

WINTER 2020 ISSUE

STONINGTON *magazine*

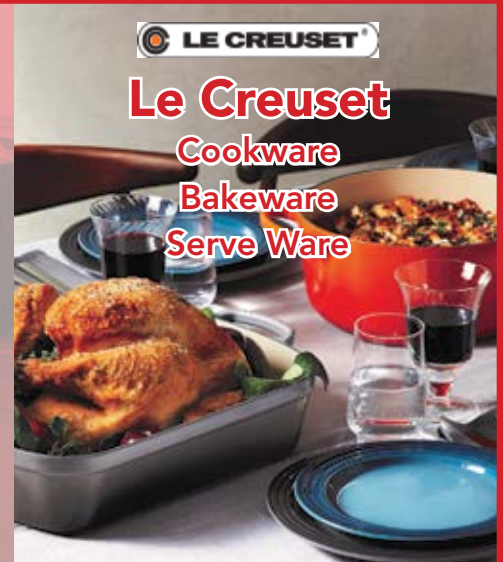


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Go Fish	Mel's Downtown Creamery
McQuade's Marketplace	Stonington Country Club
Mystic Soup Co.	Stop and Shop - Pawcatuck
Grey Sail Brewing	SuzAnne by the Sea
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Pawtucket Red Sox	Maxum Irrigation and Plumbing
Coastal Eye Associates	

Town of Stonington

STONINGTON TOWN HALL

152 Elm Street, Stonington, CT 06378

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

STONINGTON HUMAN SERVICES

166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

Lobby closed, please call for appointment

STONINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

911 for Emergencies

TRANSFER STATION

151 Greenhaven Road, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Monday-Tuesday/Thursday-Friday: 9-3

(Closed Wednesday); Saturday: 8-3; Sunday 8-1

Administrative Services	(860) 535-5000
Animal Control	(860) 599-4411
Assessment Department	(860) 535-5098
Building Official.....	(860) 535-5075
Emergency Management	(860) 535-5050
Engineering	(860) 535-5076
Finance Department.....	(860) 535-5070
Highway	(860) 535-5055
Human Services	(860) 535-5015
Planning Department	(860) 535-5095
Public Works.....	(860) 535-5055
Registrars of Voters.....	(860) 535-5047
	(860) 535-5054
Sanitarian.....	(860) 535-5010
Selectmen's Office	(860) 535-5050
Solid Waste and Recycling.....	(860) 535-5099
Transfer Station	(860) 535-5088
Police Department.....	(860) 599-4411
Tax Collector	(860) 535-5080
Town Clerk.....	(860) 535-5060
Water Pollution Authority.....	(860) 535-5065

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Dear Stonington Residents,

We are asking all residents and visitors to please continue to remain diligent in taking all COVID-19 precautions possible. In Southeastern CT we are experiencing higher numbers than we did in April and all need to do our part to ensure that does not continue.

Although there is no singular reason for this increase, our partners at LLHD have reported their contact tracers have observed many instances connected to social gatherings, as well as sporting events. To date, cases associated with institutions (schools, long-term care facilities, etc.) remain relatively low. Please continue to take steps to protect yourself and those around you, including wearing your mask and washing our hands often and thoroughly. Remember this is not just for your safety, but the most vulnerable in our community. We know there is a need for healthy, social interactions, but please also keep in mind that limiting the people you interact with can help with critical contact tracing efforts.

On the Town website you can find updates we provide weekly, summarizing data from both Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) and CT Department of Public Health. We also attend weekly calls with State and local officials, which have been very helpful, offering a platform for sharing challenges faces and identifying solutions.

In addition to the physical health impacts, please know your mental health matters. There are a variety of resources for mental health support during this challenging time. The Town website has listed various resources available across the state, or call us at Human Services. We also know that social isolation can amplify issues at home. If you are concerned about a relationship and would like someone to talk to, call CT Safe Connect – (888) 774-2900. Safe Futures is also available 24/7 via their confidential crisis line (860) 701-6001. Please know, you are not alone.

