



# Deep River News

Vol. 13, No. 2

Summer 2008

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## A Glimpse Into Our Past

“Part VI”

Charlton M. Pratt

One of the most attractive places of business in Deep River is the store of Charlton M. Pratt, an illustration of which is given below. It is pleasantly located in the town building on Main Street, is large and roomy, and admirably adapted for business. Mr. Pratt carries a full line of clothing for men, youths and boys, hats and caps, and a general line of gentlemen’s furnishings. He also deals in trunks, bags, umbrellas, and a line of extra quality horse coverings.



Mr. Pratt has been in his present business since 1887, in that year purchasing the clothing business of William O. Post. His patronage is not confined to Deep River alone, but includes customers in all the surrounding towns. He has built up a large trade by his square business dealings and the universal courtesy which he extends to all customers, whether their purchases amount to much or little. He pays strict attention to business, and is thoroughly acquainted with its every detail. His stock is as large and varied as that of many stores in the city, thus giving his customers the opportunity of a wide variety in price and texture to select from. His large trade also insures fresh and up-to-date goods, which is an added inducement to those who give him their patronage.

Mr. Pratt also occupies an important place in town affairs, being at the present time Tax Collector, which position he has held for several years. He is also a member of the Town School Board, and has held various other town offices. In 1881 he represented the town in the General Assembly. He is a Republican in politics, and has always taken an active interest in party affairs. Mr. Pratt is married, and has five children. He is universally esteemed as one of the leading business men of the town.

Supplement to The Deep River New Era, Vol. XXVI. No. 22.  
August 25, 1899



## Deep River News

Summer  
2008

Richard H. Smith, First Selectman  
John R. Kollmer, Designer & Editor  
Gina Sopneski, Advertising  
Printed by Essex Printing

To submit articles or ads,  
contact the Selectman’s Office  
526-6020 or [gsopneski@deepriverct.us](mailto:gsopneski@deepriverct.us)

Deadline for Fall Issue 8/28/08



**On the Cover:**  
Summer Morning at the Town Landing  
by John R. Kollmer

## Selectman's News

### Grants

We are happy to announce two new grants, in addition to our original Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant of \$500,000 for our Main Street Streetscape Project Phase 1, we have now been awarded another \$400,000 for Phase 2, with that total amount of \$900,000 we should be able to completely rehabilitate the west side of Main Street from Veterans Memorial Way all the way to Spring Street. If you want a glimpse of the finished product, take a look at the brickwork in front of Walgreens. The Planning & Zoning Commission required all new projects—Walgreens, The Elms, Shore Discount Liquors and Cumberland Farms—to match the Streetscape plan. With decorative streetlamps, benches and other accessories, our Main Street will be beautiful.

In order to help bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act we have received \$150,000 from the Small Cities Grant program. The major cost will be replacing the access ramp to the Elm Street entrance. We also plan to upgrade our public bathrooms. As I have often said, we could not have achieved our level of quality of life without the help of grants. Along with prudent budgeting, grants, and the economic development they foster, help keep our taxes as low as they can be.

### Upcoming Projects

Our major highway project during the new fiscal year will be the total renovation of Stanwoll Hill Road and Harvey Lane. As is our practice, the Highway Department will first upgrade the drainage system. Tilcon will then come in, pulverize the existing roadway and subsurface, providing a proper base for paving. A binder of class 2 (blacktop), approximately one and half inches of asphalt will be applied and rolled. A second layer of class 1 will then be placed over the first course for a total of three inches. Finally, a new six inch curb will be installed, backed up with top soil and seeding behind the curb.

We will also make some drainage improvements, reclaim and pave a short section on Kelsey Hill Road, as well as some other small paving jobs as our budget allows. Recent dramatic increases in the price of crude oil impact our entire budget, as they do yours. Asphalt and plastic pipe, both petroleum derivatives, are up considerably, and the price of vehicle fuel has raised the price of all highway materials, including concrete.

We will continue the work necessary for the planned Plattwood Park expansion, which was begun a year and a half ago by a group of loyal, hardworking volunteers. As we add to our infrastructure we must increase our maintenance program. Every improvement—the gazebo at Keyboard Park, additions to Plattwood Park, new subdivision roads, etc.—adds to the workload of our highway department. We are very fortunate to have great highway employees and I would like to thank Ed, Bob, Frank and our part time help for the great job they do.

### Kind Words are Always Welcome

I cannot remember a project that has brought as much favorable comment as the new Walgreens. I will admit that when the cement block walls first went up I was not sure that I had championed the

right cause. The LaPlace building (1,000 square feet larger than Walgreens), and not noted for its architectural beauty had been razed, only to be replaced by...what? But as work progressed—as siding was added and roof lines took shape, as brickwork and other embellishments softened the exterior view and, toward the end, when the parking lot, with its granite curbing, landscaped islands and well-grown trees, was paved and striped—the pharmacy's appearance changed totally, and residents of Deep River and surrounding towns took notice. Many, many residents (and visitors from out of town) have commented about how well such a large building seems to fit our Main Street, and how pleased they are with the way Walgreens looks. It has taken three and a half years since it was first proposed. Soon the pharmacy project will finally be complete.

The Board of Selectmen, P & Z and public spirited citizens all worked very hard to ensure that every aspect was as fitting for our town as it could be. But our efforts alone would not have been sufficient without the full cooperation of the partners in 180 Main Street, LLC, the developers. Al Kleban, who was a founder, and remains a partner in Turnpike Properties (the shopping center owner; Larry Roberts, whose father, Sam, was a T.P. partner; and Al's son, Ken, have outdone themselves (to the extent that they have spent considerably more money than they had originally planned). They are such a dedicated group that you might think that the partners—and their staff—lived in Deep River, rather than in Fairfield County.

I have contacted Ken Kleban on behalf of Deep River and informed him of the hundreds of residents who have contacted me to say what a great job the Turnpike Properties partners have done restoring the Elms and building the new Walgreens. To Al, Larry and Ken, we say thank you for investing in Deep River.

### Our Vibrant Main Street

Shops come...Shops Stay..Still More Shops Come. You have to go to 124 Main Street to see Kim Bouchard's creations. You can't appreciate them by reading these words. Telling you that she fashions artistic and colorful fantasy bouquets and faux truffles from baby socks doesn't begin to describe Kim's wares. I recommend that you stroll up Main Street to the first building north of Keyboard Park to visit Peek-a-Booquet and cupcake, which opened in May. It provides new evidence that "Dodge City," for years an orphaned block in our commercial zone, is staging a comeback. In fact, one of the driving forces behind our Streetscape project was to improve that area in particular. Now there are three very different galleries and shops at 124 Main: There's Alicia Melluzzo, Artist & Frammer, with her portraits, landscapes, murals (and more); Karen Stevenson's Signatures Gallery & Gifts and now Kim Bouchard's Peek-a-Booquet—they complement one another wonderfully.

Then there's The Gilded Pear, opened lately by Christopher Maly, who shares the triangle that once was Bartlett's Garage with Don Slater's Antique Irish Furniture and Laurie Gregan's, Flowers...for Awhile. Chris did his homework well—his wide variety of home furnishings and gifts are not at all the standard gift shop fare. In fact The Gilded Pear is the exclusive retailer for the coveted French

**Selectman's News, cont.**

dinnerware Terre Province. There's a synergy among the shops in that building at 246 Main Street. And here's an idea...start at 124 Main and walk to 246 (with your purchases in hand). You'll have a day's exercise along with the wonderful gifts you've bought for family and friends.

