

NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 3, No 10

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

October 2014

Article by Charlie Farrow

October's Fires



*Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road
Moodus, CT 06469*

Forty-three Lindenwood Rd., Stoneham, my childhood home, had no linden trees, but a plethora of oaks and maples on a corner lot. After several years of training, much of which deeply tried my father's patience, I became responsible for the leaf gathering and burning. From ages 6-14, that was my October job.

No air quality standards were enforced then. The town's dump was an open burning pit next to an elementary school. I purchased my grandmother's pack-a-day Pall-Mall's at the corner store. Most families had an asthmatic child who was shunned by the other kids.

My family had two burning sites. One was the brick fireplace at the back of the patio. I loved to explore the pathways not taken and once found a big pile of dumped bricks in the woods off the road to Medford. I told my father, and he had me fill my bike basket and start bringing them home. The weight of the bricks over the front tire scared me. Dad fashioned them into a walkway, patio and fireplace.

The other site was the street. Everyone in the neighborhood burned his leaves at the curb. With frontage on West St. as well, I had a long snake of leaves to burn every afternoon.

The EPA would have had a heart attack. Often a dozen fires were going in the valley made by the Sweetwater Brook. The air was thick with fragrant smoke. The fathers returning from the train station appeared as if emerging from a fog.

The burning was the reward. It conveyed a level of responsibility among the kids to be allowed to tend the fires. Several times a season, one would get out of control, and the fire department, horns blaring, would roar into the neighborhood.

Carelessness, I thought, had allowed the fires to creep into the pods of wild land that were everywhere, consuming the leaves and undergrowth but sparing the trees. When I was older, I saw neighbors raking their yards into the woods and setting the fires. One time, after the fire was extinguished, a metal cooler of beer appeared.

It was work to get the leaves to the fireplace or street. Grammy had flower beds and rock gardens everywhere. The back of the lot was hilly, rocky, and humped with roots. All that had to be carefully raked with the debris brought to the fireplace.

I'd light the pile and feed it into the fire until all that was left was a pyramid of ash, which I'd water with the watering can.

The yard had a line of demarcation. Everything in the back went to the fireplace, the sides and front to the road. I never mastered the balancing act and always found myself with blizzards of leaves in one location or another.

The front and side yards were done by raking the leaves, loading them into a lawn sweeper, and depositing them along the edge of the road. I'd light the pile that began by the driveway and continuously feed leaves into the burn

edge. I'd work my way to the corner then up the hill to McIntosh's.

The maple leaves burned like tissue paper. The oaks were tougher, as if they had a chemical that didn't want to burn. Their fire would simply be a glowing edge, consuming the leathery leaf. If you got a pile of oak leaves wet, forget it. They wouldn't burn unless you slid them apart and let them dry out.



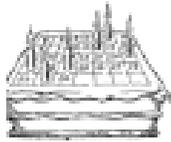
When we moved to West Hartford, the lot was much smaller. The leaves, maple and willow, went to the street and were vacuumed by the town. For years, here at the farm, I raked the leaves and used them to fill in an old cellar hole. Ten years ago I bought a mower and vacuum from Alan and Karen Blaschik in Tylerville. Now the leaves mulch gardens and fill areas eroded by rain.

But boys and girls do not forget their fascination with fire. The story of Prometheus, who stole the Gods' fire and gave it to us, troubled me more than any other. Why should someone suffer horribly for sharing a natural element? This winter I will stare into the firebox of our wood furnace in the cellar, the oak and maple turning into translucent chunks that heat our house and hot water. I am again a young boy, mesmerized, controlling the fire along the curb of Lindenwood Rd.



October

- 1st Irene Herden
Curt Michael
- 2nd Frank Miner
- 3rd Elliot Borent
Ginger Walter
- 4th Marcia Moore
- 5th Dennis Fazekas
Paula Woodworth
- 8th Royce McCall
- 7th Patricia Harley
Rain Spiegel
- 10th Linda Czaja
- 12th Louise Grohbrugge
John Hartzell
- 13th Marilyn Fraser
Robert Mirer
- 14th Angelo Rosadini
- 15th Alice Guertin
Patricia Swift
- 16th Helen Gregor
- 18th Neil Hanlon
- 19th Angie Borgnine
Sal D'Amico
Diana Resler
- 20th John Giaconia
Joseph Irvin
- 21st Peter Butz
- 22nd Jim McAllister
- 23rd Bill Richards
- 24th Virginia Schulz
- 25th Aldea Savva
- 28th Iris Klar
- 30th Frances Kosalski
Kenneth Ziobron
- 31st Carol Scherrer



Birthday and cake and a movie – what could be better!