If you would like assistance with grocery deliveries, pet supplies, or might benefit from a friendly check-in (they even do book drop offs), please visit www.stoningtonhelps.com or call us at Town Hall or Human Services. If you have any other needs, or know of others in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We have many different options to assist residents in need.

The CDC also recommends positive ways to cope with stress, such as taking breaks from watching the news or reading about the pandemic; taking care of your body by being physically active; eating healthy; getting plenty of sleep; stretching or practicing meditation;

staying engaged in activities you enjoy and staying connected to others even though we are physically distancing from each other. Spending time in nature, on trails, and other open spaces is another effective way to cope. Join Hike Stonington to find more local spots and be part of a community initiative.

While this is an extremely difficult time; it is also a time for us to show just how kind and strong we are, together as a community. Remember, even small actions, can make a big difference. If you are well and able, please think of friends, family and neighbors who might benefit from your help at this time, as well as our local non-profits and business.

During this time, we want to do everything we can to stay connected. Please remember to check our Town website for regular updates on a range of topics. Members of the community are also encouraged to sign up for a monthly email update from the First Selectman. You can do this by sending your name, along with preferred email to UpdateSignup@stonington-ct.gov. If you have ideas on further ways the community can connect or provide additional resources in this time of need, wish to ask questions, share ideas or concerns please call Town Hall.

We will get through this together. Thank you and stay safe,

Danielle Chesebrough



STONINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Stonington's state-of-the-art community notification system to alert residents about emergencies and important community news.

The notification system provides immediate & accurate ALERTS that can be sent across multiple platforms, including voice messages, texts, and emails. Receive notifications that may affect your home, business, workplace, school or any other locations within Stonington.

Please visit <https://www.stonington-ct.gov/pages/stonington-alerts> and click on the "Stonington Alerts" icon to sign up. Create a simple account and tailor it to your notification preferences.



If we can't reach you, we can't ALERT you.

Stonington Tax Collector

The 2nd installment of real estate and personal property (business-related) taxes may be paid any time between now and February 1st 2021. Taxpayers, please remember that we don't rebill for the 2nd installment.

Also, the tax office will begin collecting for the Pawcatuck Fire District toward the end of December 2020. From there on in, bills will be combined, and the town and fire district portions will be clearly marked on the bills. No more yellow bills!

The tax office will now collect for eleven fire districts: Pawcatuck, Stonington Borough, Stonington, Mystic, Wequetequock, Quiambug, Old Mystic, Lord's Point, Mason's Island, Wamphassuc Point Association and Latimer Point. We transfer money to the fire districts once a month except for July when we transfer money more often.

As always, if you have any questions, please call the tax office at 860-535-5080.



Beautification Committee

Stonington Beautification Committee (SBC) members are busy planting and decorating for the holiday season. Our committee meets year-round and is currently planning projects for 2021. If you would like to be a volunteer or donate, we greatly appreciate your support.



Each year the SBC displays a holiday tree in Donahue Park (Pawcatuck) in honor of our local first responders. Decorations and ornaments are created and placed on the tree by students from West Vine Street School and, in turn, given to all first responders to display in their homes. The tree is then planted in the West Vine Street School outdoor sensory classroom for the students and staff to enjoy all year long.

A special thanks to all of our generous donors that allows us to enhance the beauty of Stonington all year. If you would like to be part of this special movement email us at: stoningtonbeautification@stonington-ct.gov. If you would like to sponsor any of our projects and/or flowering pots please send donations to: Stonington Beautification c/o Stonington Human Services, 166 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT 06379 or donate online at stonington.rec.desk.com.

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The mission of the Department of Human Services is to enhance the quality of life for Stonington residents from all age groups and all economic backgrounds by advocating for their basic needs and promoting self-sufficiency.

HOW CAN OUR SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION HELP YOU?