**"A Great Location"**

Those words greet visitors as they enter Deep River along Route 154. They appear on the sign Walt Mislick erected some years ago at the southern entrance to his Connecticut Valley Industrial Park. It is no exaggeration to say that Walt did more in his 92 years to help increase Deep River's commercial and industrial tax base than any other citizen of our town. And Walt was always pleased to be identified with Deep River. His parents, who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1880s from Poland, were living in Chester when Walt was born in 1916, but they moved to Deep River when he was just a year old.

Walt's dedication to Deep River is legendary, but his truly active days, when he was often in the public eye, ended some years ago. Walt passed away this past April. If you would like to find out more about Walt, you may wish to look on the Hartford Courant website for his obituary. Or talk to some of Deep River's old timers about how Walt, as a member of the board of the Deep River National Bank (now Liberty), convinced his fellow bankers to undo a contemporary renovation and return the exterior of the building to its 1800 appearance.

Perhaps Walt's most revolutionary idea was the concept that has come to be known as the "business incubator." Having achieved on his own a fair amount of success himself, he wanted to help other entrepreneurs get a leg up. In his industrial park he allotted space for startup businesses, charging them low rent and extending credit when their businesses went slack. When I first was elected First Selectman, Walt immediately began to promote and stress the importance of industrial and commercial business to our tax base. I first heard the phrase "incubator business" from Walt in November 1989. As I spent time talking to Walt and getting to know him and how he thought, I learned a lot about industrial and commercial business and how to make them successful. In fact, it was through my discussions with Walt that I got the idea to apply for a Small Cities Grant to build our own incubators in the Plattwood Industrial Park. I have been told that it was the first such project (a government/private sector co-operative effort) in the State of Connecticut. It was so successful that we were given a second grant to build another incubator. Both buildings have been fully rented to young, growing businesses since they opened, generating both new tax revenues and jobs.

Walt was not unnecessarily modest. He was proud of his achievements, but he was a Deep River booster rather than a Walt Mislick booster. There aren't many Walt Mislicks in this world. Deep River was fortunate that Walt Mislick was loaned to us. We will truly miss him.

*Dick Smith, First Selectman*

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**Town Clerk News**

**Welcome New Residents**

William J. & Dorothy I. Dockery	97 River Road	Mar. 31, 2008
Allison D. Kane	77 Scenic View Drive #4	Apr. 2, 2008
Brian & Jenny Sullivan	37 Village Street	Apr. 3, 2008
Troy A. Hoelzen & Natash Andjelic	30 River Street	Apr. 17, 2008
Bernard J. & Kimberly A. Shea	26 Fairview Avenue	April 21, 2008
Carolyn Heimann	92 Main Street, Unit 205	April 30, 2008
Charles C. & Anne C. Caldwell	141 Meadow Woods Road	May 20, 2008
Libia Bautista	38 Stevenstown Road	May 20, 2008
Thomas M. Wilcox	92 Main Street, Unit 416	May 23, 2008

**Marriages**

Anthony V. Guarino, Jr. & Linda C. Williams	Mar. 29, 2008
Jeremy R. Maxwell & Dana L. Ramsey	April 19, 2008
John P. Shannon, Jr. & Keri Beth Lombard	April 20, 2008
Roger D. Bjornberg & Alice C. Church	April 26, 2008
Albert Jose Madrazo & Victoria E. Taylor	May 21, 2008

**Passings**


Thomas A. Gilbert	169 Bushy Hill Road	March 1, 2008
Richard Otto	116 Meadow Woods Road	March 24, 2008
Kenneth A. Beemer	67 Spring Street	March 28, 2008
Philip J. Mucha	27 Cedar Swamp Road	April 5, 2008
Marion Irene Hebert	256 Westbrook Road	April 11, 2008

**Board and Commission Vacancies**

If you are a registered voter and are interested in serving on a Board or Commission, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 526-6020. Currently there are vacancies on the following Boards:

Conservation and Inlands/Wetlands Commission	term to expire 12-01-2009
Economic Development Commission	term to expire 12-01-2008
Park & Recreation Commission	term to expire 12-01-2010
Water Pollution Control Authority	term to expire 12-01-2008
Water Pollution Control Authority	term to expire 12-01-2010
Estuary Transit District	
Long Island Sound Council	
Region II Regional Mental Health Board	

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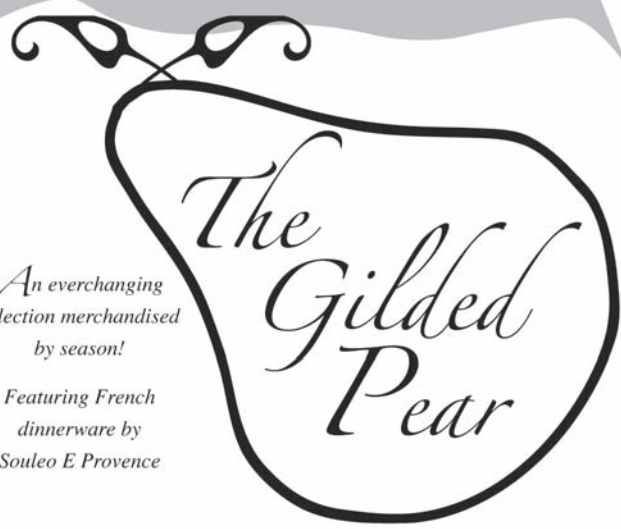
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## Be Prepared

### Prepare a Personal Disaster and Evacuation Plan

The American Red Cross, the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency urge each and every family to develop a family disaster plan.

Meet with your family to create a plan. Discuss the information you have gathered and why it is important to prepare for a disaster.

Show and explain to each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches, and how to use a fire extinguisher. Remember, if the gas is turned off, only a professional can turn it back on.

Identify ahead of time where you would go if you are told to evacuate. Choose several different places – a friend’s home outside of the affected area, a motel or a shelter.

Get a good map and be familiar with your community’s evacuation routes.

Listen to local media broadcasts or NOAA Weather Radio for the latest storm conditions.

If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.

In case you have to evacuate, be sure to bring your disaster supplies kit including medications, extra clothing, pillows and blankets, and other hygiene and comfort supplies, along with copies of essential papers and documents.

Be sure to make advanced safety preparations for your pets. Only Service Animals are permitted in Red Cross shelters. Contact your local humane society or veterinarian for suggestions. More information on disaster planning and pets is available at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Ask an out-of-town friend or family member to act as “family contact” for everyone to call in case of separation. It is often easier to call long distance after a disaster than to make local calls.

### Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit

Gather enough emergency supplies to meet your needs for at least three days. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy to carry, water resistant containers. It’s also a good idea to keep a smaller kit in the trunk of your car. Your disaster supplies kit should include:

A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and ready-to-eat canned goods, such as tuna fish, peanut butter, crackers, canned fruit, juice boxes, etc. Please remember to replace stored water and food every six months.

A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries

A manual can opener.

