

Community matters

NORWICH PUBLIC UTILITIES SPECIAL 350TH ISSUE



NPU Hosts Norwich's 350th Birthday Party in Style!

On June 26th, Norwich Public Utilities volunteers put on a fabulous birthday party for the Norwich semicentennial celebration. Giant red, white and blue balloons dressed up the bandstand. Red, blue and silver tables were decorated with sparkling shooting stars. 500 red and white mini cupcakes were arranged to spell out "350." The aroma of barbequed chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs filled the air.

It was the biggest birthday party of the year!

NPU employees welcomed local residents and area visitors to the evening's events. The band Stone Groove — made up of musicians that are also NPU employees — started off the evening by playing rocking dance tunes, followed by Connecticut Troubadour, Tom Callinan, who serenaded the crowd with songs

about Norwich. The band, Shaded Soul, played the remainder of the evening as guests danced the night away.

It is a privilege for Norwich Public Utilities to serve the Norwich Community. And, it was an honor to host the 350th birthday party. Thank you for celebrating with us!



A festive balloon arch adorn the bandstand (top); Cupcakes spell out "350" in delicious celebration (bottom).

The Power of Green

Norwich is getting greener now that it has its own planet — Sterling Planet Incorporated, that is! Sterling Planet, Inc. has partnered with Norwich to provide clean, green energy from renewable sources, like wind, hydro and solar power. These are carbon-free alternatives to traditional fossil-fuel sources.

Fossil fuels are used to generate about 70% of the electricity in New England, but they also create greenhouse gases when burned. If you are concerned about the

effect of greenhouse gases on our planet, then consider signing up for the Norwich Public Utilities Green Energy Tier.

Sign Up is Easy!

Choosing the Green Energy Tier is easy and optional. Adding the Green Energy Tier will only increase your per kilowatt hour rate by 1.1 cents. If you choose to sign up, your electric bill will reflect a new line item — Green Energy Tier. As more customers choose to purchase the clean energy we get from Sterling Planet, NPU

will add more and more carbon-free generated power to its energy portfolio — without affecting the electricity rates of those who don't choose.

You can feel good about your choice because Sterling Planet, Inc. is a United States company that the U.S. Department of Energy named "Renewable Energy Marketer of the Year" in 2007 and 2008.

To sign up for the Green Energy Tier, please contact an NPU customer service representative at 860 887-2555.

NORWICH CELEB

The Rose City made history when residents, businesses and visitors from around the world celebrated Norwich's 350th birthday this past summer. There was something for everyone as events ranged from historic re-enactments and ceremonies to parties in honor of the town's important milestone.

Deed signing kicks off the festivities

On June 6th members of the Mohegan tribe and descendants of Norwich's forefathers came together at the Royal Mohegan Burial Ground to re-enact the deed signing. Area churches and houses of worship rang their bells for 350 seconds at 12:00 noon to honor the occasion.

Riverfest was the next event as 28 teams participated in their wonderfully decorated boats. Competition was fierce as the crowds cheered them on from Howard T. Brown Park.

On June 13, the NAACP (the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) celebrated Norwich's 350th birthday and its own 100th anniversary with the 21st annual Juneteenth celebration — the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the U.S. The Norwich NAACP was the first to organize and celebrate Juneteenth in the state of Connecticut.

Tour, tours, tours!

Throughout the month of June, a wide variety of tours took place, which gave everyone a chance to appreciate the rich history of Norwich. Tours of Falls Mill, Civil War Cemetery Tours, an historic tour of Norwich Public Utilities, and historical downtown houses of worship were offered. A tour of "Millionaires' Row" was given where visitors learned how the rich

and famous lived during the 1800s. Those who enjoy nature visited Mohegan Park and took the Chelsea Gardens tours.

Something for everyone

Many area events also took place, like the Fishing Derby for children at Spaulding Pond in Mohegan Park, a Golf Tournament, a tea at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, and a Norwich Native Son/Daughter Luncheon. The Bully Busters celebrated their fifth-year anniversary with a Youth Jam at Howard T. Brown Park.

Thirteen Norwich women made an historical work of art — the Norwich 350 Quilt, which showcases the Norwich community. It will be on public display at City Hall in the future.