Providing assistance to residents in applying for critical supportive services during this challenging time. For the safety and well-being of our team, and the community at-large, our lobby and public spaces remain closed to the general public at this time. Normal business hours still apply, M-F from 8:30am-4pm. Case management services are being conducted remotely, with in-person appointments available as deemed necessary. For more information on the programs listed below, or to make an appointment with a case manager, please call (860) 535-5015.

We are Here to Help You!



ENERGY ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN

TVCCA's Energy Assistance Program helps low and middle income families and individuals pay their home heating bills. Priority is given to "vulnerable households" with young children, elderly or disabled individuals. Applications being taken remotely. Please contact our office and an application packet can be sent to you to complete and return (via drop-box or mail) along with required documentation

2020-2021 ENERGY ASSISTANCE INCOME GUIDELINES

Household of 1: \$37,645 | Household of 2: \$49,228

Household of 3: \$60,811 | Household of 4: \$72,394

FOOD RESOURCES

SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is part of the nation's safety net against hunger. The program's debit card system allows for convenience and confidentiality. SNAP applications can be completed online at CT's DSS site and required documents can be uploaded directly to DSS at <https://connect.ct.gov>. Contact Human Services for more information or application assistance with the online process.

Residents are also referred to the **Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's Food Pantry** (860) 599-3285 and **WARM Center's Congregate Meal Program** (401)

596-9276 - both supported with town funds.

Stonington Feeds Stonington Gift cards generously provided by donations from fellow community members. Supporting local restaurants, while simultaneously giving back to our neighbors in need. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a card at this time, please reach out to Stonington Human Services via Facebook messenger; e-mail: LTheodore@stonington-ct.gov; or phone at (860) 535-5015.

HEALTH INSURANCE: ACCESS HEALTH CT

The 2021 Annual Open Enrollment period starts on November 1 and ends on December 15, 2020 for coverage beginning January 1, 2021. This is the time where you and your family can enroll (or renew) in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP). **Do you need health insurance now?** Individuals who experience a Qualifying Life Event (losing coverage due to job change/loss), or qualify for Medicaid/Children's Health Program (CHIP), can enroll online or over the phone and all help is free. Call (855) 805-4325 (M-F, 8am-4pm) or go <https://www.AccessHealthCT.com> to apply.

SENIOR & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION FOR STONINGTON RESIDENTS

The Eastern CT Transportation Consortium, Inc. (ECTC) provides Stonington seniors, age 60+ (and disabled residents, age 18+) with medical transportation (Dial-A-Ride), as well as reimbursement to caregivers for medical mileage expenses for those who have access to a driver. The Dial-A-Ride program will provide transportation for residents to medical trips within New London County and Westerly. Please contact Human Services for further information and to register.

HUMAN SERVICES HAS A CHOICES COUNSELOR ON STAFF

Offering phone appointments for Stonington residents to discuss Medicare options, including Medicare Supplemental/Medigap plans, Part D options and Medicare Savings Programs.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

You may be eligible to have your Medicare Parts B and D premiums paid for you! If you qualify for one of the three Medicare Savings Programs (depending on your income), DSS will pay your Medicare Part B premium each month. In addition, some enrollees will

be covered for Medicare deductibles and co-insurance! Applications can be completed at <https://connect.ct.gov>. Contact Human Services for more information or for assistance with completing an online application. Source: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Health-And-Home-Care/Medicare-Savings-Program/Medicare-Savings-Program>

CT HOME CARE FOR ELDERS

This CT Department of Social Services program assists the elderly by providing the support services needed so they may remain in the community, rather than in a long-term care facility. "To be eligible, applicants must be 65 years of age or older, be a Connecticut resident, be at risk of nursing home placement and meet the program's financial eligibility criteria. To be at risk of nursing home placement means that the applicant needs assistance with critical needs such as bathing, dressing, eating, taking medications, toileting. The CHCPE helps eligible clients continue living at home instead of going to a nursing home. Each applicant's needs are reviewed to determine if the applicant may remain at home with the help of home care services" (Source: <https://portal.ct.gov/dss/Health-And-Home-Care/Connecticut-Home-Care-Program-for-Elders/Connecticut-Home-Care-Program-for-Elders-CHCPE>).



