

# warrenct.com news

Highlights of the Warren, Connecticut web site

June, 2005

## **Big Things are Happening**

By Toni Richardson

There is a lot of activity these days and it is going unreported on the website and consequently in this newsletter. As I write the school is preparing for a final hearing on the school budget (May 2).

The town will vote in referendum on the school district budget on Tuesday May 3 at the town hall from 6 am to 8 pm.

The town budget hearing of which the school district contribution is approximately 67% goes to hearing on Thursday May 5 at 8 pm in the town hall.

The town meeting to vote on the Town Budget will be held May... at 8 pm in town hall. In addition to voting on the budget, voters will be asked to elect two members to the Board of Education.

There is an on-going committee that continues to work on plans to replace or renovate the town hall.

The town's planning and zoning commission meets monthly and has not received coverage for many months.

Selectmen's meetings are held every other week and those are covered only part of the time.

What we need are some volunteer reporters to keep the website updated on activities in town. It could be someone who regularly attends one of these meetings or someone who would like to get involved in going to meetings and reporting out.

Anybody who wants to help, drop a note to [webmaster@warrenct.com](mailto:webmaster@warrenct.com).

## **Books for Summer Reading at the Library**

By Martha Winkel

A list of some of our latest acquisitions: Ireland - A Novel -

Frank Delaney

Red Sox Nation - Pete Golenbock

Kite Runner - K. Hosseini

Saturday - Ian McEwan

True Believer - Nicholas Sparks

Cold Service - Robert Parker

A Purpose Driven Life - Rick Warren

Exploring Berkshire Hills - Ed Kirby

4th of July - James Patterson

Outwitting Deer - Bill Adler

Hostas - Rosemary Barrett

Italian Secretary: A Further Adventure of Sherlock Holmes -

Caleb Carr Collapse - Jared Diamond

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close - Jonathan Foer Them: A

Memoir of Parents - Francine du Plessix Gray (Local Author)

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores - Stephen Levitt

Frommers: New England's Best-Loved Driving Tours - Taylors

Guide to Ground Covers - David Michener

Don't forget our Book Cellar to find those books to take to the Beach.

Do you have a book that you just loved reading, couldn't put it down? We are always looking for suggestions and ideas for new material.

## **Summer Reading Program**

The summer reading program will kick off on June 28th and will continue for six weeks. The theme is "Books in all Flavors", to introduce kids to the many subjects of books at the library.

The program will start with a "treasure" hunt in the library and end with an ice cream party to celebrate all the flavors they have read over the summer. In between there will be crafts, games and other surprises. Please come to the library, June 28th at 11:00 AM to register and start on the summer reading fun. This program is intended for those going into 1st to 6th grade or the equivalent ages.

In addition there will be a Read at the Beach: Folk Stories, Fairy Tales and Legends every Friday morning at 11:15 at the Warren Town Beach.

In addition to the summer reading program and reading at the beach we will have all the suggested summer reading from the schools available at the library for Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Just a reminder Wamogo requires that student read at least one book and do a report on the book at the beginning of the school year.

## **Parks and Recreation March 7 meeting**

By Jay Sheehan

Discussion was held on current plans for town recreation. The walk through on the Wasley land for was discussed and it was noted that the land does provide plenty of dry, flat area for recreation use. Warren Woods (WW) The rental rate for non-profit fund-raising groups was discussed. A motion was passed to charge \$300 for use of Warren Woods to out of town non-profit groups which rent for the purpose of raising funds. The rules for rentals were discussed again. A fee is charged for one day rental. Camping (which carries over to the next day) will need a second day of rental. Town Beach: Fees for walk-ons and methods to enforce them were discussed but action was tabled to the next meeting. Bigger stickers were recommended. A handicap toilet was discussed as well as non-smoking rules and the need for all bathers to have bathing suits. More picnic tables were requested. The need for signs was discussed and the potential for installing some infant swings

Girls and boys Basketball: The Warren 5th grade team was undefeated and the championship achieved. Discussion was held on supplying a commemorative plaque and pizza party.

## **Dog Licenses are Due in June**

By Joanne Tiedmann

June is Dog License Month! License renewal reminders have been mailed to all who registered dogs last year. If you have a new dog please bring in its rabies information and a certificate of spay/neuter if applicable. You may renew your license by mail; the information is on your renewal form.

## Notes from Selectman's Meeting May 3, 2005

By Marylyn Hendricks

Jack Travers announced that until the election, our acting town clerk will be Joanne Tiedman and the assistant town clerk Marcia Schultz. Authorizations for 2005 Homeland Security grants were approved. On the state senate floor is a proposal for the auto tax go to the state instead of the town. If this proposal passes, our town taxes will increase. The Teamsters Union highway Dept. contract for a 3.5% increase was approved. Ellen Prindle has sent a letter of resignation for her position on the school board.

