

Clamdigging around Rowayton

Published: 01:03 a.m., Friday, August 6, 2010

From the Sixth Taxing District

Many Rowayton residents have expressed concern about the shortage of sidewalks and pathways in our village to the Commissioners. The City of Norwalk has hired a consulting firm, [Fitzgerald & Halliday](#) for \$80,000 to develop a 10-year guide map that identifies areas and issues, ranks priorities and develops plans to build bike lanes, better sidewalks and other ways for bicyclists and pedestrians to get around the city more safely. As part of this, a survey has been designed. This survey is for all of the residents of Norwalk to give their input and can be found at the [Rowayton Library's](#) website www.Rowayton.org: Just click on 6th Taxing District shingle on the left and then select the Public Survey (or go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/XBDSZHL).

Commissioner [Mike Barbis](#) has reported that, at this initial stage of the longterm plan, much of the input has been from other parts of Norwalk. It would be terrific if Rowayton's residents could give their input and discuss the need for more pathways around our neighborhoods ... so that we all can safely walk down Roton Avenue to Bayley Beach or our kids can safely walk to both [Rowayton and Roton Schools](#) or our commuters can walk to the train station without having to wear a reflective vest. If residents feel the survey does not address all of the issues, please contact the planning firm directly. The person in charge of this project, [Ken Livingston](#), is looking for feedback and can be contacted at klivingston@fhiplan.com.

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The 2010 RCA Summer Music Festival is again at Pinkney Park bringing you THE FRANK VIGNOLA TRIO (gypsy jazz), Sunday, Aug. 15 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. This program is free and open to the public. A thank you goes out to the [Rowayton Civic Association](#) for this summer's music by the water (in this case the water being the Five Mile River).

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Register now for 2010 Rowayton Soccer online at www.rowaytonct.com. Rowayton Youth Soccer is a recreational community soccer program run by volunteers for children from 4-14 years old and will run for 10 weeks from Sept. 4 through Nov. 6 this year. There are four age groups: 4-5 year olds; 6-7 year olds; 8-11 year olds; and [Middle School](#). While games are certainly competitive, recreation is our priority: The time commitment is limited to two days and a couple of hours per week. All play occurs locally in Rowayton (except for middle-schoolers); practices are run as clinics by a professional trainer; and referees, scoring and team standings are limited to the older age groups, beginning with the 8-11 year olds. Registrations received after Aug. 20 will incur a late-fee of \$25 (in addition to the registration fee) and will be accepted on a space-available basis only. Also, as a volunteer-based organization, it is always looking for parents willing to coach. Most of the information about the program can be found on the Rowayton Civic Association website at www.rowaytonct.com, but if you have any additional questions please contact [Dan Scovel](#) at dscovel@tokenekeresearch.com or [Andy](#)

[Schadt](mailto:andrew.schadt@soluxe.com) at andrew.schadt@soluxe.com.

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If you haven't gotten the [Norwalk Public School Calendar](#), you can find it online at the Rowayton Library's website (www.Rowayton.org) or pick up a copy at the Rowayton Library. First day of school is just around the corner -- Sept. 1-- Staggered Entry (Grades 1-5, all Grade 6 students, all Grade 9 students and Grade 12 at [Brien McMahon High School](#) and ½ Kindergarten). September 2 - First Day of School for all other students.

From the Rowayton Arts Center

This is your last chance to "Go Fish with Art." These workshops from the RAC will be held from 1 - 4 p.m. at The [Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk](#), 10 N. Water Street, Norwalk, CT 06854. Advance registration is required and there is a \$5 registration fee. Parents may choose from these dates -- Monday, Aug. 9 or 16. For questions call the [Rowayton Arts Center](#) at 203-866-2744 or email joannroy@optonline.net. This program is made possible -- in part -- through a grant from the [Fairfield County Community Foundation](#).

Also, the art show "Alternative Visions: Abstract and Abstractions is on exhibit at RAC through Sunday.

Now posted on the RAC website (www.rowaytonartscenter.org), is the Summer/Fall schedule for art classes. For information, contact RAC at 203-866-2744.

From the Rowayton Historical Society

WWII Clamdigger - August 1945

V-J Day

The end of the war, after all these years of waiting, started a grand and glorious celebration. When the announcement came-- after days of anxious waiting, it was hard to believe at first. However, in a few minutes the good old fire siren made it official for Rowayton and then the real celebration began. Cars with horns blowing, people yelling and children starting impromptu parades soon appeared. Many headed to Norwalk for the parade and celebration at Matthew's Park. [Site of Lockwood Mathews Mansion, Ed.].

Late in the evening there were parties and celebrations with sounds of gaiety all night long. By Wednesday the noise and excitement had died down, but people greeted one another with broad smiles and "Isn't it grand news!"