Copies of important documents, including birth certificates, insurance policies and social security cards. Original documents should be secured in a locked box or safety deposit box.

- Comfortable clothing and footwear
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines
- Emergency tools, including tools to turn off utilities
- An extra set of car keys
- Cash/Credit cards
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses

### Prepare for Hazards at Home

Pick a day in June to conduct a home hazard hunt and perimeter search, in which you inspect your home for items that can move, fall, break or cause a fire.

Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs

If your home is especially vulnerable to wind, consider hurricane or high-wind shutters or pre-cut plywood to cover windows, especially large expanses of glass

If your basement is prone to flooding, consider raising electrical and heating appliances above the flood area. Consult your heating, plumbing or electrical professional.

Have a plan to move or secure lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by wind and become a projectile

Practice and maintain your plan. Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers and safety rules.

Keep in mind the importance of neighbors during a difficult time. Working with neighbors can save lives. Know your neighbors’ special skills and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons. Make plans for child care in case parents cannot get home - that way, all of the children in your neighborhood can be safe.

The Shoreline Emergency Management Association (of which our town is a member) has completed an Amateur Radio License class and licensed or upgraded 8 operators this year. Thomas Law, a member of our Emergency Management team is now licensed as a Technician Class Operator.

*Jerry Clark, Director, Emergency Management, Deep River, CT*

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## Deep River Ambulance Association



We will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, August 26th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please consider making an appointment to give blood, 1-800 GIVE LIFE, or call Jen Kollmer at 526-1495. (We've got great canteen refreshments!)

As summer approaches, remember these safety tips from the Red Cross, ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)):

### Water Safety:

Swim in supervised areas only

Obey all rules and posted signs

Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm.

Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

### Boating Safety:

Be weather wise: Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. Bring a portable radio to check weather reports.

Bring extra gear you may need: A flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map of where you are, flares, sunscreen, first aid kit, extra sunglasses. Put those that need to be protected in a watertight pouch or a container that floats.

Tell someone where you're going, who is with you, and how long you'll be away.

Check your boat, equipment, engine and fuel supply before leaving.

### Heat Safety:

Dress for the heat. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella.

Drink water. Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body.

Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein which increase metabolic heat.

Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician. Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

**Stay indoors when possible:**

Take regular breaks when engaged in physical activity on warm days. Take time out to find a cool place. If you recognize that you or someone else is showing the signals of a heat-related illness, stop activity and find a cool place. Remember, have fun, but stay cool!

*Jen Kollmer, Chief of Service*

## Deep River Fire Department

We take this opportunity to acknowledge John (Jack) White Jr. for his 45 years of service to the Deep River Fire Department. Jack served as Captain of Engine Companies from 1968 to 1973, was Assistant Chief in 1977, and has been elected Chief Engineer annually since 1982.

Jack's years of service were recognized at the Department's Annual Banquet in March. As Jack was unable to attend the Banquet, a small ceremony was held in May upon his return to Connecticut. The Board of Selectmen also presented Jack with a Proclamation for his years of service. Jack's commitment and dedication to the Deep River Fire Department for 45 years is truly appreciated by our members and the community.



Members of the Department recently participated in the Annual Firefighter Field Day held in Essex. Area firefighters competed in firefighting related timed events and trophies were awarded for each category. The DRFD Teams took home a 3rd place trophy for Officer Guided Attack, 3rd place for Hydrant Dressing, and 2nd place for Midnight Alarm.

Congratulations to the following firefighters for successfully completing their training:

Kevin Brewer, Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I

John Kollmer, Water Rescue Technician

Ernest Schaefer, Firefighter I

Matthew Czepiel, Firefighter I

*Peter L. Woodcock, Chief*



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## Deep River Resident Trooper



Deep River with its 14 square miles and 4,700 residents definitely has a small town appeal. Since former Resident Trooper, now Sergeant Richard Burgarella was promoted in April, I have been given the opportunity to play a role in your community. I'm proud to say that I'm the new Resident Trooper of Deep River. I

come to your town with over 15 years State Police experience, of which over 12 years have been served in the communities covered by Troop F in Westbrook.

I was recently asked "what do think best describes your style of policing"? I answered "I'm big into the community". I then went on to tell that person that I would want the people of Deep River to feel they could approach me with any problem no matter how small, that my door is open. With that being



said, summer is here and people will be out walking and biking throughout the town. When driving, please be aware of your surroundings, buckle up, and obey the posted speed limit.

With the warm weather comes aggressive driving behavior. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines aggressive driving as "the operation of a motor vehicle in a manner which endangers, or is likely to endanger, persons or property". To put it simply, it contributes to collisions, injuries and fatalities. To avoid aggressive drivers put your pride aside and get out of the way. Don't challenge them by speeding up, avoid eye contact, ignore any gestures and refuse to return them. Report serious aggressive driving. If possible, obtain and write down the marker plate number and then contact the Resident Trooper's Office as soon as possible at 526-6027.

I am looking forward to serving your town,

*TFC Christopher Cope  
Deep River Resident Trooper*

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## Are We Ready for a Heat Wave?

### What is Extreme Heat?

Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly. Other conditions related to risk include age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, mental illness, poor circulation, sunburn, prescription drug and alcohol use. Because heat-related deaths are preventable, people need to be aware of who is at greatest risk and what actions can be taken to prevent a heat-related illness or death. The elderly, the very young, and people with mental illness and chronic diseases are at highest risk. However, even young and healthy individuals can succumb to heat if they participate in strenuous physical activities during hot weather. Air conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death. If a home is not air-conditioned, people can reduce their risk for heat-related illness by spending time in public facilities that are air conditioned. Summertime activity must be balanced with measures that aid the body's cooling mechanisms and prevent heat-related illness. This pamphlet tells how you can prevent, recognize, and cope with heat-related health problems.

### Reduce Heat Related Illness

1. Increase your fluid intake. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
2. If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, non-alcoholic fluids each hour. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
3. Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat along with sunglasses, and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher 30 minutes prior to going out.
4. Limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.
5. Stay indoors and, if possible, stay in an air-conditioned place.

### Heat Cramps:

Heat cramps are muscular pains and spasms due to heavy exertion. They usually involve the abdominal muscles or the legs. It is generally thought that the loss of water and salt from heavy sweating causes the cramps.

### Symptoms include

- Rapid heartbeat
- Hot, sweaty skin
- Dizziness
- Fainting and exhaustion
- Nausea and vomiting

### Heat Exhaustion:

Typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a warm, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy sweating. Fluid loss causes blood flow to decrease in the vital organs, resulting in a form of shock. With heat exhaustion, sweat does not evaporate as it should, possibly because of high humidity or too many layers of clothing. As a result, the body is not cooled properly.

### Symptoms include:

- Cool, moist, pale skin (the skin may be red right after physical activity)
- Headache
- Nausea
- The skin may or may not feel hot
- Dizziness and weakness or exhaustion

### Heat Stroke:

Also known as sunstroke, heat stroke is life-threatening. The victim's temperature control system, which produces sweat to cool the body, stops working. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly.

