



The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents

Important Messages from the Registrar of Voters and The Assessor's Office

Registrar of Voters:

2020 Presidential Primary — Important Deadlines

By Mary Grant, Registrar of Voters

March 14, 2020—Absentee ballots for military and overseas voters become available (45 day ballot).

April 7, 2020—Absentee Ballots become available.

April 23, 2020—Deadline for new voters, and for unaffiliated voters, to enroll in a party for voting in its primary. For new voters, mail-in applications must be postmarked, or received by Registrar of Voters or Voter Registration Agency, by this date. For unaffiliated voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by this deadline. (See exception below for in-person enrollment).

April 27, 2020—In-person enrollment deadline, for new voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling in a party in person at Town Hall, for voting in a primary. **(12:00 noon deadline)**

April 28, 2020—Presidential Preference Primary. Polls open 6:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. Voting will be held in both districts (Town Hall and Senior Center).

Other Important Voter Information

In **May**, after the Town Meetings, the **Budget Referendum**, will be scheduled for the Town's residents to vote on the 2020/2021 Budget. Both districts vote in the Town Hall ONLY, and polls are open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

As a reminder, the **Regular State Primary** is held on August 11, 2020 (polls open from 6:00 AM—8:00 PM); **Presidential Election—Federal and State**, is held on November 3, 2020. Polls are open 6:00 AM—8:00 PM.

Assessor's Office:

Tax Relief and Inspections

By Angel Johnstone, Tax Assessor

Homeowner's Tax Relief:

Applications are currently being accepted for the **Senior and Disabled** homeowner's tax relief program at the Assessor's Office. To qualify, homeowners must be over 65 or totally disabled by Social Security AND have a qualifying income equal to or less than \$45,100 for married couples or \$37,000 for individuals. The program opens on February 1st and closes on May 15th each year and requires documentation of your income eligibility including tax returns, social security statements and other statements of all income sources. **Veterans** meeting these income guidelines or those deemed fully disabled by the Veterans Administration may be eligible for additional benefits. Please contact the Assessor's office for more details.

Assessor Inspections:

Inspections of properties happen throughout the year but are more concentrated in the Spring and Fall months. The Assessor's Office strives to maintain updated records and periodically inspects/reviews properties at random to ensure equity and accuracy. Inspections are also done in response to building permits, sales listings, farm programs, benefit programs, etc. Should you have questions on inspections or desire to schedule one for your property, feel free to contact the Assessor at: **860-376-5115**.

Board of Finance

Proposals for 2020/2021 Budgets

By Wayne Donaldson, Chairman

The Lisbon Board of Finance will begin discussions of the 2020-21 budget in March. You will find the scheduled meeting dates listed below. These dates may be added to, if needed, for additional deliberation. As always, the Finance Board balances the department needs against the ability of the residents to support the budget. With the renegotiation of the Wheelabrator host agreement and the unstable funding from the State, the budget process has been difficult for the past few years. We welcome resident input and look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings.

The Board of Finance currently has openings for interested citizens to serve as alternate members on the board. If interested, please contact Wayne Donaldson, Chairman at Lisbon.BOF.Chairman@hotmail.com

- 3/18/20 Town and school budgets presented to the Board of Finance Town Hall 7 PM.
 - 3/25/20 Presentation of the budgets by the Town and school. Possible budget vote. Town Hall 7 PM.
 - 4/8/20 Public hearing on the Town and School budgets (LCS Cafeteria) 7 PM
- 5/4/20 Annual Town Meeting (LCS Cafeteria) 7 PM

TRACK RULES

THE LISBON COMMUNITY TRACK IS FOR
RUNNING & WALKING **ONLY**

NO

GUM OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS

PETS

WHEELED VEHICLES

ROLLER BLADES / ROLLER SKATES

SKATEBOARDS / SCOOTERS

BICYCLES

FOOD / GLASS BOTTLES

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Town Clerk's Corner

April 11 is Opening Day for Fishing in the State of Connecticut

By Laurie Tirocchi, Town Clerk

Fishing licenses are required for residents and non-residents alike who wish to fish in Connecticut waters. Go to the Department of Energy and Environment Protection's website for information regarding the kinds of licenses and permits that are available, and what the fees are. You may purchase a fishing license on their website, or through the Town Clerk's Office at the Town Hall. Town Clerk's hours are: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM; Wednesday Evenings 6:00 PM—8:00 PM; and Friday 9:00 AM—1:00 PM.

