



LYME MATTERS

The Official Newsletter of the Lyme Democratic Town Committee

The Lyme Public Library: Opening Doors

by Judy Ulrich & Mary Stone

The Lyme Public Library's mission is "to serve the Town of Lyme as a community center for lifelong education, cultural, and recreational activities, and evolving information needs."

The library's bright and relaxing setting offers far more than a place to borrow a book: you can check out an extensive collection of recent and vintage movies, audio books, and books that can be borrowed from other libraries. Library Director Theresa Conley has added several free digital services, enabling you to access many programs and media from home, including: movies, eBooks, and music from Hoopla or Great Courses, IndieFlix, and the Acorn TV Library from RBDigital Service. You can also learn one of 70 languages online from Mango Languages.

The library provides quiet, comfortable places to read newspapers and magazines and to study and write. Computers and printers are available, and the staff can fax documents. If you'd like to discuss books, reading groups welcome new members.

The Children's Room has an up-to-date collection of books, and Children's Librarian Barbara Carlson can help all children find just what they want. Special programs include a summer reading program and art and science activities.

The Friends of the Lyme Library maintain a selection of good quality used books to



The Children's Room hosts story hours, activities and programs.

buy. Sales and membership fees support an array of free programs by experts on a wide range of topics. (Contributions are always encouraged.) These funds are also used for special equipment such as the beautiful patio furniture overlooking the evolving meadow established by the Lyme Garden Club. A film series is shown on Sundays, twice a month. The Friends welcome new members and volunteers to help with book sales and program development.

The library also houses the Lyme Local History Archives, a program of the Lyme Public Hall. The archives are a great resource for learning about town history, one's ancestors, or even the history of an old house.

The library's operating budget and facility costs are funded largely by the town. Dedicated library staff and volunteers from three groups help ensure high-quality services:

- the Library Foundation, which manages an endowment and funds a portion of the library's operating costs;
- the Friends of the Lyme Library, which plans and funds programs and ongoing film series; and
- the publicly elected Board of Directors, which oversees library administration and policies.

The library's quarterly newsletter is delivered to all Lyme residents, keeping us informed about its many offerings. Or you can visit the web site at www.lymepl.org.

Support the library by volunteering to help, attending fundraisers, and contributing to the foundation's Annual Fund Drive.



Diana Fiske reads the paper by the fireplace in the Reading Room.



Bruce and Tammy Noyes, Bill Denow, and Town Historian Carolyn Bacdayan conduct research in the archives.

Take the Lyme Public Library Survey

Lyme residents will soon receive a survey about what we want and need from our library. Your answers will make the Library more useful and relevant.

You can take the survey online at <http://www.lymepl.org/latenews.htm>

Thank you for your help!

Service That Beautifies and Enriches: The Lyme Garden Club

by Carol House, Mary Ann Kistner, Carolyn Reed, Paul Armond, Sue Hessel & Emily Hildner

Spring is on its way and soon we will see daffodils blooming again along Rt. 156 near the library and Town Hall. These yellow faces are a real harbinger of warmer weather to come! With this image in your mind, think for a minute about who may have planted those daffodils and who tends them year after year. This labor of love is provided by the Lyme Garden Club. The club was established in 1930 with a mission of civic beautification while providing enrichment and social opportunities for its members. The club has planted approximately 10,000 daffodils on town properties over the past 10 years.

When the Lyme Public Library was built and the Town Hall expanded in 2014, the Lyme Garden Club stepped up. Fundraising and a generous gift provided funds to develop a comprehensive landscaping plan and to purchase trees and other plants. A lot of manual labor from the club's membership and others in the town helped to establish these plantings. Club members hold workdays throughout the year to prepare for Spring, weed, prune, cleanup in the Fall, and plant bulbs. Stop and see the recently planted meadow of wild flowers on the south side of the library!

The Lyme Garden Club touches other parts of our community as well. It maintains



Daffodils blooming near the Lyme Library.

flowerbeds and plants bulbs at the Tiffany triangle, Hamburg Fire House and at Lymewood in Old Lyme. Club members provide a fresh flower arrangement inside the Lyme library each week, provide centerpieces at the annual Lyme Fire Company steak dinner, organize the flower competition for the Hamburg Fair, and create floral displays to beautify the fair grounds. Garden club members walk in the Fourth of July parade and will staff a booth at the Midsummer Festival this July, selling various garden-related items.

December is a special time of service. Garden club members prune their evergreens and come together to create holiday wreaths and sprays that they hang on public buildings in town and on the entrances to 10 historic cemeteries. Partnering with the Lyme Public Hall, the club provides materials and expertise for a public wreath-making workshop – so you can make a wreath and take it home.

The Lyme Garden Club meets the second Tuesday morning of each month to share knowledge, listen to interesting speakers, and/or take day trips to beautiful places. For example, this year we learned about using moss and rocks as an effective focus point in a garden, had an overview of the world's most beautiful gardens, and took a day trip to Enders Island. If you have a generous spirit of public service and a love for gardens, please join us. See our Facebook page or email our club president, Carolyn Reed, creed1946@comcast.net.

Hiking the Magnificent Preserves of Lyme

by Phyllis Ross

The first time I drove through Lyme, I was smitten by its natural beauty. But I had to get off the road, deep into the woods, to really experience the exquisite majesty of Lyme. Now that I've hiked many of the remarkable preserves, I'm a head-over-heels enthusiast.

A hike along these trails awakens all of the senses. It is visually spectacular. One can hear the sounds of birds, insects, breezes rustling the trees, the crunch of brown leaves on the ground and the gurgle of water in the streams. The air smells fresh and has the scent of pine and other evergreens, as well as flowers and plants. You can feel rocks and roots beneath your feet.

