



CANTON

Summer 2007 Edition

MEETING SCHEDULES

Various Boards & Commissions
(Held at Community Center)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:
First and Third Wednesday, 7PM

BOARD OF FINANCE:
Third Monday, 7:30PM

BOARD OF EDUCATION:
Second and Fourth Thursday, 7PM

LAND USE COMMISSIONS
CANTON CENTER HIST. DIST.
Second Wednesday, 7PM
COLLINSVILLE HIST. DIST.
Second Tuesday, 8PM
CONSERVATION COMM:
Second Wednesday, 7:30PM
INLAND WETLANDS:
Second Thursday, 7PM
PLANNING COMMISSION:
First Monday, 7:30PM
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:
Second Monday, 8PM
ZONING COMMISSION:
Third Wednesday, 7:30PM

OTHER COMMISSIONS
COMMISSION ON AGING:
First Monday, 12PM
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
Second Tuesday, 7:30PM
LIBRARY BD. OF TRUSTEES:
Second Wednesday, 7:15PM
OPEN SPACE COMMISSION:
First Tuesday, 7:30PM
PARKS & REC. COMMISSION:
Third Monday, 7PM
WATER POLLUTION:
Second Tuesday, 7PM
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU:
Fourth Thursday, 6PM

TOWN HALL HOURS
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
8:15AM to 4:30PM
Wednesday
8:15AM to 6:45PM
Friday
8:15AM to 12PM

TOWN WEBSITE
Be sure to check out our newly re-designed website at www.townofcantonct.org and sign up for electronic notification of meetings and important information!

GRANTS MOVE CANTON FORWARD

The Town of Canton has been the fortunate recipient of a number of grants which help move our community and its initiatives forward. The grant funds allow Canton to engage in a number of activities, building our community for the present and the future, which otherwise would not be possible. These grant opportunities and awards include:

Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP): Funded through the State of Connecticut, this program provided \$350,000 in October 2006 for improvements to the Highway Garage Facility which are currently in design. In May 2006, the Board of Selectmen authorized the submission of a STEAP grant application in the amount of \$500,000 for improvements to the Mills Pond Recreational Facility.

Town Hall ADA Study: In 2006, the Board of Selectmen applied for and re-

ceived grant funding in the amount of \$30,000 from the State of Connecticut for purposes of studying ADA improvements to the Town Hall facility which is on the National Register of Historic Places. An architect is in the process of completing the study for submission to the Board in late Summer.

Historic Documents Preservation Grant: The Town recently received an award of \$7,000 from the Connecticut State Library for purposes of computerizing land record indexes from 1963 to 1975 and placing current computerized land record indexes on the internet.

Small Cities Grant: In May, the Board of Selectmen authorized the submission of a Small Cities grant application in the amount of \$550,000 for Phase I rehabilitation and improvements to Canton Housing Authority's property known as 21 Dowd Avenue.

FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 BUDGET

On May 22, 2007 Canton residents approved the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget in one referendum with 17.9% of Canton's registered voters participating. The approved budget of approximately \$32 million translates (\$8.6 million General Government; \$20.65 million Board of Education) into a new mil rate of 29.92 as approved by the Board of Finance, or a 3.5% tax increase. The support of those voting is greatly appreciated.

Highlights of the General Government budget include continued support of technology infrastructure throughout Town Hall; funding commitment for open space

and development rights acquisition; appropriate funding for upcoming elections; and continued funding for vehicle replacement.

As with each budget process, the input of the community throughout the coming year pertaining to budget issues is important! Your active participation in the process to help us understand what services are important to you is critical to our ability to meet the needs of the community. Be part of the process by attending the various Board or Commission meetings, or contacting us with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions by telephone, e-mail or mail.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S COLUMN

The past few months have been very busy since the last newsletter was sent. The budget process ended with a positive vote at the petitioned budget referendum. The Temporary Study Committee on Pedestrian and Vehicular Study handed out citizen surveys during the vote to date more than 600 residents have responded to the survey.

STREET SWEEPING began in May and Town crews continue to work their way through more than 65 miles of roadways, while also preparing Town fields for school and Town athletic activities, mowing, trimming, and planting around the town green and other town areas, and working on road and drainage issues.

BEAUTIFICATION: The Cherry Brook Garden Club, which donated their services again to complete work at the Canton Public Library Community Center, created a native plant garden that is "permanent, sustainable, educational, aesthetically pleasing and of year round interest." The Club's work at the facility has enhanced and beautified the grounds, and the Board is grateful for their continued generosity!

