



NINA RITSON

# NORFOLK NOW

Volume VI Issue 2

*From the Icebox of Connecticut*

February 2008

## VIEW FROM THE GREEN

### *Housekeeping*

*By Rosanna Trestman*

Norfolk Now is a work in progress. What you see on the pages each month is the result of long deliberation and experimentation, be it small tweaks in the layout or the addition of new content. Our growing staff has now lightened the load for the issue editor, who used to be buried in detail. This has resulted in fewer mistakes. We are open to change and strive for consistency.

The purpose of this View is to bring you up to date on what's new, what's discarded and some procedural reminders to put us "on the same page."

One change we have made is in the visual impact and legibility of the printing. For some time now, photos in Norfolk Now have appeared often muddy and lacking in contrast. As of this issue, which comes to you from Kwik Print in Great Barrington, photo reproduction has been vastly enhanced.

Norfolk Now's digital files are now emailed to Kwik Print and entered directly into a new high tech Ikon Print Center Pro 1050.

The machine not only produces high quality photo finishing, but it also collates, folds and staples all in one pass. An added dividend is that print time is cut in half compared to the old offset printing process, which required four days to produce an issue.

The December fundraiser yielded terrific results. Supporters of the paper gave more generously and in greater numbers than ever before. It's comforting both to receive affirmation of a loyal readership and to realize a cushion under our strained budget.

The response cards gleaned some story ideas. One card urged reporting on land use, zoning and economic development issues. Another asked for coverage of shopping and restaurants, and a third suggested a seasonal guide to local outdoor activities. (This was an idea we tried several years ago on bicycling and fishing opportunities in the area, but perhaps it could use refreshing). We discuss every story idea at monthly editorial meetings. If you don't see results of your suggestion, feel free to contact one of the executive

*continued on page 3*

## All Wrapped Up

### **Norfolk family weathers Christmas Eve break-in**

*By Francesca Turchiano*

It was the day before Christmas, and sometime between 8:30 and 11 a.m., Gwen and Joe Green and their two young sons were victims of a brazen break-in at their home on Litchfield Road.

The events of the day were dizzying. While Gwen Green was at work, her husband (who was recently elected to the Norfolk Board of Education), set off with their two young boys to complete holiday-related errands.

Upon their return, Green saw that the once-closed garage door and sliding patio doors were open, and he quickly realized that a burglary had occurred.

The shock of the discovery deepened when Green saw that all of the wrapped gifts under the tree were gone. Other wrapped gifts were also stolen, and the couple's bedroom was rifled. Oddly, pawnable items, such as home electronics, remained.

Norfolk's State Trooper, Greg Naylor arrived minutes after receiving Green's phone call. His supervisor, Sergeant Robert Carr, and backup Trooper Shawn Prusinowski, showed up soon after.

The Green boys came to accept that "bad people" had been in their house, and that the cookbooks they had carefully selected for their mother were gone. But they were plainly afraid.

The premises were combed for evidence, but it was only after a shaken Gwen Green arrived home that it was possible to compile a detailed list of all stolen items. Both Greens have immediate family in nearby Canaan and Lakeville, and many of the missing gifts were for them.

Minutes after leaving the Green's home, the three troopers decided to become secret Santas. They hatched a plan to not only purchase and replace each and every stolen item, but to have everything back under the tree, neatly wrapped, by Christmas Eve.

Sergeant Carr secured the aid of his wife,

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## Avid Birders Flock to Norfolk

### **Pine Grosbeaks attract eco-tourists**

*By Shelley Harms*

A rare incursion of northern birds from Canada has drawn birders to Norfolk from as far away as Vermont. Pine Grosbeaks are the main attraction. Every morning during the holiday week, groups with binoculars, cameras and spotting scopes stood on Shepard Road watching the birds eat small, orange crabapples.

Sunday, December 30 saw birders from four states along with several Norfolkiens, watching about 30 Pine Grosbeaks along the lane to Meadowbrook and in front of the fire house. "This is the most exciting Christmas present I could imagine," said Sarah Zagorski of Wethersfield. "I was here yesterday too. The people of Norfolk have been very friendly, many have stopped to talk to us, and no

*continued on page 2*



PHOTO BY GARY PRETASH

Male Pine Grosbeak reaching for crabapples.



PHOTO BY OWEN OXLEY

Email and phone alerts drew birders from Vermont to New Jersey to view the flock of Grosbeaks who took up temporary residence in Norfolk.

**GROSBEAKS**

*Continued from page 1*

one has complained.”

Several couples from as nearby as Avon, Coventry and Berlin Connecticut said the birds had brought them to Norfolk for the first time. To a person, the birders said the long drive to Norfolk had been well worth it.

Many birders were alerted through email. In the Connecticut Daily Bird Report , sponsored by the Connecticut Ornithological Association, Andy Thiede posted the following report:

“12/30 - Norfolk, Shepard Road - PINE GROSBEAKS spotted from 9:15 through 10:30 a.m., a flock of about 30, with 7 or 8 males. Beautiful and close looks. If you have not come out yet to see these birds, don't think twice, this is an awesome opportunity. Plenty of crabapples are still left for them to feast upon.”

Other internet posters noted excitement at seeing a “life bird,” the first sighting of a species that can then be put on a birdwatcher's “life list.” The Brownstone Birding forum featured this entry on December 27, by Larry from Portland, Connecticut:

“I took a ride out to the northwest corner of Connecticut this morning hoping to find a Pine Grosbeak. They are the largest of the winter finches, and not particularly wary around people. Although they are normally found in boreal forests, they are irruptive this year and some have recently found their way into parts of Connecticut. I arrived in Norfolk at 9 a.m. after a 1-1/2 hour drive... Just after 9:30 a.m., I started to hear some suspicious sounding finch-like calls. I looked in the bare trees and saw some plump reddish birds, along with some grayish ones, perched near

the top. “That has to be them!” I thought to myself. Actually, I might have even said that out loud. I watched in amazement as a whole flock of Pine Grosbeaks were in the midst of gorging themselves with crabapples. This was my first time ever seeing these beautiful birds.”

