

# warrenct.com news

Highlights of the Warren, Connecticut web site

April, 2006

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## **Upcoming Events**

The annual Memorial Day Parade will take place in the center of town on Sunday May 28, 2006 beginning at 12:00 PM. There will be an informational meeting on the Region 6 budget for the coming fiscal year on Wednesday April 26, 2006 at 7:30 PM. This meeting will be held at the Warren School.

May is Lyme Disease Prevention Month in the Torrington Area Health District. Please give TAHD your support. Wear Lime Green on Monday May 1st.

VNA Northwest, Inc. will offer a Bend & Stretch Clinic for older adults at The Academy. It will be held on Mondays from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM on April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15 & 22. There is limited space. Call 800-752-0215 or 860-567-6000 to register.

## **Warrenct.com Has a New Look**

The new version of the WarrenCT.com website is now on-line. This new format contains much of the information from the previous version, but it is arranged to make it easier for people to find it. This new version is designed around software that is less likely to be the victim of hacker attacks.

There are some distinct differences, however. The site no longer allows people to post at will. Anyone may comment on an already posted article. To get something new onto the website requires sending an email to one of the moderators, who will place the information on the website. We have several people performing moderator functions so this process should work smoothly. And we do not have a community calendar, at least not yet, but events will be listed as announcements.

The site now provides pages for town organizations. General information that is static, such as hours at the library, members of boards and commissions and regulations such as planning and zoning, will be posted and you will have access to them for reading or printing.

This site is very flexible and rapidly evolving. We hope to be posting more rules and regulations and more forms for such things as dog licenses and beach permits as we proceed to develop the site.

When people use the site, they will see that announcements are posted in the order received, with the most recent items first. They can view all the postings about a particular topic by clicking on the appropriate line under the heading: News. Or they can view all the information available for a particular town organization by clicking on a topic under the heading: Town Information. People can comment on a posting by clicking on the word "comments" at the end of the posting.

We hope people will enjoy using the site and provide us with information that will help make this site useful to the people of Warren. This site is maintained and managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers at no cost to the town. The Warren Public Library, Inc. hosts the website effort, offers space for meetings and free wireless access to the internet to anyone with a laptop computer with a wireless card.

The volunteers include: Richard Wanderman, whose expertise and access to server space makes the site possible; Martha Winkel, director of the Warren Public Library, who provides the link to the library and the school; Joslyn Pollack, who donates the copying and mailing of the print summary; Sandy Bausch, who has recently joined the group and is helping make the site user-friendly; Jim Richardson who works on the town government portion of the site and gets the regulations on board; and Toni Richardson, who writes articles and compiles the written summary of the site. More volunteers are needed. It would be great to have someone from the Fire Dept., the school, Parks and Rec. and other town organizations step up and agree to moderate their portion of the website.

Anyone with items that they would like to have posted may email them to [webmaster@warrenct.com](mailto:webmaster@warrenct.com).

## **Fire Department Pancake Breakfasts Resume**

The Warren Volunteer Fire Company and Woman's Auxiliary will again jointly host their Pancake Breakfasts. The first of the season was held on Sunday, March 19, 2006. Future breakfasts will be held every third Sunday of each month from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. through June, with the last one on June 18, 2006. Because Easter is the third Sunday in April this year, the breakfast will be held the following Sunday, April 23, 2006. The cost is: Adults, \$4.00; Children under 12, \$2.00; under age three are free. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the Auxiliary Scholarship Fund. For more information, please contact Auxiliary Member Vicki Rumble at 868-2187.

### **Warren Public Library Notes**

Thanks to everyone who attended our Wine and Tea Tasting at Hopkins Vineyard. It was a great success! Good conversation, good wine, good food made for a great evening.

We will continue the Digital Camera Workshop in May. The date is to be announced. No special skills are needed for this workshop - only a digital camera and a way to store your digital shots. All levels of digital users are welcome.