### Symptoms include:

- Vomiting
- Decreased alertness level or complete loss of consciousness
- High body temperature (sometimes as high as 105)
- Skin may still be moist or the victim may stop sweating and the skin may be red, hot and dry
- Rapid, weak pulse
- Rapid, shallow breathing



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**labyrinth** — *noun* a complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze **life coach** — *noun* a professional skilled in helping others navigate the maze of life

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## Deep River Elementary School



Members of the sixth grade successfully completed their instruction in the D.A.R.E. program. Certificates and prizes were presented to the students by Sergeant Richard Burgarella of the Connecticut State Police.

On Monday, May 5th, our sixth graders participated in the annual "High On Life Week" by painting windows throughout the town. Ms. Diana DeWolf-Carfi, Art Teacher at DRES assisted in the project.

The DRES third grade participated in a parade led by Mrs. Myrna Medina, Spanish Teacher at DRES in celebration of Cinco de Mayo Day on May 5th.



Deep River Elementary School students Jill Larson, Sam Jones, and Bobby Hamblett were finalists in the Letters about



Literature National Reading-writing Contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. Each student in sixth grade entered the contest by writing a personal letter to an author explaining how

that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or him/herself. Jill, Sam and Bobby made the final round of judging out of 1,865 essays submitted from Connecticut. These students were honored as finalists at an awards ceremony at the Hartford Public Library on June 1st and will receive certificates of achievement.



Ailie Bednarz Grade 4 (on right) had the special honor of singing with her Uncle Steve of "Steve Songs" at the White House in Washington, D.C. during the annual Easter Egg Roll. Ailie has been a "Silly" singing backups with her uncle and enjoying herself and her passion for music. Steve is currently filming for his new morning show



on PBS, and continues to tour all over the country. Ailie will continue to perform as a "Silly" as often as she can. She recently performed to a crowd of over 900 at the Bushnell Theatre.



On Thursday, May 29th First Graders at DRES released their butterflies. This project is part of the first grade science curriculum. Over 100 butterflies were released by the four classes.

### TIP-A-TEACHER

The Ivory Pub, children, families, great food, teachers, and lots and lots of balloons! What do all of these things have in common, one might ask? This was the scene at the Ivory Pub on Tuesday, June 3rd, for the second annual Tip-A Teacher night. Fourteen staff members from D.R.E.S. were on hand to help out at this event, which helped to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Teachers could be seen waiting tables, bussing, selling raffle tickets, and even making balloon sculptures! It was great to see so many D.R.E.S. families turn out to support this event! In all, over \$1,300 was raised and will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.



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## Deep River Junior Ancients

### On the Road to London

The Deep River Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corp is working hard to raise funds for a trip to England to perform in London's 2010 New Year's Day parade! It will be a great honor for us to participate in this event.



The Corp consists of about 30 talented kids from Chester, Deep River, Essex and surrounding towns. The Corp practices in Deep River every Tuesday night throughout the year. We have a

very busy schedule this summer. Upcoming events can be seen on our website, [www.drja.org](http://www.drja.org), and include the Battle of Bunker Hill Parade in Boston and, of course, the Deep River Muster. The Corp will also be holding a special performance, July 31st, as part of the Town summer concert series on the lawn of the beautiful Stone House. We hope to see you there!

Recently, the Corp is proud to have won second place for "Best Junior Corp" in New Haven's 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade. You can see the plaque displayed at the Deep River Town Hall. So as the kids play and practice, and prepare for London, keep your eyes and ears open for the historical sights and sounds of Fife and Drum.



For more information or to make a donation, please write to Deep River Junior Ancient Fife and Drum Corp, P.O. Box 234, Deep River, CT 06417, or call 526-3439



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## Deep River Park & Recreation

### Park and Rec. Website: [www.deepriverct.us/parkandrec](http://www.deepriverct.us/parkandrec)

While it is still under construction, we are pleased to be able to offer an improved Park and Rec website. Please bookmark us and check back often. Updated information on all programs will be available at the click of your mouse. After an event occurs, look for the photo gallery to see how much fun we all had. The links section will be full of links to other area programs that serve the children of our town. In the spirit of going green, many of our program registration forms will be available for download from the site. This will allow us to save many copies that are sent home on a regular basis. We will now be sending home brief descriptions of the programs and complete details will be available on-line. If internet access is an issue, please feel free to call the Park and Rec office and we will send the appropriate forms out immediately. Is an event rained out? Check the website if you are just not sure. If there is information that you would like to see on the website, please email us at [parkandrec@deepriverct.us](mailto:parkandrec@deepriverct.us) or call us at 526-6025.

### 2008 Fishing Derby

Park and Rec.'s annual fishing derby attracted 47 Fisher boys and Fisher girls who crowded the banks of Plattwood Fishing Pond at the early hour of 7:00 am in hopes of catching "The Big One". The Thursday before the derby, the pond was stocked with 266 Rainbow Trout ranging in size from 9" – 19". The big winner for 2008 was Shane Joy who caught an 11" trout. Shane's name will be engraved on the Sonny Stebbins Memorial Fishing Derby plaque which hangs in the hall of the Elementary School. Below is a list of all of this year's winners.



Age 12-15.....1st Place – Shane Joy (11")  
2nd Place – Veronica Villafana (10")

Age 8-11.....1st Place – David Uphold (10-3/4")  
1st Place – Gia Villafana (10-3/4")  
2nd Place – Brennan Joy (10-1/4")  
2nd Place – Cassidy Kehlenbach (10-1/4")  
3rd Place – Kristine Davis (10")

Age 5-7.....1st Place – Nicole Grief (10-3/4")

Special thanks goes out to Kelley LaCoske who worked so hard as the chair of this event. She effortlessly made all the little things that go into organizing an event like this happen. Also, a special thanks to Jeff at Adams for helping us with the donuts and all of the Park and Rec committee members who got up early and helped with registration, set up and fish measuring.

### Volleyball Camp

Come and learn the fundamentals of girl's indoor volleyball at the Park and Rec's Volleyball Camp. Held at Plattwood Park, this camp will allow the girls to learn the principals of volleyball

while enjoying the summer sun and sand. Session 1 will run July 28-Aug 1 9:00am-12:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm. Session 2 will run Aug 4-Aug 8 9:00am-12:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm. Cost for the program is \$150 per session. This program is open to girls entering the 9th – 12th grade in the fall. For more information please call Tracy Woodcock at 526-9934 or email her at [twoody22@comcast.net](mailto:twoody22@comcast.net). Registration forms can be downloaded at the forms tab on [www.deepriverct.us/parkandrec](http://www.deepriverct.us/parkandrec).

### Swim Lessons

The Deep River Parks and Recreation is proud to be bringing back swimming lessons this summer at Plattwood Park for children ages 3-12. Lessons will be held in the afternoons on July 7th - July 18th, Monday thru Friday. The first session will run 12:30 - 1:15 and the second session will run 1:30 - 2:15 (these times may vary a bit). The cost is \$100 for Deep River residents and \$110 for out of town residents. For more information, please call Nancy at the Park and Rec. office at 526-6025 or email at [parkandrec@deepriverct.us](mailto:parkandrec@deepriverct.us). Registration forms can be downloaded at the forms tab on [www.deepriverct.us/parkandrec](http://www.deepriverct.us/parkandrec).

