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Winter 2024
Newsletter

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30 New Bench in Scofieldtown Park



THE VOICE OF NORTH STAMFORD

WINTER 2024



06903

NORTH STAMFORD MAGAZINE

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North Stamford Association

An association of residents dedicated to preserving North Stamford as a desirable place to live.

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The cover of "06903" is a painting by North Stamford artist and designer Bob Callahan.





Barbara E. Occhino
Bartlett Arboreum

Our Woodland Wonders

by Barbara E. Occhino

*A*S I APPROACHED THE WEATHERED, wooden bridge that arched over the creek, there, like a scene from “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” were three goats crossing; American Pygmy miniatures, to be exact, which are about the size of a Golden Retriever.

They stopped to stare at me with those brilliant blue eyes. And then, like a friendly pup, they eagerly approached me and let me stroke them. The young couple who owned them soon appeared. They greeted us and satisfied my curiosity by explaining how they regularly take their pets on walks in the woods.

You never know what you'll find along the preserves in and around North Stamford. There is no better time to take in the beauty and tranquility of the nature surrounding us.

Hippocrates got it right when he said, “Walking is a man’s best medicine.” The benefits of “forest bathing” have been well-researched and proven. Even a leisurely 15-20 minute stroll in a forest can restore and rejuvenate our bodies and minds, reduce blood pressure, increase energy, and strengthen our immune systems.

Forests contain a higher concentration of oxygen, and the plant phytoncides (natural oils that plants produce to protect themselves from pests) can improve the human immune system and increase natural cell activity, lasting up to 30 days after the visit. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation website dec.ny.gov/lands/90720.html contains the health benefits and several studies.

While searching for nearby trails, I was surprised to find a multitude of hidden preserves near my backyard. April to November are the recommended times for

hiking, although I have ventured out in cold winter months. Common sense precautions prevail like avoiding trails when wet leaves could be slippery or the ground is icy or muddy. Being prepared by checking the weather, wearing hiking sneakers or boots, choosing appropriate clothing (layers, water-proof) and using bug/tick spray are common tips for a pleasant outdoor adventure.

Whether you prefer a casual promenade under one mile or a challenging trek over five miles, here is a sampling of neighboring North Stamford trails. Most are in residential areas and offer limited parking, so avoiding the weekend crowds is best. There are mixed reviews about their quality regarding maintenance and markings. You can check details, maps and updates on the websites provided at the end of each trail summary.

“I took a walk
in the woods
and came out taller
than trees.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

AllTrails (iOS and Android) is a free, handy app. With a database of over 400,000 trails, it can search specific locations with filters for difficulty, length, elevation gain, wheelchair accessibility, dog-friendliness, maps, scenic highlights, and user reviews and photos. If cell service is a concern, the AllTrails Pro paid option allows you to download offline maps that track your location as you move along the trails.

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Our Woodland Wonders

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North Stamford Trails

Bartlett Arboretum at 51 Brookdale Road has a 1.1-mile loop within its 93 acres of family-friendly gardens, woods, and hiking trails that are open daily from dawn to dusk. They offer special events and concerts throughout the year. Entrance is free (except during paid special events). They have free parking and public restrooms. Dogs must be on leash. See, BartlettArboretum.org

Helen Altschul Preserve has a three-mile trail system accessed by parking in the cul de sac at the end of Mill Stream Road. Open year-round, it contains hallmarks of its glacial history, two ponds, marshland, a dam, a bridge, and ruins of farm buildings and mills. Bow hunting for deer is permitted from 11/23 to 1/31, so it is best to wear bright orange clothing during the season. Dogs must be on leash. See, StamfordLand.or

Birch Meadow has 25.5 acres with public access through a private easement at the end of Gun Club Road. It is open year-round and features a .75-mile forest trail, a small pond, vernal pools, and a view of Lake Windermere from a stone bench at the end of the short spur trail. Dogs must be on leash. See, StamfordLand.or

Newman Mills Park (a.k.a. Riverbank Park) located at 310 Riverbank Road, has 7.6 acres that were originally the site of an old Indian hunting ground and a grist mill owned by Nathaniel Newman in 1726. The scenic half-mile out-and-back trail follows along the Mianus River with waterfalls and a swimming hole. A Stamford beach permit is required to park in the lot. No dogs allowed. See, Stamfordct.gov under “parks.”

The Stamford Museum and Nature Center at 39 Scofieldtown Road has 80 acres of outdoor family-friendly trails behind the



PHOTO: Barbara E. Occhino
Mianus River Park

Overbrook Nature Center, including the accessible Wheels in the Woods trail. There is a fee to enter the property that includes a working farm, a museum and gallery, an interactive nature center, a planetarium, and a playground. They host special events and exhibits. They have restrooms and ample parking. No dogs allowed. See, StamfordMuseum.org.