This month's birthday party is **Monday, October 27, 1:00 pm.**

Each month, we celebrate those who celebrate a birthday. Remember, if this is your birthday month, call us to reserve your free lunch anytime in October!

Line Dancing With Mimi

Hear the music, move the feet, and dance to the beat! Join us for a Line Dancing beginner class, Thursdays, October 9 and 23, 1:00 pm.



Mimi Perrotti, who has taught line dancing at the Cadillac Ranch in Southington, CT, will teach us the moves to the oldies. Have some fun and exercise at the same time! When we learn the steps, we will take a road trip to the Cadillac Ranch for some real "stepping out"!

AARP Driver Safety

Fall is here and snow is not far away. What can you do to be more prepared for the roadways this winter? Is there a comprehensive checklist for vehicle maintenance? Are there any "best practices" you should know to be safer on the road? For the answers to these questions and many more, please consider taking an AARP Driver Safety class at the Senior Center on **Thursday November 20th, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm.** Drivers 60 and older completing the course may qualify for a discount on their auto insurance. Please sign up at the Senior Center. The cost for the class is \$15.00 for AARP members and \$20.00 for non-members



Tuesday Shopping Schedule

Fee: \$3.00. If desired, the bus will stop at the East Haddam Food Bank.

- October 14: Cromwell:
Walmart, Xpect, Aldi
- October 28: Old Saybrook
Walmart, Stop/Shop, Ocean State



The August winner is:

Edie Nichisti - \$10 Gift Card to the M oodus *Ice Cream Parlor.*

Summer may be winding down but the desire for ice cream lingers on.

Bingo Night



Join us at the Senior Center for BINGO Night! Pizza will be served. **Wednesday, October 29th, 6:00 pm.** Sign up by Monday, October 27th. **Free.** 50 years and older are invited.

And, as always, join us Thursday, October 16 at 1:00 for our monthly BINGO!

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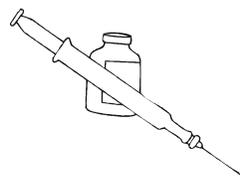
Center Hours

8 am - 3 pm weekdays



September Donations

- ◆ Linda Barone: coffee pot
- ◆ Barb/Elliot Borent: medical equip.
- ◆ Suzanne/Bob Bostelman: condiments, soda
- ◆ Rita Gallagher: mittens, hats
- ◆ John Giaconia: cash donation
- ◆ Carol/Dick Harrington: veggies from garden
- ◆ Pat/Jim O'Brien: copy paper
- ◆ Carol/Dick Parker: mums
- ◆ Sandy Parmenter: bottled water
- ◆ Vicky Riley-Pach: medical equip.
- ◆ Alice Sabo: copy paper
- ◆ MaryAnn/Phil Snow: playing cards
- ◆ Rina Stevens: coffee
- ◆ Jean Burdette: books
- ◆ Jansky Rubbish Removal: since 1973



Flu Shots

Winter is around the corner. Let's get ready to combat those flu bug "cooties".

A nurse with *Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley* will be at the Senior Center to administer flu shots: **Wednesday, October 15th, 1-3:00 pm**. Vaccines are covered by these insurance companies: Medicare, Aetna, Anthem, & ConnectiCare.

Must bring "Proof of Insurance". Not necessary to sign up in advance....just show up!



Medicare Open Enrollment

The Open Enrollment Period for Medicare is October 15 – December 4. During this time period, and only during this time period, those who are currently enrolled in Medicare may make changes to their plans. The Senior Center will have counselors available to help you decide which plan best suits your needs. These sessions will be on three days, from **9 am – 2 pm: Wednesday, October 29th; Wednesday, November 12th; Wednesday, December 3rd.**

You must sign up in advance for your private consultation. This service is provided free of charge.

Therapeutic Massage

The body has over 600 muscles! Do you think it's time you had a massage? Cora Blancato, a licensed Massage Therapist, will offer a free demonstration and will answer questions. Learn how therapeutic massage can soothe aches and pains and facilitate the body's own healing powers. Relax. Rejuvenate. Restore. **Tuesday, October 21st, 10:15 am**.



Please sign up for all events!
Stop in or call.