The phone number is 860-376-2708.

To purchase online or for more information about options available: ct.gov/deep (click on the fishing icon)

Slater Library

Children's Events

Wee Play, an open playgroup and craft time, meets **Wednesdays @ 10:30 am**. Please use side entrance, as we meet before the library opens.

R.E.A.D. Therapy Dog Reading Club for 3rd and 4th graders. Join Sophie, a two-year old therapy Boxer, for a time of reading and fun! Registration is required. Contact the Children's area @ (860) 376-0024 to sign up. **Upcoming dates: 2/24, 3/23, 4/27, 5/18 @ 4:00 pm.**

Saturday Stories with Miss Gen

Join us at Slater Library for stories and crafts on the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 am. For ages six and under, but siblings are always welcome! Drop in, no sign up required. **Upcoming dates: April 4th, May 2nd, and June 6th (we will not be meeting 3/7 because of Dr. Seuss Story Hour).**

Dr. Seuss Story Hour, Saturday, March 7th 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm. Join us as we celebrate all things Seuss in honor of the Doctor's 116th birthday!

May the 4th – Monday, May 4th is **Star Wars Day!** Drop in during library hours for legos and crafts and check out a good Star Wars book!

Friends of Slater Library Events

Pasta and Meatball Dinner, Saturday, March 7, 2020 @ V.F.W. Post 10004. Dinner will be served from 5:00-6:30 pm followed by a 7:00 pm performance by the GHS Chamber Choir. Donation: \$10.00 per person, advanced tickets only. Come and enjoy a night of good eating and entertainment! Sponsored by Friends of Slater Library. Tickets available at: Slater Library, V.F.W., and Jewett City Greenhouses.

Tuesday Topics (Teens and Adults)

Steinhagen Pottery – Traditional Redware Rediscovered, March 3rd @ 6:30 pm: How does a lump of clay become a mug for your morning coffee? Join Erich and Janice Steinhagen in examining how pottery was made and decorated in colonial America, as they demonstrate the time-honored process of throwing on the wheel and adding whimsical (and sometimes topical!) designs as our ancestors did.

Bells of Fire! English Handbell Choir, Rescheduled!

(New date: March 24, 2020 @ 6:30 pm): Bells of Fire, a community handbell choir based at Central Baptist Church in Norwich, will present a program on handbell history and the development of the instruments as we know them today. The choir, under the direction of Jane Nolan, will give a mini-concert at this event.

CCC - Civilian Conservation Corps, May 5th @ 6:30 pm: Author Martin Podskoch presents his research describing the history and projects of 21 camps located throughout the state. With approximately 100 interviews of CCC boys and their families, *Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: Their History, Memories & Legacy*, holds a piece of our community in print.

Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment, June 2nd @ 6:30 pm: Linda Frank, author of *An Uncommon Union: Henry B. Stanton and the Emancipation of Elizabeth Cady*, presents this powerful time in history. With a Ph.D. in United States history and thousands of hours in research, Linda opens the door to understanding the time period and the people who sculpted the world with their actions.

Yarn and Darn meets the third Thursday of the month in the Community Room, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Bring yarn and needlework projects to work on and share with the group!

Griswold Garden Club meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month @ 10:30 am.

Open Studio Art Club – Spring Tile Craft, March 31st, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Join us in painting ceramic tiles for ages 10 – adult. Contact the library to sign up.



Local artist Jon Quinn currently has his "master copy" of a John Waterhouse painting on display.