### Summer Camp

Park and Rec summer camp is now underway. Camp serves 50 kids per week for 6 weeks of the summer. We are looking for residents or businesses that have an interest or a talent to share with the kids. We have free choice periods most days and would love to have guests come in and share some of their time with the kids. If you are interested or know someone who may be please call 526-6025 or email [parkandrec@deepriverct.us](mailto:parkandrec@deepriverct.us).

### Movies on the Beach

During the month of August we will be running a series of "Movies on the Beach". They will be shown after sunset at Plattwood Park on the giant blow up screen. Popcorn and candy will be available. Watch for more information on times and movie selections.

### Start training now!

Don't forget to start planning for the 5K run and Family Fun Run on Family Day, September 20, 2008. What a great opportunity to get your family, friend or neighborhood together to participate in this fun and healthy activity. Look for more information on our website in the coming months.

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**New Listing**

**DEEP RIVER**— Located adjacent to beautiful Deep River Historical Society property & Devitt Field town park. Convenient to town center & Rte 9. Eat-in kit, DR(12x13), 3 BR, 2 baths, 2nd flr laundry. One story LR addition (20x21) w/deck. Semi-finished walk-up attic. Victorian era home needs work, much of it is cosmetic. Listed as two-family in town records. Listed at \$219,000.



**DEEP RIVER**—Traditional style 1-1/2 story home on one acre +/- . 6 rooms; 3 BR, 1 bath. Vinyl siding, thermal-pane windows. Detached 2 car garage, 23x30 shed/outbuilding. Main St. location. Customary home occupation allowed. Asking \$259,000.



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**ESSEX (Ivoryton)**—Oakridge Village Condominiums. Townhouse with 828 sqft consists of LR w/DA, 2 BR, 1-1/2 baths, first floor laundry, glass doors to large deck, pulldown attic. Quiet complex. Condo fee \$190 month, taxes only \$1480 per year. Vacant & ready for occupancy.



**ESSEX (Ivoryton)** 3.18 acres ready to be built on. Site cleared, approvals in place for engineered septic and wetlands. Obtain permit to build and start construction. Privacy and small stream at the end of shared private driveway. Asking \$159,900.



**Commercial**

**CHESTER**—Masonry construction. First floor has 3394 sqft of commercial space. Terrific business location on Middlesex Avenue near business complex, Town Hall & bank. Second floor apartment is expandable. Land 200'x200'. Offered at \$399,000



**Offered at \$329,000**

**DEEP RIVER (Winthrop area)** - Six room ranch home on 1.95 acres. Central air, central vacuum. 3 BR, den/office, 1-1/2 bath, deck, 2 car attached garage.

**Large outbuilding** (24'x36'), 13-1/2' ceiling w/12' overhead door. Heated, electric, compressor, 1,000 gallon diesel tank. Covered side patio for the backyard bbq's.

This property has been very well maintained. Owner had detailed professional home inspection done. That report is available to interested parties.



## Deep River Public Library

Catch the Reading Bug at the Deep River Public Library!

The library has a summer full of fun activities planned. Mark your calendars for the following events:

Tuesday, July 15 at 11am - A visit from New Britain Rock Cats' mascot

Thursday, July 17 at 4 pm - Children's author and illustrator Jane Manning will read selections of her books.

Wednesday, August 6 at 6:30 pm - Gone Buggy by Music with Margie.

Linda Hall returns to Tuesday Storytime and Crafts at 11 am in July and August. Eileen Baker continues her Baby Signing sessions.

Check our website [depriverct.com/library](http://depriverct.com/library) for up-to-date information.

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## The River Writers

The River Writers is a consortium of people who are interested in the practice and art of writing. The group meets every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 pm at the library.

Membership is open to the public. Writers are asked to bring ten copies of their work to the meeting. A theme is usually developed for each meeting to prompt writing. All kinds of writing are accepted and analyzed in a friendly atmosphere. Experienced and aspiring writers are welcome. Writers in the past have presented various works such as poems, essays, novels, short stories and memoirs. Publication is supported.

Encouraged by Library Director Ann Paietta, the first meeting took place on April 16, 2006 in the reference room. There were eight people who participated. In the two years since, membership hovers between eight and ten writers. For further information contact Gerry Feeney at 526-3483.

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## John Winthrop Middle School

### Welcomes Incoming Seventh Graders

Two orientation programs will be held for incoming seventh graders at JWMS on Wednesday, August 20th and Thursday, August 21st, between the hours of 8:30am and 12:00pm. Students have received a letter with the exact date and time. During the orientation, students will pick up their schedules for the 2008-2009 school year. Guidance counselors and several 8th grade students will assist and answer any questions the students may have regarding their transition to JWMS in September.

### Registration Dates for John Winthrop Middle School

Parents of students new to Regional School District #4 are asked to call and set up an appointment to register their 7th or 8th grader for John Winthrop Middle School. Available dates for registration will be August 18th and August 19th. Please call 526-9546 to arrange an appointment.

## The Backpack Program

The Backpack Program concept was developed in Little Rock, Arkansas after the school nurse asked for help because hungry students were coming to her with stomachaches and dizziness. The Backpack Program allows children to bring home nutritious food when other resources are not available, such as on weekends or during school vacations. The Backpacks are filled with child-friendly, non-perishable and vitamin fortified food.

What's in the backpack? Cereal, shelf-stable milk, fruit cups, an entrée, fruit juice, granola or cereal bars, snack. Once a month, the backpack will include a jar of peanut butter to supplement their food needs.

On Friday afternoons, children identified by the Deep River Elementary School social worker as in need of this service will receive a backpack of food to take home. The food is placed in a backpack for the students to carry home thus removing the stigma a child might experience with carrying home a bag of groceries. The students return the backpacks on Monday so they can be filled again for Friday.

How can you help? 12 children in the Deep River Elementary School are in need of assistance from the Backpack Program. It costs about \$12.00 per week, \$48.00 per month or \$489.00 per year to fill one back pack. Other donations of any size are greatly needed. The Backpack program does not run through the summer.

With your help and support, together we can ensure these children do not go hungry.

Donations can be mailed to:  
Deep River Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 246  
Deep River, CT 06417

All checks should be made out to the Deep River Congregational Church. Please put Backpack Program on the memo line. All donations must be clearly labeled for The Backpack program. For more information please contact Cathy Smith at (860) 526-1875 or [smithcathleen@sbcqglobal.net](mailto:smithcathleen@sbcqglobal.net)

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## Deep River Congregational Church

The First Congregational Church of Deep River will have their Annual Rummage Sale on July 12 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for many bargains. For more information call 860-526-5045.

The Vacation Bible School runs from July 21 – 25, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Children age 4 to those entering grade 5 are invited. Call 860-526-5045 for more information.

The Annual Flea Market will be here August 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a wonderful way to clean out your garage or house! If you would like a space, call the church at 526-5045. The price is \$25.