Near Our Borders

Mianus River Park south of the Merritt Parkway at 71 Merriebrook Lane has 400 acres with six scenic trails (1.7 to 3.8-mile loops) along the Mianus River. They are popular for birding, cross-country skiing and hiking. The Park allows fishing and mountain biking and gets busy on weekends. There are two paved small parking areas at the end of Merriebrook Lane (no street parking). Dogs must be on leash. See, FriendsofMianusRiverPark.org

Taylor Woods Preserve has 21 acres accessible on June Road just west of the intersection with Riverbank Road. The .7-mile loop along the river with cascades is open from April 1 to November 30, dawn to dusk (solar-powered automated gate). Deer management hunting season, away from trails, begins in mid-September. No dogs allowed. See, Mianus.org

Mianus River Gorge Preserve (not to be confused with Mianus River Park) is at 167 Mianus River Road in Bedford. Open April 1 through November 30 from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (closed in winter) it features five miles of beautiful trails, special events and educational initiatives, free parking, and restroom facilities. Deer management hunting season, away from trails, begins in mid-September. No dogs allowed. See, Mianus.org

Zofnass Family Preserve is just a 1/4 mile off Long Ridge Road near the Pound Ridge border. The 127-acre preserve has nearly 7.5 miles of trails open year-round, including a 4.3-mile loop. The rugged terrain features hundreds of stepping stones for crossing streams and wetlands, a 50-foot tall “grand” stone staircase, and educational signs. There are two small parking areas, a two-car dirt lot at 258 Upper Shad Road and a five-car gravel lot at the end of Joshua Hobby Road (off Upper Shad for the eastern loops). Dogs must be on leash. See, WestchesterLandTrust.org.



Bye Preserve Trail is just over the border in Pound Ridge at 19 High Ridge Road with a dirt two- to three car parking area across the Pound Ridge Golf Club. The 2.1-mile trail is within 26 acres of oak and beech trees, a rocky gorge, a fern-filled streambed, and views of cracked bedrock and glacier-tumbled

boulders. No dogs allowed. See, prlc.net/preserves/bye-preserve

Colhoun Meadow & Woodlands has a gravel parking area for about ten cars through a wooden gate across 203 Davenport Ridge Road in New Canaan. Its .8-mile trail meanders through a meadow, wetlands, and a mature beech forest. Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. year-round. Dogs must be on leash. See, newcanaanlandtrust.org

Grace Farms is located at 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan. It has a mowed one-mile walking and jogging trail. The non-profit facility includes a nature preserve, river building, art exhibits, seasonal events, and light dining in the Commons (breakfast/lunch Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and drinks/ snacks until 5:00 P.M.) No dogs allowed. See, GraceFarms.org

Waveny Trail is in the 250-acre Waveny Park at 677 South Avenue in New Canaan. Open year-round 24/7, the family-friendly 1.4-mile trail is well-marked and clean. There are public bathrooms and free parking lots. The Park has 3.5 miles of jogging/walking trails, sports fields, a picnic area, tennis courts, a theatre, an art gallery, and Spencer's Run Dog Park. They feature special events and concerts. Dogs must be on leash. See, newcanaan.info under “parks.”

Autumn beckons us to our woodland wonders, breathing in the aroma of the trees and wildflowers, observing the sunlight glistening on the water, listening to the hypnotic melody of birds, watching little creatures scurrying and foraging, or simply taking a serene moment to sit and breathe. Our spectacular North Stamford is a natural oasis for the body, mind and soul. 🌲



The Lakes of North Stamford

by Frank LaFauci

*N*ORTH STAMFORD IS BLESSED with many picturesque and enjoyable lakes and ponds. Some small ponds are on the property of just one home, others are shared by several homes. Almost all of them add value and beauty to the homes they are near.

These bodies of water require a certain amount of attention by the homeowners, however, particularly if they are used for activities like canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, ice-skating, and especially swimming and fishing. Lakes also bring an exciting array of wildlife including waterfowl, turtles, frogs, muskrats and even mink, which requires attention.

Most lakes are adversely affected by harmless plant growth that occurs on the surface. Commonly known as watermeal or duckweed, these surface-dwelling plants can reduce the visual appeal of a lake or pond. Aside from that, they are harmless. In fact, in some places, they are eaten by people and have even been labeled as superfoods! Information about these plants and how to eliminate them is discussed in the Winter 2010 issue of



“06903.” Contact me at FLafauci@pic-us.com if you would like a copy of the article.

Recently, some lakes in our area are being impacted by something known as HAB, which stands for Harmful Algal Bloom. This occurs when certain kinds of algae bloom out of control, creating health hazards for wildlife, pets and people.

We live on a 3.5-acre lake that is shared by nine families. For the past 35 years, we have had algae on our lake but have been able to control it. It seems like algae in general no longer goes away as quickly as it has in past years. It’s the accumulation of just about any algae in too-large amounts that can cause harm. HAB also occurs in oceans; it is not restricted to lakes or ponds. A narrative from the National Ocean Service called “Harmful Algal Blooms – Tiny Organisms with a Toxic Punch” (<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/hab/>) provides useful information.

In order to more effectively distribute liquid treatments for algae and watermeal, I purchased a remote-controlled airboat which was designed specifically for that purpose. It makes it easy and fun to disperse whatever liquid is placed into the unit’s receptacle and it allows me to regulate how much is dispersed. Some areas should be treated more than others, and the airboat allows me to turn the “spigot” on or off. In this way, I can begin treatment from anywhere on our lake from where I stand on the shore, or in my rowboat, with the remote control.

Mosquitoes are not as much of a problem on environmentally healthy lakes. That is because, although mosquito larvae are hatched from their eggs in water, healthy

lakes limit the number of mosquitoes that hatch. Fish, including guppies, bass, bluegill and catfish, along with turtles, frogs, tadpoles and aquatic beetles, consume the larvae before they ever leave the water.