Local Art Gallery Show - April 7 @ 7:00 pm

Our local towns are full of talented artists. Please join us as we highlight that talent in true "Gallery" fashion. Many of the local artists have been gracing our library walls with their pieces for the past 2 years. On this evening they will present more beautiful artwork and be available to tell you about each one. An "open" event, this one Tuesday will not require sign-ups in advance but regulars are welcome to sign the book so that you receive a reminder.

Senior Center

Senior Center Trips

March 1st – Foxwoods – “Finding Neverland” Show
 March 24th – Foxwoods (for the day)
 April 9th – Wrights Chicken Farm
 April 26th – Bradley Playhouse – “Mamma Mia” Show

Senior Center Lunch Specials

March 17th – Corned Beef & Cabbage
 March 20th – Spring Breakfast
 April 7th – Wings & Fries
 April 22nd – Meatball Grinders
 May 5th – Cinco de Mayo (invite to New London Senior Center to join us) entertainment by John Banker

Other Events

March 19th – Foot Clinic
 1st Fridays 6-8 pm – Paint Night
 2nd Fridays Noon – Movie Day
 3rd Wednesdays 10am – Blood Pressure Clinic
 3rd Fridays – Noon Art Class
 1st & 3rd Friday – Hairdresser – Call 860-300-9167 for an appointment.
 May 20th – Turkey Luncheon

Blood Drive Lisbon Senior Center

Held in the Community Room
 11 Newent Road
 Lisbon, CT 06351

WED, MAY 27th 2020

1:00pm – 6:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
 to schedule an appointment

Or visit us online at REDCROSS.BLOOD.ORG

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

1-800-RED-CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org)

Download the Blood Donor App

Call the Senior Center 860-376-2329 to make your reservation for trips, or for more information about the Senior Center Lunch Specials and Events.

Lisbon Community Center

By Denise Howard, Lisbon Fall Festival Committee

Join us on Friday, May 15th, at 7:00 PM for our family-friendly Spring Bingo event! (See flier on page 11)

The Lisbon Community Center has a new website link: www.lisboncommunitycenter.org. The Lisbon Community Center (the Barn) is available for use from April 1 through October 31 (closed from Nov. 1-March 31). The space is completely handicapped accessible and ideal for meetings, fundraisers and other activities permitted under the Center regulations. For more information, visit our website!

Upcoming events: 5K and 10k Road Race in September!

We are always looking for volunteers to help us plan events! Please contact us via the website if you are interested in joining our committee!

Farmers' Market

A Message from the Market Manager

By Amanda Moreno, Market Manager

The Lisbon Farmers' Market is happy to announce that we will once again be a FMNP Certified market for the 2020 season. The Department of Agriculture administers two separate nutrition programs at authorized Connecticut Farmers' Markets, including Lisbon — the Connecticut Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) FMNP and the Connecticut Senior (S) FMNP. Both programs provide low-income individuals with checks for the purchase of fresh Connecticut Grown produce and cut herbs directly from farmers at FMNP authorized farmers' markets from July 1 to October 31. Eligible seniors can also use their SFMNP checks to purchase Connecticut Grown honey at FMNP authorized farmers' markets. All our vendors who fall under the fresh produce and cut herbs categories will be certified to accept these checks.

As of this writing, vendors currently lined up for the 2020 season are: Grant's Berry Patch (fruits & vegetables), Johnny Bgood Garlic (garlic & cut flowers); BZB Farm (meat & poultry); Country Comfort Cooking (baked goods); Freak of Nature (soap); Rural Heritage Arts (canned goods, pickles & jams); Swampy Acres Farm (beef, pork, eggs, vegetables); Standish Brook Farm (breads & sweets); Dove Hill Farm (produce, canned goods and farm crafts); and Busy Bee Sustainable Kitchen Ware (sustainable food wrap). We anticipate as many as 30+ vendors again this season.