Senior Resources is a strong voice for the region's elderly citizens. Mission: To provide access to information and services to empower adults to live with dignity. Through our involvement at the federal, state and local level we work to enhance the quality of life for older persons. In addition to advocating legislatively, our continuing work with volunteer and citizen groups increases public awareness of senior issues. <http://www.seniorresourcesec.org/>

YOU ARE NOT ALONE PROGRAM

If you are Stonington senior citizen, or homebound resident, feeling anxious or lonely, our volunteers are here to help! Register today and you will be matched with a screened, community volunteer who will call you once a week to assist with any questions that you may have about local happenings, connect you with resources or just talk about whatever may be on your mind. To register, call (860) 535-5015.

Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center provides transportation to residents ages 60 and up, residing in Mystic, Stonington, North Stonington and Westerly. Need a ride or assistance during the COVID crisis? CALL US to see how we can help! (860) 599-3285 ext. 108. FREE transportation provided for Mystic, Stonington, North Stonington and Westerly residents age 60 and over via a wheelchair-lift 12-passenger bus.

How do I enroll?

- Call for an enrollment form or email a request to barbara@thepnc.org
- Send back completed enrollment forms
- Our Transportation Coordinator will call you for a pre-enrollment interview

How do I schedule a ride after I am enrolled?

- Call (860) 599 - 3285 ext. 108 at least 48 hours prior (2 days). Door to door transportation from home to the PNC, medical appointment or shopping.

KNITTERS WANTED! Now accepting donations (hats, gloves, scarves and lap blankets) to be placed on our Holiday Knit & Give Tree. The tree will be displayed outside of the Human Services building, offering items for those in need during the cold winter months. We have yarn available for those willing to participate! Call (860) 535-5015 for more information.

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&

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The programs and services that are offered by the Youth and Family Services Division are done so as a means of promoting positive youth development and supporting improved family and community relations.

Stonington Human Services is pleased to offer program scholarships to resident families who are in financial need. Please contact us for more information!

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Stonington Beautification Committee and Stonington Human Services are excited to host a Community Holiday Decorating Contest to embrace the festive season and get into the winter spirit! The contest is open to all Stonington households, businesses and community organizations. Get into the holiday spirit and bring your imagination to life! All entries will be judged utilizing social media. Stay tuned for more information.

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO STONINGTON

Oh, you better watch out ... Santa Claus is coming to Stonington! On Saturday December 12th various Town of Stonington Fire Departments will be escorting Santa, himself, through a variety of local neighborhoods. Come outside when you hear the horns and sirens for a chance to see Santa and his friendly firefighter elves! Santa's route information will be posted on the Stonington Human Service Facebook page the week prior to his visit.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

The best gifts are made with love! This year children (with assistance from a parent or caregiver) will be able to make some amazing holiday gifts for friends and family right from home. You will receive materials to make 5 gifts, 5 holiday cards, as well as gift bags, gift wrap and ribbons for packaging. Gift making kits will be ready for pick up anytime after November 30th. Fee: \$25/child participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. Please contact Human Services for more information.

STONINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Since the inception of the Stonington Community Garden in 2010, hundreds of Stonington residents have enjoyed harvesting their own organically-grown produce, located in between the Human Services building and the Pawcatuck VFW. The annual fee for a 4'x16' plot is \$25. Join our network to learn how to grow your own vegetables, cut food costs and learn about four season square foot gardening. As we see the increased importance of having access to sustainable, local food sources, the Town is expanding this project to include a second site at Stonington Town Hall! The core of the program will remain the same, with the new location offering increased accessibility through the addition of a number of raised garden beds for those in wheelchairs or who may have trouble accessing lower beds.