Mosquito larvae is very often present in standing water that is not part of a lake or pond, however, and virtually every single one of these will hatch as there are no predators in these places. Rowboats and canoes often collect rainwater and can harbor thousands of mosquitos. Other places where mosquitoes lay their eggs are watering cans, clogged gutters, bird baths, or just buckets and pails left out in the rain.

Simply spilling out the water onto land will make sure that almost none will live. Most mosquitoes do not stray far from where they hatch. Also, they only live in the water for anywhere from one to fourteen days before they fly away, depending on the water temperature, species, and food sources. Here is an important takeaway: Do not leave standing water as the wiggling bugs you can see in it are mosquitoes waiting to mature and fly away. For more information, see <https://www.vdci.net/mosquito-biology-101-life-cycle/> and <https://www.orkin.com/pests/mosquitoes/what-eats-mosquitoes>.

Geese are beautiful looking and interesting birds, but their droppings can be a nuisance. Much more importantly, it can be hazardous to humans, pets and the environment because it can contain bacteria, parasites and pathogens. It is most dangerous when consumed or inhaled, but even if just touched, goose poop can transmit salmonella.

Chasing geese may be an effective way to prevent them colonizing your property, but they are very territorial and will return often, so any

efforts to remove them in this way must be sustained. Our lake is particularly attractive to geese and we have tried many things over the years.

Recently we tried something new. We purchased swan decoys that float on the lake, and can also rest on a hard surface such as a dock. Swans are also highly territorial and because they are larger than geese, the geese do not like it when they are around. However, geese eventually figure out that the swans are decoys, even when we move the decoys around regularly. What seems to make the swan decoys effective for us is that although the geese eventually realize the swans are decoys, the decoys still appear to be reducing the number of new geese that are landing on our lake. Over time, this could prove to be a very good deterrent.

On the positive side, even if the swan decoys turn out to be only minimally effective in deterring geese from populating our lake, the decoys are quite ornamental and realistic looking. Many people have asked me if they are real.

For the past fifteen years, Frank LaFauci has managed a small lake in North Stamford on behalf of the surrounding families. He is long-time member of North Stamford Association. 📍



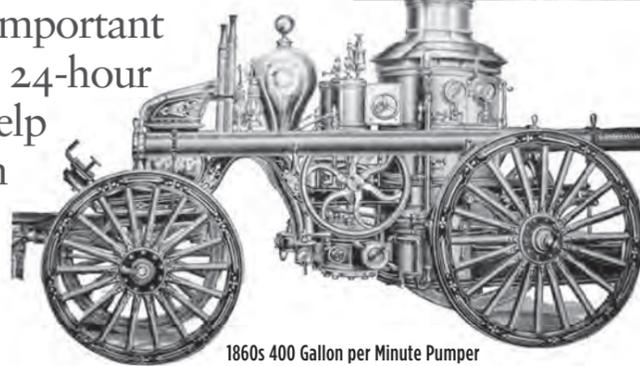
Fire Stations of Stamford

by Renée Kahn

With thanks to Stamford Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program

*F*IRE STATIONS are an indispensable part of any community, urban, suburban or rural. When fighting fires, time is of the essence and a nearby station with modern equipment and trained manpower is vital.

But fire houses are not only important for fighting fires. They provide a 24-hour presence in the neighborhood, help in emergencies, and keep eyes on the street.



1860s 400 Gallon per Minute Pumper



Station 2 (South End / Waterside Fire Station):
215 Washington Blvd. (built 2002 in a former factory)



Station 1 (Central Fire Station): 629 Main St. (built 1972)



Station 3 (West Side Fire Station):
80 Fairfield Ave. (b. 1980)



Station 6 (Glenbrook Fire Station
New Hope Volunteer Fire Co.): 17 Arthur Place



Station 9 (Western Turn of River
Long Ridge Station): 684 Long Ridge Road



Station 12 – Long Ridge: Station 1 –
366 Old Long Ridge Rd. (b. 1956)



Station 4 (East Side / Shippan Point Fire
Station): 364 Shippan Ave. (b. 1955)



Station 7 (Springdale Fire Station): 987 Hope St.
(b. 1955-57)



Station 10 – Turn of River: Station 1 –
268 Turn of River Rd. (built 1966)



Station 13 – Long Ridge: Station 2 –
2619 High Ridge Rd. (b. 1980-81)



Station 5 (Woodside Fire Station):
1620 Washington Blvd. (b. 1976)



Station 8 (Eastern Turn of River High Ridge Station):
28 Vine Rd. (b. 2008)



Station 11 – Turn of River: Station 2 –
50 Roxbury Rd.



Station 14 – Belltown Fire Dept. (Volunteer) –
8 Dorlen Rd. (b. 1960; Norman Raymond, architect)

Stamford

by Renée Kahn

Fire Stations



South End Fire Station 2: 670 Pacific St.
(opened March 29, 1900)



East Side Fire Station: 80 Lockwood Ave.
(built 1909; for political reasons, never used)



Springdale Fire Station, 980 Hope Street (built c. 1908)



Belltown Fire Station: 11 Leonard St. (built 1933)

Putting Out the Fires

by Renée Kahn

Grand Opera House. Built in 1893, it was gutted by fire in 1904. Site of present Palace Theatre.



