

Clamdigging around Rowayton

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Published: 01:05 a.m., Friday, July 9, 2010

From the Fire Chief

Rowayton's New Fire Truck is "in the works."

You might remember that the [Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department](#) is getting a new pumper truck -- a Pierce Impel Pumper. This has been in the planning stage, the district budget, and now, finally is under construction... and it is just about ready for delivery!

Update: The cab was finished on the cab line and has been merged with the chassis along with the pump house. The body was nearing completion in paint. Next week, the chassis may begin on the main assembly line where after finishing on the body line where harnessing and trim are added, the body and water tank will be merged with the chassis.

The Rowayton Pumper should be ready for inspection at the factory in Appleton, Wisconsin on July 28 and is scheduled to be here in Connecticut at the dealer on Aug. 13 to have tools and radios mounted. This will be a fine addition to our community's firefighting apparatus. If you want to see pictures of the Rowayton Pumper truck being built, go to www.firematic.com.

From the Sixth Taxing District

Wednesday, July 14 at 8 p.m. at the [Rowayton Community Center](#), there will be a regularly scheduled monthly Commissioner's Meeting. The public is welcome to attend. For a copy of the agenda, please contact the [Andrea Woodworth](#), District Clerk at 203-854-5066 or by email awoodworth@sixthtd.com.

The 2010 RCA Summer Music Festival brings JOHN BROWN'S BODY (reggae), Sunday, July 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Bayley Beach. Thank you to the [Rowayton Civic Association](#) for this summer's music by the water.

Now you can find roses at the Rowayton Farmer's Market. Roses for Autism is proud to be a part of Rowayton Farmer's Market. Every Friday, you can purchase roses grown at [Pinchbeck Rose Farm](#) in Guilford, Conn. by people on the autism spectrum, and support both people with autism and local agriculture. Individuals on the autism spectrum grow, package and sell 16 varieties of roses, year-round as part of their vocational and employment program. Roses for Autism is helping adults with autism learn the skills needed to become independent in the business world through training programs as well as paid employment. Today, only 12 percent of adults on the autism spectrum are employed. As young adults age out of the school system, there is a lack of training available to help them enter the workforce. Roses for Autism aims to become a replicable model in various industries throughout the country, helping people with Autism achieve independence through employment. For information, visit www.rosesforautism.com or just come by the Rowayton Farmer's Market on Fridays and see the beautiful "flowers" of their labor. The market, located in Rowayton's historic Pinkney Park complete with sweeping views of the 5-mile River and Long Island Sound, is open noon to 5 p.m. every

Friday.

From the Rowayton Gardeners

Last fall, Rowayton Gardeners took on the project of planting and maintaining the [McKinley Street Triangle](#) in conjunction with the Adopt-A-Spot Program with the City of Norwalk. Their first step was to hire a landscaping firm to clean out the Triangle (done), then they provided a thorough Fall and Spring clean-up and installed rocks, which will be part of the new garden design.

And, now it is summer. New plants and shrubs have been purchased and installed in the section of the Triangle closest to Highland Avenue. We hope to complete the planting of the other section of the Triangle in the fall. For information on the Civic Beautification Projects of the Rowayton Gardeners, please e-mail info@rowaytongardeners.org

The 40th annual River Ramble on Saturday, July 10 from 11 a.m. -- 3 p.m. will be another memorable Rowayton event. This annual tradition brings the community together for a day of fun and festivity at one of our cherished landmarks, Pinkney Park. For kids and young adults, there are plenty of fun games and activities such as a the "Ducky Derby" on Five Mile River, a petting zoo, bouncy castle, water slide, obstacle course and the ever-popular dunk tank. Entertainment for the adults includes a wide variety of local vendors selling art, accessories, jewelry, gifts and Rowayton logo gear, a live and silent auction and much more. Enjoy the famous raw bar, hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and chili by the water. Wash it down with a cold beer or soda while the music from our live band fills the air. The River Ramble is the RCA's largest fundraiser and finances many of our community events, including the Memorial Day Parade, Fireworks, Soccer, Summer Music Festival, Swim Races, Halloween Celebration and the Nativity Pageant -- to name a few. For information, please visit the RCA website at www.rowaytonct.com

While at the River Ramble this Saturday come by the [Pinkney House Museum](#) which will be open from 11 a.m. -- 3 p.m. The Museum will also be open Sunday, July 11 from 2-4 p.m. On exhibit is "Ralph Breswitz: From Madison Avenue to Main Street: A Tribute to an Extraordinary Rowayton Artist" and "Rowayton: Now and Then" a photographic comparison of Rowayton scenes as they looked in the past versus today. Admission is free.

P.S. Help the [Rowayton Historical Society](#) preserve Rowayton's past. The RHS is always looking for pictures of old Rowayton, but of particular interest right now are photos of Rowayton residents from the past as well as shots of the old [Baptist Church](#) and the [United Church](#) when they stood side by side. If you have photos to share, please contact the RHS at info@rowaytonhistoricalsociety.org.