(Left-right) Deed Signing Re-enactment participants make it official with a signature and a handshake; The "family" poses were the main attraction at Riverfest.

Norwich welcomed visitors from Norwich, Jamaica, and Norfolk Counties in the United Kingdom, plus visitors from Norwich, New Hampshire to celebrate the Norfolk/Norwich World Gathering. They were treated to many Southeastern Connecticut local attractions including the Slater Museum and Dodd Stadium.

There were also ceremonies, like the Sara Huntington Unveiling and the Samuel Huntington Wreath Laying.

Lectures were given from notable guests like David Ruggles, The Black Governors, and The Victorian Lady.

There were performances by the Governors' Foot Guard. Troubadour Tom Callinan wrote and performed a song to commemorate the celebration — "Where Three Rivers Come Together." Norwich native and NFA Student, Paige D'Allesandro, sang the Norwich Anniversary Hymn, which was originally written and performed at Norwich's Bicentennial Celebration. And, Members of The Soldiers Through History performed a three-day re-enactment on the Norwichtown Green.

"The Rose on the River" played at the Donald Oat Theater. It featured a "stuffy"

tourist couple who were less than pleased to be stranded in Norwich until a book was delivered to their room. In it, they discovered the magic of Norwich, so they decided to move to Norwich.

The Guns of Norwich Historical Society hosted the Memorabilia Show at Howard T. Brown Park. The show featured historical displays and memorabilia from the original 9-Mile Square, which is made up of Norwich, Bozrah, Franklin,

RATES 350 YEARS!

Sprague, Lisbon, Preston, and Jewett City/ Griswold.

The Rose City hosted a replica of the Vietnam Wall at Howard T. Brown Park. A parade started in Montville and brought the wall to Norwich. For an emotionally packed five days, visitors honored fallen family members and friends.

Official birthday weekend celebrations

As the official birthday weekend celebration began on June 26, the tall ship, Mystic Whaler, bravely navigated the waters of the Thames River. It made its way from New London Harbor to Norwich Harbor — under threat of a tornado! After the threat was over, Norwich Public Utilities hosted a fun-filled birthday party— with lively entertainment

and delicious food.

NPU knows how to throw a party! [See cover story]

Harbor Days were in full swing at Howard T. Brown Park. Visitors had the chance to tour The Mystic Whaler and enjoy a cup of piping hot chowder



for a photo; The dragon boats

while being entertained to the sound of the Ancient Mariners. There were also four children's birthday parties at the Marina. Pizza, cupcakes, and ice cream put a smile on everyone's face as they watched performances by Mr. Magic and Mad Science. And at night, spectacular laser light shows were held to the applause of cheering crowds.

Fireworks and parade wow the crowds

The view was great for the awesome fireworks display that took place over the Harbor on the 4th of July. And, on the next day, a parade with the theme "Norwich through the Years," stepped off from Chelsea Parade with impressive floats and marchers as it made its way through the City, ending at Franklin Square.

Winterfest wrap-up

Norwich prepared for the final 350th celebration event: The Winterfest parade, which took place on December 6th.

To remember this momentous anniversary, the History Committee gathered items that represented the years 2008-2009 to include in a time capsule. The capsule was sealed and stored, and is set to be opened in 2059 for the town's 400th anniversary celebration!

Keepsake DVD available

If you want to preserve your memories of this celebration, a commemorative, three-set DVD with highlights from the 350th is available at Norwich's Tourism Office located at the Buckingham Memorial, 307 Main Street in Norwich.

Norwich 350 Memorabilia

Items available at Norwich's Tourism Office, 307 Main Street.

350th Collectible Medallion



As a tribute to the 350th anniversary celebration, a collectible medallion minted by Woodbury Pewter has been designed featuring the official 350th

celebration logo. \$10

Collectible Lapel Pin

Featuring the official 350th celebration logo. \$3



350th Commemorative Poster



This 24" x 36" commemorative poster features layers of Norwich memorabilia. A wonderful keepsake designed by Norwich artist, Christen Lewis. \$10

Please ask about postcard book and other available memorabilia items at the Tourism Office.

New Solar Thermal Program Available

Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, the State of Connecticut has dedicated \$4 million for a new program to help pay for the installation of solar-powered hot water heating systems for eligible homeowners and businesses. Funds are for domestic hot water systems only. Space-heating and pool-heating systems are not included. Qualifying new systems must supply between 50% and 80% of a customer's annual domestic hot water needs.