Small bake oven at upper right of fireplace opening

SINCE STAMFORD'S earliest settlements were composed of wood dwellings heated by massive stone fireplaces, the threat of fire was constant. Wood houses were quick to catch fire and without an available water supply, difficult to put out. The second highest cause of death in women before the Revolution (childbirth was first)

was burns acquired while tending bake ovens at the rear of their huge stone fireplaces. When the side oven came into use at the end of the 18th century, settlers were quick to switch over to this life-saving innovation. If a house caught fire, the entire community joined together to fight it as it endangered the entire town, using "bucket brigades"

Continued on page 14



Henry R. Towne's house, Rockland, later the Rockland Hotel, Pacific Street. Built c. 1876, destroyed by arson 1970



Octagon House built c. 1890, Strawberry Hill Avenue. Destroyed by arson in 1970



St. John's Episcopal Church, Main Street, 1890 after fire



Old Town Hall destroyed by fire in 1904



Above - Cove Mills, Cove Island, destroyed by fire 1919



Left - Harding Woolen Mills, West Main Street at bridge. Destroyed 1886

Putting Out the Fires

Continued from page 13

before the advent of fire-fighting equipment. Even after the advent of kerosene stoves and oil lamps for cooking, heating, and lighting, fire remained a constant threat.

It was not until 1845, 200 years after Stamford was founded, that a fire station was constructed on Atlantic Square behind the Old Town Hall. It was called Rippowam Engine Company #1 and designed to house the town's first piece of fire-fighting equipment, a new pumper. By 1885, the all-volunteer fire force began to acquire full time men and equipment, and to this day, some of Stamford's fire departments remain a mix of professionals and volunteers.

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Stamford's history was marked by a series of spectacular fires that destroyed major landmarks including the Presbyterian Church in 1882, the Collender Billiard Factory in the South End in 1883 (the flames were visible as far as Darien), the Harding Woolen Mills on West Main Street in 1886, Old Town Hall on Atlantic Square in 1904, Waterside Mills in 1917 and, only a few years later, Cove Island Mills in 1919.

The Rockland Hotel, the South End mansion built for industrialist Henry R. Towne, was torched by an irate tenant (it had become a rooming house) in 1970 while the rare and wonderful Octagon House at 120 Strawberry Hill came down in 1985 after two arson attempts. Buildings, small and large, were lost almost on a daily basis and firemen, firefighting equipment and firehouses were, of necessity, an all-important part of life in Stamford. 🏠



Top - Springdale Fire Station
Middle- Central Fire Station 653 Main Street
Bottom - Fire Station on Luther Street with President Grover Cleveland standing sixth from left. c 1892





Ellen Weston

Beautiful North Stamford



Mary Trehan



Meg Tocantins



Ellen Weston



Mary Trehan



Mary Trehan

The Dick Who Said She Was A Duck

by Mark Diamond

HE WAS ON HOLD about an oil bill when the man wearing a brown belt and black shoes stood outside her office door that read, "Rachel Leah: Private Investigator." He knocked.

"Come in." She hit the hold button as a large man in a grey suit and bowtie penguin his way through her doorway, shoving a handkerchief into his coat pocket. "This guy looks like Jack Carson," she thought

"Are you Ms. Leah?"

"That's what the door says." She answered with the broad smile she had practiced since fourteen. "May I hate you?"

His eyes narrowed, and Rachel knew she had said the wrong word.

"I'm sorry," she laughed. "I just got off the phone with my insurance company." She extended an open hand to the chair by her desk. "May I help you, sir?"

The man sat down with a grunt. "Well, sure," he said, removing the handkerchief to wipe his forehead. "You know, I find myself in need of some help. But I'm hesitant to say what it's about."

He waited for a response but got none. "You see, I owe money to some men. Not a lot of money. Well, I suppose some people would consider it a lot of money. In any event, it's money, and these men won't hesitate to cut my testicles off if I don't pay them."

Rachel's ear twitched. "Charming," she said. "Couldn't you have cleaned it up a bit?"

"I did. You understand, this is a sensitive issue for me. I believe my life is in danger. I need the help of a qualified investigator such as yourself."

"And for what purpose?" Is this guy for real? she thought as she took a legal pad from her desk drawer. "Why don't you just tell me what



you are and who you need."

He stared at her. "You mean who I am and what I need?"

Rachel shook her head, annoyed at herself. "Yes, that too."

"Well, alright. I borrowed a hundred-thousand dollars from these people in order to invest in an AI software project with a student of mine," he said sweating. "The first tranche of payments was due last week and all my liquid assets, so to say, are tied up in virtual currency, which is what they call it. Do you know what that is, Ms. Leah?"

"Yes," she said. "I think they call it cryptocurrency"

"Okay, good. Then I won't explain." He removed a single cigarette from his pants pocket and started to light it.

"I'm sorry, do you mind?"

"It's your, your ... Your place where people go when they leave."

"Excuse me?"

This is so hard, she thought. I have to slow down. "Funeral. It's your funeral. Please proceed."

"You mean with my story or with lighting my cigarette." By this time the match flame was perilously close to his fingertips.