Other library events - for Kids:

April 20th - Play Games for Vacation - An afternoon of board games from 2-4 PM. Chess lessons for 8yrs +.

April 25th- Pajama Read for Turn off your TV Week. Wear your P.J.s, slippers and bring your teddy bear. From 6 - 7 PM.

May 2nd - An Amelia Bedelia Celebration 3:15 - 4:30 PM. Play Amelia Bedelia games, decorate an Amelia Hat and have some Amelia Style Surprises. Please register at the library. Limited to 15 participants.

### **Governor Rell Honors Nicholas Green Award Winner**

In the middle of August, while many families were away on vacation, several students who weren't away had the opportunity to meet with Governor Jodi Rell. Alexandra Hill-Ricciuti, the 2005 NAGC-Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award Winner from CT, and three of the nominees, had an audience with the Governor in her office. She presented the students with commendations to acknowledge their recent accomplishments.

Alexandra (Ally) is from Warren, CT. She founded a "HORSPITAL" in her family's barn, where she takes care of seven horses which she rehabilitated from illness or injury. She has developed a special bond with these animals and with others. Ally has also shown exceptional leadership skills in many areas. She is president of the local 4-H club, started a school newspaper at her school, started a local chapter of Kids for Saving Earth, started a recycling program with compost bins, organized a town-wide cleanup, does community service at the local soup kitchen and is junior choir master at her church. Ally also exhibits very strong academic achievement in all subjects. CAG is proud to recognize Ally as CT's 2005 NAGC-Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award winner.

The Nicholas Green Foundation was established by Maggie and Reg Green to honor the memory of their seven-year-old son Nicholas who was killed in a drive-by shooting while visiting Italy in 1994. The Nicholas Green Scholarship Fund has awarded scholarships to high-ability high school and college students to enable them to advance their education. The Greens started the Distinguished Student Awards in 1998 because they wanted to recognize young people that are working hard to make the most of their lives and develop their unique gifts and talents, and who are now about the age that Nicholas was when he died.

The award recognizes distinguished achievement in academics, leadership, and/or the arts, in children currently in grades 3 through 6. One child per state can be named a Nicholas Green Distinguished Student and that winner receives a \$500 U.S. savings bond and an NAGC Certificate of Excellence. The CT award recipient is then eligible for the national award, which was won by Fairfield, CT student Evan Feinberg in 2000/01.

The next award will be given in the spring of 2006. Self-nominations as well as nominations from parents, teachers, students, and community and civic groups will be accepted. Nominees must be between grades 3 and 6 at the time of nomination. Additional information can be obtained on the CAG website at [www.ctgifted.org](http://www.ctgifted.org). The deadline for the nomination for the 2006 award is April 30, 2006. CAG encourages parents and teachers to nominate students for this very worthwhile and meaningful award.

### **Howard Whitney Collection Now Available**

by Ellen Paul, Town Historian

Many of you will remember the tireless efforts the late Howard Whitney made to preserve and collect the history of Warren. Last year a generous donor left a box with Howard's research notes in the Academy. It has taken me a while, but I'm pleased to report that I have finished cataloging and conserving them in acid-free folders and containers.

The information they contain is far reaching: information about the railroads, the iron works, the divisions, roads, old homesteads and more. The catalog itself is more than 15 pages. Individual queries on specific questions are welcome.

In addition, I have received a generous donation of the 1798 Direct Tax documents which shows all dwelling houses and appurtenant buildings in Warren. Warren is apparently one of only two towns in Connecticut for whom these lists have been preserved.

Any or all of the material pertaining to Warren's history are open to researchers by appointment at the Academy.

### **Leashed Dog Attacked on Brick School Road**

By Toni Richardson

An early spring walk down Brick School Road turned dangerous when a loose dog attacked. As my husband and I walked along with our 11-year-old Labrador retriever on a short lease at a heel, a loose dog approached from the rear and with no warning attacked our Lab. It took a second to realize it was attacking and not just approaching for a sniff, but lots of yelling broke off the attack and the offending dog was chased away.