SANTA ANONYMOUS BOOT PROGRAM

Stonington Human Services is currently accepting sign-ups for the Santa Anonymous Boot Program. The program, sponsored in part by TVCCA's Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), provides new winter boots to Stonington children in need. Please call in or email your child's information (name, age, shoe size) to LTheodore@stonington-ct.gov. If you would like to be a sponsor and help a child receive a new pair of warm, winter boots please reach out for a match. Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated at <https://stonington.recdesk.com>.

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY COUNSELING

Individual & Family Counseling is available at no cost to all Stonington residents. Call (860) 535-5015 for more information or to schedule an intake appointment.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Do you follow us on Facebook? In addition to our Department's pages [Stonington Human Services; Stonington Prevention Council; Stonington Human Services – Parks and Recreation], we have also created social media groups to help support residents during these challenging times: **Stonington Connects** - A virtual clearinghouse to share online recreation, enrichment and educational opportunities for residents of all ages. **Stonington Supports** – One stop shop for mental wellness and supportive program offerings; from financial assistance to distance learning support! Groups are managed by the Town of Stonington's Human Services Department, as a means to keep residents engaged and supported during a time of social distancing

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The Recreation Division within the Human Services Department serves as an advocate for meeting the recreational needs of all the residents within the Town of Stonington by providing youth and adults with an abundance of seasonal and year-round recreational opportunities. Residents can participate in camps, clinics, leagues, open runs, trips, and fitness programs. Register online or in person at Stonington Human Services – M-F from 8:30am-4pm. **For current program listings and information please go to: <https://stonington.recdesk.com>**

SPELLMAN RECREATIONAL PARK

Our recreation complex consists of four athletic playing fields, a large playground area, outdoor exercise equipment area, two outdoor basketball courts, six tennis courts and two pavilions. Add Stonington High School's Palmer Field (turf) and their baseball field, and we have one of the finest recreational facilities in the area. Any organized non-scholastic, sport using the fields for games or practices at the Park or both middle schools, must be registered with the Recreation Division. Please contact Richard Ward at rward@stonington-ct.gov for additional information.

PLAYGROUNDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Recreation Division oversees and maintains three playgrounds in our community. Please abide by all posted rules and regulations.

Spellman Park - Spellman Drive - Pawcatuck

Town Dock - High St./Front St. - Stonington Borough

Haley's Way - Haley's Way - Old Mystic

PAVILION RENTALS

We are extending our rental season! The Town of Stonington Pavilions, located behind Spellman Park Playground are available to reserve from Memorial Day to Columbus Day Weekend (now, through the winter months). Cost \$30/day. Call (860) 535-5015. Payment required for reservation; application is available online.

BOOMERS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Outdoors in Spellman Park (behind Stonington High School)! Boomers Exercise incorporates weights into fun cardio routines to tone and strengthen as you scorch calories. Designed specifically for individuals ages 50 and older. Participants are asked to use proper social-distancing protocols and bring their own weights & mats. Other equipment will be assigned for you to keep while you attend the program and must be returned when you are finished. **GROOVE & TONE** is a form of dance cardio made for anyone. We use jazzy music as well as some popular tunes you'll be sure to recognize! Instructors: Michele Gardner & Tina Pagliusi

BOOMERS EXERCISE

Monday & Wednesdays
8:30-9:30 am

GROOVE & TONE

Fridays
8:30-9:30 am

FITNESS CLASS FEES / PUNCH CARDS

10 Class Punch Card: \$37.50

20 Class Punch Card: \$70.00

COMO / REC YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

A joint venture run by the COMO and Stonington Human Services – Recreation Division. REC Basketball is intended for all skill levels with an emphasis on athletic enjoyment, instruction, fundamentals, sportsmanship and equal playing time. Six age divisions for both Boys & Girls are broken down by grades (3rd-4th; 5th-6th; 7th-8th). As of press time the league dates & times were to be determined. Watch for details to be posted over the next several weeks with an anticipated date to start the league after Jan 1.

