

Clamdigging around Rowayton

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"¢ The [Rowayton Civic Association](#) Summer Music Festival closes its 2010 season at Bayley Beach with ELI PAPERBOY REED & THE TRUE LOVES (R&B), Sunday at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited.

"¢ And, celebrate the end of the summer season with the Rowayton Civic Association's annual [Arthur J. Ladrigan Swim Races and Family Fun Day](#) at Bayley Beach on Labor Day Monday. Sign-ups for the Lighthouse Race (a one-mile swim from Green's Ledge Lighthouse to shore) will start at 8:30 a.m. Following the challenging Lighthouse Race is the Buoy Race (a swim to the buoy and back to the shore). Last are the children's swim races, which are grouped by age and run parallel to the beach. After the awards ceremony, all are invited to join in the traditional beach games, which include a tug-of-war, a pie-eating contest and a treasure hunt. To volunteer, call [Mike Barbis](#) at 838-7887 or Ted Hildner at 273-1526.

"¢ When Labor Day is behind us, the Farmers Market at Pinkney Park will continue: Come by on Fridays from noon -- 5 p.m. Come and experience all the wonderful goods from your favorite farmers, producers and artisans. For a list of the 2010 Rowayton Farmer's Market vendors, please visit www.rowaytonct.com/farmersmarket.html. This market will be running through through October.

"¢ Mark your calendars for Discovery Day at Farm Creek Preserve on Oct. 16 (Rain date: Sunday October 17). An afternoon of fun and music, scavenger hunts and nature walks will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at 34 Sammis St.

Farm Creek Sightings

Despite the return of hot weather this week, look for flocks of migrating song birds resting and feeding in the woodlands of Farm Creek and flocks of shorebirds fishing on the mudflats. When the prevailing wind preceded by a cold front is out of the Northwest, as it was last week, look to the sky for hawks headed south seen riding the air currents or thermals. The Broad-Winged Hawks have already begun their movements to the tropics.

Notice the increased number of migrating dragonflies and butterflies fluttering over the marsh. Particularly, the Monarch Butterfly needs to build fat for its long journey by sucking nectar from the wildflowers. Farm Creek provides a respite during the day for the nocturnal migrating creatures.

Hobie Smith, with the help of [Chuck Schoendorf](#), [Kathy Siever](#) and John Ignieri, have built wooden steps leading to and from the open field to the old trolley path at Farm Creek. It will no longer be necessary to take the deer path close to the water and scramble up and down the granite rock outcrop.

Just beyond these steps, on the old trolley track land that extends out from the path, Sea Lavender is blooming. As tempting as it may be to pick this plant for wreaths or arrangements, resist and instead enjoy the glow of purple haze created by the flowers. Right beside the Sea Lavender, growing in the pannes or bare spots, Glasswort can be found. This prehistoric plant is small with fleshy, smooth stems that will soon turn from bright green to red. And scurrying underfoot are the ubiquitous Fiddle Crabs. Tread carefully.

From the Sixth Taxing District

The Sixth Taxing District will be holding the next Commissioners' Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 8 p.m. at the [Rowayton Community Center](#), 33 Highland Ave. The Commission meets monthly on the second Wednesday evening of each month. The public is welcome at any meeting. Any elector of the Sixth District can request that an item be placed on the agenda of a meeting by contacting the district clerk or one of the commissioners at least 10 days before the meeting. Items brought to the floor of the meeting that are not on the agenda published in advance of the meeting may not be capable of commission action at the meeting. For information, contact [Andrea Woodworth](#), District Clerk at (203) 854-5066.

From the Rowayton Historical Society

Are you holding on to your mother or grandmother's old dolls but not sure what to do with them? The [Historical Society](#) is looking for antique dolls to add to its collection. Each doll in the RHS collection is carefully stored in a special archival box when not on display, preserving them for future generations. Please contact the RHS at info@rowaytonhistoricalsociety.org or at (203) 831-0136 for more information.

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The annual meeting of the RHS will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the [Seeley-Dibble-Pinkney House](#). All members of the RHS are invited to attend. The meeting will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the organization.

From the Rowayton Arts Center

Artists who want to be considered for exhibiting artist membership may bring examples of their work to the [Rowayton Arts Center Gallery](#) at 145 Rowayton Ave. between noon and 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9. Applicants should bring a short biography (including mailing address and phone number) and three framed works or one sculpture (together with photos or slides of other sculptured works). The [Artist Selection Committee](#) meets on Sept. 10 and applications must pick up their work between noon and 5. p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11.

Exhibiting members may exhibit and sell art in all RAC exhibitions.

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Registration has begun for the Rowayton Arts Center's fall classes for adults and children. Sessions are held in RAC's spacious, well-lighted upstairs studio at 145 Rowayton Ave. Information about fees and complete class details are on the web site at www.rowaytonartscenter.org. To register call 203-866-2744.

Adult classes include: Painting: Still Life Plus with Charles Ray, Watercolor Painting with [Christy Gallagher](#), Painting from Photographs with [Frank Bruckmann](#), Painting Principles for All Levels with [Karl Soderlund](#), The Art of Technique with Bob, Photography as Fine Art and Photo Imaging with [Susan Grissom](#).