The Benefits of Using Solar

Solar thermal systems are more technically simple and less expensive than other types of renewable energy systems. Using solar thermal instead of electricity, gas, or oil to heat your water or home

can significantly reduce fuel bills. Although the cost of installing a system is higher than conventional water heaters, the fuel savings — coupled with the federal incentives — can pay back your cost in about 6 to 10 years.

Incentive Details

The maximum incentive for a 5- to 6-person household is \$4,800 per installation. Non-residential, not-for-profit and governmental projects can receive a maximum incentive of \$82,500 per installation, based on program requirements. To qualify, customers must hire qualified thermal installers from a pre-approved list. These companies will provide information about solar thermal systems and review your project.

Good for You, Good for the Environment

A solar thermal investment will help lower utility bills and boost the use of alternative fuels. Lower greenhouse gas emissions help conserve limited fossil fuels for future generations while the local community benefits from jobs created by the installation of these systems.

This new incentive was established through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. To take advantage of this program, call Norwich Public Utilities' Energy Services at 860-823-4514 for assistance in understanding the program eligibility requirements and to receive application information.

Ongoing—1st Friday of each month First Fridays

Downtown Norwich comes alive with arts and entertainment every first Friday of the month! View original art at several galleries or enjoy a musical or theater production in our theaters. Call 886-4683 for more information.

Ongoing Breast Cancer Remembrance

Honor a woman's battle with breast cancer with her name in pink on the breast cancer memorial Sail of the Valiant. Free. Sponsored by Chelsea Groton Bank, Dime Bank. Call (860) 889-3424 for information or to register. Sail of the Valiant is a Del Function nonprofit breast cancer program.

Ongoing Recycle Used Books and Support Otis Library

The leaves may have fallen, but there are still ways to see green! Recycling the books you've read or no longer want is a great way to help the environment. The Friends of Otis Library accepts book donations year-round for its annual spring and fall book sales. Your donation benefits our local library located at 261 Main Street in downtown Norwich. For more information, please contact (860) 889-2635.

Ongoing—Second Saturday of each month Movie Nights at the Donald L. Oat Theater

The Norwich Community Cinema Foundation brings independent, documentary and foreign films to the Norwich area at the Donald L. Oat Theater. Showtime starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 and include complimentary popcorn. For more information, please visit www.norwichcinema.org, or contact Sandy Quarto at 860-886-5969.

January 8, 2010

First Friday Live Sounds: Eight to the Bar

This dynamic Swing band has become a highly anticipated staple in the Norwich Arts Council lineup, an exciting tradition that has become known as our Alternative New Year celebration! Their big band rhythms are contagious and irresistibly danceable. Show starts at 8pm, doors open at 7:30pm, tickets \$25 per person. Get your tickets early. This is a sell-out every time! Contact us at 860-887-2789 or boxoffice@norwicharts.org

January 10, 2009

Medieval Feast

Medieval food and entertainment at Unitarian Universalist Church of Norwich at 148 Broadway. Doors open at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at 889-1062.

Norwich Golf Course wants members!



We are a member-friendly golf facility that offers quality course conditions, member tournaments, affordable rates and excellent food and beverage.

Our goal is to provide you with a quality golf experience on our well-maintained course.

No waiting for starting times

We now have a request system that makes reserving times easy for singles, couples, and families. If you have a foursome, we will fit you in. If you don't have a regular game, our staff will find you one. We open late March through Thanksgiving. We are rarely closed due to wet conditions; golf cars run practically every day. An excellent value, we would love to have you come aboard!

Benefits of Membership

- UNLIMITED GOLF
- PRIORITY TEE TIMES
- DISCOUNTED GIFT CARDS (FOR GUEST & GOLF CAR FEES)
- RESIDENT RATES FOR GUESTS
- SMOOTH PACE OF PLAY
- MEMBER TOURNAMENTS
- SPECIAL MEMBER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

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**Norwich
Public Utilities**

This bulletin is printed on paper with 20% post-consumer fiber, and it costs about 10 cents to print.

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Here to Serve You

Visit a special link on our web site for more information:
www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters

Please call, fax or email us your questions, comments and suggestions.

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