NFL YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL – INDOORS

Our 5th year playing indoor at the Mystic Indoor Sports arena, off of Rt. 184 in Old Mystic! Goals of



the league are that all participants will develop their social and mental skills, as well as physical strength and character while safely learning how to play flag football. Teamwork and active participation are key components. This is strictly a recreational league and commitment to the league will not conflict with other winter sports. There are no practices during the week. Each player will receive an Official NFL Flag reversible Team Jersey. Also, our coaches and referees will have access to amazing trainings and support tools to better teach and prepare for the games!

ANTICIPATED DATES SESSION 1

Sundays, January 3rd - February 7th

- High School, Grades 9-12
- Grades 2-3
- Grades K-1

ANTICIPATED DATES SESSION 2

Sundays, February 14th - March 26th

- Grades 4-5
- Grades 6-8

Place: Mystic Indoor Sports, 90 Welles Rd, Mystic

Check current Session Dates/Times/Fees:
<https://stonington.recdesk.com>

Virtual Cooking Classes for Kids & Caregivers

Cooking is a life skill that can help children develop creativity, confidence, and independence! This winter, the Yellow Farmhouse will offer a series of virtual cooking classes designed for kids and caregivers. Our Culinary Kids (6-9 year olds) and Kids Cooking Club (10-13 year olds) allow kids to connect with peers who share their interest in cooking while learning about seasonal ingredients and honing their kitchen skills. The Lunch Bunch is a pantry-friendly class designed to help kids make their own lunch while Family Dinner

offers a chance for the whole family to come together to prepare a weeknight meal. Finally, we offer the Brunch Bunch on Saturdays, where participants can invite a friend or family member to cook along with them from afar!

These programs can provide socially-distant and enriching recreation for your child and foster a lifelong love of cooking. Classes can be purchased a la carte or as part of our all-inclusive Dandelion Club. Visit www.yellowfarmhouse.org to learn more and to register.

Stonington Free Library

WE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please check our website at stoningtonfreelibrary.org for hours and services as these will be changing as we adapt to the situation of the pandemic. The Library is now fully accessible with a new ramp and side entrance and an elevator to the lower level. The newly refurbished interior offers more flexible space for all our visitors.

We will continue to offer curbside pickup, call 860-535-0658 when you are in the parking lot and we will bring your books out to you.

With your Stonington Free Library card you can access our digital Library, download e-books and audio books, watch our programs on YouTube, browse our catalogue.

Our Groups meet via Zoom – the book groups on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm and on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 5.30 p.m. The Library Knitting Group every Wednesday from 1-3

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Winter Reading Challenges - Online registration opens on Nov. 2 for 50 to Grow On (children ages 7 and younger) and Family Reading Challenge (students in grades 1 - 8). After registering, you will receive an email to pick up your materials curbside. The program runs until April 2. Further information is available on our website and questions can be emailed to marisfrey@stoningtonfreelibrary.org.

Holiday Gingerbread House Take Home Craft - Dec. 4 Our very popular Gingerbread House decorating workshop is coming home with you! Registration opens on Nov. 16 and is REQUIRED! This year you can register for a Hanukkah or a Christmas house. Please email marisfrey@stoningtonfreelibrary.org with your reservation and preference. One house per family.



La Grua Center is a nonprofit cultural center in Stonington Borough offering concerts, art exhibitions, and speakers on a variety of subjects.

STORIES OF RESILIENCE: ENCOUNTERING RACISM

In our gallery through December 19— highlights the lives of five residents of New London County and their stories of determination and bravery in the face of systemic racism. M, W, F, Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. or by appointment. Masks required. Free and open to the public.

YOUTH HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 13 at 10 a.m. Constructing Cardboard Cut-out Trees and at 10:30 a.m. Creating a Holiday Centerpiece with Greens from the Stonington Garden Club. The activities will be live streamed on Zoom; please see our website for details and registration. Free.

During the pandemic, we are doing our best to provide programming in the digital world. Please check out our website at www.lagruacenter.org for the latest events and explore our YouTube Channel for past video recordings of talented musicians and some of our talks with great storytellers.