### Brevet Major General Alpheus S. Williams

With the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox, Virginia, and General Johnson at Durham Station, North Carolina, the Civil War, or the War of the Rebellion, was finally over. After the Grand Review of Troops in Washington, D.C., Alpheus is visited by his staff and addressed, "General, the members of your staff wish to present you before separating a slight testimonial of their esteem and affection. They, therefore, beg your acceptance of the accompanying album. The marked impartiality, justice, and kindness with which our individual and collective claims and interest have been received and acknowledged, have animated us with feelings higher than regard for our commanding General. The Division is soon to be dissolved, but the officers of the 1st Division staff will ever remember with feelings of pleasure, gratitude and veneration, one from whom they have always received the kindest personal consideration, and in whom they have had the fullest confidence as an able and energetic commander, and for whom they individually entertain the warmest feelings of affectionate regard. May the remainder of your days be happy and their close glorious."

Twelve staff members signed the above and they included: A Major of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry, two surgeons, a Capt. Of the 150th New York Vols., a Capt of the 5th Conn., a Capt. Of the 123rd New York Vols., a Capt. of the 29th Pennsylvania Vols., a Major of the 140th New York Vols., a Capt. of the 82nd Illinois Vols., and Alpheus' Adjutant General and his Aide-de-Camp.

After talking to General Thomas, the "Rock of Chickamauga", and Alpheus' old Commander of the Army of the Cumberland, Alpheus writes, "After the campaign of Atlanta he had made a stronger recommendation of me for a full major general than he ever made before, and asked me if I would like a command of troops embracing one of the southern states. I said, "Yes". He said that he had watched my command while with him and was eminently satisfied with me. I confessed that I was overwhelmed with his good opinion and could only express my thanks in some confusion. I knew that he had strongly recommended me at Atlanta and had often been told by his staff officers that he often spoke of my command of the corps in high terms." Appreciations continued – one from General W.T. Sherman, "A.S. Williams is an honest, true and brave soldier and gentleman. One who never faltered or hesitated in our long and perilous campaign."

Evidently Alpheus did accept General Thomas' offer and was appointed a military administrator of the Ouachita District which was located in southern Arkansas. At this time this area was a frontier region where most of the people were ardent Confederates. This was not an easy time for Alpheus and when he resigned his commission in 1866, he was appointed minister resident to the Central America Republic of San Salvador. He served in that capacity for three years and on his return to Michigan ran for Governor, but lost. In 1874, and 1876, he was elected a Representative to Congress and quickly established a reputation as an honest and independent legislator. These qualities were hard to find in the Congress at this time. In 1875, with his children all married, he married Mrs. Martha Tillman, a widow of a well known Detroit business man. His career in Congress was cut short by his death at 4 A.M. December 21, 1878 in Washington, D.C. His obituaries, one of which appeared in the New York Times on December 22, 1878, had the highlights of his life and his extensive military history. It also added that "he was of middle stature and stoutly built. He was genial and courteous in manner and thoroughly good natured. His ability and

courage in the field won him the respect and confidence of his soldiers. The remains, under escort of a delegation of Congressmen, will leave Washington for Detroit today. General Williams had been sick nearly a week. He became unconscious Thursday noon, since which time little hope had been entertained of recovery and the long continued stupor ended yesterday morning with a quiet, painless death, due to effusion of blood upon the brain. A meeting of citizens of the district was called last evening at Williards Hotel to express the sorrow and sympathy of the people whose interests General Williams had been identified as chairman of the House District Committee. Resolutions of esteem were adopted and speeches expressive of warm appreciation of his character were made by Gov. Shepherd, who presided, Gen. Boughton, Gen. Mitchell, Col. Kennedy, and others, old comrades in arms. The funeral will take place at his residence this morning at 9:30, after which the committee appointed by the Speaker of the House will accompany the body to Detroit. Gen. Sherman has ordered all the regulars here to report for escort duty at the funeral and will be present with his staff. The Washington Light Infantry Corps will also form a portion of the escort to the depot."

In 1878, the year of his death, his family consisted of one son and two daughters from his first marriage. His son, Charles Learned Williams had been born in 1841 and his daughters, Irene and Mary, born in 1843 and 1846. Unfortunately their mother, Jane Hereford Williams died at age thirty after ten years of marriage to Alpheus. Charles accompanied his father when he went into the army, but did not enlist himself. Most of his employment was with the quartermaster department. He married in 1869, and for years after was attached to the Engineer Department of the U.S. Army. In 1883, he obtained a clerkship in the U.S. Engineers Office in Detroit and served as chief clerk until his death in 1919.

Irene Williams passed the war years with family relatives in Detroit and Deep River. In 1866, she married William J. Chittenden, an important businessman of Detroit. She was very active in social and patriotic society activities and died in Chicago in 1907. Her daughter Margaret, who married William T. Barbour, was instrumental in preserving Alpheus' letters and therefore their eventual publication in the book, "From the Cannon's Mouth". Margaret's daughter, Irene Mott, of Guilford, Connecticut attended the Deep River Muster during the Civil War Centennial celebration which honored Alpheus' service.

At the beginning of the War, his daughter Mary was entrusted to the care of family relatives in Deep River. She married Major Francis Farkuhar, a West Point graduate, class of 1861, attached to the Engineer Department of the Army. He died in 1883 and Mary outlived him by fifty years. When the statue of Alpheus and Old Plug Ugly, was unveiled in 1921 at Belle Isle Park in Detroit, Mary was there. She died in 1935.

This is the final installment of the Alpheus S. Williams saga. For ten years we have followed the life of Alpheus in the hope that the citizens of Deep River might know more about a man who had been lost to history, especially in his native state.

*Dan Connors,  
Part 40  
Conclusion*

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## Boy Scouts

### Outdoor Activities

The highlight of the Boy Scout year is the annual week at Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth. This year's edition of summer camp will take place from July 20 to July 26. Scouts will take part in swimming, water polo, rowing and canoeing, white water, climbing, archery, riflery, camping, cooking, and a chance to work on a host of merit badges and advancements.

Scouts are also preparing for an expedition to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico next summer. Philmont is the high point of the Scouting career for anyone who has ever been there. Featuring hundreds of miles of trails ranked from "Challenging" to "Super-Strenuous", Philmont provides an incomparable hiking challenge at the same time that it teaches lessons about low-impact camping that only frontier hiking can offer. Many preparatory hikes have already been held and more are planned for throughout the summer to prepare the Scouts for the rigorous Philmont program. Only a limited number of scouts can attend, so Scouts will need to qualify based upon their ability to meet the physical standards required for the hiking levels they want to participate in, as well as their leadership and participation in Troop activities.

### Community Service

Scouts participated in the Memorial Day parades in both Chester and Deep River. Scouts were part of the White Rose ceremony at Deep River's "Columbia" War Memorial. Scouts also performed their traditional flag exchange at the Chester flagpole in downtown.

In early April Scouts assisted when the traveling Vietnam "Wall" War Memorial visited Deep River.

### Fundraisers

Troop 13 conducts a monthly can and bottle drive at the Chester Town Garage. The next two drives are tentatively scheduled for July 12 and August 16. If you can, drop off your clean deposit

cans and bottles a few days in advance at the garage. The Scouts would like to thank all those who purchased items during the Chester town-wide Memorial Day Tag Sale, as well as thanking those who participated by donating to or setting up and selling during the Tag Sale.