## Results of the May 19 Town Meeting

By Toni Richardson

About 30 townspeople gathered at the town hall on May 19 for town meeting. Nancy Scofield, moderator of the meeting, led those gathered to pass the budget, elect two members to the Board of Education and approve transfer of funds from the unexpended to the capital account. The budget for 2005-2006 was approved at \$ 4,002,100 with no questions and no dissent. Luke Tanner was returned to the Board of Education for a second term of three years. Sandy Taylor was elected to fill out the remaining one year of Ellen Prindle's term. Ms. Prindle had notified the selectmen that she did not wish to complete the term. She has served on the board for many years, including serving as its president. The meeting gave her a standing ovation in thanks for her excellent service. The town meeting completed its business in approximately 20 minutes.

## Building Committee Notes

By Toni Richardson

The Warren Building Committee met May 26 to review proposals for creating new office space and to prepare to take two proposals to a town meeting. Plan A calls for renovating the town hall into office space and building a gym on a separate site. Plan B calls for building a separate town office building on town property off Cemetery Road and renovating the existing town hall for use as a community center. The committee reviewed site maps and recommendations from a soil conservationist and architect as to the location of a new building on the Cemetery Road site. The committee proceeded to outline the factors for and against each of the two proposals for presentation to a town meeting. The town meeting will be set for June 30 at 8 pm in the town hall. At this meeting both proposals will be outlined and the list of positive and negative factors will be presented as well as a site map showing the proposed locations of new buildings. The purpose of the town meeting will be to vote on the direction the committee should take. Since it is expensive to do detailed plans and cost analyses, the committee wants some direction from the voters as to which proposal should be developed. This vote will not be a final vote on a plan. It is intended to give guidance which the committee will use to proceed to have detailed plans developed for one of the two alternatives. Once those plans are complete and an estimated cost is available, there will be a referendum on whether to commit to the project. Committee members were urged to visit town halls in Copake, Ancram and Patterson, NY and Harwinton, Roxbury, Colebrook and New Hartford, CT to see how other towns have handled their space requirements. Committee members are: Jack Travers, Cal Tanner, Marion Smith, Nancy Scofield, Theresa Layman, Toni Richardson, Jim Richardson, Bruce Anderson, Cindy Whitlow, Dean Ackerman, Joe Manley, Rick Valine

Proposals For Expansion Of Town Offices: Pros And Cons  
(As developed at the May 26, 2005 meeting of the Building Committee)

PLAN A: Renovate the town hall into office space and build a gym on a separate site.

Pros:

1. Improves space and functionality for town offices.
2. Provides room at the lower level for large meetings.
3. Provides room upstairs for smaller meetings.
4. Separates recreational and governmental space.
5. Provides for emergency shelter services.
6. Maintains current parking availability.
7. Increases the size of the gym.
8. Provides office and storage for park and rec.
9. Provides for the possibility of grants for recreational space.
10. Preserves the view of the town hill.

Cons:

1. Inconvenience of relocating town services during renovation.
2. Cost of relocating town offices during renovation.
3. Limitations for future expansion.
4. Effectiveness of soundproof partitions for small meeting rooms is questionable.
5. Remodeling costs significantly higher than new construction.
6. Loss of recreational space during renovations.
7. Emergency shelter use could interfere with town operations.
8. Additional maintenance costs for gymnasium space.
9. Less adaptability for recreation with just gym space.
10. No grant money is available for renovation for office space.

PLAN B: Build a separate town office building on town property off Cemetery Road and renovate the town hall for use as a community center.

Pros:

1. Continuity of services could be preserved by building new offices space, moving the offices, and then renovating existing space.
2. Allows for planning of our specific office needs.
3. More cost effective to operate and maintain.
4. Improves parking availability.
5. Separates recreational and governmental space.
6. More cost effective to build offices.
7. Emergency shelter area enhanced with use of two floors possible.
8. Community center provides space for a wider variety of recreational programs to serve all facets of the community.
9. Preserves the historical flavor of the town hill.
10. Less traffic congestion.
11. No elevator required in the rec. center.
12. Provides space for future expansion with new town campus.
13. Grants are available for remodeling recreation space.
14. Large meeting room would remain at the community center.

Cons:

1. Site preparation costs.
2. Gym space would not be significantly increased.
3. Renovation to the community center would be delayed until after the town offices are built.