Children's classes include: Children's Acting with Jackie, Painting and Drawing for Older Children with [Anne McCormick](#), Painting, Drawing, Sculpture & More with Joanne Roy, Painting, Drawing, Collage & More with Joanne Roy Askildsen, and Through the Eyes of a Child: Digital Photography for Children with [Elisa Keogh](#).

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In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Rowayton Arts Center is planning a Bal de Tête, headdress party. This gala evening, in the spirit of the irreverent parties held by founding Arts Center members during the 1960s and 70s', will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the [Tokeneke Club](#) in Darien. Co-chairs [Laura Bickmeyer](#) and Andrea Letters have designed an exciting, fun-filled evening with live music, retro specialty cocktails, gourmet food stations and ART! Headdress parties can be especially popular because they allow free reign to the imagination. Although a headdress isn't required, Bickmeyer and Letters hope that guests on Sept. 18 get into the spirit of this fabulous dance where guests may wear crazy concoctions. It can be a funny hat, or something you've made -- a birdcage, a flowerpot, an ashtray. .. one might say it won't be a typical gala evening. Founding member [Nina Palleon Craig Richardson](#) has agreed to share some of the whimsical vintage sets that she created for early RAC parties to enhance the ambiance at the Tokeneke Club. Great live music is on tap from two New York City bands -- Art Sfumato and the Honorable Mentions plus the Melody Stylings of [Winsor Newton](#) and his All-Media Stompers. The co-chairs expect the Bal de Tête to be a memorable salute to RAC festivities during its early years and a joyous beginning to the Arts Center's next 50 years. They anticipate that it will be an entertaining evening to raise money for RAC. Instead of a traditional silent auction, 50 artworks by award-winning RAC members will be wrapped and sold for a set price. Mofly

Publications is a sponsor for the Bal de Tête. Tickets are \$100 per person and reservations are required. Call 203-866-2744 for information.

High Tide @ Bayley Beach

For the week Sept. 3 through Labor Day at Bayley Beach in the afternoons, high tide will be at 7:27 p.m. on Sept. 3, 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 4, 9:29 p.m. on Sept. 5, 10:03 a.m. and 10:25 p.m. on Labor Day, Sept. 6. Source: Nobeltec® Tides & Currents ☿ courtesy of Joyce Meurer, Bell Island Enterprises. For a complimentary summer tide calendar, come pick one up at [the Rowayton Library](#).

Volunteering in Rowayton

"☿ Volunteers are needed for the RCA's Annual Arthur J. Ladrigan Swim Races and Family Fun Day at Bayley Beach on Labor Day. To volunteer, call Mike Barbis at 838-7887 or Ted Hildner at 273-1526.

"☿ The Rowayton Library would like to thank Lynn Maginnis, Jennifer Parker, and Suzanne Miller, our volunteer book-covering team. Without them, our collection wouldn't be so durable (especially the paperbacks)!

At the Rowayton Library

"☿ The Rowayton Library has a new Fantasy Football League and all children (grades 5 & UP) are invited to participate. On Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 4:30 p.m. you can come and join a team -- participate in the draft. Here is your opportunity to learn all about Fantasy Football (no previous experience is needed), or experienced, come share your expertise. This program is brought to you by TAB -- The Rowayton Library's Teen Advisory Board. Pizza will be served.

"☿ On Monday afternoon, Sept. 13 (3:30-5 p.m.), the Rowayton Library continues with its KnittingTime once a month with NancyJo Rambusch for kids ages 8 and up. This program is designed to help kid knitters of all skill levels work on their projects. Register please as space is limited. 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 to work on a project.

"☿ [BookTalk](#) for Adults is back with *Back from the Brink*. From Homer's *Odyssey* to *Apollo 13*, stories of people who have faced calamity and survived have always had enormous appeal. When the stories are true, and told by the survivors themselves, our sympathy and admiration are all the more engaged. Join us for a discussion of four first-person narratives of men and women who were brought to the brink of life and death, and lived to tell the tale to us. This month, Wednesday evening, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., the book will be "*The Long Walk*," by Slavomir Rawicz. Multiple copies are available at the library. Discussion leader will be Marsha Bonsavage. This program is made possible -- in part -- through a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council.

"☿ Once a month, on a Friday afternoon, children are invited to a [BookTalk for Kids](#) (ages 8 & up) where the topic of discussion is *Fantasy: Wisdom's Irresistible Messenger* -- beginning Friday, Sept. 24 at 3:30 p.m. This program is designed to encourage and support the love of reading and to allow "personal" time for kids to explore their imagination and to discuss these fantasy worlds in a kid-to-kid environment. In this series, we meet four indomitable mice: Stuart; Ralph, Despereaux; and Celeste. All four are unique characters and a testimony to the power of imagination. These stories entertain while also giving the reader the gift of knowledge and even more valuable, wisdom. Our first book will be "[Stuart Little](#)," by E. B. White. Multiple copies are available at the Rowayton Library. There will be a snack and discussion with Judy Sullivan.

For information on Rowayton Library programs, call (203) 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