OPEN SPACE: The Board authorized and supported the submission of an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant proposal for the Cannon Open Space Preserve. The Open Space Preservation and Acquisition Commission have been working on developing strategies for various options to fund open space. Studies continue to show the economic value of open space and the need to maintain contiguous tracks of land for wildlife habitation.

SEWER REPLACEMENT: A special town meeting on June 20 approved the \$1,800,000 Dowd Avenue Sewer Replacement Project. The project will be funded by the town; however the users will be paying for the upgrade. There will be no costs to those residents not connected to town sewers.

RAILS TO TRAILS: The pedestrian rails-to-trails walkway along the Farmington River on Route 179 will soon be displaying informational signage with accurately drawn images about wildlife along the river.

CLEAN ENERGY: The Town has committed to the 20% by 2010 program to purchase 20% of our electricity from clean sources. Residents in Canton can also sign up for the Clean Energy Options form that is included each month in your electric bill, or can be downloaded from the town website. For further

information on clean energy, visit www.cleanenergy.com.

FARMINGTON RIVER: The Town continues to have discussions with the state Department of Environmental Protection concerning the flashboards and the Collinsville Dam. Selectman David Sinish and I recently met with State officials to further discuss Town concerns.

BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND: The Town supported FAVARH's application to win a Boundless Playground. Although Canton made it to the final round, we didn't win the contest. The Board continues to apply for and successfully receive state grants to fund various initiatives including equipment, upgrades, and historic document preservation.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: In May, I was asked to be a panelist for the "Mayor's Forum on Affordable Housing" along with Bridgeport Mayor Fabrizio, Old Saybrook First Selectman Michael Pace, West Hartford Mayor Scott Slifka and moderator Tom Condon from The Hartford Courant.

VOLUNTEERISM: Canton's strength continues to be the commitment so many individuals make to our community. I want to thank each and every volunteer who presently serves Canton. You are making a difference! Be a part of it by getting involved through applying for a Board/ Commission vacancy or contacting me at (860) 693-7847 or via email.

SUMMER FUN IN CANTON: There is so much to do during the summer in Canton including walking or biking on the Rails-To-Trails, attending the weekly Collinsville Farmers Market in downtown Collinsville on Sundays (late June through October) from 10AM to 2PM, listening to the sounds of the *Farmington Valley Band* at Mills Pond on Thursday evenings in July (except July 19th), enjoying the myriad of Library programs or checking out one of the Library's many selections, enjoying a swim at Mills Pond Pool or engaging in a tennis or basketball game.

The warm weather brings many walkers, runners and bike riders out on our roads, so please slow down, obey the speed limits and the pedestrian walk way signs. And finally, have a great, safe and happy summer!

Mary Tomolonius, *First Selectman*
(860) 693-7847 or e-mail mtolonius@townofcantonct.org

TOWN PERSONNEL UPDATE

The Town is pleased to welcome the following new staff members to the Canton Team and wish them well in their public service:

- Karen Olsen, Administrative Secretary to CAO/ First Selectman; Perry Polderman, Maintainer II, Highway; Mary Fletcher, Interim Senior Services Coordinator
- Neil Pade, Director of Planning and Community Development: A graduate of State University of New York with a Bachelor's in Environmental Geology and the University of Hartford with an MBA, Mr. Pade served in the private sector as a Senior Planner/ Water Resource Engineer for several years before joining the Town of Vernon in 2004 as the Economic Development Coordinator until his promotion in 2006 as Town Planner.

The Town is also pleased to announce the following promotions and offer congratulations to:

- Adam Libros, Full Time Fire Marshal (effective July 1)
- Cheryl Donahue, Library Technician

The Town offers thanks to the following individuals for their service to the community and best wishes for continued success: Don Richardson, George Wagner, William Gould - Highway Department; Bruce Lockwood, Fire Marshal; Carlene Rhea, Senior Services Coordinator; Sara Jane Pickett, Director of Planning & Community Development; Denice Capitani, Office of Chief Administrative Officer; Norma Ignatowicz, Circulation Supervisor, Library

IMPORTANT NEWS

The **MDC household hazardous waste collection date** in the Canton area is scheduled for **August 18** at the Henry James School, 155 Firetown Road, Simsbury from 8AM to 1PM. Details are available from the Town Clerk's office or the Library circulation desk. To learn more, visit www.themdc.com or call (860) 678-3809.

Remember to license your dog? **Dog Licenses** expired on June 30. The fee is \$8 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$19 for unsprayed dog. A late penalty of \$1.00 per month will be added to the base fee beginning July 1. Questions? Call the Town Clerk's office at (860) 693-7870.