The crabapple trees attracting the birds were planted by Mary Ann McGourty in the late 1980's. “Hank Tremblay was First Selectman at the time,” recalls McGourty, “and he encouraged me to apply for a grant from CL&P. They were offering a grant to buy trees suitable for planting under power lines. We got the grant, and I picked out three varieties of crabapples. They had to be planted on town property, so I put them here along this lane and in front of the fire house. The birds clearly prefer one type of crabapple and ignore the others. The crabapple attracting the grosbeaks is a disease-resistant hybrid that bears bountiful small orange fruits.”

Several of the birdwatchers noted that it has been at least 15 years since a similar irruption of Pine Grosbeaks into Connecticut. Other unusual birds that have been spotted in Norfolk this year include Evening Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Snow Bunting.

Norfolk appears to be enjoying the attention. During a meeting at the fire house on December 30, several bemused volunteer firemen came out to talk with “the bird people.” Norfolk businesses have seen increased activity from the birders. One couple in Norfolk on December 30 had a flat tire, and was directed to George's garage. Others indicated they would be going to the Pub or Mizza's for lunch. Mary Bazzano commented that lots of out-of-towners are buying cups of coffee at the Norfolk Corner and talking about birds. ■

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Deadline for ads and items for Calendar and Community News is the 15th of the month.

**ROBBERY**

*Continued from page 1*

Michelle. It was after 3:00 p.m. on a day that many stores would close early. Mrs. Carr determined that phone-ahead and speed shopping would be critical. Her territory was the area's better specialty stores, such as Sur La Table in Canton. Trooper Prusinowski's schedule allowed him to take on Target, and other Torrington area stores .

The replacement goal set by the troopers was fully met within hours. At 9:00 p.m., Troopers Carr and Prusinowski were welcomed back into the Green's house, where over-stuffed shopping bags, wide smiles, and wet eyes were everywhere.

The tale is not over. Those responsible for the robbery have yet to be apprehended.

Anyone with knowledge of the crime should contact Norfolk Resident State Trooper, Greg Naylor at 542-5429 or the Troop B dispatcher 824-2500. A reward fund has been established anonymously as an incentive. Contributions can be made by sending a check to the Robbery Reward Fund, National Iron Bank, P.O. Box 505, Norfolk, CT 06058. ■

**VIEW FROM THE GREEN**

*Continued from page 1*

editors. We seriously consider every pitched idea.

The card also netted a few more volunteers, whom we hope to put to work before they change their minds. There is one special project for the super industrious volunteer, and that is compiling an index of articles and authors going back to the first issue of Norfolk Now. Phone lines are open.

Finally, some housekeeping details. The Yahoo.com mailbox is closed. In its place are the individual email addresses of key staff members. Story ideas should go to the following month's issue editor, who is listed in the staff box along with the names, email addresses and phone numbers for inquiries about Advertising and Subscriptions and submissions to Community News and the Calendar.

Your contributions to the paper, be it financial, a tidbit for Briefly, a Letter to the Editor or simply as one of our readers make you a part of the Norfolk Now team. Thank you. ■

**ADVERTISING IN  
NORFOLK NOW  
GETS RESULTS**

**A Slick Start To The New Year**

**Oil overflow at Botelle Elementary School**

*By Veronica Burns*

Cleanup work was still ongoing at Botelle Elementary School following an oil spill, which occurred in the early hours of December 13, just before a major snow storm was due to hit Norfolk.

In early January, Environmental Services of Watertown, hired by the oil company responsible for the spill, were continuing to scrape away layers of contaminated soil. So far, three dumpsters have been hauled away, with more yet to be taken up. “The cleanup has been handled very well,” says Debbie Catuccio, an emergency response coordinator with the Department of the Environment (DEP). “It should not be an issue as far as kids coming and going are concerned.” She did advise however, that no children be allowed to play in or near the soil.

The mishap was the result of an error on the part of the delivery driver from Team Energy Inc., of Watertown. Botelle school receives its oil supplies from a consortium, with the result that different companies deliver oil. For Team Energy, this was a first and memorable visit.

According to a report by Botelle principal Timothy Lee, the operator mistakenly commenced the refueling of the diesel tank instead of the fuel oil tank. There are two underground tanks behind the school, one is a 500-gallon tank for the diesel generator and the other is an 8,000-gallon heating oil tank. “He had never delivered to our site before,” says Lee, “and basically tried to put 3,000 gallons of oil into a 500-gallon tank. It overflowed, ran off down the hill and was a real mess.” An estimated 400 to 600 gallons of oil were discharged outside the tank in two streams, each about four to six feet wide. As soon as the driver realized his mistake, he shut off the valve and called for help.

There were concerns about the oil ending up in the brook at the bottom of the hill. Lee commends the prompt response of the

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, which arrived within fifteen minutes. They employed special booms at the brook to protect the water. In addition, town crews dumped sand to further isolate the flow of oil. The DEP arrived to supervise the proceedings. Peter Viltrakis, owner of Team Energy, Inc., came to Norfolk as soon as he got the call. “I was very concerned,” he admits, “we have never had a spill like this before. I wanted to be on the scene as soon as possible.” He brought a grading excavator and began to remove soil from the area near the tennis



PHOTO BY VERONICA BURNS

Machinery and manpower remediate the effects of an oil spill at Botelle Elementary.

courts. NVFD Chief Daryl Byrne said that department training in hazardous materials paid off. “They know how to identify chemicals and how to respond,” Byrne says. “They did everything perfectly, just like clockwork.” He added that the NVFD was there from 4:45 in the morning until the early afternoon. “That's a real commitment from a volunteer fire department.”

