

QUIET CORNER ROUND-UP

TRIPS OFFERED

June 4: Day trip to Boston
WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Recreation Commission is offering a trip to Boston on Saturday, June 4. Seats are \$25 each. The motor coach leaves the Woodstock Town Hall at 8:30 a.m. Drop off/Pick Up: Quincy Market/North End

For reservations call the Recreation Department at 860-315-5175.

June 26: Day trip to New York

There will be a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Come see the Freedom Lady, on Sunday, June 26. The bus leaves the Putnam Motor vehicle lot on Kennedy Drive at 7 a.m. and leaves the Dayville Old Ames Lot approximately at 7:30 a.m. The cost is \$45 per person and includes bus, ferry and monument pass. Return home at 9 p.m. This trip is being sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Tickets are available at Joseph Jewelers in Putnam and Danielson, also K of C Hall in Putnam. Limited seating. For more information call 774-4889 or 377-0784.

Academy to host voter registration session

WOODSTOCK — A voter registration session will be held on Wednesday, May 4, at Woodstock Academy outside the Cafeteria during school lunch periods.

A student from any sending town who is at least 17 years old may register to vote. There will also be applications available for students 16 and older who would like to work at the polls.

In Memory of Leonard A. Balcunas Sr. Aug. 6, 1923 — April 26, 2009

The 23rd Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of the death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Love, Paula Long and Family



Woodstock winery highlighted at the state capitol

HARTFORD — In an era when every penny of state spending is being scrutinized, a Woodstock Winery is being honored as an example of the way state aid programs should work.

Taylor Brooke Winery was recently highlighted as part of a study showcasing the successes of Connecticut's Community Investment Act that was presented to state legislators in Hartford.

While you may not realize it, the Constitution State is home to a growing number of wineries that produce a product that would make you think twice about looking elsewhere for a quality vintage. In addition to the jobs and wonderful wines these vineyards produce, our state's wineries are also major tourist attractions, pumping important visitor dollars into the local economy.

"At Taylor Brooke Winery we produce 15 different wines including a number of estate-grown whites and reds, plus dessert wines," says Linda Auger, owner of Taylor Brooke. "Since opening our doors in 2004, the vineyard has consistently expanded its offerings and has become a popular tourist destination and is now purchasing grapes from other local Connecticut growers for its wines."

Making all of that wine requires a significant investment in fermenting tanks, barrels and processing equipment. Through two grants totaling \$36,000 from Connecticut's Community Investment Act in 2008 and 2010, Taylor Brooke Winery was able to purchase new fermenting tanks to expand its production. The vineyard was also able to build a new crush pad, warehouse and bottling room to increase its harvest efficiency and open up space in an existing building to double the size of its tasting room.

"Connecticut's Community Investment Act was created in 2005 with the goal of protecting the beauty and unique character of



Courtesy photo

Taylor Brook Winery in Woodstock.

our state for future generations through efforts like preserving open space, encouraging agricultural viability, and preserving historic sites," said Don Tuller, president of the Connecticut Farm Bureau. "By partially funding the purchase of Taylor Brooke Winery's fermenting tanks, the winery has expanded, added jobs and is preserving our dwindling agricultural space."

"During the first year of our expanded operations in 2010, the larger tasting room played host to over 8,000 visitors," said Auger. "By matching the grants from the Community Investment Act with our own funds, we've increased capacity and created a better experience for visitors. We're also

making a better wine and trying new types as well. And it seems word is getting out about the quality of wines we produce, because we enjoyed a 20-percent increase in sales in 2010."

"The opportunities afforded by the Community Investment Act are allowing farms and wineries like Taylor Brook Winery, Windham County Farm Bureau members, to have the opportunity to help increase profits and add jobs," said Tuller. "This project was a great example of how the Community Investment Act is one of our state's most important programs and key to building a sustainable future for our state's agriculture industry."

Residents honored for land donations

WOODSTOCK/THOMPSON — The 55-acre Linda J. Rapoport Memorial Preserve on Pulpit Rock Road in Woodstock, previously donated to the Wyndham Land Trust by Ken Rapoport and Barclay Henderson, has expanded by 37 acres.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Avis Spaulding and Mr. Rapoport, the new parcel of land will be named The Paul and Avis Spaulding Preserve.

Mrs. Spaulding wished to perpetually preserve some of the 160-acre Spaulding family farm as conservation land. Mr. Rapoport purchased 55 of the acres donating 37 of them to the land trust at the end of 2010.

"Avis worked with me to structure something that would allow the land to be donated," said Rapoport. "The goal is to add to it, making the total preserve 50-plus acres. The new preserve includes forest and swamp land, corn fields and a large vernal pool."

"Inhabitants include beaver, otter, muskrats, bobcats,

several owl species, and numerous songbirds just to name a few," said Andy Rzeznikiewicz, a member of the Wyndham Land Trust Board of Directors. "It was really important to Avis to have permanent protection on this property."

Another substantial land donation abuts The Quaddick State Forest on Leclair Road in Thompson. Donated by Marie Leclair, the parcel is 76 acres in size and located near the Wyndham Land Trust's 79-acre Tamler Preserve.

"Marie's husband, Roland, purchased the property in the mid 1950's. Marie enjoyed countless hours hiking around the property with her three beloved dogs. She is happy that this forest will be protected forever," said Rzeznikiewicz. "The property is all forested, primarily oak and white pine. Whip-poor-wills have been heard singing in this forest. So rare now, we hope they are still there."

Passive recreation such as walking, bird-watching, hiking and cross-country skiing are some of the activities allowed on certain parcels of land throughout northeast Connecticut. For information on where the public may visit or to discuss volunteer and land donation opportunities, please e-mail info@wyndhamlandtrust.org or call 860-963-2090.



Courtesy photo

Marie Leclair and her dog, Precious, taken beside a pond on her land.



Exchange Club to host wine tasting

POMFRET — The Exchange Club of Northeast Connecticut, celebrating 50 years as the local service organization affiliate of the National Exchange Club, will hold their Annual Wine Tasting fundraiser for the Prevention of Child Abuse on Wednesday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at The Harvest Restaurant in Pomfret.

Sponsored by Pomfret Spirit Shoppe owner Mary Patenaude and area beverage distributors, this year's event will feature an expanded assortment of hors d'oeuvres and food stations specifically designed to compliment a wide assortment of wines. Tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Ron Robinson of the Exchange Club at 860-774-7667 or at robinson6556@att.net.

"Our annual Wine Tasting has become one of the most popular and important events for our local Exchange Club," said Dr. Roland Lupien, President of the Exchange Club of Northeast Connecticut. "This event, and all Exchange Club meetings, provides a wonderful opportunity for business and community leaders to network and support each other, while also helping local organizations working to prevent child abuse."

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and each year Exchange Clubs throughout the nation work to raise public awareness, increase community involvement, and raise funds to prevent child abuse locally and throughout the nation during the year.

The National Exchange Club is celebrating its 100th Year as an all-volunteer, national service organization for men and women who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills and enjoy new friendships. Exchange is made up of nearly 800 clubs and more than 25,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The name "Exchange" was selected because the group wanted to exchange ideas and information with like-minded individuals about how to better serve their communities. The Exchange Club of Northeast Connecticut meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month at restaurants throughout Northeastern Connecticut.

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