Stonington Pop-Up Book

The Pop-Up Book of Stonington celebrates the history, arts, culture, villages and events in the Town of Stonington. This publication was illustrated by Susan Pfeifer Scala and produced by Lisa Konicki, residents of Stonington. Each book is assembled by hand making it truly a work of art.



The charitable project is an initiative of the Ocean Community Chamber Foundation. 4,000 books have been produced and are on sale for \$40 each at oceanchamber.org or by calling 401-596-7761. 100% of the profits benefits local charities including the Stonington

Historical Society, Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and more.

The first distribution of donations will take place in November. Books arrive Dec 7-9 and pre-orders are being taken now.

<https://www.oceanchamber.org/occc-event-registration>



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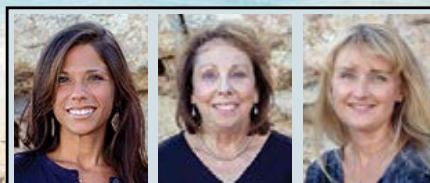
THANK YOU

During these troubled times, we would like to thank all of our employees who have continued to work in our offices. We appreciate everyone who is contributing and helping the collective good in their own way. Your dedication, unwavering support, words and acts of kindness that we witness are appreciated more than words can say.



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- Medical Pet Emergencies, Spay/Neuter Support
- Animal Training – Behavior Assessment Program

For more information on these services and to see if you qualify, please call (401) 348-9595 during business hours. For after-hours unexpected emergencies please email the details of the medical emergency to debturrisi@standupforanimals.org

Other services include:

- Providing pet food and litter to families that are homebound or financially struggling with feeding their pets due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- OSCAR ALERTS: social media posts & emails to help families find their missing pets
- Monitored Feral Cat Trap, Neuter Release program


Visit our web site at standupforanimals.org or Facebook for more information about SUFA

*Of necessity, the financial health and adherence to our mission influences the number and amount of financial assistance offered to these families.

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Happy Holidays — The Jeffreys & The Hutchisons

Mystic & Noank Library

It's winter at the Mystic & Noank Library and that means exciting programs! This winter we will be hosting unique virtual programs for both children and adults. Join us Saturday, November 21st for

Cool-ology© Bird Bonanza where participants investigate the lives of birds and explore their habitats. On Monday, November 30th we will be joined by author Ruth Crocker who will delve into the life and times of Louisa May Alcott, famous author and Civil War nurse. On Monday, December 7th, learn about herbal remedies for stress and anxiety with a clinical herbalist. The first 25 participants can also receive a grab and go tea blend bag. On Saturday, December 12th we are hosting a virtual cooking class for kids with Food Explorers where we will be making gingerbread cupcakes! For more information on these programs and others, please visit our website at mysticnoanklibrary.org.

Stop by the library, or browse our online catalog, for a look at our newest books, films and playaways! For daily updates on what's happening at the Library please visit the Library's Facebook and Instagram pages at @MysticNoankLibrary.



In the face of the global health crisis forcing community members into isolation, this consortium of local nonprofits is pooling its resources to continue serving our community. The Stonington Non-Profits collaboration includes more than 40 nonprofit entities whose services are available to area residents. For a list of participating libraries, museums, and cultural centers providing additional online content and resources to help out-of-school students and quarantined adults stay engaged, please see the listings at: www.stoningtonnonprofits.org. No computer access? Call (860) 535-5015 and a listing will be mailed to you.

SAVE THE DATE

Grand Opening & Charity Event

Friday, November 20th, 4PM-8PM • Saturday, November 21st, 11AM-6PM
Sunday, November 22nd, 12PM-5PM

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Stonington Historical Society

Extended museum hours, an outdoor shadow performance for families, an online fundraiser featuring locally-made holiday wreaths, and a live-streamed harpsichord performance make the Stonington Historical Society a lively and local choice for seasonal activities.

The busy calendar begins the day after Thanksgiving on Friday, Nov. 27, when our two museums, The Lighthouse Museum and the Capt. Nathaniel Palmer House, reopen to visitors. Each weekend, on Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 12, doors will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering a rare opportunity to tour these historic sites during the winter months. Admission at either location is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children; and Historical Society members always get in free.