"Your cigarette.... Hurry!" she screamed. He rushed the match to the end of his Lucky and shook his fist furiously.

"I am not looking to pilfer these men," he continued. "But I am, well, in a pickle. You see, all my cash is now with Bitcoin and I have forgotten the password I need to access it."

Rachel nodded. This was not the first person who sought help to find the forgotten location of something important, jewelry or an embarrassing letter. But this would be her first crypto case.

"What is your name?"

"Jenkins, Allen Jenkins. I am sorry, that was rude. I should have introduced myself at once." He took another draw on the cigarette and exhaled in a hush. "You see, this is how I have become. Absent minded. Worried. Ever since this situation became a situation. For me, that is. A situation"

Rachel stared at him. "Mr. Jenkins, I have to say, I don't feel you're telling me the whole story."

Jenkins waived his hand and started to speak.

"However," she interrupted, "a client is a client and if you need my help, I am here to hurry you."

"What?"

Goddamn it. "Help you. I am here to help you. I'm sorry, Mr. Jenkins, I haven't had my coffee yet. The phone hasn't stopped ringing. Yes, I will try to help you."

He heaved a sigh. "Thank goodness. I have been to the police about this but they laughed at me like I was wearing a straw hat. I have literally torn my apartment apart looking for the code, which I feel sure must have been put to paper at some point."

"And so where is the paper?" Rachel offered.

"Just that," he said, staring at his cigarette. "I cannot remember the password or where I put it. Virtual currency is all new to me. I ask you, Ms. Leah, what kind of system is it that you cannot access your money without a secret code? It is as if the system were designed to fail. I have begun to wonder who gets one's money if one cannot recall their password?"

Rachel nodded. "That's a good question. And, I agree. It's not a system designed with much redun ... redun ... Much

redundancy."

She took a business card from her wallet and offered it to him.

"Write down your email address. I will send you a retainer agreement. I need a three-thousand dollar deposit against my fee of two-hundred dollars and hour," she said. "Can you get that, considering your money troubles?" She realized she was beginning to talk like him

Jenkins nodded as he wrote the information on the card. "Well, I misspoke. Not all my money is in Bitcoin. I still have a checking account. A savings account as well." He shifted in his chair. "I will forward the signed agreement and funds to you at once, Ms. Leah." He looked around for an ashtray. Finding none, he flicked a crooked ash into his pants cuff.

"You have my gratitude, madame. I am already relieved. I feel sure you will be able to help me."

Rachel offered her hand. "Yes, well then I guess that's it for now. By the way, who sent you to me?"

"I saw your ad on a diner placemat."

"I see," Rachel said and offered her hand. "Feel confident, Mr. Jenkins. I will help you."

Jenkins smiled as he pumped her hand, bowed, and walked out the way he came.

Rachel had second thoughts the moment he left. Had she looked outside her window, she would have had reason to. Jenkins turned up his collar as he left her building and headed toward the bus stop down the block. Across the street, a Chinese man in pajamas was watching Rachel's office from behind the window of an Irish bar. He downed what was left of his schnapps, patted the gat beneath his jacket, and left the saloon in a hurry.

Rachel was a private eye because her father had been a detective with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police for 22 years. He told her, when she expressed interest in joining the force, that it was not a place for a cocky woman. But after her incessant questioning and pestering, he relented to the extent of teaching her the trade

The Dick Who Said She Was A Duck

Continued

so she could go into the business for herself.

The problem was that Rachel was aphasic. Two years earlier while on vacation, sitting on a damp towel at the beach, she had a stroke. She was thirty years old and in good health, except for the stroke.

The words in the book she was reading started to make no sense. Then she realized she could not move the left side of her body. And then she was unconscious.

Her husband, who was sitting beside her, woke with a start.

“Something happened!” He turned to look at her. “I told you not to drink in the sun.” Rachel said nothing.

“Rachel?” he asked. “Rachel!”

He was lucky to reach emergency services at their remote spot. Tom was a poet. Waiting forever for the ambulance to arrive, he cradled his wife’s head and whispered, “No more by thee my steps shall be.” He choked back a sob. “Not yet.”

The ambulance took her to the nearest hospital, which was miles away. The neurosurgeon on call left his meal and sped. Rachel was already prepped for the surgery needed to cauterize the vein that had sprung a leak in her head and which saved her life.

But the stroke or the surgery or both left her with aphasia, a language disorder that leaves the patient grasping for the right word. Weeks after the surgery, Rachel would point to a tree and say, “Wood.” The speech pathologist would tell her the next session was Tuesday and she would hear Monday.

They told her it would be years before she would recover her language skills. Rachel was having none of it. Her father had been a hero and she was, too. After a year of speech therapy that made her cry with frustration, she entered her office for the first time and went back to work.

She learned new ways to communicate.

She analyzed the words of others for context and took educated guesses at what she could not understand. She watched people’s faces for clues that she was saying was wrong or the right thing. She practiced speaking slower and got over the embarrassment of asking others to do the same.

They told her that her language ability at the end of the first year would be the best it would ever get. It turns out that damaged dendrites and neurons may regrow, like grasping fingers, and the mind, encased in chalk, broad as a universe, reanimates.

“Bright and early, Mr. Jenkins?”

Already outside her office next morning, he shrugged.