For Botelle's superintendent, George Counter, the accident had an aura of deja vu about it. “2005 was the sewer backup,” says Counter, 2006 the water main broke. Last year, we had an electric surge. Now we have the oil spill. It's always something.”

The work of mitigation will continue into the spring. Catuccio says that the soil will be retested then and any residual contamination will be removed. Meantime, the good news for the school is that the oil company's insurer will be footing the bill. ■

# Letters

## A Not So Very Merry

My yearly Christmas eve sojourn to Connecticut begins in Norfolk where the topography reminds of my home at the North Pole.

But lo, on the night of December 24, 2007 as I swooped down from the Berkshires ho-hoing away, my reindeer became lost and dis-oriented. We cut a wide swath over the Litchfield Hills, delighting in the holiday decorations of neighboring towns, but nowhere to be found were the Christmas lights of Norfolk.

In 1912, my dear friend, Mrs. Bridgman, donated what is considered to be just the second outdoor Christmas tree in the U.S. decorated with electric lights. Installed on the Norfolk village green, it was adorned with over 300 wonderful white lights.

In a 1925 letter in a local newspaper, I read of the spirit of this tiny hamlet: "The Tree of Light in Norfolk is the radiant center of town and calls forth the enthusiastic comment of motorists and railroad travelers. This wonderful pyramid of light surmounted by its star with golden rays arrests the attention of all and stirs thoughts too deep for words."

So perplexed was I by the Grinch-like darkness in Norfolk, I had the temerity to call the First Selectman's office for an explanation. Matter-of-factly, somewhat indifferently, I was told that the electrical problem around the green would be fixed in the Spring. Humbug! Alas, as Rudolph spirited us back to the North Pole, I couldn't help but feel a little sorry for the good people of Norfolk whose holiday season was made a little dimmer.

(A not so) Jolly St. Nick  
(Michael Kelly)

## Norfolk Left in the Dark

What a shame that instead of waiting until spring time -- reportedly to reduce the cost of the repairs -- no one sought to raise private funds to relight the holiday tree on the Green when it short-circuited just before Christmas. Perhaps the Community Association (or the Lions?) could have been asked to spearhead the effort. Instead, Norfolk, said to be the first Connecticut town to institute this holiday tradition, was left in the dark. Too bad we let the Grinch win this time. (While we're at, is it now too late to reset the white church's clock to standard time, or must we continue to live in the future, until EDT returns?)

Ted and Sally Briggs

Letters to the editor are always welcome. See page 2 for contact information.



## Selectman's Corner

### Benefits for the Elderly and New Hours

By Sue Dyer

The Assessor's office would like to remind residents who are elderly, totally disabled, on military active duty, a veteran, or blind may be entitled to certain tax relief programs or exemptions. Please contact the Assessor's office for more information. It is located in the Town Hall and is open daily until noon, or call 542-5287. The Board of Selectmen has decided to

change the Saturday operating hours of the Transfer Station. Beginning Saturday, February 2, 2008 the new hours will be from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Regional 7 has given Norfolk residents over the age of 60 free passes to functions at the Regional High School. These functions range from sports venues to plays. Please stop in the Selectmen's office to get your Regional 7 Pass. ■

## Norfolk's December Weather and a Yearly Summary for 2007

### White Christmas in Norfolk

By Russell Russ

Here are the weather highlights from December 2007 as recorded at Norfolk's National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Station.

The month's low temperature of 8 degrees was observed on December 6. The high temperature of 54 degrees was observed on December 23. The average temperature this-month was 26.0 degrees which was 1.4 degrees above normal. The total precipitation recorded for the month was 6.22 inches. This was 1.64 inches above normal. The snowfall total was 22.6 inches. This was 5.1 inches above a normal December's snowfall total, but it was by no means a record. The snow-storm on December 13 was by far the biggest of the month, dumping 11 inches at the station. There was a snow cover on the ground at the station every day this month. Carrying a

solid 8 inches on the ground on December 25, we did have a white Christmas this year. Of December's 31 days, we recorded some sort of precipitation on 22 of them. There were 15 days where sleet or snow was observed. Only one day was recorded as being mostly clear. Both Tobey Pond and Wangum Lake froze over for the season on December 6.

In a review of Norfolk's weather for the 2007 calendar year, it appears that we had a fairly typical year. There were some low figures and some high figures observed throughout the year, but overall it summed up to be fairly normal. Norfolk's 2007 average temperature was 46.0 degrees. This was 1.6 degrees above normal. The yearly total precipitation amount was 48.17 inches. This was 4.32 inches below normal. The yearly snowfall total was 66.6 inches. This was 29.5 inches below normal. Looking back to the end of November it appeared that we may be flirting with top ten records for lack of total precipitation and lack of snowfall, but December changed all that. A common statement being made these days by many weather experts is that we can expect to see big swings in both temperature and precipitation. For now, it appears that they seem to know what they are talking about. ■

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# Town Plan is Taking Shape

## January meeting focuses on zoning and commercial development

By Lindsey Pizzica Rotolo

A special meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P & Z) was held on January 17 at Town Hall to continue discussions on Norfolk's town plan. The meeting, attended by over 30 people, was the fourth in a series examining various issues surrounding Norfolk's future.

The first meeting, led by Glenn Chalder, the consultant hired by P & Z to help shape the plan, took place in October and addressed residents' wants and needs. A majority cited business development to create local jobs and boost the tax base as their top priority. A November meeting covered conservation strategies and the December and January meetings focused on overall development.

The January 17 meeting began with a conversation about the future of residential development and centered on lot size. Most in attendance appeared to favor increasing residential and retail density in the downtown area and making the village the core development zone in Norfolk. This was seen as a logical location for increased development because it falls within the town's water and sewer district. It was also suggested that a larger population in the village would contribute to more robust retail activity.

