we do it...

"Honestly, we have bought and sold houses before our current one and doing business with you was the best experience of any." P.W. & D.W., Old Saybrook, CT

"I feel your service and follow-up were fantastic! I have already recommended you to others." D.S. & K.S., Clinton, CT

"Your friendly and honest approach is a welcome relief. You are the best Realtors we have dealt with (in over 20 years)." W.M., Old Saybrook, CT

"Brian made the purchase of our home stress free, he's efficient, organized and a very caring person! I would definitely recommend TeamJermaine to anyone purchasing a home!" C.S. & W.S., Old Saybrook, CT

Brian Jermaine, ABR, ASR, CRS, ePRO, GRI, SRES, SRS
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860-662-0230

Call or Text

 Follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/TeamJermaineRealEstate

Save Energy & Money with Home Energy Solutions

The Westbrook Energy Committee and Board of Selectmen have partnered with CL&P on a town-wide campaign designed to reduce energy costs through Energize Connecticut programs available to residents and businesses. During this nine-month initiative, Westbrook residents can hear directly from experts at our community presentations.

- September 17 at 11:00 am at the Westbrook Senior Center in Town Hall

Now through April 30, 2015, our Home Energy SolutionsSM (HES) vendors, Lantern Energy, LLC and Energy Resource Group Technologies, Inc. (ERGT), will make a \$25 donation to The Town of Westbrook's Social Services Donation Fund/Fuel Assistance for every Westbrook resident who participates.

HES is a convenient in-home service designed to help you save money on your energy bills and make your home more comfortable year round. For those who sign up for HES, Lantern

Energy or ERGT specialists will come to your residence and perform on-the-spot energy improvements, including locating and sealing air leaks, replacing incandescent lights with energy-saving bulbs (CFLs & LEDs), insulating hot water pipes, and other weatherization services.

While these services are valued at an average of \$1,000, the cost for the HES service is only \$99 and is free for those who meet income eligibility guidelines. The average home in Connecticut saves \$200 on energy costs each year after completing the HES service. Residents that take advantage of rebates and payment plans for heating and cooling equipment, insulation, ENERGY STAR[®] appliances, and advanced air sealing can save even more.

Westbrook will earn points for every resident and business that participates in Energize Connecticut programs such as HES or Small Business Energy Advantage. For every 100 points earned, Westbrook will qualify for a \$5,000 cash grant to be used towards an energy saving project at a school or town building.

For more information on Home Energy Solutions, attend the presentation and workshops, visit the Westbrook Energy Committee website: www.WestbrookEnergy.org or call 877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873). Information on energy-saving programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com.

Town Garage:

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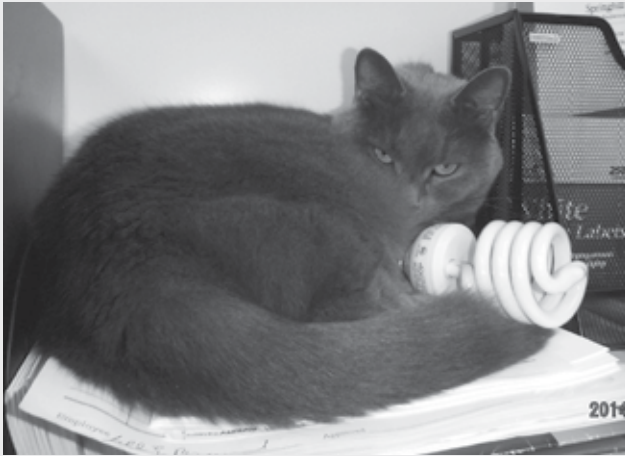
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When you require home care following a hospital stay for an illness or injury, or the Doctor at your office visit says he/she will have the visiting nurse come out to see you, you must designate the WESTBROOK VISITING NURSES. If you do not ask for us, the decision will be made for you by the hospital or the doctors' staff.

There are other home care organizations that may also provide care in our town however, the Westbrook Visiting Nurses agency is the only OFFICIAL Town agency. That means this agency is funded by YOUR tax dollars and exists to serve YOU!