Much like a Neighborhood Watch program that asks community members to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement agencies, for those of us who use and enjoy the water either by sailing, fishing, motoring or swimming, we can become more alert to the "wrong and unusual" and assist the [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary](#) in doing so. To that end, the Rowayton/[Darrien Sail & Power Squadron](#) and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will present the seminar Watching Out for America's Waterways. [Andrew Bernstein](#), Flotilla Commander, Flotilla 74, of Stamford CT and [Russ Gasdia](#), Flotilla Staff Officer, Recreational Boating Safety (also in Flotilla 74, Stamford) will be speaking. There

will be a short informative presentation and Q & A on Saturday, July 21 from 7:30 -9:30 p.m. at the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Ave. Refreshments will be served. Come and hear what these Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers are doing to help keep us safe, and learn how you can assist them in their efforts. Please R.S.V.P. or for information, email slandington@optimun.net.

Farm Creek Sightings:

Three fawns with mother deer have been sighted swimming at Farm Creek. Jeanette and [Stuart Pertz](#) watched all four of them swim with no difficulty across the creek. The third fawn tends to lag behind, which makes it difficult to get a photo of him, too, but there are three, not two, so look again if you see only twins.

Kathy Siever, who oversees the 4th grade nature walks at Farm Creek, has been trying to identify a mysterious bush found along the trail that is covered with luscious red berries. It was one of the first to develop leaves, as early as March, and the berries came early. Naturalist Heather Crawford who comes from Madison in the fall to lead walks on Discovery Day at the sanctuary says it is Tartarian Honeysuckle. This is one of four types of bush honeysuckle that can be considered serious understudy invader species. Like Phagmites, it comes from Asia and will take over. It was widely planted in the early 1900s as an ornamental bush because it is so attractive. Please note that these berries are poisonous to people, but birds eat them and disperse the seeds. It is believed that Cedar Waxwings have actually become more orange in the past 100 years because of their fondness for eating the bush honeysuckle berries. (sightings by Susan Edwards)

At the Rowayton Library

"Fifth Annual Hot Dog Picnic" ... and they say there is no such thing as a free lunch! Well, there is... at the Rowayton Library on Tuesday, July 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to help celebrate July as National Hot Dog Month with the Rowayton Library's Fifth Annual Hot Dog Picnic (free -- free -- free). Come check out what's new at the Rowayton Library and join us for a "Free Hot Dog Lunch." And, as a special treat the Rowayton Volunteer Fire Department will be sending along to our picnic Engine No. 5 and two of its finest crew. So kids, bring your parents along and enjoy the picnic and explore Engine No. 5.

And on that very same day, the Goodwives' Quilters will display their art and talent in this year's Annual Quilting Show at the Rowayton Library, Tuesday, July 13 from 11:30 a.m. -- 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to view this extraordinary collection of handmade quilts from the art and talent of the Goodwives' Quilters. With more than 70 members strong, many with vast experience with quilting, the Goodwives' Quilters work on projects including quilts for: NNIC Unit at Stamford Hospital, Birthright Norwalk, Veterans of Rocky Hill CT, Malta House Norwalk, Veterans New Haven, AmeriCares, AIDS, Hospice, Breast Cancer Groups including Whittingham Center, and many more. The quilts on display include ongoing projects and true gems from their personal collections. Come see -- first hand -- an art that thrives in our community.

Learn the art of origami at the library's origami workshop for Kids of all ages, Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. through Aug. 9.

Origami is the traditional Japanese folk art of paper folding, which started in the 17th century AD and was popularized in the mid-1900s. It has since then evolved into a modern art form. The goal of this art is to transform a flat sheet of material into a finished sculpture through folding and sculpting techniques by not using cuts or glue.

Each week there will be a workshop on a different origami creation.

Learn the art of beadwork at the library's Beading Workshop for (ages 6 and up), Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. through Aug. 10.

Don't forget, a favorite program for the young and young at heart... is the Fairy Yarn Mother @ the [Rowayton Library for Kids](#) ages 8 and up (adult knitters welcome), Thursday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. with Nancy Jo Rambusch. At this weekly workshop, Rambusch and her team of fairy yarn mothers kid knitters (ages 8 and up) of all skill levels work on their projects. Bring your own needles and projects. First time students to our KnittingTime program will be provided with a pair of knitting needles and yarn to start learning or working on a project. REGISTRATION PLEASE! Space is limited.

Also, if you haven't already made a reservation for our Eco-Detective BookTalk for Kids (ages 6-9) on Tuesday evenings at 5 p.m., please do so. Space is limited. These programs are made possible - in part - through a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council. And with them, comes Pizza - Pizza -- Pizza. Reservations please.

The Rowayton Library is currently accepting donations of USED Wii Games to add to our circulating collection. This new collection has been a great success, and if your family has outgrown some of its Wii games, we would love to have them here for everyone to borrow.

For more information on Rowayton Library programs, please call (2030) 838-5038. All programs are free and open to the public. Some may require a courtesy reservation.