- Thurs, **Oct 9:** 1^{pm} Line Dancing w/Mimi: article, page 2, col. 2
- Wed, **Oct 15:** 1 - 3 ^{pm} Flu Shots: see article, page 3, col. 2
- Thurs, **Oct 16:** 1:00 ^{pm}: Bingo:
- Mon, **Oct 20:** 10:00 ^{am} Connecticare: Medicare Info: Mon, see article, page 2, col. 2
- Tues, **Oct 21:** 10:15 ^{am}: Chair Massage w/Cora: see page 3, col. 2
- Thurs, **Oct 23:** 1 ^{pm} Line Dancing w/Mimi: see page 2, col. 2
- Sat, **Oct 25:** 5 ^{pm} Ham & Bean Dinner: see article, page 3, col. 1
- Mon, **Oct 27:** 1 ^{pm} Birthday & Movie: see article, page 2, col. 1
- Wed, **Oct 29:** 9 ^{am}-2^{pm} : Medicare Open Enrollment: see page 3, col. 2
- Wed, **Oct 29:** 6:00 ^{pm}:Bingo Night: see article, page 2, col. 3
- Wed, **Nov 12:** 9-2 Medicare Open Enrollment: see page 3, col. 2
- Thurs, **Nov 20:** 12:30 ^{pm}:AARP Driver Safety: see page 2, col. 2
- Sat, **Nov 22:** Craft, Tag, Bake Sale
- Mon, **Nov 24:** 1 ^{pm} Birthday & Movie



Senior Center "Wish List"

Donations to the Senior Center are always greatly appreciated. If you are looking for ideas on what to donate to your Senior Center, here is our "Wish List" for the upcoming month: pumpkins, mums, cornstalks, decaf coffee. **Thank you!**

Ham & Beans & "Gas"

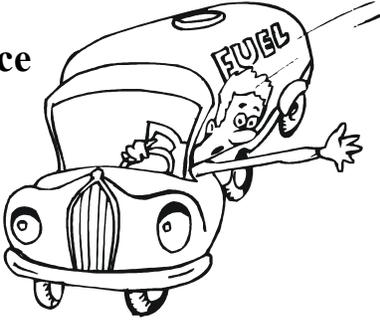
Whatever do we mean? The Center is sponsoring a fundraiser Ham & Bean Dinner to benefit the East Haddam/Moodus Fuel Bank, which assists residents with paying for their primary heating fuel, whether it is electric, oil, wood, or propane. All proceeds will be donated. **All are welcome! \$8.00. Saturday, Oct. 25th, 5 – 7 pm.**



That we have a Senior Club? Hmmm you may think.....what is it and what do they do and when do they do it? The meeting is open to all seniors. We plan events and activities and trips. This is the opportunity for all to get involved with their Senior Center. We meet the second Monday of each month at 1:00 pm, unless there is a holiday, like this month, so instead we are meeting **Monday, October 6**. Join us...we would like your company and your ideas!

Fuel

Assistance



October and November are the best months to apply for fuel assistance because decisions are typically made within a few weeks. If you wait until winter is upon us, the process can take as long as six weeks. If you wish to fill out the application at the Senior Center, please call 873-5034 to set up an appointment and to discuss what documentation will be needed. If you prefer to schedule an appointment at the Middletown Office of CRT (Community Renewal Team), call CRT: 860-347-4465.

ConnectiCare Discussion



A representative will be at the Senior Center on **Monday, October 20th, 10:00 am**, to discuss and answer questions regarding the various Medicare Plans offered by *ConnectiCare*.

This is perfect timing for this discussion because Open Enrollment for Medicare is October 15 – December 4. See the Medicare article in this issue of the Newsletter (page 3, col 2) for dates to meet with counselors at the Senior Center.

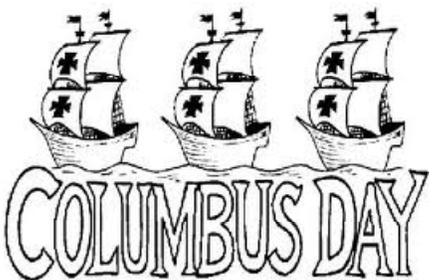
Senior Picnic A Success

What a day...plenty of sunshine, food, & fun. Seventy-five guests celebrated *National Senior Center Month*.

We thank the many volunteers who made the day a success: all who set up, took down, cleared and cleaned; Ralph Havens, who once again proved to be a master BBQ Chef; and those who brought all those delicious desserts. We especially thank Chestelm Health & Rehab and the Cobolt Lodge for providing the food.



Senior Center
15 Great Hillwood Rd
P.O. Box 623
Moodus, CT 06469



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