Your VNA offers so many public health and home care programs. Some of these programs include, but are not limited to:

- Foot Care Clinics
- Home Health Aides
- Physical Therapy
- Flu Clinics
- Blood Pressure Clinics
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Medical Social

We also provide Public Health Education services in the community for individuals and groups, including Maternal Child Health and Health Promotion among others.

When you are working with the hospital, nursing home or office staff to make plans for your discharge to home or to get healthcare assistance at home, you will need to ASK for the Westbrook Visiting Nurses if you wish to support your Town Organization.

If you have questions, please feel free to call the VNA at 860-399-3088.

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Tropical Storm – Hurricane Preparedness

The Town of Westbrook and the entire southern New England region encounter the highest probability of a tropical storm or hurricane annually from August 15th through November 1st. We want to ensure you have the resources to be prepared. As noted with the past Tropical Storms (Irene and Sandy), each storm caused damage for many residents and forced wires down resulting in no power for 4-8 days. When electricity is disrupted you will lose TV, telephone and Internet services. With severe damage, cell sites can also experience disruption too. Tropical Storms produce sustained winds of 39-73 mph. Hurricane wind speeds range from 74 to over 155 mph. Both storms will produce heavy, long periods of rain and storm surge damage to the coastline. Preparedness actions, before the storm on your part include:

- Appropriate Disaster Plan and Disaster Kit
- Awareness of Westbrook Notifications

Appropriate Disaster Plan/Kit: 5-7 Days. Every household needs to have an appropriate Disaster Plan in place that includes you leaving your residence and temporarily relocating. Storm surge and flooding is common for residents located south of the Boston Post Road, adjacent areas near the Menunketesuck River and Jensens/Green Acres mobile home parks. In other areas of the town, residents need to be aware of falling trees due to the extreme winds. Emergency services (Police-Fire-Ambulance) are suspended when sustained winds are 45 mph or greater.

We recommend you have a plan in place to evacuate prior to the storm's arrival; going to family, friends or consider staying at a local hotel. If you have no other option, Westbrook or other towns will open a pre-storm disaster shelter. After the storm has passed and when it's safe, residents can return to their home. If needed, Westbrook will open a post storm disaster shelter.

Disaster Kits are essential to your survival when there is no power for more than 24 hours. Everyone needs to have an appropriate kit that contains suitable food, water, along with other important items (medication, infant supplies) to last at least 5-7 days. Disaster Kits are not just for weather events throughout the year. They can be used for other disaster events that can affect Westbrook.

Town Notifications. Westbrook Emergency Management works closely with State and Federal agencies, including the National Weather Service when a storm is forecast to impact our



area. We highly recommend you follow our website and social media sites on Facebook and/or Twitter. These sites are updated regularly with Westbrook preparedness, warnings and post storm restoration events. In extreme circumstances we can notify you via the CT ALERT System, with brief, concise information.

Where Do I Get More Information? The Westbrook Emergency Management website, www.westbrookem.com will provide you with complete information on disaster preparedness topics. The site also includes topics on disaster shelters, CL&P restoration, food safety, pets, elderly, special needs and more. The website is outfitted with videos and written material for downloading to a printer. Options also include viewing the web site in different languages. If you need access to a computer, please visit the Westbrook Library at 61 Goodspeed Drive.

We don't have the power to stop a weather related event; however you have resources to become resilient, which will help you and your family. By following our recommendations, you will be prepared for almost any disaster that can affect the Town of Westbrook throughout the year.

Donald Izzo, Emergency Management Director

What is 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut's free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.



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Valley Shore YMCA



There's a bit of a growth spurt going on this summer at Valley Shore YMCA, and it's got nothing to do with biceps, quadriceps, or even the teens on our swim team. No, this summer's growth is of the leafy variety; as in summer squash, supersonic tomatoes, kale and green beans.

"When people think of the YMCA, it's all about gym and swim," said Chris Pallatto, YMCA Executive Director, as he stood in front of several freshly planted rows of veggies running alongside the YMCA facility on Spencer Plains Road. "But our mission is deeper than that: we're about making our community healthier, and what better way to do that than by starting a community garden."