Also beginning Nov. 27 is the debut of our original skit, Santa's Ride Through Stonington, an outdoor shadow performance projected onto the grapery wall at the Palmer House. From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. this brief play will begin every 15 minutes. There is no cost to attend, and family audiences will be entertained by the story of Santa's flight through the skies over Stonington Borough.

Performances will be held five different nights, on Friday and Saturday evenings: Nov. 27 and Nov. 28; Dec. 4 and Dec. 5; and on Dec. 12.

To further your holiday mood, the Stonington Historical Society will also be selling wreaths and other décor during our annual Deck the Walls fundraiser. This year's event will be held entirely online at deckthewalls.givesmart.com from Dec. 2 through Dec. 4. It is free to register and browse through the collection of hand-made items. This event is held in cooperation with the Stonington Garden Club, and all proceeds benefit the Stonington Historical Society.

Lastly, on Dec. 11 is the return of our harpsichord concert featuring Elena Zamolodchikova. This one-hour musical performance will be live-streamed from the Capt. Nathaniel Palmer House beginning at 7 p.m. Details on how to register, along with suggested donation information, can be found on our events calendar at stoningtonhistory.org.

All museum and program attendees are asked to adhere to the state's COVID-19 guidelines, maintaining a safe distance and wearing a mask as appropriate.

Founded in 1895, the Stonington Historical Society preserves, interprets and celebrates the history of all of Stonington, Connecticut. The Society owns and operates the Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer House, the Lighthouse Museum and the Woolworth Research Library, as well as maintaining its collection of objects and documents and offering educational programming throughout the year. For more information, visit stoningtonhistory.org.

Deck the Walls

An Online Auction of Holiday Wreaths and Decor

Dec. 2 through Dec. 4

Join the festivities at
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Stonington COMO

The COMO offers exceptional childcare and programs for children and adults. All programs have maximum enrollments and new operating procedures that meet and exceed COVID-19 protocols and expectations.

GIVE THE GIFT OF COMO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Shop local and support the COMO. The COMO Makerspace can create amazing personalized gifts, including laser-engraved heirloom recipe cutting boards to preserve recipes, personalized coasters and ornaments. Gift certificates for the thrift shop, programs like 3D printing or pottery, and COMO memberships are also available. Visit thecomoo.org/holiday-giving



PADDLE TENNIS SEASON IS HERE

Stay active this winter—become a COMO paddle tennis member! No experience needed. Members can reserve court time. Racquet Pro, Jerry Albrikes offers clinics and leagues for players of all abilities throughout the season.

VACATION CARE FOR GRADES K-8

School's Out is a curriculum-based, full or half-day care program for families with youth that need care during scheduled school vacations and days off. This program is open to anyone in the community. Participants will engage in exciting activities throughout the COMO campus. Vacation care is available 12/28, 29, and 30; 2/16; 4/12-16. The COMO also provides full-day distance learning care for grades K-7.



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25th Annual Winter Boot Drive

Can you imagine not having warm boots during our harsh New England winters? Now imagine being a child without those boots, unable to play outside with your friends. Doesn't sound right, does it?

At TVCCA, we agree and think that every child deserves to have the proper clothing they need to get outside, even in the winter! But we need your help to make sure that is the reality for kids in Eastern Connecticut.

TVCCA's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is conducting its 25th Annual Winter Boot Drive to provide children in the region with a pair of warm winter boots in time for the holidays. Thanks to donors like you, last year, we delivered boots to 1,100 low-income children ranging from preschool through elementary school.

Requests for boots from schools, childcare centers, and town social service departments grow every year. Thanks to your support, we have been able to meet those requests and are counting on you again this year!

For more information: Georgia James, RSVP Coordinator at 860-425-6608 / gjames@tvcca.org

DONATIONS OF NEW BOOTS OR CHECKS
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Checks made payable to TVCCA-RSVP
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Families in need of winter boots for children
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