

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN GREENWICH HAD TAKEN ON A SOMBER TONE AS POPULAR SELECTMAN DAVID THEIS DIED OF A SUDDEN HEART ATTACK TWO DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS AT AGE 65, AND WGCH CARRIED A MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH IN JANUARY ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS.

GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARC JOHNSON CAME ON WGCH TO TALK ABOUT THEIR VOTE TO APPROVE THE TOWN BUDGET, AND SENT IT ON TO THE FULL B-E-T. THE B-E-T WILL VOTE ON THE 406-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET IN MARCH. IT WILL THEN GO TO THE RTM FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ALONG GREENWICH AVENUE HAS BEEN A MAJOR ISSUE -- AND FIRST SELECTMAN PETER TESEI SAYS THERE'S A SOLUTION TO FUNDING THE EFFORT.

GREENWICH GREEN AND CLEAN IS TAKING ON THE FUNDRAISING EFFORT. GREEN AND CLEAN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARY HULL WAS A GUEST ON WGCH TO TALK ABOUT IT.

GREENWICH'S LEGISLATIVE BODY -- THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING -- VOTED TO ACCEPT A 566 THOUSAND DOLLAR GIFT FROM THE GREENWICH COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL AT COS COB PARK. THE MEMORIAL FOR GREENWICH RESIDENTS KILLED IN THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IS DUE TO BE DEDICATED DURING THE SUMMER. JAMES RITMAN, WHO CHAIRS THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, WAS A GUEST ON "VIEWPOINT" TO TALK ABOUT THE EFFORT.

THE GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION APPROVED A 406-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET TO SEND ON TO THE RTM. BET CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MASON CAME ON TO TALK ABOUT IT.

1490 WGCH QUARTERLY ISSUES

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2015

DURING OUR MORNING NEWS CENTER, WE DID A SEGMENT WITH RACHEL REESE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF "VOLUNTEER SQUARE.COM", WHICH SERVES FAIRFIELD COUNTY IS LINKING VOLUNTEERS WITH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. WITH THE WEATHER GETTING NICER, AND MORE OUTSIDE FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING UP, REESE SAYS NOW'S THE TIME FOR PEOPLE TO CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR THEIR FREE E-MAIL BLAST, AND HAVE IT CUSTOM MADE FOR YOUR INTERESTS.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH", AND MARGARET WATT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD WAS A GUEST ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS SHOW "VIEWPOINT". WE TALKED ABOUT SUPPORT SERVICES THEY HAVE, THE MENTAL HEALTH ASPECT OF THE GUN CONTROL ISSUE, AND THE BATTLE OVER WHETHER WE'RE OVER-MEDICATING OUR CHILDREN.

THE BYRAM PARK POOL PROJECT IN GREENWICH WAS APPROVED BY THE GREENWICH RTM IN MAY, AND JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GREENWICH PRESIDENT KATHY YOUNGMAN AND PRESIDENT-ELECT SUE ROGERS CAME IN TO TALK ABOUT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE. THE JUNIOR LEAGUE HAS PLEDGED MORE THAN \$100,000 TO HELP FUND THE PROJECT.

THE NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE YMCA OF GREENWICH JOINED "VIEWPOINT". ELAINE GRANT TAKES OVER AS THE YMCA GETS READY TO CELEBRATE ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY. SHE TALKED ABOUT HER ROLE AS THE CHIEF FUNDRAISER FOR THE Y.

GREENWICH IS CELEBRATING ITS 375TH ANNIVERSARY -- AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GREENWICH 375TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE DAVIDDE STRACKBEIN, JOINED US TO TALK ABOUT ALL THE EVENTS THEY HAVE GOING ON. THEY INCLUDE TOURS OF NEIGHBORHOODS TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF EACH SECTION OF TOWN -- EVENTS WITH THE GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY -- AND THE GREENWICH 375TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER.

A HUGE ISSUE IN GREENWICH HAS BEEN THE BUILDING OF OF "NEW" NEW LEBANON SCHOOL, TO REPLACE THE CURRENT OVERCROWDED SCHOOL. THERE HAS BEEN A BATTLE OVER WHERE TO PLACE THE NEW SCHOOL, WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVING SO-CALLED "SCHEME D", WHICH IS TO BUILD THE NEW SCHOOL ON THE SITE OF THE EXISTING SCHOOL . MY GUEST ON "VIEWPOINT" WAS OSCAR RODRIGUEZ, MEMBER OF THE BYRAM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, AND PARENT OF A STUDENT AT NEW LEBANON SCHOOL. HE OPPOSES SCHEME D AND SUPPORTS HAVING THE SCHOOL BUILT IN A NEARBY LOCATION THAT WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO STAY IN THE SCHOOL WHILE THE NEW SCHOOL IS BEING BUILT.

THE GREENWICH YOUTH CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS LOOKING FOR 14-15 YEAR OLDS WHO WANT A POSITIVE WORK EXPERIENCE FOR THE SUMMER. PROGRAM DIRECTOR MEASI O'ROURKE JOINED US TO TALK ABOUT HOW THEY NEED DONATIONS SO THEY CAN FUND AS MANY YOUTH AS POSSIBLE. THEY GENERALLY HAVE ABOUT 110 TEENS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM.

THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM IN STAMFORD IS EXPANDING BEYOND JUST PLANTS AND HORTICULTURE, AND EVENTS COORDINATOR GRETCHEN ORR JOINED US TO TALK ABOUT ALL THE EVENTS THEY CAN HOST AT THE BARTLETT. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE NOW HOSTING WEDDINGS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, AND OTHER EVENTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A TRADITIONAL CATERING HALL.