Dubbed "Partner To Grow," the idea for a community garden sprouted in 2013 when the YMCA conducted a series of focus groups with its most active members to determine what they felt was the largest community need where the YMCA could play the most impactful role.

"Overwhelmingly, the participants wanted to create a community garden," says Lisa LeMonte, a YMCA Board member. "Feeding those in need was something they felt passionately about. So we decided we'd donate the harvest to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries location at St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church."

The idea took hold faster than a patch of wild raspberries. Before long, the rows had been furrowed and local businesses had stepped up to contribute supplies. The Westbrook Foundation dug deep with a grant for irrigation and deer fencing.

"It has been truly inspirational to see how many people are passionate about helping feed those most in need," Pallatto said. "Our first harvesting day in June yielded a plate of jalapenos and some cilantro. Our weekly harvests now are well over 100 pounds and we can't wait to see what next year brings!"

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Vista Partners with Quinnipiac University and Horses Healing Humans



Quinnipiac Occupational Therapy Interns.



Vista students at Horses Healing Humans.

Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center aims at establishing and strengthening partnerships with organizations in the community to provide valuable experiences and opportunities for students and members on a variety of levels. Two recent examples of this are the Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) Pilot Program with Horses Healing Humans (HHH) in Stonington, CT and the Occupational Therapy Internship Program with Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.

At Horses Healing Humans, students learned basic horsemanship and farm management skills while exploring relationship building, verbal and nonverbal communications, empathy, teamwork, goal setting, problem solving, trust and boundary awareness as well as other topics. Over the 8 weeks that students attended HHH, they became more aware of their surroundings and worked as a team with peers that they normally wouldn't interact with. They have grown in many areas, specifically in their listening, social, trust, communication and coping skills.

continued on page 17

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• *Vista continued from page 16* •

Vista also collaborated with Quinnipiac University to provide internship opportunities for four Occupational Therapy (OT) students this Spring/Summer. Vista benefited greatly from having a different perspective working with Entrance students. As Vista does not have an OT on staff, this perspective was helpful in creatively working with students and developing strategies. This internship was an important part of the Quinnipiac University interns' OT studies as well.

Vista is proud to work alongside Horses Healing Humans and Quinnipiac University through these collaborations and looks forward to strengthening their partnerships.

Based in Madison and Westbrook, CT, Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center is a 501©3 nonprofit organization. Vista's mission is "Providing services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success."

For more information regarding Vista, please visit www.vistavocational.org.

Westbrook Foundation Scholarships

Celebrating the graduates of the class of 2014, The Westbrook Foundation is proud to award graduating seniors a total of \$61,150 in scholarship monies to be used toward higher education pursuits. An additional \$15,000 will be given to Westbrook residents through the Messerschmidt Scholarship Fund.

The Calderari-Hoxsie-Schubert-Steinson Veterans Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Alyssa Herzy. The Josephine S. Crump Scholarship was awarded to Casey Abraham. Kally Donlan, earned the Dorothy Christopher Hoyt Scholarship. The Oscar Manstan/Richard Nolf Memorial Industrial Arts Scholarship went to Anthony DeLorenzo. Meghan Maynard earned the Herbert A. Muller, Jr. Memorial Scholarship and Brett Sparaco was awarded the Ellen S. Murphy Scholarship.

Arden Tomassetti and Michael Schneider, Jr. were awarded the Henry Ortner Memorial Scholarship.

The Elliot A. Spencer Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Coral McNary. Stephanie Gallagher received the Raymond L. Wilson Scholarship and Michael Schneider, Jr. was awarded the Westbrook Grange #123 Scholarship.

Jacqueline LaMark was awarded the Pat Mazeau & Myrtie Gareau Scholarship. Richard Wade received the Brandon E. Norman Memorial Scholarship and the Dan Nuhn Scholarship was given to John Giuffre.

The Marie Mazeau Memorial Scholarship is going to Lisa Goldberg and the Shoreline Amatuer Radio Club Scholarship was awarded to Paul Brock.

Cade Muckle was awarded the Joanne Marino-Murray Scholarship and the Eileen Daily Scholarship was awarded to Justine Higgins.

