

Area News



PHOTOS BY SHAW ISRAEL IZIKSON
At left, Hinsdale Elementary School Principal Matt O'Connell and his father, Pearson Middle School fifth-grade teacher Neil O'Connell. Principal O'Connell read to students in his father's class during Read Aloud Day. Above, Acola employee Sandra Wainman read to Pearson Middle School students. The Acola Foundation sponsored the event and donated the books read at the event to the school.

Read Aloud Day held in school district

By SHAW ISRAEL IZIKSON
Staff Reporter

WINSTED — The 21st Read Aloud Day was held across the state on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

According to a press release issued by the Winchester School District, more than 400 volunteers read books to more than 7,000 students in 18 towns and 27 schools.

At Pearson School, volunteers came to read the book "Eddie Shapes Up" by former New York City Mayor Ed Koch.

The book tells a tale about Koch's childhood and how important it is to be physically fit. The theme for this year's event was physical fitness and good health.

Hinsdale Elementary School Principal Matt O'Connell went

to Pearson to read to the fifth-grade class taught by his father, Neil O'Connell.

"I remember as a kid coming into his class and watching him teach," Matt O'Connell said. "Children are so used to having teachers read to them. This is a special day because adults from the community come in and show that reading is important for everybody."

Pearson reading teacher Julie Prignano said that students were excited to see people from the community coming in to read to them.

"Reading is absolutely important, and it's important for adults to show that to them," Prignano said. "It's important for adults to spread the message about how reading is essential to everyone's life."

United Way Food For Your Neighbors drive begins

NORTHWEST CORNER — The ninth annual United Way of Northwest Connecticut Food For Your Neighbors food drive has begun.

Local food pantries have reported an increase in need throughout Northwest Connecticut, including at the Salvation Army in Winsted, which served 40,770 meals to 819 individuals last year. Food banks are always in need of non-perishable items such as peanut butter, jelly, tuna, jarred and canned sauces, soups, pasta, breakfast foods and paper products. Donations may be dropped off at the Winsted branch of the Northwest Connecticut YMCA, 480 Main St.; Northwest Community Bank, 86

Main St.; and the Salvation Army Food Bank, 110 Main St.

"We've already collected 187 items, and our goal this year is 25,000 items," said Stephanie R. Barksdale, United Way of Northwest Connecticut Executive Director. "The final withdrawal for the food banks in Torrington is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2012, when representatives from each Torrington-based pantry will draw the balance of the food collected during this ninth annual United Way of Northwest Connecticut Food For Your Neighbors campaign here."

For more information, call the United Way of Northwest Connecticut at 860-489-4131.

Cancer center to host St. Patrick's party

TORRINGTON — The Center for Cancer Care Fund will host its second annual Celebration of St. Patrick's Day fundraiser on Saturday, March 17, at the Litchfield Inn, Route 202, Litchfield, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person, and \$25 for children under 12. Table sponsorship opportunities are available.

The evening will feature a classic Irish dinner, wine and beer, raffle, live entertainment and dancing.

"We invite the community to join us for this fun event which will help so many cancer patients living in our area," said Ellen Ebbs, executive director. All of the proceeds from the event will benefit the fund, which provides financial assistance for cancer patients living or receiving care in Northwest Connecticut.

For information about table sponsorships or to reserve tickets, call 860-496-6719 by March 11.

Town meeting set to vote on granting easement

By SHAW ISRAEL IZIKSON
Staff Reporter

WINSTED — The Board of Selectmen has set a special town meeting for Monday, March 12, at 7 p.m. for residents to consider a request for a land easement.

The easement request comes from Peter and Jan Cohn who own property at 812 West Wakefield Blvd. They are seeking the easement in order to reconstruct a retaining wall and parking area on town-owned land adjacent to their property.

The Planning and Zoning Commission previously approved the easement request at a meeting in January. However, at a previous selectmen's meeting, questions were raised concerning taxes owed on the property.

According to Town Manager Dale Martin, the taxes in question, \$4,719.06, were not delinquently owed by the property owners, but were actually unpaid because it is the annual January installment of property taxes.

Attorney David Cusick, representing Jan and Peter Cohn, sent a letter to Town Manager Martin

that said the property owners have paid their January taxes.

In the letter, Cusick also protested a Register Citizen article about the selectmen's meeting where the taxes were questioned.

"Inasmuch as, based on the newspaper article, my clients were portrayed as possible 'scofflaws,'" Cusick wrote. "I would be most appreciative if you would advise the board as to the correct information."

Library presents program on eco-homes, solar energy

NEW HARTFORD — The Beekley Community Library presents "Building an Affordable Eco-Home" and "Convert Your Home to Solar Energy" on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Snow date is Feb. 29.

Building a new home is a complex process to manage, but what about building an eco-friendly and energy efficient home? Karann & Jeremy Schaller did just that, earning second place in the Connecticut Zero Energy Home Challenge. During the first half of this program, Karann will discuss the details of her house and share her experience of building and living in the home. Topics will include:

Passive solar house heating, solar electric panels for household electricity, solar thermal panels for house heating and domestic hot water, solar heat collected and stored for seasonal use and walls constructed with highly efficient structural insulated panels.

During the second half of the program, Everett Barber will discuss his book, Convert Your Home to Solar Energy, co-authored with Joseph R. Provey. A definitive homeowner's guide

to solar energy, it covers all the relevant technologies, including solar space and water heating, as well as photovoltaic electricity.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call or stop by the library 860-379-7235.

Chili supper in Colebrook

COLEBROOK — A chili supper sponsored by the Colebrook Congregational Church Auxiliary will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Colebrook Senior and Community Center, 562 Colebrook Road.

This supper features chili with all the toppings, cornbread, salad, macaroni and cheese, a make-it-yourself sundae bar, hot dogs for the kids and beverages. The price is right at \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under nine.

For more information, call 860-379-2517.

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