Much of the discussion was devoted to minimum lot sizes in the village. Molly Ackerly suggested that the core development area could permit quarter-acre or half-acre lots. The exterior zone just outside the sewer district could have two-acre lot minimums and the outlying rural areas could have a five-acre lot minimum.

P & Z Chairman West Lowe pointed out that the sewer district isn't perfectly aligned with the downtown residential area and could be expanded to accommodate greater development potential in the village.

A major concern voiced during the meeting was avoiding strip development. The term relates to landowners who sell small lots along road frontage resulting in a string of new houses blocking views which would otherwise add to the rural

character of town.

Norfolk Selectmen Jim Stotler Sr. pointed out that Norfolk has few buildable lots due to steep grades, wetness and bedrock issues. He contended that as a result there was little likelihood of any large scale development here. Soil based zoning could also be considered, as Norfolk has little land suitable for well drilling and the installation of septic systems.

P & Z Secretary Michele Sloan noted that "I can't remember the last time more than a two lot subdivision came before Planning and Zoning. Perhaps we should direct our development strategy towards more realistic scenarios than a 100-lot development project."

Lou Barbagallo, chairman of the Affordable Housing Commission, stressed the need for affordable housing. "Our children can't afford to buy their first home in Norfolk," he said, "and neither can much of our volunteer base."

The conversation then shifted to commercial development. The major topics in that vein included traffic flow, the need for more parking and walkways downtown, determining the best use of existing commercial buildings, and options for further utilizing the town meadow. David Davis, owner of the Speckled Hen Pub and a member of the Economic Development Commission (EDC), voiced his concern over what is sure to become a parking issue when Infinity Hall opens its doors later this year.

Davis also favored making Station Place a one-way street, which, he believed, would make driving downtown safer and allow for more parking options.

Simon Aldridge, an architect, presented a sketch of the downtown area with suggested parking areas and a network of walkways and pedestrian crossings to make the landmarks in town more accessible by foot.

Conversation also focused on what types of businesses could succeed in Norfolk. Most people in attendance agreed that Norfolk's best shot at attracting more consumers to town is to offer them something they can't find anywhere else.

The town meadow has long been a void in the center of town and many residents are enthusiastic about pursuing options to better utilize that area.

Frank Bell, a member of EDC, has been in touch with an urban planning group regarding the meadow and said he welcomes any ideas from the public.

The next town plan meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26 at 7p.m. in Town Hall. It will continue to address development issues and begin a dialogue about improving infrastructure. All Norfolk residents are encouraged to attend and add their views. ■

**LIONS CLUB TALENT SEARCH**



## Got Talent?

Seeking talented performers for a Mid-April charity event sponsored by the Norfolk Lions Club.

*Your spotlight awaits!*

For details, contact  
Matt Riiska at 542-5236 or email  
talent@norfolkions.org



## It's Only Natural Leave It To Beaver

By Star Childs

Many folks have noticed increased beaver activity in wetlands alongside some of the roads in town. This is not because there are necessarily more beaver in our area than in other years, but rather the beaver have returned to these areas where adequate food and habitat resources abound once again.

A brief discussion with one of the beaver control experts in our area confirms this. He has not noticed any increase in their numbers, but he says they have been more active due to the relatively mild winter thus far.

When questioned about the seemingly inordinate evidence of beaver activity this year, I simply reply, "It's what they do." Tree felling, gnawing on wetland shrubs and impounding water are all part of their basic preparation for winter.

Not knowing how severe or lengthy the approaching winter will be, they try to collect a surplus supply of fresh-cut branches and tree limbs to drag into their impoundment areas near their beaver lodge. It can be stored under the ice and dragged into the lodge should the winter cold freeze solid locking them in their quarters.

If a midwinter thaw occurs, as it did this

year, they can emerge back into the riparian areas around their pond and continue feeding and felling more food. As one who has tried his own hand at felling trees (but not using my teeth), I always feel sorry for the beaver that gnaws for days only to have the tree hang up in a neighboring tree. All that hard work results in no net food unless a strong wind completes the job that gravity failed to do.

Beaver derive their sustenance from the inner bark or cambium of the trees or shrubs they cut. This is the thin, carbohydrate-rich living tissue where much of the metabolic activity of

woody vegetation takes place. The cells of the cambium account for all the movement of water up the tree as well as the downward movement of sugars and starches to feed the roots.

One wonders why beaver sometimes attack large trees, which can take days on end to eventually topple.

But if they are successful, the bounty of cambial tissue in the branches and twigs of that large tree, not to mention the material along the stem itself, serves as a bonanza for the beaver right at the water's edge. This negates their having to go further afield to collect many more stems from wetland shrubs, which can expose them to predators.

In engineering and business this is considered efficient allocation of time and resources, but for the beaver, it's a matter of getting more bang for his buck teeth. ■

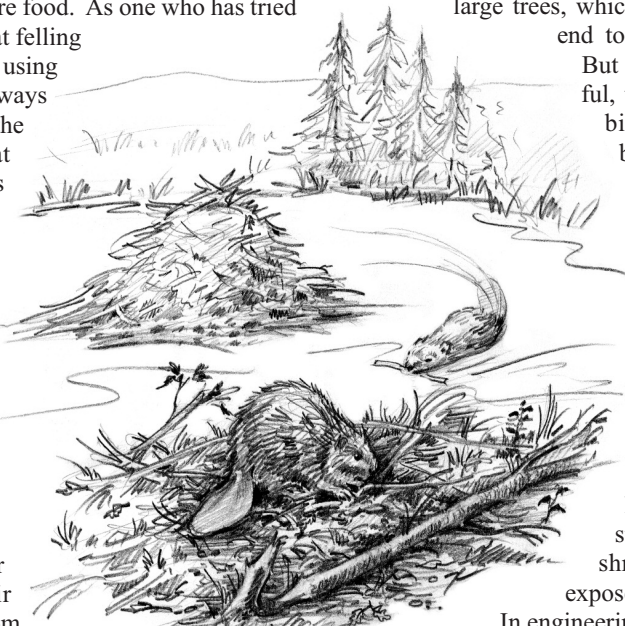


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## All-Norfolk Crew To Construct Infinity Hall