The Barbara Spencer Memorial Scholarship was given to Annie Raunikar, Samuel Grigo and Caroline Labriola. For leadership, Morgan Wilderman; Good Citizenship, Christopher Dahl and Special Awards were given to; Emily Archer, Nicole Boudreau, Christopher Dahl, Samuel Grigo, Amanda Hatch, Alyssa Herzy, Julie Husted, Caroline Labriola, Robert Mitchell, Alana Puciato, Annie Raunikar and Morgan Wilderman.

(Other than Westbrook High School Seniors (college) these four individuals received scholarships approved from the Messerschmidt Applications; Caroline Gallagher, Nicholas Rioux, Joseph Sarr and Chloe Vincente).

Fifteen Westbrook residents will receive scholarship funds from the Messerschmidt Fund, those receipts are; Jessica Chamberlain, Jacob Collins, Megan Cote, Christopher Cusano, Caroline Gallagher, Callie Hagemeister, Tara Higgins, Britney Malhotra, Christopher Marino, Megan Pielli, Nicholas Rioux, Joseph Sarr, Amanda Strukus, Gina Trasacco and Chloe Vincente.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients from the Westbrook Foundation.

Karena Garrity

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 Legislative Office Building, Room 4064
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (800) 842-1423
Marilyn.Giuliano@housegop.ct.gov

Senator 33rd District
 Art Linares
 Legislative Office Building, Room 3400
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 240-8800
Art.Linares@cga.ct.gov

Rep. 35th District
 Thomas Vicino
 Legislative Office Building, Room 5007
 Hartford, CT 06106
 (860) 240-8585
Thomas.Vicino@cga.ct.gov

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 Washington, DC 20510
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Senator Chris Murphy
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 215 Cannon House Office
 Washington, DC 20515
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Westbrook - Community Listings

USEFUL NUMBERS

Middlesex Community Foundation (860) 347-0025
 George Flynn Concert (860) 669-1208
 Consumer Protection (860) 566-2294
 9 Town Transit (860) 510-0429
 Visiting Nurses of Westbrook (860) 399-3088
 First Congregational Church
 of Westbrook (860) 399-9367
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church (860) 399-5402
 St. Mark's (860) 399-9207

IMPORTANT TOWN HALL NUMBERS

Assessor (860) 399-3045
 Building/Sanitarian (860) 399-3047
 Animal Control Officer (860) 790-1075
 Emergency Management (860) 577-0622
 Web site www.westbrookem.com
 Harbor Master (860) 399-2477
 Landfill (860) 399-6356
 Probate Court (860) 510-5028
 Recreation (860) 399-3095
 Registrar of Voters (860) 399-3042
 Selectman's Office (860) 399-3040
 Social Service (860) 399-3040
 Tax Collector (860) 399-3043
 Town Clerk (860) 399-3044
 Town Garage (860) 552-4496
 Town Web site www.westbrookct.us

Treasurer (860) 399-3040
 Westbrook Senior Center (860) 399-2029
 Westbrook Youth & Family Services (860) 399-9239
 Zoning/Planning/Wetlands (860) 399-3046

SCHOOLS

Daisy Ingraham Elementary School (860) 399-7025
 Junior-Senior High School (860) 399-6214
 Middle School (860) 399-2010
 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (860) 399-6432

HOME HEALTH CARE

Visiting Nurses of Westbrook (860) 399-3088
 Ambulance & Oxygen
 Business Calls (860) 399-7000

FIRE DEPARTMENT (860) 399-9492

FIRE MARSHAL

Business Calls (860) 399-3047

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident Trooper (860) 399-7304
 State Trooper (860) 399-2100

LIBRARY

Westbrook Public Library (860) 399-6422

Storm Aid Now Available to Shoreline Residents/Businesses

Connecticut has officially launched "Shore Up CT," a low interest loan program providing aid to shoreline property owners.

After the devastation left behind by Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy, our coastal community has had to invest a great deal in rebuilding. This program allows property owners to apply for loans from \$10,000 to \$300,000 to finance or refinance property enhancements that will protect them from future damage.

Formerly known as the Shoreline Resiliency Fund, this program is managed by the Housing Development Fund and funded by the Connecticut Department of Housing.