“I am not taking a chance with my life. Would you?”

“I suppose not.” She opened the door and led him in. Jenkins handed her a check that had his printed name but no address.

“I thank you and my bookie thanks you.”

“What?”

“Old joke. You don’t watch many movies, do you?” She hung up her coat. “While you’re here, can I get some information from you?”

He took his seat. “I am at your service.”

“Let me find a penis.”

“I don’t understand.”

She pursed her lips. “Pencil. I’m so sorry. Let me find my pencil.”

Nervously she scrounged through her desk drawer. She took a breath and looked up.

“I’m sorry,” she said. “Let me ask you this. Where did you open your cryptic wallet?” She had done research the night before.

“Something called Metamask. That is

where my account is located.”

“Do you remember at least your username?”

“It is my surname.”

“Mr. Jenkins,” she said. “I would like you to rest your eyes while I speak to you.” She rose and closed the venetian blinds.

I’m making the room dark for a reason. I am going to speak quietly and calmly. I am going to help you remember. I would like you to close your eyes and picture the room that you were in when you opened the account. Do you remember the room that you were in when you opened your crypto account?

I was in my kitchen on my laptop.

In your kitchen. Sitting at the table.

Typing on your laptop.

Yes.

Please see yourself sitting at your kitchen table. You are typing on your laptop. Feel the keys beneath your fingers. Is there anything cooking in your kitchen as you sit at your table working on your toplap.

Yes. I was brewing coffee.

There is a pot of coffee brewing on your stove. You can see the pot of coffee brewing as you sit at the table in your kitchen. You can smell the coffee. How good it smells. How deep and rich it smells.

Yes.

And you are sitting at your kitchen table, typing the words for your new account. You are excited about opening a new account because it is a new account and you are excited because you are opening your new crypto account. And the coffee is brewing on the stove. And it is dark and rich. And it smells dark and rich.

And now you see yourself at your kitchen table. And now you are starting to type on your laptop, isn’t that right?

Yes.

And now you are typing your username. Your name is your username and you are typing it at the laptop in your kitchen. And the coffee is almost ready.

And now you have just typed your name. You can see it, can’t you?

I do.

Yes you do. You can see the words.

You can smell the coffee. You can feel the keys beneath your fingers. How they sound. The click and clack of the keys. Click. Clack. Click. Clack. And now you are ready to enter a password, because you need the password to open your account. And you know that you want to type the password. One that you know. One you remember. Can you see yourself typing in your password?

I do.

And you are starting to type it. And you can smell the coffee almost ready to drink. And you can hear the keys clicking and clacking, clicking and clacking. And now you are typing your password.

Yes.

What are you typing on your laptop in the kitchen as the coffee is brewing?

Metamask.

Metamask. Is there anything else?

No.

What else is there.

A number.

Yes you do see a number. You are typing the rest of your password on your laptop in the kitchen while the coffee brews. And it smells so good. What is the number you are typing.

22.

Metamask22. Is that what you see as you sit at your keyboard at the kitchen table typing your password with coffee brewing on the stove?

Yes.

Very good, Mr. Jenkins. Very good. And now I am going to ask you to picture yourself getting ready to come to my office today. Can you see that.

Yes.

And you are leaving your house.

Yes.

And you are climbing the stairs.

Yes.

And now you are at my front door. And you greet me when I arrive as I open the door. And we both walk through the open door. And now you are sitting in the chair, such a comfortable chair.

Mr. Jenkins, I will count to three. And as I count, with each number you will slowly

The Dick Who Said She Was A Duck

Continued

open your eyes. And when I get to three your eyes will be open, and you will be awake and feel refreshed. More peaceful and refreshed than you have ever felt. One. Feel your eyes slowly start to open. Two, and your eyes are almost open. And three.

Jenkins opened his eyes.

“It’s dark in here.”

Rachel opened the blinds. “You were wonderful, Mr. Jenkins.”

“I was?”

“You were. Mr. Jenkins, while you were sitting there with your eyes closed, you remembered your password.”

“I did!?”

“Yes. Mr. Jenkins, do you have your laptop with you?”

Jenkins nearly fell in his haste to retrieve the computer from his briefcase.

“Access your Metamask program.”

“I’m on.”

“Type in your user name.”

He complied.

“Now bring your cursor to the password box.”

He did.

“Now enter the following phrase. Metamucil22.”

Jenkins began to type.

“Oh no!” she thought.

“Oh, no!” he screamed “It worked!!

You are a genius. How did you do it? I owe you my life.”

Her hands were shaking as she thought of what just happened. Rachel took a sip of cold coffee and closed her eyes.

“We are in God’s hands, Mr. Jenkins.”

Her husband was cooking dinner by the time she got home.

“How did it go?”

“It went fine,” she lied. “I hypnotized him. We were able to figure out his password. He tried it and it worked. He was able to get his money.” There was no point in telling him what really happened.

Tom shook his head. “Too soon,” he said. “How many hours can you charge him for that?”

“It doesn’t matter. I spent time researching crypto and Blockchain. He was in the office an hour. It doesn’t matter. I was able to help a client.”

“That’s good,” he said, stirring the soup. “You know, you’re in business.”

“I know.” She tried to change the subject. “What’s for dinner?”

“And if you’re in business the goal it to make a profit.”