### Eagle Scouts

Troop 13 has produced over 40 Eagle Scouts. To earn the Eagle rank, the ultimate rank in Scouting, a boy must show a pattern of achievement by earning at least 21 merit badges. An Eagle Scout must also organize a public service activity, gain approval of the project from the District Advancement Chairperson, set up a plan for the project, manage other Scouts in performing the project, and finally pass an Eagle Review Board. Two more Scouts pursued their Eagle Badge this spring. Mike Hotkowski of Chester painted a map of the world on the playground at the Chester Elementary School. Mike passed his Board of Review and will receive his Eagle badge on July 6. James Marsh, also of Chester, replaced the split rail fence at North Quarter Park. James still needs to complete his Board of Review.

### Would you like to be a part of this?

Troop 13 welcomed seven new Scouts to the Troop this May. Four of the new Scouts are from Deep River and three have moved up from Chester.

Troop 13 encourages all boys from the towns of Deep River and Chester who are between the ages of 11 and 18 to join. Meetings are held at "The Shack" on Cedar Lake Road in Chester, every Wednesday night from 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. during the school year.

To find out more about Scouting in Deep River and Chester, to volunteer your time, or become a merit badge counselor call:

Committee Chairman, Russell Quick: 526-2579  
Scoutmaster, Eric Bengston: 526-9749



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## Shoreline Soup Kitchens

### An Open Letter to members of our Faith Communities in the Valley Shore area

I live in the affluent Connecticut River Valley & Shore area of Connecticut. I work for a non-profit agency that supports 8 soup kitchens and 4 pantries in an area that encompasses Madison to East Lyme to Chester. My job for the last two years has brought me amazing insight into the lonely and sad world of rural poverty. I have had the opportunity to talk to many people who are in financial crisis and hear many stories of how and why they got where they are, and the issues they face as they struggle to get help. I have also had the chance to speak with local social service people and was able to discover what they perceive as the local poverty issues. Finally, I have been able to speak and work with people that are working in the state social service system either directly or through an agency that has been subcontracted by the state. If I had to sum up all the issues and problems and pitfalls and stonewalls of rural poverty in my corner of the world into one phrase, I would have to say "Lack of public awareness". So here I am, on my soapbox, trying to shorten that gap and bring it closer to enlightenment.

According to the United Nations, "Poverty is defined as the denial of choices and opportunities most basic to human development to lead a long healthy, creative life and enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, self esteem and the respect of others". Poverty is not acceptable. It is not acceptable in our community, our nation, or the world.

83% of low income families in Connecticut have at least one person employed. I challenge you to take paper and pen and calculate some numbers. Pretend you have a minimum wage job which in Connecticut right now is \$7.65. Extend that out for a full time job. Now, subtract your estimated costs for rent, utilities, gas, car maintenance, groceries, health care, and child care. No matter how you do it, I bet you end up in the red. Now, it's time to make some decisions. Add in toiletries, shoes, clothes, cleaning supplies, birthday gifts, school supplies, etc. Okay, you are more in the red. Now what? You have some serious choices to make. For many in Connecticut, food is the one factor they can control, so that is what they have to cut.

Federal poverty guidelines are set so low that there is a large population of people that don't qualify for financially helpful programs. These people are in desperate need of assistance. In the 1960's the government set a formula for the federal poverty level. It has not changed since. The form simply triples the average cost of food even though food now comprises only one fifth of a family's budget. Today the poverty level for a family of four is \$19,307.00 or less a year. This is less than \$10.00 per hour for 40 hours. To just "Get by", twice this federal level is needed.

Connecticut is one of the least affordable states in the nation. Low wage workers are faced with impossible demands on their ability to live in decent, affordable housing and purchase healthy wholesome food. There are some special problems unique to the people living in our nice rural towns. The nicer the town, often the harder

it is to find reasonably priced housing. There are fewer Federal anti-poverty programs available, fewer social service programs available and less availability of public transport. Social service workers are often not a priority to small towns, so untrained helpers sometimes provide misleading or incomplete advice that leads to disillusionment in an already disappointing bureaucracy.

What happens when poverty goes unchecked?

The impact of poverty goes well beyond those affected. The cost of poverty on our communities is higher cost for health, education, human services, and in general it undermines our tax base. In the long run the impact of immoderate unabated poverty weakens our economy.

The state of poverty is one of the biggest states in America today. We have the power to eliminate most of this problem. We have the knowledge, the resources, the expertise, but the desire to end poverty is not a priority in our social conscious. We tend to envision poverty in third world countries and feel a sense of outrage, but many of us are blind to the struggles of hunger or food insecurity in over 31 million of our American neighbors. We need to advocate for the issues. Write to our representatives in the government. Talk to our neighbors, talk to our friends. Read, learn, spread the word, and take action.

Thank you,

*Lin Smith,*  
*Partnership Coordinator, Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries*



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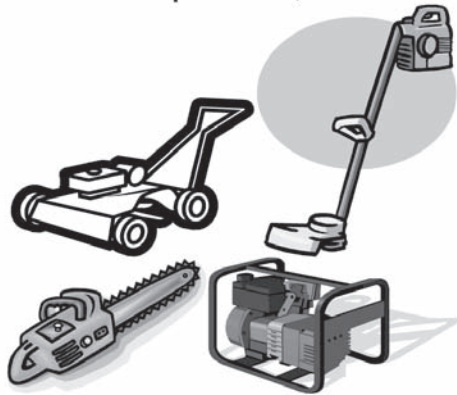
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## Deep River Land Trust

On May 3rd, the Deep River Land Trust hosted a very well attended joint meeting with the Essex, Chester, and Old Lyme Land Trusts, and Conservation Commissions. Each group presented information about their organization, protected properties, achievements, and challenges. An excellent discussion took place about how the groups could help each through joint projects and assistance with their common goals and solutions. The meeting was attended by Congressman Joe Courtney, CT State Rep Jamie Spallone, and Deep River First Selectmen Dick Smith, and Essex First Selectman Phil Miller. Each official spoke about the legislative work they are involved with aimed at assisting natural land protection, and this was then followed by an excellent open discussion.

The Land Trust has had a large response to our membership drive and welcome all questions and comments from our citizens which will help us preserve and utilize our precious open spaces. We are currently working on land acquisitions and working to upgrade our existing properties. The DRLT has recently published a brochure with our mission, maps and property descriptions; it can be picked up at the Town Hall. Along with the addition of regular members we have an opening for a Director on the Board, a Treasurer position on the Board, and an outside position as a paid Secretary for our organization. We are also looking for people who would like to become Stewards of one or more of our properties. This program is based on a person's desire and ability to monitor a Land Trust property and to watch over its needs and use. Please call 526-3291 for more information.

The Land Trust is expanding on its Bluebird Project. You may have seen one or many of the Bluebird boxes around town. These are the result of a multi-faceted effort by volunteers, the girl and boy scouts, and the JWJHS wood shop led by Mr. Bosco. We will be installing more boxes around town and will be working via workshops and site walks etc. to focus interest in restoring this valuable component to our natural habitat.

## Broadcasts of Deep River Meetings

Tune in Sunday evenings at 6:00 for television broadcasts of Board of Selectmen meetings and Board of Finance meetings on Cable channel 19. Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and are taped for broadcast on the following Sunday evenings.

Occasionally, other important town meetings are also broadcast, including Public Hearings, Town Meetings, and Planning & Zoning Commission hearings and meetings.