To apply for loan visit: <http://www.shoreupct.org/>. If you have any questions about this loan program, please contact my office at Art.Linares@cga.ct.gov or 800 842-1421.



Senator Art Linares

Town Center Revitalization Committee

Upcoming Workshop For Town Center and Flat Rock Place Master Plan

The Town Center Revitalization Committee has been working with the UCONN Community Research and Design Collaborative to develop a Master Plan for the Town Center and Flat Rock Place Areas. The design elements currently being considered include:

- **Alternative Road Cross Sections** for modifications to the roads in order to improve functionality and aesthetic appeal of Town Center and Flat Rock Place.
- **Strengthening of the Village Core** through improved parking, increased commercial space, architectural design guidelines and streetscape improvements.
- **Enhancements to the Town Green.**
- **Creation of Defined Points of Entry** through special plantings, signage, etc.
- **Proposed Park Area** overlooking the Patchogue River and protection of this scenic vista.

The second in a series of public workshops is planned for Wednesday, October 1st at 7:00 pm in the Senior Center located in the Mulvey Municipal Center. Members of the UCONN team will give an overview of progress to date and solicit feedback on the concepts presented. All interested citizens and business owners are encouraged to attend. This will be the last public workshop before presentation of the final plan in January.

The Committee will also unveil final plans for the next phase of the Town Center Parking Project on the town property at the corner of Route 1 and Westbrook Place.

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September 1, Labor Day • October 13, Columbus Day
November 11, Veterans Day • November 27 & 28, Thanksgiving Holiday

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Westbrook Youth & Family Services, Inc.

Who Makes My Life “Grand”?, September 25, 5:30 pm. Inviting all kids to grab their Grandparent or senior buddy and join us at the Westbrook Senior Center for dinner, music and activities to celebrate your special bond. Register at wyfs.org

Intergenerational Halloween Bingo, October 16, 5:30 pm. Register early at wyfs.org for this popular night. Play with your family and friends while enjoying pizza, snacks and prizes for the winners!

Back to School. In each school, we will be offering structured peer groups and new programs that focus on positive youth development and leadership skills. Check us out at the Open Houses!. Need our School Supply Closet? Contact us!

Surviving to Thriving, October 2 – November 20, Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 pm. This peer support group focuses on social and emotional needs of individuals with cognitive disabilities and provides positive support for successful skill-building.

Transitions: a divorce peer-support group, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. Share emotional support and practical advice on life after divorce including building a new family structure, managing childcare, figuring out finances and other topics of interest to the group.

For more information on these programs and more, visit wyfs.org. Sign up for our email newsletter so you don't miss our fresh slate of programs throughout the year.

Thank You Jon Lorensen of Lorensen Auto Group. Mr. Lorensen has been a generous and loyal donor to us and many other organizations in this community. We are grateful!



Kimberly Bratz, WYFS Chair and Jacqueline Ward, WYFS Director accepting check from Jon Lorensen

Counseling Services. WYFS offers affordable, quality counseling services in a warm, welcoming judgment-free zone. Life transitions and challenges are frequent and can be difficult for everyone. We can help. Services are offered on a sliding-scale fee basis or state insurance is accepted. Please call Macdara MacColl at 860-399-9239 to set up an appointment.

Recycling Information

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 HARD & SOFT COVER BOOKS
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 SHREDDED PAPER (IN PAPER BAG)
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Westbrook Solar Challenge



Westbrook's Board of Selectmen and Energy Committee is proud to announce that the Town of Westbrook is launching Westbrook Solar Challenge, a campaign to make solar more affordable and easily accessible for the town's homeowners and small businesses. Selectman and Energy Committee Chairperson Chris Ehler has set a goal to double the amount of residential scale solar power installations in Westbrook through the

CT Solar Challenge (CTSC) campaign.

"This is exactly the kind of program that will help us expand solar in our community and offer an excellent investment opportunity for our residents," Ehler said. "We can all take part in a greener and more sustainable future by coming out to an educational workshop."

Up Coming Events:

Early Bird Solar Workshop. Limited space, registration required, CTSolarChallenge.com. Westbrook Library on Tuesday, September 9, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Senior Energy Presentation at Senior Center, Mulvey Municipal Building on Wednesday September 17, 11am.