The market is currently accepting vendor applications for the 2020 season. We welcome CT Grown and Produced vendors from the region, including produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, potted plants and cut flowers, canned goods (pickles, jams, honey and maple syrup), herbs, crafts, food trucks, non-profits and local services. If you or someone you know would like to join our market, more information and applications may be found at <https://www.lisbonct.com/farmers-market-committee>, or contact the Market Manager, Amanda Moreno, at lisbonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

The Farmers' Market Committee has openings for board members. Interested individuals may call the Selectman's Office for more information 860-376-3400.



Trail Committee

Burnham Tavern Trail Ramble to be held on May 16th

By Joe Lewerk, TC Chairman

Progress continues on the installation of crossings over the streams that crisscross the Burnham Tavern Trail property along with distribution of wood chips to smooth the paths. To showcase this town resource and the recent improvements, the Trail Committee will be hosting a Tavern Trail Ramble on Saturday, May 16th in conjunction with The Last Green Valley's 5th Annual Spring Outdoors event series that runs from March 20th to June 21st.

Shown at right: Foot Bridges have been placed over areas that are seasonally difficult to cross when conditions are wet. Maps of the trails can be found online at <https://www.lisbonct.com/trail-committee>

Enjoy a relaxing woodland walk along the 1.5 miles of trails surrounding the historic Burnham Tavern with views of the working pastures and farm fields that sustained the property for centuries and continue to support local agriculture. Meet at the parking area at 62 Kimball Rd for the 10 AM start of the ramble. The rain date is Sunday, May 17th.



Lisbon Central School

By Melissa Krauss, Chairperson, Board of Education

Lisbon School has been busy this winter both academically and with many extracurricular activities. For the first time LCS is participating in the Connecticut Invention Convention. The Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is a multiple awards winning, internationally recognized, 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational program designed to develop and enhance critical thinking skills in children in grades K-12 through invention, innovation and entrepreneurship, while encouraging their interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The CIC is the nation's oldest continuously operating children's invention education program. Since the 1983-1984 school year, an estimated 300,000 Connecticut students have experienced local CIC invention programs. We are excited to see what creative and useful things our students invent!

Both our girls and boys basketball teams had successful seasons making it all the way to the championship game. Our cheerleading team also did very well in their end of season

competition. Everyone is looking forward to spring sports and warm weather! Our student athletes and their coaches do a great job representing our small town.

Our school has a very active and dedicated PTO. This winter they funded a speaker on anti-bullying and hosted an acapella group from UCONN. The students enjoyed both programs tremendously. They are planning several dances throughout the next few months which include a Someone Special and Me dance for Preschool through third grade. In addition to all of their activities for the students, they provide an evening dinner for the staff during parent teacher conferences. It is much appreciated by the staff on those long days.

If you happen to be visiting LCS please take a minute to look at the Student of The Month display posted on the wall outside of the principal's office in the main hallway!

From The History Books

By Marcia Shafer, Lisbon Town Historian

Immigration in Early America



In my last article (Winter 2019), I wrote about early colonial settlers who came from England in the 1600's and some of the difficulties they had to overcome. The length of the trip from Great Britain, lack of healthy food, poor living conditions, and diseases related to close contact with people who became ill on the voyage, made these voyages dangerous. A diary from a German who came to America in 1750 described the travel conditions: old meat that was highly salted for preservation; stagnant drinking water; no fruits or vegetables, which resulted in passengers getting scurvy; prolonged hunger and thirst; and extreme heat, cold and damp conditions. Head lice was rampant; seasickness with serious nausea and vomiting occurred, as did anxiety and depression. He also described a constant fear of the ship sinking during storms and gales.

Childbirth was very dangerous on board a ship. There was little to no privacy, no obstetric equipment, no clean linen and water to spare, and generally no available beds. Women gave birth on the floor or deck of the ship. Many women and their children did not survive the trip. Women that did not survive childbirth were cast into the sea along with the baby if it did not survive. It was noted that children from ages one to seven rarely survived travel on board due to hunger, thirst and illnesses. Their bodies were also cast into the water.