“I know.”

“I’m just saying.”

“I know.” She sat at the kitchen table and looked up at him. “What’s for dinner?”

He thought about it a moment. “Burgerham.” ■



Way Back When

By Bob Callahan

Public Fantasies: The Movies –The Movie Magazines



THESE WERE LOTS of movie magazines around the house when I was little. They came in the mail every week. I'm showing just a few of them here. There must have been a hundred of them... all costing 10 or 15 cents.



I loved looking through them even though they were talking mostly about the love lives of movie stars. When Errol Flynn had a new film about a pirate or Robin Hood,



the movie magazines showed great action photographs. And the movie theatre displayed them in cases outside the theatre house. They were called stills.

In one magazine called "Screenland" there was a story titled, "Deanna Durbin's Unknown

Story." I don't recall what the unknown story was but I remember hearing her audition for Universal Pictures in my grandfather's house in New Rochelle. His name was P.D. Cochrane and he was vice president of advertising for Universal Pictures. I was at the top of the stairs in my pajamas and heard a young girl singing like an angel in the living room.



Deanna Durbin was a Canadian girl who co-starred with Judy Garland in the MGM musical short "Every Sunday." The same year, Universal Pictures hired Miss Durbin to star in "3 Smart Girls," her first full-length feature. Her strong screen presence made the film a huge success.

In the early 1940s Universal's

"The Wolf Man" opened in New York. I saw an article about it in one of the movie magazines. It looked really scary.



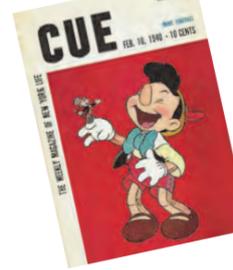
We snuck in one Saturday afternoon when a movie ticket cost 25 cents.



I remember the deep layer of fog throughout the black and white movie. And out of the fog, from time to time, Lon Chaney Jr.

appeared and scared the wits out of us children.

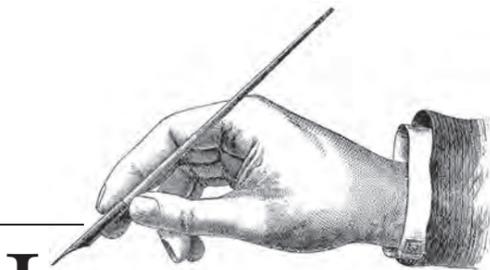
My favorite movie magazine was called "Cue." Cue magazine also featured a listing of restaurants but it mainly showed the movies that were playing around New York and suburban Westchester County. It told me what movies were being shown at the three movie theatres in New Rochelle... RKO Proctors, Loews, and the Rialto.



Some of the early covers of the old movie magazines are works of art, vivid color illustrations by artists such as F. Earl Christy, James Montgomery Flagg, and Marland Stone. The Carole Lombard Photoplay cover at right bottom is an example of Flagg's work. He was well known for his wartime recruiting poster, "I Want You."

Marlon Stone was a popular pulp artist who painted idealized women for movie magazine covers, and was influenced by the Gibson girl of Charles Dana Gibson. His Motion Picture Classic cover of Jean Harlow is shown below.





Letters TO THE Editor

To the Editor:

In the last session, the state legislature worked to develop and pass the state's biennial 2024-2025 budget. The process was approached with great deliberation and thought. It was focused on continuing to fund the most pressing priorities and maintaining, for the fifth year in a row, a balanced and fiscally responsible budget.

The budget we passed includes the largest income tax cut in Connecticut history. It continues to pay down the state's pension liabilities by approximately \$2.1 billion while making deposits of \$3.3 billion into the state's rainy day fund. Our sustained commitment to fiscal responsibility has earned Connecticut an upgrade in the State's General Obligation bond ratings from AA to AA+ by the Kroll Bond Rating Agency.

The budget includes significant increases in funding for K-12 education, including for Stamford Public Schools. The Stamford legislative delegation secured nearly \$52 million in state funding for the renovation of Roxbury Elementary School and over \$200 million in state funding for the construction of a new Westhill High School. Additionally, the delegation secured \$17.1 million in Education Cost Sharing funds, up seven percent for fiscal year 2024, and another \$19.8 million for 2025. And the Stamford School District was awarded a grant of \$83,700 from the Connecticut State Department of Education Summer Mental Health Supports Grant program.

When the session opened, legislators were asked to introduce bills to advance their priorities. I am proud to have sponsored and co-sponsored several bills, two of which I introduced.

Recruiting and retaining teachers and healthcare professionals

There are over 100,000 job openings in the state, a number that, despite our employment gains, has not significantly declined. Two sectors are experiencing an acute labor shortage: healthcare and education.

To help remedy this situation, I introduced a bill to improve recruitment and retention of teachers and healthcare professionals. It received strong support from hospitals, healthcare and teaching professionals, and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. It was passed with bipartisan support.

The purpose of the law is to encourage students to enroll in programs of study to prepare for careers in high demand positions, such as teaching and healthcare. Students who do may be eligible for incentives like student loan forgiveness if they commit to working in Connecticut.