Westbrook Solar Workshop. Registration required, CTSolarChallenge.com. Westbrook High school on Tuesday October 7, 7-9 pm.

The Westbrook Solar Challenge campaign was designed to encourage solar energy adoption through a combination of coordinated education, marketing and outreach efforts, and a tiered savings structure. In December 2012, CT Solar Challenge (CTSC) launched a pilot program with Bethany and Chester. Since then eleven communities participated in the CT Solar Challenge program, as part of the effort to reach the Governor's "20 by 20" goal, where by 2020, 20% of the state's energy would come from renewable sources.

"We are seeing tremendous growth in the residential solar industry throughout the state of Connecticut and now,



Left to right Richard White (Energy Committee), Bill Fish (Energy Committee), Meg Parulis (Town Planner, Energy Committee), Noel Bishop, First Selectman, Chris Ehler, Selectman and Chairperson Energy Committee, Maggie Treichel, CT Solar Challenge, Lesley Higgins, Mark Garrett and Chris Lenda from Aegis.

with the right policies and programs in place, we can make a difference globally by taking responsibility on a local level." Maggie Treichel of CTSC said. "We at CTSC are tremendously excited to partner with Westbrook and other cities and towns across Connecticut to bring clean, locally sourced, cost-effective solar electricity generation to individual residences and businesses."

CTSC has chosen Aegis, a leader in clean energy products and services, as the solar contractor for Westbrook Solar Challenge – CT. Aegis simplifies the process for any customer making the switch to solar with a full-service approach. Aegis will customize the design of the system, install solar panels, provide monitoring and handle any repairs or maintenance if required.

"We are honored to be chosen by CTSC as the Westbrook Solar Challenge provider," said Chris Lenda, Aegis's President. "Aegis can give residents the option to install solar panels for free and save money on their utility bills."

Interested home owners can get information and sign up for a free workshop from CT Solar Challenge at www.ctsolarchallenge/westbrook or call Maggie Treichel at (800) 505-7419.

Registrars of Voters

The State Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, at the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT in the Multi-Purpose room from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. Assembly District 23 and Assembly District 35 will vote at this location in their separate Voting Districts.

If you are not a registered voter, you may get an application at the Registrar's or Town Clerk's Office. The regularly scheduled Registrar's Office hours are Tuesdays from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, and Thursdays from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. You may also call to make an appointment at 860-399-3042.

A reminder to all registered voters – Please inform the Registrars if you have had any change of name, address, telephone number, or want to change your party affiliation. It is

important that we have your most current information for our records so that your right to vote is not compromised.

Any registered voter on the active list, if unable to vote in person, may vote by absentee ballot for one of the following reasons: 1) absence from the town during all hours of voting, 2) illness, 3) physical disability, 4) active service in the U.S. Armed Forces, 5) religious tenets which forbid secular activity on the official's usual place of voting during all hours of voting. Absentee ballots are available only from the Town Clerk beginning on the 31st day before an election and the 21st day before a primary, upon application properly made, either in person or by mail to the Town Clerk.

Mary Labbadia, Nancy Moore, Registrars of Voters

Westbrook Recreation

Fall Program

Fall is right around the corner and the children will be back in school soon. This September we will start a new year for all our adult programs. We have Zumba, Yoga, Pilates, Adult Volleyball, Adult Basketball, Adult Horseshoes and Senior Fitness classes. We're sure to have a fitness class to fit your schedule and desire. Why pay membership fees when you're able to take our classes whenever you wish and only pay for the ones you use?

All of our fall youth sports programs will be starting September 6th. As always, we have our very popular Tot and Recreation Soccer programs. For the fourth year we will have the Challenger Sports staff running our 1st – 5th grades recreational soccer classes. Challenger teaches both our April and Summer Soccer Camps and brings their international skills and knowledge. This program will give your child the solid foundation they will need to play soccer.

This will be the fifth year for our Youth Badminton program. Has your child enjoyed playing badminton this past summer? Now imagine them playing indoors with all their friends. This class is limited due to the small Daisy gym. Sign up as soon as possible or you may not get in! K - 4 Karate has been an ongoing favorite with children and parents for many years. Your child will learn to listen, follow directions, learn self-discipline and focus better. We also have our other popular youth programs such as Archery and our Red Cross courses.