Some people traveled to the New America as indentured

servants, where a contract or legal document bound them into the service of another for a specified amount of time. Basic necessities of food, clothing, and housing were provided during their term of indenture but they did not get any wages.

Indentured servitude would come about when a person, husband and wife or a complete family sailed without paying before they sailed. Once in America, those who lived here and could afford to pay the fee for the people arriving determined how long a person needed to work to pay off their debt. Often they were bound for 3 to 6 years. Those between the ages of 10 and 15 were required to serve until they were 21.

There were generally 3 types, or classes, of indentured servants: 1) Willing migrants that would sign papers; 2) Unwilling migrants that were trying to escape religious persecution or similar situations; 3) Convicts, vagabonds, and undesirables who chose indentured servitude in New England instead of prison in their own countries. In this case, the length of indentureship was 5 to 7 years.

Many parents had to sell or trade their children so that the travel debt could be paid. Often, parents never knew where their children went. If a spouse or parent died at sea better than halfway through the voyage, the survivor(s) had to pay or serve their own debt as well as the debt of the deceased. Once their indentured terms were served, they received a new set of clothes; the men would also get a horse and women received a cow. Men were listed as a "freeman" and were allowed to vote. (Women, of course, did not have the privilege of the vote until 1920, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution).

At the time, there were many ports along the eastern coast of the New America, established not only as a means of receiving immigrants, but to both send goods grown and manufactured in the colonies over seas, and to receive goods grown and manufactured in the Old World. In 1668, a wharf was established at Yantic Cove. Settlement was primarily in the three-mile area around the Norwichtown Green. The sixty-nine founding families soon divided up the land in the Norwichtown vicinity as farms and businesses. By 1694, the public landing built at the head of the Thames River allowed ships to offload goods at the harbor area known as the Chelsea neighborhood. Over time, however, as the New World was able to produce more, we relied less on goods from overseas, and ports all along the coast started to close.

In the next newsletter I plan to write about becoming a U.S. citizen and the prolonged, costly process of Naturalization.



FREE Adult Education Programs

Did you know that *Norwich Regional Adult Education (NRAE)* offers **FREE** day and evening classes? We serve residents from the school districts of Norwich, Bozrah, East Lyme, Franklin, Ledyard, Lisbon, North Stonington, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, and Voluntown. Whether it's obtaining a high school diploma, preparing for the GED exam, learning *English as a Second Language*, or *Citizenship Preparation*, NRAE has a variety of programs to help you take the next step to your future! In addition to our Norwich location, we also offer programs at Stonington High School and East Lyme High School, including high school completion programs and English as a Second Language classes.

English as a Second Language Program ⇒

Learn how to read, write, and speak English at any level. Day and evening classes are available.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) ⇒ Academic preparation for adults to improve reading, writing, & math skills.

Citizenship Preparation ⇒ Class content includes American history and government, civic participation, and practice with the 100 naturalization questions.

We offer three different pathways for earning a high school diploma:

Adult High School Diploma Program ⇒ Allows adults to gain credits toward finishing their high school diploma by attending day or evening classes.

GED Program ⇒ We are a GED testing site and offer *GED Test Preparation & Academic Preparation* classes.

National External Diploma Program (NEDP) ⇒ This portfolio-based program is recommended for adults

who are highly motivated and self-directed, have occupational skills, and have acquired life experience.

Continuing Education Courses and Day Trips for Spring 2020

In addition to our academic program, NRAE also offers a great variety of continuing education / enrichment courses and day trips. Classes include areas such as: Culinary, Cake Decorating, Arts & Crafts, Fitness, Spanish, Financial Literacy, Health & Wellness, and much more! These courses offer a great opportunity to meet new people and socialize with friends - all while learning something new! Register now for our spring classes! You can find our course catalog online at: www.NorwichPublicSchools.org/register-adult-ed.

For more information on any of our programs, please call 860.823.4299.

Check us out online at
<https://www.norwichpublicschools.org/norwich-regional-adult-education>

Registration is ongoing.