Dan Hincks makes good on his  
promise to hire locally

By Lloyd Garrison

When Dan Hincks bought Greenwoods Theatre a year ago, he vowed to create enduring links to the community. "Once we decided to upgrade the music hall and create an upscale restaurant on the ground floor," says Hincks, "I was determined to hire local builders as long as they were competitive." He was as good as his word, and three Norfolk craftsmen more than met the competition.

For his general contractor, Hincks chose Phil Cyr of J & P Building and Remodeling, LLC. Mike Ross of MR Plumbing and Keith Sleeper of JK Electric and Service LLC, were Hincks' top choices for overseeing plumbing and electrical installation.

The three form an all-Norfolk construction team intent on transforming the old Greenwoods structure in time for performances in the upstairs music hall by late May. Creating a spacious ground floor restaurant with two bars and a lounge area for music hall customers could take a little longer.

Just how long will depend in part on how fast kitchen facilities in the basement can be completed. The old arched breezeway out back has been framed in and a new foundation must be laid before the area can be added to the existing basement. Once finished, the new space will vastly extend the area available for cooking, cold storage, a wine cellar, heating and air conditioning, an office for the chef and restaurant manager, and dumbwaiters for ferrying food to the restaurant upstairs.

Although they are locally based, the three Norfolks hired by Hincks impressed him with resumes showing that they had won bids on even larger construction projects elsewhere in the state. Cyr served as general contractor for a 20,000 square foot mini-mall in Wolcott. Ross won a contract that involved converting a factory to an office complex in Southington.

Sleeper brings years of management experience to his job, having served as a regional real estate manager for Cigna Insurance that involved extensive work in energy conservation. The firm he now heads up has done all

the electrical work on a new factory in Ansonia.

Cyr, Ross and Sleeper are well established Norfolk residents whose children are either in Botelle School or have gone on to graduate from NW Regional 7. As parents, Ross and Cyr have a lot in common: each is father of ten-year-old, eight-year-old and twin six-year-olds.

The careers of the three men are intimately



PHOTO BY LLOYD GARRISON

Infinity Hall's all-Norfolk "Gang of Three":  
(1 to r) Mike Ross, Keith Sleeper, and Phil Cyr.

bound up with the family. When not tending the children and serving on the Norfolk Board of Education, Michele Cyr keeps J & P's books. Keith Sleeper's daughter, Victoria, is his office manager. Mike Ross' wife, Tina, is a RN who handles his paper work during the week followed by a weekend nursing home job. "I'm the house mother most weekends," says her husband.

As the new year unfolds, the present "gang of three" Norfolks now hard at work at Infinity Hall will undoubtedly be joined by others from town in different capacities. "There will eventually be positions available for event staff and for work in the kitchen and dining room," says Hincks. "Job applicants will have to wait until we are ready to spell out just what positions need to be filled, but we will do our utmost to continue hiring Norfolk talent." ■

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#### Norfolk, Twin Ponds

Great 1904 3 BR, 4 1/2 Bath with twin ponds and a pretty gazebo on 9.36 acres. Walking distance to Tobey Pond, Yale Park School, and the center of town. Expansive deck and porch with views. Offered at \$249,000.



#### Norfolk, Seven Brooks

Stately 1784 Colonial in a beautiful location on 24.43 acre wooded acres. Peaceful setting off a country road. There is a climbing wall in the back and a putting green on the property. The grounds are meticulously maintained and include a custom 18' x 40' heated swimming pool. \$1,185,000.

## Norfolk's Web

### A Dream Weaves Into Reality

By Colleen Gundlach

What started as a wish list item to many townspeople has blossomed into a project that has pulled in the expertise of many talented Norfolknians. One look at the new town Web site will reveal the extent of the commitment and abilities of its creators.

Led by chairman Jon Riedeman, a committee grew from an idea of the Economic Development Commission into a full-fledged subcommittee of that group, consisting of Mary Fanette, Josh DeCerbo, Kathy Griswold, Luke Hester, Margaret O'Malley, Steve Podhajecki, Daryl Eaton, Ken Ludwig, Paul Butcher, and Lloyd Garrison. Each of these people has contributed in special ways to create a Web site of which the town can be proud. "We started out hoping to revamp the existing Web site by hiring a professional web designer," said Riedeman, "but we quickly found out that that would be cost prohibitive." As the talents of the committee began to shine, they decided to build a whole new site. Mary Fanette enrolled in a course in Web site

design at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, purchased some Dream Weaver software, and was soon an accomplished webmaster. "She's incredible," said Riedeman.

The committee began "collectively chipping away" at developing the site, according to Riedeman, and soon they had a rough draft ready to present to the Board of Selectmen. "This is literally a grassroots operation," he said, "which involved the work of every committee member."

Once the group had the approval of the selectmen, they needed a new server to host the site. Riedeman recalls that Steve Podhajecki happened to mention that he had developed the Web site for his own business. He was soon drafted to be in charge of finding the best server and handling the switchover to the new host, and the site was officially launched in December.

The beautiful photo of Mill Pond that graces the home page of the site was taken by photographer Kathy Griswold, who also is

NORFOLK NOW credited with the breathtaking pictures in the photo gallery.

Margaret O'Malley is the calendar editor. Her page lists any and all activities happening in Norfolk. To list an event on the site, contact calendar@norfolkct.org.