We are in the fifth year of running the Westbrook Middle School, After School Program. Do you need your child to stay after school



until you can pick them up? Do you want your child in a supervised, fun and safe environment? Do you want your children to do their homework before they come home, under the supervision of our staff? This

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• *Westbrook Recreation continued from page 22* •

program can do all that! Each session runs for four weeks (Mon. – Fri.) at a very reasonable rate. Children may also sign up for certain days each week, at a higher cost per day.

The Westbrook Recreation Board hopes that all of our residents had a happy, safe and fun summer. Please don't delay and register for our fall programs. If you are not a Westbrook resident and want to receive our brochure, please call us at 860-399-3095. Nonresidents are always welcome to join us. Find out why people everywhere are saying: "Westbrook Recreation has programs for everyone and the benefits are endless."

Estuary Council

ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC. has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 38 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

MEALS ON WHEELS – hot meals delivered to your home. Call Peg at 860-388-1611. A \$3 donation request for those aged 60+. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

CAFÉ MEAL SITES - Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Westbrook (Thursdays). Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 am, 24 hours in advance.

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION. For medical appointments to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Suggested donation of \$35 for a roundtrip Doctor appointment up to 5 hours. Suggested donation of \$70 for appointments over 5 hours.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES: Zumba Gold, Ballroom Dance/Exercise Classes, Tai Chi, Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Stretch and Strength Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot. Instructional classes just added: Mah Jongg, Chess and Bridge.

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Open Monday - Friday; and Saturdays. Clothing, kitchen items, crafts, and more.

THE GYM AT THE ESTUARY: Expanded Hours. Member packages include a fitness assessment and three (3) training sessions on all machines (required). Call for information/ package options.

THE MARSHVIEW GALLERY AT THE ESTUARY: Open daily and Saturdays. The art highlights the talents of local artists. Join us on the second Thursday of each month for the Artist Reception from 5 – 7 p.m. Call for information.

DONATE YOUR CAR OR BOAT TO THE ESTUARY COUNCIL - Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Call Judy at 860-388-1611.

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Area Closed To Protect Nesting Birds

Signs have been posted on Westbrook's Salt Island notifying residents and visitors that an area of the Island is closed to human activity to protect the nests of Common Terns and Oyster Catchers which nested there for the first time in 2013. The **AREA CLOSED TO PROTECT NESTING BIRDS** is a small plateau of grasses, poison ivy and shrubs and the supporting rocky framework immediately around it.

During nesting season, late May through August, the swooping, diving and very vocal Common Terns warn visitors that they have nests on the Island, but do not say where their nests are. The signs do, letting people know where the nests are located and that the area is restricted to protect the nests, eggs and chicks.

Tern nests are difficult to detect; generally a loose assembly of dead vegetation on ground making them difficult to see before stepping on them. The olive to buff eggs, marked with numerous small spots and blotches of dark brown, adds to the nests camouflage. The downy chicks can walk but tend to stay on the loose nest, taking close to 4 weeks to fledge (fly). Chicks would not be likely to avoid a missed placed foot.

Enforcement of the **AREA CLOSED** designation will be relatively passive, at least for this nesting season. Fencing around the small plateau is being planned, and Island Keepers will be periodically on the Island to encourage visitors to help protect nesting shore birds and answer questions about the Island and the bird population.



Sign on Westbrook's Salt Island. The rock supports a small plateau of grasses, poison ivy and shrubs with shore bird nesting sites. Photo: Don Harger.



Salt Island's plateau of grasses, poison ivy and shrubs; the protected fragile habitat for nesting terns and other shore birds. Photo: Don Harger.

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We hope residents and visitors will respect the intent of the signs and help us protect the nesting birds.

Thank You—from the Westbrook Conservation Commission and our partners, the Friends of Westbrook's Barrier Islands, the USFWS Stewart B. McKinney NFWL Refuge and Audubon Connecticut. Questions and to help, email Conservation Commission: todell@snet.net.

Town Hall Hours:

Mon - Wed: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am - Noon



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