If you browse the town's website, you'll find a town map with 21 listings of

preserves, including trails. Or you can go to the website of the Lyme Land Conservation Trust (LLCT) for trail maps.

From Town Hall or the Lyme Public Library you can obtain brochures with information on the distance of each trail, history of the land, how it was obtained and its characteristics – including wetlands, bridges, vernal pools, stone walls, boundaries, ruins, overlooks with benches and other features. The trails are well maintained and marked with colored blazes. For beginning hikers a good place to start is Hartman Park. A booklet called "The Heritage Trail, A Walk in Hartman Park" can be downloaded from the LLCT website.

I would recommend exploring as many preserves as possible – each has its own appealing attributes. Anthony (Tony) Irving, who is chairman of the Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee and Preservation Chair of the LLCT, says there are over 12,000 acres of land designated as "protected open space" – more than 50% of our town – with much of this land laced by trails.

The person who deserves a lot of credit for managing all this is Wendolyn (Wendy) Hill, Lyme's Open Space Coordinator. I've had the pleasure of hiking with Wendy, who leads a group called the Trailblazers. Not only is she one of the town's prime advocates for open space, she also coordinates the hunting schedule, plans nature walks and organizes work parties of volunteers who maintain the preserves. Wendy says, "The best thing about Lyme is the partnership between the Town, the Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy, plus the State and other conservation groups, who work together in partnership to steward the land." Wendy, other members of the LLCT board and lots of local volunteers are actively involved in maintaining the trails and offering a variety of educational hikes.

Through Wendy's efforts and that of the land conservation partners, residents of Lyme have access to trails that are known throughout southeastern Connecticut and beyond as some of the best in the region. She believes "The world would be poorer if we didn't have this free access to beautiful open space, which filters the air and water and creates a healthier environment for people as well as animals." And, if you've ever been on a nature hike that Wendy leads, you know how much pleasure one can find on the fabulous trails of Lyme.

For More Hiking Information

- Town of Lyme: www.townlyme.org, click on "About," then on "Boating, Parks and Trails."
- Open Space Coordinator Wendy Hill: openspace@townlyme.org.
- LLCT: www.lymelandtrust.org for a comprehensive list of scheduled walks and events, and www.lymelandtrust.org/volunteer for a list of volunteer opportunities. Don't miss the "Bird Walk at Hartman Park" led by an Audubon expert birder on April 27, 2019.



Trailblazers stop to view awe-inspiring beauty of Lyme.

LYSB Midsummer Run

by Liz Frankel

On July 27 – before you visit the Old Lyme Midsummer Festival – kick off the day with an energetic run (or walk) to benefit the Lymes' Youth Service Bureau (LYSB). The Midsummer Run is a community event that kicks off a day of cultural and artistic events at sites throughout Old Lyme's Historic District.

The 5K race begins at LYSB, located at 59 Lyme Street, and features a fast and flat 5K run/walk that winds through the beautiful streets of the village. The kids run their 1K behind the school. Prizes are awarded for the top three runners overall, and the top three finishers in each category. First place wins a pie from Panfili's Farm Stand in Salem, along with an engraved pie server to treasure. Others win kettle corn from Bureau's Sugarhouse – an Old Lyme specialty.

Proceeds from this event go directly to programs developed by LYSB for the families and children of Lyme and Old Lyme. LYSB is a private, nonprofit agency dedicated to promoting the positive development of children and families in both towns. These programs touch all aspects of the community – from babies through teens and families. The work falls into six main areas:

- Early childhood playgroups and parenting classes.

- Positive youth development, including a middle school mentoring program, summer camp and the annual student talent show.
- Free or reduced mental health counseling for children and adolescents referred by the schools.
- Drug and alcohol prevention lectures and programs through the Lyme-Old Lyme Prevention Coalition.
- Partnerships with the courts, police and parents on juvenile justice.
- Social services like Holiday Giving and food drives that support almost 60 families and more than 100 children.

Come out and join the fun while supporting an important local organization. Registration information can be found online at www.LYSB.org.

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools Plan Expansion of Pre-K Program in 2019-2020

by John Kiker

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are planning an expansion of their current Pre-Kinderergarten (Pre-K) program at the start of the 2019-2020 school year to include all four-year-old residents in Lyme or Old Lyme – and have included this expansion as part of the budget for the coming school year.

According to Superintendent of Schools Ian Neviasser, the reasoning behind expanding the program is threefold: First, the benefits of a universal Pre-K program are widely recognized as providing a solid base for learning and the Board of Education wishes to ensure all children are provided the same opportunity to be best prepared to enter kindergarten. Second, the timing of the expansion is ideal as the reduction of staff due to fewer sections at Mile Creek allows for a minimal budgetary impact, plus space has become available in Center School with the withdrawal of LEARN. Third, the option of accepting tuition students from out of town will help fund the program.

Neviasser said, "We firmly believe expansion of our current, very successful Pre-K program will not only be enormously beneficial for all the children involved, but also for the district as an entity. No other suburban town or school district in southeastern Connecticut is offering an equivalent program, so it will be yet another factor that makes Lyme-Old Lyme Schools stand out from the crowd."

The Lyme DTC endorsed the planned expansion of the Pre-K program at its February meeting. The Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme will vote on the school district budget on May 7, 2019.

For further information on the Pre-K program, contact Jill Pilgrim by email at pilgrimj@region18.org or phone at 860-434-0487.



The Lyme Democratic Town Committee:

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*Artwork of the Hamburg Bridge supplied by Angie Falstrom.
Her original works can be viewed at the Lyme Art Association, by
arrangement at her studio and online at www.perennialdesigns.net*