One alluring feature of the Town of Norfolk Web site is the businesses page. Here is listed every business in Norfolk that requests to be entered. There are many on the site already, but any other businesses who wish to be listed should contact webmaster@norfolkct.org. There is no fee for listing a business. In addition, the government page posts agendas and minutes for local committees and boards. "Not all committee minutes and agendas are on the page, but we are hoping that more will, as the groups get used to having the service available," said Riedeman.

The site also allows readers to find information on local organizations, churches, schools, culture, recreation, artists, history and where to stay.

"The Web site is currently a work in progress," stresses committee member Lloyd Garrison. Comments and suggestions can be forwarded to any committee member or by linking to the webmaster at norfolkct.org. ■

### Bequests Made to Several Town Organizations

Bequests of over \$36,000 each to the Norfolk Library, the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department and the Norfolk Lions Club Ambulance have been made from the estate of Dorothy Ford Battistoni, who died in April, 2006.

Born in 1918, she lived all her life at the former dairy farm on the corner of Doolittle and Loon Meadow Roads. Her brother's farm in East Canaan is still in operation. The family has deep roots in the community, reaching back at least to the immigrant Irish workers who built the railroad.

Mrs. Battistoni, whose husband died in 1952, was a legal secretary at a firm in Winsted for nearly sixty years. She remained alert and physically active throughout her life.

Among her other bequests was one to the Fidelco Foundation in Bloomfield, CT, which trains seeing eye dogs. ■

Don't Forget to Vote!  
Tuesday, February 5 at  
Town Hall  
Presidential Primary

### Songs of Peace and Peaceful Protest



PHOTO BY JULIE SCHARBERG

Botelle students in grades 1 through 6 spent the week of January 7 with musician and music educator Eliot Bailen writing songs inspired by the life, times and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All the songs were performed at the end of the week to an enthusiastic crowd filled with many proud parents and the entire school community. This is Bailen's second workshop at Botelle creating songs inspired by Dr. King. If you missed the concert, post-production is already underway to produce CDs for the students along with sheet music of all the songs. The workshop was provided as part of the PTO's cultural program offerings with generous support from The Norfolk CT Children's Foundation and the AKC Fund.

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### Indie Feature Film To be Shot in Norfolk

By Lloyd Garrison

A low budget film written and directed by Lee Toland Krieger, a promising filmmaker with one feature length movie behind him, will be shot in a variety of locations in Norfolk beginning March 10 and extending into April.

The film, budgeted at a modest \$1 million, is entitled "The Vicious Kind." According to Lindsay Lanzillotta, one of the co-producers, the screenplay calls for a small town New England setting. "This is a cautionary tale," said Lanzillotta, who was reached by phone in Los Angeles. "It delves into how poor morals and bad parenting can break a family apart and lead to nothing but heartache for all involved, even many years after the fact."

Krieger, who has close family ties to Rhode Island, considered filming there. But after a friend who lives in Falls Village recommended Norfolk, a brief scouting trip here persuaded him that Norfolk was the better setting.

Krieger, who grew up in California, is the grandson of actor Lee Krieger ("Gunsmoke," "McHale's Navy"). After graduating from the University of Southern California's School of Cinema and Television, he began working under such experienced producers as Steve Perry ("Lethal Weapon") and Gail Muttrix ("Rain Man").

In 2003, he wrote, directed and produced "December Ends," his first feature length film. Set in New York and Brooklyn, it was filmed on a shoestring \$75,000 budget during a semester break while Krieger was at USC. It is a gritty drama in which two young lovers are caught up in a deadly drug war, and it won Best Picture in a field of 65 entries at the eleventh annual Los Angeles Method Fest.



PHOTO BY GINO ROY

Writer-director Lee Toland Krieger.

The festival, while lacking the glitz surrounding Sundance in Utah, provides West Coast critics and Hollywood studios easy access to the latest work of untested independent filmmakers.

A Variety critic described "December Ends" as a "promising debut" and commended it for "definitely handled performances, character dynamics and urban atmosphere." Lee has also directed a number of short films and music videos.

Casting details of "The Vicious Kind" will be released soon, probably next week. Lanzillotta said that one leading actor is currently appearing in a major HBO series and that once all the actors are formally signed and their names made public, the female lead "will be widely recognizable."

A number of Norfolk residents could become intimately engaged in the production. Some extras will be enlisted locally and the producers are anxious to hire local caterers to feed a sizeable film crew. The producers are also looking into renting houses to put up the crew. ■



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**Make More Room in  
 the Staff Box**

**New photographer joins  
 the Norfolk Now team**

*By Rosanna Trestman*

Norfolk Now is pleased to announce the addition of the newest member to our all-volunteer staff. Carol Stein joins Adela Hubers as co-staff photographer with this issue of Norfolk Now.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL STEIN

Carol Stein brings her talent as a photographer to the newspaper.

Stein began working in photography in the 1960s. She studied with luminaries such as Gary Winogrand while a photojournalist documenting antiwar protests and gang members on New York's Lower East Side. She went on to a career in medicine and public health, where she was based at the University of Rochester Medical School.

Stein moved to Norfolk seven years ago—about the time she rediscovered photography. In addition to her own fine art projects, she is developing a clientele of international NGO's. She will go to Tanzania and Mozambique next spring to photograph nutrition and blindness-prevention projects for Helen Keller International.

As for choosing Norfolk as home, Stein says, "It reminds me of the North woods of Michigan where I spent childhood summers, and it's also near my work in New York City." She enjoys the snow but always looks forward to the Norfolk summer, especially the Yale art and music programs. ■

# Have You Seen These Animals?

## NRIS seeks help with wildlife lists

By Shelley Harms

A binder at the Norfolk Library has the latest lists of Norfolk's birds, butterflies, moths, mammals, amphibians and reptiles compiled by the Natural Resources Inventory Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency. All are welcome to look at the lists.