LISBON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CONNECTICUT

Lisbon Historical Society Quarterly Notes

By Kim Sperry

Save the Date: Tavern Trail Ramble, Saturday, May 16.

Spring Outdoors!, with the Lisbon Trails Committee and the Last Green Valley for a 1.5-mile walk on the trails surrounding the historic Burnham Tavern. See the Trails Committee newsletter column or go to www.tlgv.org for details.

Burnham Tavern Update: Although the roof is holding its own after pre-winter patching, the search continues for a contractor to replace the existing with new cedar shingles.

John Bishop House Update: Spring priority is a thorough inspection of the working fireplaces and follows through with any maintenance required. The original front doors rebuild and appropriate hardware installation are another priority as soon as our carpenter is available.



This painting of Lisbon's historic railroad tunnel can be viewed at Lisbon Town Hall, in the hallway next to the Assessor's Office. It is the work of artist Richard Herrmann.

Anshei Israel Synagogue: Shout out to the resident trooper for his quick response to the accidentally tripped security alarm. After viewing the movie *1917* an old guy (self-described), Ken Mahler and his WWI dressed companion decided to tour the synagogue, what followed was a public safety response that took Ken and his guest completely by surprise. Ken determined the tripped alarm was due to human error, and not a burglar. The synagogue is open by request; call Paula Adams, 860-887-8052 to make an appointment.

Wanted: New Members! The Lisbon Historical Society's success is contingent upon the dedication of our members. We are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit volunteer organization; part of our mission is to promote an interest and foster appreciation of the rich history and culture of the town of Lisbon, and we are stewards of three important town owned properties. New members learn and teach open hearth cooking and 19th century living at the John Bishop House Museum. Burnham Tavern provides an education in restoration and 18th century tavern life. Opportunities exist to put your administrative talents to use as we elect officers to fill the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary annually. Every winter we host a bash to thank our members and others who support us throughout the year. At \$5.00 a year, membership dues make it possible for everyone to sign on. Come to a business meeting on the second Friday of the month in the Lisbon Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. Call President Paula Adams at 860-887-8052 to talk membership, or chat with us at the can and bottle shed if you are curious about membership.

Cans and Bottles: Recently Ken Mahler, who administers and organizes the can and bottle program, made redemption trips to Norwich and Woodstock. Better Valu and Aldi. Ken reminds that as long as CT is somewhere on the label, the bottle, or can is redeemable. However, Poland Springs water bottles with the red strip around the label, Gatorade, Snapple, tea beverages, wine bottles, plastic milk jugs, and all others that do not have CT in the list of states are recyclable and should be disposed of in your home blue bin for weekly pickup. Additionally, it is impossible for the bar code readers at the redemption centers to process crushed aluminum cans and plastic bottles. We do our best to pop bottles back in to shape but those we cannot, and the crushed cans, subsequently end up in the recycling bins and over the year that amounts to a lot of lost nickels. Many thanks go out to contributors to our can and bottle redemption program.

Keep abreast on upcoming events, open houses, cooking classes, and Burnham Tavern updates by visiting our Facebook page and

<https://lisbonhistoricalct.org>

LISBON RECREATION
**ANNUAL
EGG HUNT**

Saturday
April 04, 2020
11:00 AM SHARP!
Lisbon Meadows Park
(near the pavilion)

Special appearance by
the Easter Bunny!!

Age Groups:
Under 4 4yr-6yr 7yr-10yr
** Please bring your own basket**



SPONSORED BY THE LISBON RECREATION COMMITTEE

Spring Bingo

This is a family
- friendly event!



Bring your child or
grandchild and receive
an additional raffle
ticket!



Sponsored by the
Lisbon Community Center
Committee

Friday, May 15th @ 7:00
Lisbon Community Center
20 Games with Official Callers
Advance Sales of Paper @ 6:00

All prizes are based on the number of entrants!!
This is a *Family Friendly* event!

Bring your own markers
(Limited markers available for sale)