Free Inspections of Existing Swimming Pools and Wood Stoves are offered by the Building Department. Maximize the safety of your Summer Fun in the pool and for safe home heating options by calling the Building Department for a free inspection at (860) 693-7854. Fees are required for inspections of new pools and wood stoves.

Canton Public Library News

- **We're Wireless!** Wireless access to all visitors of the Public Library and Community Center is now available. The connection, via WPA-PSK, may be accessed by utilizing the following case-sensitive "public key": *CantonPublicLibrary40Dyer*
- **Self Checkout Available!** A self-checkout station now offers patrons the option of checking out their selections at a designated kiosk near the Circulation Desk. Be sure to have your library card with you to use this service!
- **Friends of The Library Book Sale**— Saturday, September 8 from 10AM to 3PM and the Bag Sale on Sunday, September 9 from 11AM to 2PM. Donations accepted from June 18 through August 31. Books may be dropped off during Library hours. Questions? Call Canton Public Library at (860) 693-5800.
- The **Canton Public Library** will be closed on weekends in July and August. Saturday hours (10AM to 5PM) resume September 8.

VOLUNTEER COMMISSION/ BOARD VACANCIES

Serving on a Board or Commission is a great way to become involved in our community and meeting the needs of Canton's citizens. Vacancies currently exist on the following boards and commissions:

- Canton Center Historic District Commission
- Commission on Aging
- Conservation Commission
- Economic Development Agency
- Inland Wetlands and Waterways
- Plainville Area Cable Television Advisory Council

- Water Pollution Control Authority
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Zoning Commission

Each Commission/ Board holds monthly meetings, a schedule of which can be found on the front page of this newsletter or on the Town's webpage. If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please contact Mary Tomolonius at (860) 693-7847.

STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety: On June 29, the Temporary Study Committee concluded its survey which was available on-line and in Town Hall and Library and expects the results to be released in August. The Committee remains on track for submitting its final report to Board of Selectmen in December 2007.

The **Temporary Energy Task Force** received grants funding from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund for the promotion of clean energy awareness and education through grant funding to citizens, businesses, civic and non-profit organizations. Interested parties can contact Chair Patrick Delany at (860) 693-2561 for details. Also, CL&P will conduct energy audits of Town buildings to identify opportunities for conservation and savings.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

During the month of July, the Highway Department will resume the chip sealing program. The following roads are scheduled for completion during this phase:

Allen Place, Birch Knoll, Buttonwood, Bristol Drive, Christmas Tree Hill, Case Street, Daynard Drive, Front Street, Juniper Circle, Mohawk Drive, Michel Drive, Noja Trail, Old Mill Drive, Pine Acres, Puddletown Road, Ridge Road, Johnson Place, Hill Street.

Please call (860) 693-7863 with questions!

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2007 EDITION**

Town of Canton
4 Market Street, PO Box 168
Collinsville, CT 06022-0168

Have a Safe Summer!

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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IMPORTANT NEWS, EVENTS AND DATES

- **13th Annual Sam Collins Day** will be held on **Saturday, September 15, 2007 from 10AM to 4PM** (rain date Sunday, September 16). Join us for the "annual hometown celebration," where food, fun and entertainment are a plenty! For general information contact Mary Tomolonius at (860) 693-0368 or visit www.samcollinsday.com.
- **Canton Volunteer Fire Department 27th Annual Lobsterfest** will be held on Canton Springs Road at on August 17 - 6PM-10:00PM, August 18 - 3PM-10PM and August 19 - 12PM until sold out. \$17 per dinner. Visit www.cantonfireandems.org for more information.
- The Junior High School PTO sponsored **Lobster Loop Road Race** will be held **Sunday, August 19 at 8:30AM**. The 5K loop begins and ends at the Town Green. For information, call Janette Getz at (860) 693-1107.
- The **Tax Office** will be open additional hours in July for residents to pay their taxes on **Saturday, July 28th from 9AM to 1PM**. Taxes are due by the close of business at 6:45PM on Wednesday, August 1. If a paid receipt is required, please enclose a **self-addressed stamped** envelope along with your payment. Questions? Call (860) 693-7843.
- **Mills Pond Recreation Area Summer Concerts!**
Thursdays in July - Farmington Valley Band (7:15PM-9:30PM)
Thursday, July 19 - Eight to the Bar (7PM-9PM)
Friday, August 3 - Memphis Soul (7PM-9PM)
In the event of rain, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 693-5808 for rain locations.
- All Town Departments will be closed on **Monday, September 3** for Labor Day and **Monday, October 8** for Columbus Day.
- Looking for the **Senior Scribe**? The Senior Scribe will not be available this Summer. Be sure look for program and activity news in the Parks & Recreation Bulletin or call the Senior Center at 693-5811 for info!