In an ongoing effort to keep the survey current, the subcommittee invites everyone to peruse the lists, provide comments to the subcommittee, and report sightings that are not documented. In particular, certain mammals, amphibians and reptiles are believed to exist in Norfolk, but further sightings are needed for confirmation.

In the following list, the animals in regular type have been confirmed in Norfolk. Those in bold type have been confirmed in neighboring towns, but go unreported in Norfolk. If you have seen any of the creatures in bold type, or if you have seen animals in Norfolk that are not listed at all, please contact subcommittee members Sue Frisch (542-6076), or Shelley Harms (542-1657). ■

### Norfolk Mammals (48 species)

#### Bats:

Big Brown Bat  
**Eastern Long-eared Bat**  
 Eastern Pipistrelle  
**Keen's Myotis**  
 Little Brown Bat  
**Red Bat**  
**Silver-haired Bat**

Beaver  
 Black Bear  
 Bobcat  
 Chipmunk, Eastern  
 Cottontail, Eastern  
**Cottontail, New England**  
 Coyote  
 Deer, White-tailed  
 Fisher  
**Flying Squirrel, Northern**  
 Flying Squirrel, Southern  
 Fox, Gray  
 Fox, Red  
 Hare, Snowshoe  
 Mink

#### Moles:

Eastern Mole  
 Hairy-tailed Mole  
 Star-nosed Mole

Moose

#### Mice:

Deer Mouse  
 House Mouse

#### Meadow Jumping Mouse

White-footed Mouse

#### Woodland Jumping Mouse

Muskrat  
 Opossum  
 Otter, River  
 Porcupine  
 Rat, Norway  
 Raccoon

#### Shrews:

**Masked Shrew**  
 Northern Short-tailed Shrew  
**Smoky Shrew**  
**Water Shrew**

Striped Skunk

#### Squirrels:

Gray Squirrel  
 Red Squirrel

#### Voles:

**Boreal Red-backed Vole**  
 Meadow Vole  
 Woodland Vole

#### Weasels:

Long-tailed Weasel  
 Short-tailed Weasel (ermine)

Woodchuck

### Norfolk Amphibians (21 species)

#### Frogs:

Bullfrog  
 Gray Tree Frog  
 Green Frog  
 Northern Leopard Frog

### NORFOLK NOW

Northern Spring Peeper  
 Pickerel Frog  
 Wood Frog

Red-spotted Newt

#### Salamanders:

#### Blue-spotted Salamander

Four-toed Salamander  
 Jefferson Salamander  
 Marbled Salamander

#### Mudpuppy

Northern Dusky Salamander  
**Northern Slimy Salamander**  
 Northern Spring Salamander  
 Northern Two-Lined Salamander  
 Red-backed Salamander  
 Spotted Salamander

#### Toads:

American Toad  
 Fowler's Toad

### Norfolk Reptiles (19 species)

#### Snakes:

**Black Rat Snake**  
 Eastern Garter Snake  
**Eastern Hognose Snake**  
**Eastern Milk Snake**  
 Eastern Ribbon Snake  
**Northern Black Racer**  
**Northern Brown Snake**  
**Northern Copperhead**  
 Northern Ringneck Snake  
 Northern Water Snake  
 Redbelly Snake  
 Red-sided Garter Snake  
 Timber Rattlesnake

#### Turtles:

**Bog Turtle**  
**Common Musk Turtle**  
 Painted Turtle  
 Snapping Turtle  
 Spotted Turtle  
 Wood Turtle



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Gwen Green  
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### FEBRUARY 2008

## Briefly...

### More Photographers Step Up

Those reply cards sent with Norfolk Now's annual appeal produced several responses from photographers, including Michael Dobo, a recently retired photographer with an impressive string of assignments from Time, LIFE and People behind him, and Ben Nodeau, an amateur photographer who works weekdays at the Hotchkiss School...

### In Case You Missed it

David Davis and The Speckled Hen were written up in the January 6 Connecticut Section of the Sunday New York Times in an article entitled "A Cozy, Comfortable Pub"...

### Reaching Out at Infinity Hall

On the lookout for office space close to Infinity Hall, Dan Hincks is negotiating to rent the space vacated by the Norfolk Artisans Guild...

### Green Light

The Energy Task Force's second lighting event at the Town Hall resulted in the sale of more than 1,400 energy efficient bulbs...

### Thanks for the Rocking Chair

Ann and Ron Reich, owners of Olde Farms Furniture on Route 44 in East Canaan, have donated a Boston Rocker for the Lions Club raffle to raise money for a gazebo at the Meadowbrook Retirement Home...

### No More Rods, Reels, Boots and Guns

Outdoor enthusiasts, who for 30 years have relied on Nichols Sporting Goods in Winsted, will have to go farther afield for clothing and equipment when the store shuts its doors later this winter...

### It May be Winter, but Think Summer

Sue Frisch (542-6076) is looking for volunteers to help the Norfolk Farmers Market with publicity, signing up new vendors and other general tasks before the summer season begins in early July...

— Compiled by Lloyd Garrison

If you have items to propose for this column, please contact the next issue editor.

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## February Calendar

### TOWN GOVERNMENT

**Selectmen** meet first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Wetlands Agency** meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Planning & Zoning** meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Board of Finance** meets at Town Hall, the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Regional Board of Education meets the second and fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the library at Regional 7 High School.

**Economic Development Commission** meets at Town hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

**Recreation Department** meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

**Norfolk Sewer District** meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

**The Norfolk Lions Club Annual Fudge Sale** will be held on February 9 in front of the Norfolk Corner Store from 9a.m. to noon or until sold out.

**The Tiffany Consort** will perform on February 9 at 4 p.m. at the Church of Christ Congregational. Please call 542-5721 to reserve a seat.