Following the broadcasts, tapes are available in the Deep River Library for public viewing.

The broadcasts are sponsored by the Deep River Taxpayers Association to make municipal business and discussions available to a wider audience. For more information or to join the Taxpayers Association, e-mail [DRTA@snet.net](mailto:DRTA@snet.net) or write us at P.O. Box 1004, Deep River.

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On October 4, 1901 Mr. LaPlace opened his new furniture establishment with the Deep River Drum Corps in attendance.



The snow house was located at the corner of Central Row and Main Street and belonged to Mr. LaPlace. It was demolished in 1935.



By Edith DeForest

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## Deep River Historical Society

### Dedication of New Sign Opens Deep River Historical Society's 2008 Season.



Photo by Bob Watts

The Deep River Junior Ancient Fife & Drum Corps was on hand to 'step-off' the first program of the Deep River Historical Society, which was the unveiling of the



Photo by Bob Watts

Society's new welcoming sign by Lighthouse Signs. The funding for the sign was provided by the Essex Savings Bank's Community Investment Program. Thomas Lindner and Gregory Shook of the Essex Savings Bank, Richard Nagot, Chairman of the Society's Buildings and Grounds Committee, and Edith DeForest, curator and historian, had the honor of cutting the ceremonial ribbon. (see photo by Bob Watts). The young group of fifers and drummers, which as been invited to take part in the 2009 New Year's Day Parade in London, England, also helped to prepare the grounds prior to the event. Members of the DRHS Sign Committee included Fenton Brown, Alice Johnson, Nell Johnson, Richard Nagot, and Cindi Stannard.

Most recently the Society hosted a 'Read-In' for the Deep River Elementary School's Governor's Summer Literacy Reading Challenge with a picnic and a day of reading on the lawn of the Society's Stone House. The staff, students and parents paraded down Main Street and arrived at the Stone House for a day of silent reading and listening to guest readers from the community. Introductory remarks were made by First Selectman Dick Smith, DRES Principal, Dr. Jack Pietrick, and a representative from the Governor's Office. DRES teachers Tadria Ciaglo, Peggy Schaedler, and Sally Carlson-Crowell coordinated the event with the support of DRES staff and DRHS trustees.

Also, in June, the Society presented the annual Strawberry Social and Berry Basket Silent Auction. A commemorative patch of strawberries, prepared by Alice Johnson, Richard Nagot and Cindi Stannard, is on view in honor of Pat Adams who grew strawberries on the Stone House grounds for festivals during the 1960's. Trustees Pat Gamerdinger, Joyce Hines and Richard Nagot co-chaired this year's social.

The Society's summer activities will include an Open House (9-11am) and parking during the Deep River Muster on July 19th, the hosting of some of the Deep River Park and Rec's Music concerts, and on Deep River Day, Sept. 13th, a "Modes of Transportation" exhibit (including the mule-drawn Winthrop School Bus) will be on view in the Carriage House Barn. On Saturdays and Sundays during July and August (from 2-4 pm) a photo display of "The Deep River Town Center Buildings: Now and Then" will be on exhibit in the Stone House.

Meanwhile, the Society's Bleach House, which was reconstructed on the grounds in 1998 by Joe Mizejeski, Bill Nickse and volunteers, is on view as an outdoor exhibit as is the Old Stone Water Well. And the Carriage House, which is dedicated to recently deceased trustee, Bob Ingram, continues to be a community resource for individuals and organizations that need a good place to hold a private or public gathering. To reserve a date on the calendar for what has become a very popular location, call Frances Struckus at 526-9335. For a private tour of the Stone House or to become a member of the Society call Jeff Hostetler at 526-5811.

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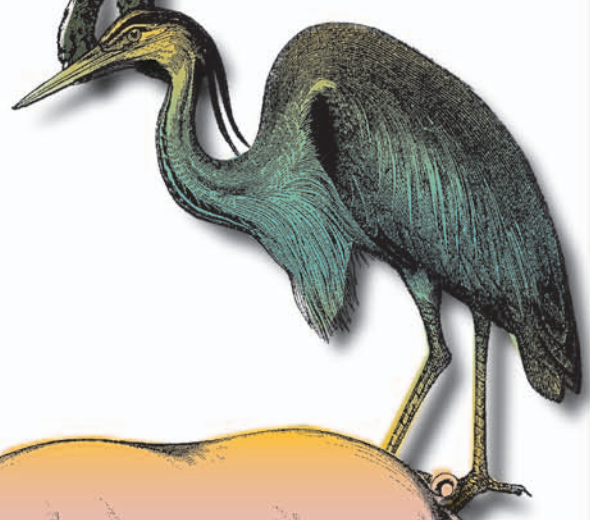
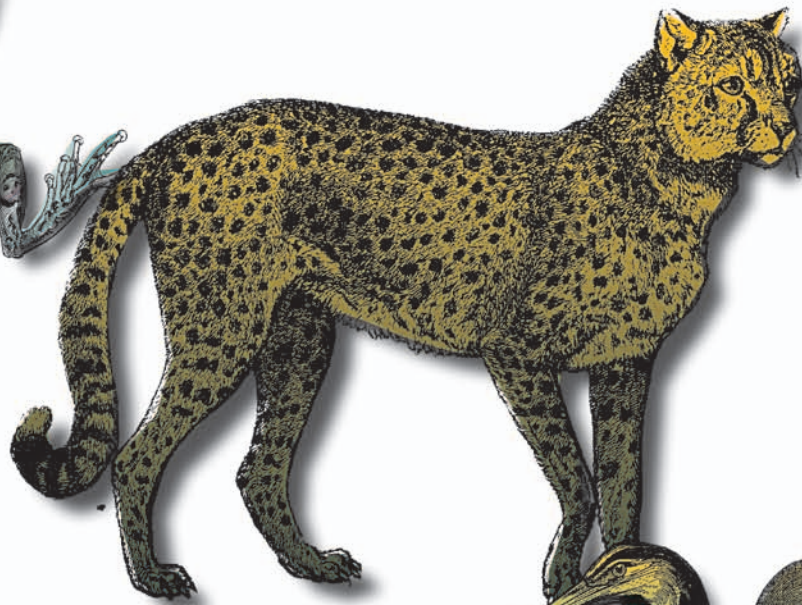
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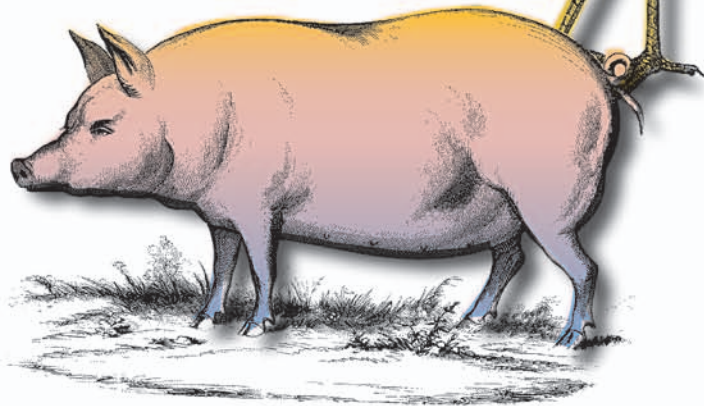


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