## **Leashed Dog Attacked on Brick School Road (continued)**

With blood running down his face, our old dog made it home. The injury was sufficiently serious to require an emergency trip to the vet, where he was cleaned, medicated and given a rabies booster shot. While his shots were up-to-date, it was not immediately clear that the offending dog had been vaccinated.

When the dog warden, Cindy Brisset was contacted, she checked her records and found that the owner of the attacking dog had not licensed it. Since it is often the case that people who fail to license also fail to vaccinate, we had to proceed on the assumption that the dog might have been rabid.

Ms. Brisset acted quickly to contact the dog's owner, identify the veterinarian who had administered rabies vaccine to the dog and to warn the owner to obtain a license and contain her dog or face penalties. Dog owners who fail to license and who allow dogs to roam face significant penalties as well as liability for any damage the dog may cause.

The good news in this case is that the victim is recovering nicely. The owner called to apologize, paid the vet bill and pledged to license and contain the offending dog in the future.

Remember that licenses are due for renewal in June each year. The town clerk sends reminders to all owners of currently licensed dogs in May. Any dog over 6 months old must be licensed. When a resident acquires a dog, it must be licensed within 30 days. To obtain a license, rabies shots must be up-to-date and a veterinarian's certificate showing the expiration date of the vaccination must be presented.

A clinic has been scheduled for May 20 at the Washington Town Garage for rabies vaccinations. More information about the clinic will be available on this website prior to that event.

### **On the Move**

by Dr. Everett Vreeland

Of course, the main thing going on this time of year is the yearly migration of millions of birds. They are excited to be moving, and show it in their behavior. New types of food abound, new species are mixed in as they fly. Familiar places are recognized daily, and the beginnings of rare sexual stirrings excite them all. The first to show here are the redwing blackbirds that post themselves in treetops around swamps establishing nesting areas that await the females that arrive a few weeks later. Then male robins with dark heads seem to fill every lawn to be followed in a week or so by females (no dark heads). Catbirds and thrushes will be here soon followed by warblers, small and in mixed groups. Most interesting to me are the ducks as species fly through that are never seen here on a regular basis. Golden-eyes, Buffle-Heads, Ring-necks, Hooded

mergansers, Red-heads and even Canvas-backs can be seen. I rarely have seen pin-tails on the river. When you see "just ducks" on the puddles take note of their variety in size and plumage. If you don't wreck the car, you will be aghast at the many types and find yourself waiting to see them every spring.

The daybreak songs of the birds change daily. If you start to listen you will hear new music each day.

As I write now new fawns are added to the herd and soon you will see them trying to keep up with Mom as they learn of the different foods and how to find them. When you see a doe crossing the road these few months, slow down and spare the following young-one.

People like myself know that there are stirrings in the stream beds as larval forms begin to mature and wander, soon to hatch into adults that tantalize the trout to smash the surface after them. Many, many are consumed as larva and all fatten the fish and fascinate the fishermen!

Other people know of the blossoms to come. I can't name them but I sure anticipate their arrival and watch in awe as each is visited by their unique pollinator. Later, when you see blossoms, watch a while as the sun warms them and you may see flying bugs you have never seen before as they are attracted to that special species of flower. I believe the attractions are the widely varying scents.

This is the time of year for spotting Bobcats; more easily spotted because of no leaves. Two reports so far and one seen personally. Males predominate as the kits are born now and will keep Mom busy! Their population stays the same and will as they are really careful and alert. Mostly they eat rodents and small birds though your chickens are not immune!

I am somewhat fascinated by lichens. They seem attracted to grow on new shingles, trees that only threaten to die and slate, wherever found. I have been on deer stands where chickadees perched on my unmoving gun-barrel as I watched and listened. One's mind under those conditions is active and I remember wondering if lichen spores had landed and started to germinate. Announcing, therefore signaling my death if I did not soon move!!! My "friends" would agree that anything that grows without soil, like on rocks, would be seriously attracted to my head.