**Women's open night basketball** takes place Monday evenings from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Botelle School gym. All skill levels welcome. For more information contact Sarah Kasacek at 542-5849.

Send submissions to Katherine Pilbin,  
dpilbin@snet.net.  
Deadline is the 15th of the month.

**Preschool playgroup** meets on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Battell Chapel for preschoolers and their caregivers.

### LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

**Fireside Fridays** meet each week from 3-4:30 p.m. for games, conversation and knitting. See below for special events.

**Play for Voices** on February 2 at 5 p.m. Under Milk Wood, Ben Luxon and Dana Bledsoe.

**Art Reception** on February 3 from 4-6 p.m. for Wayne Jenkins.

**Library Associates** monthly meeting on February 5 at noon.

**Fireside Friday** on February 8 from 3-4:30 p.m. Jack O'Malley on poetry.

**Isabella's Play, Our Town**, on February 12 at 3 p.m.

**Art Lecture** Mary Cassatt by Ann Havemeyer, February 17 at 2 p.m.

**The Library will be closed** on Monday February 18 in observance of President's Day.

**Fireside Friday**, Trillium in Concert on February 22 from 3-4:30 p.m.

**Land Trust Meeting** on February 23 at 4 p.m.

**Book Discussion**, "19 Minutes" by Jodi Picoult led by Judy Meade on February 26 at 7 p.m.

**Corner Club**, John Root performs music of the Gaslight Era, on February 27 at 3:20 p.m.

### BOTELLE SCHOOL

**PTO** meets on February 6 at 7 p.m.

**The Fifth Grade** goes to the Old State House on February 14.

**Good News Assembly** is held on February 15 at 10 a.m.

**No School** on February 18 and 19 for President's Day and Teacher in-service day.

**Fourth Grade** to the Connecticut Historical Society on February 4.

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### Be Aware, Be Healthy

The PTO's first Parent Education Night will be held on Thursday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Botelle School. The focus of this evening will be wellness for families and will cover a wide range of topics from diet, to stress, to exercise. The one hour presentation and discussion will be led by local certified health counselors: Dara Lovett, Judy Mead and Eileen Fitzgibbons. There will be healthy refreshments and child care provided. There is no charge for this event.

### Tiffany Consort

Grammy nominated vocal ensemble, The Tiffany Consort, will perform unaccompanied choral masterworks by Byrd, Tallis, Palestrina, Bach, Naylor, Britten, and Nicholas White on Saturday, February 9 at 4 p.m. at Church of Christ Congregational. The program will feature the world-premier of From Heaven to Earth: Six Middle English Lyrics by Nicholas White along with folksongs from the British Isles. A donation will be accepted at the door. Call 542-5721 to reserve a seat.



### It's Chocolate Time

The Norfolk Lions Club will hold its annual chocolate bash on Saturday, February 9, at the Corner Store, just in time for Valentine's Day giving. Fudge, brownies, hot cocoa and other tasty treats will be available from 9 a.m. until noon, or until everything is gone, whichever comes first.

### Now Appearing at the Warner

A repeat of the Brooklyn exhibit of Bruce Frisch's "Rise of the World Trade Center," featuring photographs taken before, during and after the construction of the twin towers, can be seen in the atrium of the Warner Theater February 1 through April 30, with a reception on February 9 at 4 p.m. The show received a glowing review in the January 25 edition of the Litchfield County Times. In it, Frisch is quoted as saying, "This show is about triumph. It's about the rise of the twin towers, and has nothing to do with the fall."

Send submissions to Lisa Bazzano,  
thebazzanos@sbcglobal.net.  
Deadline is the 15th of the month.

### Botelle's Voltage Variables Make the Final Cut

By Michele Cyr

With the addition of First Lego League to the roster of after school programs sponsored by the Botelle PTO, this December, Norfolk students became state champions in the FIRST Lego League 2007 Power Puzzle Challenge in New Britain.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics program for kids ages six thru high school. Every year children from all around the world are challenged to design and build a robot out of, you guessed it, Legos. Guided by adult mentors, the team must use its imagination to solve pre-defined missions.

The 2007 challenge was entitled Power Puzzle. It pertained to meeting the global demand for energy. The Robot Game portion required the students to design, write and test programs on a robot. One of the programs had the robot move a wave turbine into the ocean section of the game board. The Project portion required the students to research and analyze energy choices and to do an energy audit on a building.



Jacob Tenkert and six team-mates of the Voltage Variables placed high in the Lego League robot building competition this December. A reprise demonstration will take place Febryary 15 at Botelle school.

Coaches Michele Cyr and sixth grade teacher, Kim Penfield, assembled the team of seven students.

This December the Botelle team, called the "Voltage Variables", participated for the first time in a qualifying competition. The team did very well and went on to the State

Championship Tournament that took place a week later at Central Connecticut State University.

The Voltage Variables will demonstrate their robot completing missions February 15, 10 a.m. at the Botelle School. The public is invited to attend. ■

# Norfolk Then . . .



PHOTO COPYRIGHT NORFOLK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Long before Fed Ex or DHL, this G. Fox & Co. helicopter made a door-to-door delivery to a Norfolk family. The year was 1947, and the helicopter was part of the company's promotion of its 100th year as a retail fixture in Hartford. At that time, Bob Steele hosted the G. Fox Morning Watch radio show on WTIC (precursor to the Bob Steele Show), and listeners tuned in daily to find out where and when the helicopter would make its next stop. And so on a cold January morning, a crowd gathered by the baseball diamond on Mountain Road to welcome the helicopter to the Ice Box of Connecticut. The delivery was a package of baby clothes, and the recipient was Dr. and Mrs. Richard Barstow's young son, Ricky, pictured here in the arms of his mother Lorraine.

—Ann Havemeyer

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