Norwalk had its biggest parade in history on the night that peace was declared. Everyone, young and old was on hand blowing horns, whistles or anything that made noise. No cars were allowed so much excess energy was used up walking. The parade ended at Matthews Park where a short service was held. Everyone went home tired, but happy.

V-J Day Notes:

"¢ Union Service at the [Methodist Church](#) is where V-J Day was officially announced. The [Fire House](#) held "Open House" for members and friends during the evening hours...

"¢ A two day holiday for all -- no stores open, factories shut down, everything closed, except the beach and that was wide open...

"¢ Harry Von Dwingel landed in the hospital. Not too much celebration -- he fell and injured his knees while going to a fire. Good thing the hospital didn't declare a two-day holiday...

"¢ No more gas, fuel oil or canned fruit and vegetable rationing. What traffic, now that you can buy all the gas you want. No more walking down the middle of the street now -- your life won't be safe...

"¢ Rowayton had its own parade. The young set marched up Rowayton Avenue with pots and pans, sticks and wooden spoons, shouts and screams, and the British and American flags. (ages from 5 to 8)...

"¢ Darien [Fire Department](#) paid Rowayton a visit V-J Day. Not just one truck, but with the Chief's car, hook and ladder and the pumper...

"¢ During the midst of the celebration, the Fire Department was called out to Bell Island. Nothing too serious - just a garage roof...

"¢ When the time is announced over the radio now, it is "Eastern Peace Time" instead of the old familiar "Eastern War Time." Peace is wonderful.

By the Way Boys:

"¢ What is everyone going to use as an alibi now that the war is no more? They can't say "Don't you know there is a war going on."

--August 1945

The Clamdigger was a WW II era newsletter which was prepared by a dedicated group of local citizens to keep Rowayton's service men and women abreast of events at home and in contact with one another. These historical newsletters are brought to you by the Rowayton Historical Society and can be found on their website www.rowaytonhistoricalsociety.org.

From the Rowayton Gardeners

Everything is blooming at the McKinley Triangle. Thank you Rowayton Gardeners.

High Tide @ Bayley Beach

For the week Aug. 6 through 12 at Bayley Beach in the afternoons, high tide will be at 8:44p on August 6, 9:41p on August 7, 10:36p on August 8, 11:29p on August 9, 12:00p noon on August 10, 12:49p on August 11, and 1:39p on August 12. Source: Nobeltec® Tides & Currents ¢ courtesy of Joyce Meurer, Bell Island Enterprises. For a complementary summer tide calendar, come pick one up at the Rowayton Library.

Farm Creek Sightings

The fawns and their mother stay cool under the cover of the trees. They can be spied just off the paths of the sanctuary. The mother lies during the day in the Cedar grove and is well camouflaged. A Yellow Warbler was seen nibbling on insects in the leaves of the low trees. The baby Mallard ducks swimming by Sammis Bridge in the spring all survived and seem content. John Igneri, Marny Smith, and Kathy Siever have cleared invasive plants from in front of the autumn olive trees that were encroaching on the majestic Norway spruce that grows below the stone barn. The low growing marsh elder (high tide bush) is prolific. This is nesting habitat for the marsh wren and red winged black bird. Marsh Elder will start to flower in profusion in late summer.

At the Rowayton Library

Last week of the Summer Workshops at the Rowayton Library: Origami on Monday at 2 p.m.; Beading on Wednesday at 2 p.m.; Knitting on Thursday Aug. 12 at 3:30 p.m. Join us!

Two Sessions of MusicTogether for Kids will be held at the Library on Thursday at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.: Each child participates at his or her own level in singing, moving, chanting, listening, watching or exploring musical instruments. The class provides a variety of adult-child activities that are fun and offer new ways to play musically at home. Any caregivers, singly or together, can bring the children--parents, grandparents, nannies. The whole family is welcome for this essential family music experience. As space is limited, a reservation for either session is appreciated.

The Summer Reading Challenge prizes for the week of Aug. 9 are Green and Turquoise Crazy Bands. You can pick your prizes up at the Rowayton Library during regular library hours (while supplies last).

And remember, if you can spare an extra jar of peanut butter and jelly, the Christian Community Action Food Center Food Pantry in Norwalk could really use them. The Rowayton Library is collecting for them for the month of August. The goal for the month of August: collect 500 jars of peanut butter & jelly.

The Rowayton Library has a complete collection of the Norwalk Public Schools reading list books available. Come in -- do a little summer reading/browsing -- kindergarten through high school.

For 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. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

If you wish to let us know about things going on in Rowayton, please email Clamdigging@Rowayton.org