PARKING ISSUES IN GREENWICH WERE IN THE SPOTLIGHT, AS WE WELCOMED PARKING SERVICES DIRECTOR RITA AZRELYANT TO "VIEWPOINT". SHE CAME TO GREENWICH FROM WESTCHESTER COUNTY ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AND HAS SOME NEW IDEAS ABOUT PARKING, SPECIFICALLY A SWITCH FROM HER PREDECESSOR ON THE ISSUE OF PILOT PROGRAMS FOR PARKING (SHE'S NOT A BIG FAN).

THE GREENWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS HOLDING AN EXHIBITION "GREENWICH VOICES" AS PART OF THE TOWN'S 375TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. CURATOR KAREN FREDERICK AND GUEST CURATOR KARINA AGUILERA SKVIRSKY TALKED ABOUT INTERVIEWS KARINA AND A COLLEAGUE CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT GREENWICH, ASKING RESIDENTS WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT THE TOWN, ITS HISTORY, ETC.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH, AND MEREDITH GOLD, GREENWICH YWCA MANAGER OF OUTREACH, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION JOINED US TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS AT AWARENESS. SHE SAYS THE GREENWICH POLICE HAVE BEEN GREAT PARTNERS. THEY HAD A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS DURING THE MONTH, AND GOLD EVEN MET WITH THE GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM TO TALK ABOUT TEEN DATING VIOLENCE. (VIEWPOINT OCTOBER 18, 2015 30 MINUTE SHOW AT 0700)

OCTOBER IS ALSO BULLYING AWARENESS MONTH. OUR GUEST ON "VIEWPOINT" WAS DR. AARON KRASNER, CHIEF OF THE ADOLESCENT TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM AT SILVER HILL HOSPITAL. OUR TOPIC WAS "PREPARING OUR KIDS TO CONFRONT THE PROBLEM OF BULLYING." WE TALKED ABOUT THE ISSUE OF BULLYING, HAS IT BECOME MORE PREVALENT WITH THE ADVENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET, WHAT CAN PARENTS AND KIDS DO TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE. WE DID THE SHOW ABOUT 2 YEARS AFTER THE SUICIDE OF GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE BART PALOSZ, WHO KILLED HIMSELF AFTER APPARENTLY HAVING BEEN BULLIED FOR YEARS. (VIEWPOINT, OCTOBER 25, 2015 30 MINUTE SHOW AT 0700)

ANOTHER ISSUE WE TALKED ABOUT IS INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING. JILL MARCHAK, A GREENWICH RESIDENT INVOLVED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ISSUE, TALKED ABOUT A CONFERENCE SHE ATTENDED IN WASHINGTON, DC. SHE SAYS THERE ARE 36 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CURRENTLY ENSLAVED SHE SAYS THE KEY IS FOR COUNTRIES TO ENFORCE THEIR OWN RULES, AND TO SHUT DOWN SOME OF THESE OPERATIONS, WHICH SHE BELIEVES WILL STRIKE FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF SLAVE TRADERS. (VIEWPOINT NOVEMBER 8, 2015 30 MINUTE SHOW AT 0700)

THE GREENWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION IN MID-NOVEMBER HOSTED A FORUM ON THE ISSUE OF "SOIL". 2015 IS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SOIL, AS NAMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. THE IDEA IS TO GET PEOPLE TO COMPOST, WHICH RESULTS IN HEALTHIER SOIL, WHICH IN TURN DOESN'T USE AS MUCH WATER. DAVE WHITE, FORMER OFFICIAL WITH THE U-S-D-A, WAS THE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE FORUM "THE DIRT ON FOOD SUPPLY: PROMOTING HEALTHY SOIL." THIS ALSO TIED IN WITH THE GREENWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S NEW INITIATIVE "LEAVES:NATURE'S TREASURE", WHICH PROMOTES MULCHING OF LEAVES, RATHER THAN RAKING THEM. IT SAVES THE TOWN MONEY ON LEAF COLLECTION, AND HELPS THE SOIL. (VIEWPOINT DECEMBER 6, 2015 30 MINUTE SHOW) ALSO...MORNING NEWS CENTER INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 10, 2015....8 MINUTE INTERVIEW AT 8:21 AM)

THE GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES HELD THEIR ANNUAL "HOLIDAY TOY AND CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION" DECEMBER 16, 18-19 AND ALISON BRUSH WITH SOCIAL SERVICES JOINED THE MORNING NEWS CENTER TO TALK ABOUT HOW NEEDY CHILDREN IN TOWN WILL RECEIVE GIFTS AND CLOTHING IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS (MORNING NEWS CENTER DECEMBER 15, 2015...8 MINUTE INTERVIEW 8:21 AM)

THE GREENWICH REAL ESTATE MARKET TOOK A HIT IN NOVEMBER, AND GREENWICH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT THERESA HATTON AND 2015 PRESIDENT JOANN ERB CAME ON THE MORNING NEWS CENTER TO TALK ABOUT IT. CLOSINGS AND THE AVERAGE PRICE WERE DOWN, PERHAPS, THEY SAY, RELATED TO THE NEW REGULATIONS FROM DODD-FRANK MAKING THE CLOSING PROCESS LONGER.

(MORNING NEWS CENTER, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015....8 MINUTE INTERVIEW....8:21 AM)