Protecting those who protect us: Our professional firefighters

For our firefighters, cancer risks from exposure to dangerous chemicals are sadly a part of the job. According to the International Association of Firefighters, 66 percent of career firefighter deaths from 2002-2019 were caused by cancer. The link between firefighting careers and cancer is so extreme that the World Health Organization has declared firefighting to be a cancer-causing profession. In the biennial budget, we provided five-million dollars for a firefighters' cancer relief fund.

In addition to these bills I sponsored, I supported bills to protect women and children, keep our communities safe from gun violence, address childcare needs, improve our education system, and expand access to voting.

Protecting our environment has been a lifelong passion. New legislation will respond to the municipal solid waste crisis with new funding for facilities and mandatory food scrap diversion at colleges, hospitals, and nursing homes; provide more funding to towns to deal with harmful chemicals like PFAS; expand eligibility for Microgrid and Resilience Loans, allowing the state to build more green buildings; manage vegetation along highways and the idling of

motor vehicles which will improve the quality of our air, soil and water; reduce highway noise; and ensure that we leave our environment in a better state for our children.

I thank you for the privilege of serving as assemblyman for the 149th district of the state house. I invite you to please reach out to me at rachel.khanna@cga.ct.gov

Rachel Khanna

State Representative, House District 149

To the Editor:

The regular legislative session for 2023 ended with important developments for Stamford and our state. There were some positive bipartisan accomplishments but also ideological barriers to improving our state. One of the most important lessons I've learned from my few years representing Stamford in the Senate is that there are good people on both sides and that the best legislation passed is bipartisan.

I was proud to pass four bills that I authored and co-authored this year with strong bipartisan support. They ranged from strengthening utilities oversight to expanding birth control access to supporting our charities to improving pathways to the workforce in Connecticut. Here is a longer description of the bills, which the governor has signed into law.

H.B. 6768 – Improved Birth Control Access.

My birth control access bill, co-authored with Sen. Heather Somers, will adopt a policy that has worked successfully in over 20 other states and allows trained and licensed pharmacists to prescribe oral contraception. It improves choices and outcomes and reduces barriers to access for women.

S.B. 7 – Energy and Utility Reform

After many months of working with my

colleagues and the Lamont administration, we passed bipartisan legislation aimed at strengthening oversight of the state's utilities on behalf of consumers and improving future reliability and affordability of our state's electricity grid. It includes reforming the Renewable Portfolio Standard to improve the reliability of our grid and reduce costs in the long-term; ensuring there is cost transparency on electricity bills for consumers so they know what they're paying, including state policy costs; more robust and transparent regulation of utility rate setting; and limiting cost recovery on the backs of consumers by utilities for lawyers, consultants, travel and leisure for executives, and influence peddling. There is still much more we need to do to lower costs.

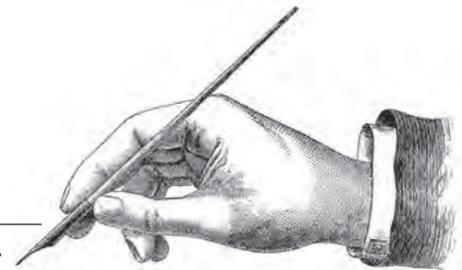
S.B. 1058 – Supporting Charities and Nonprofit Fundraising

Charities in Connecticut have raised millions in spite of being hindered from doing so by the state's restrictive laws around charitable raffles and bazaars. My bill fixed and streamlined our outdated state laws by limiting legal liability regarding fundraising through bazaars and raffles.

S.B. 1124 – Pathways to Work for Those Without College Degrees

Finally, we passed a bill that directs the state to identify state jobs that contain unnecessary and burdensome college degree requirements. This will enable the state to open opportunities for state jobs to more workers who do not have college degrees, which constitutes over 60 percent of our workforce! A policy change will also positively serve taxpayers and citizens by broadening the talent pool for state hiring. This bill passed unanimously in both houses of the legislature.

There remain challenges in our state



Letters TO THE Editor

unanimously in both houses of the legislature.

There remain challenges in our state government. We need to reduce the tax burden on Stamford families, reduce the cost of energy and health care, improve our infrastructure and schools, and protect local control of our planning and zoning.

It is my honor to represent you for a second term as senator for the 36th district of the state senate. North Stamford is a special place not only to our city, but the entire state. If you ever have any questions or need anything, contact me at ryan.fazio@cga.ct.gov.

Ryan Fazio
State Senator, Senate District 36

To the Editor:

I've always been captivated by glass, especially colored glass. I love the way it interplays with light; its glimmer and shine, and, although fragile, its permanence. I love Tiffany lampshades and the Frank Lloyd Wright windows. It is exciting to walk into a huge glass warehouse filled with thousands of large sheets of stained glass in infinite color combinations, textures, opacities, and finishes.

I feel fortunate to spend my days working with art glass in my North Stamford studio. I've made many windows and lampshades but really fell in love with using stained glass to create fine art mosaics. In creating my mosaics, I hand select and cut each of the hundreds of individual pieces of art glass and arrange them together in order to achieve a painterly effect. It's like painting with small pieces of stained glass, but of course no paint is involved.

Once the mosaic is completed, I select a substrate to mount it to. For the substrate, I use either a white board, mirror, or clear glass, depending on which of these make the

stained glass colors pop the most and whether it was designed for interior or exterior use.

I use this technique to create colorful and exciting wall hangings, tabletops, garden art and murals. I've installed mosaics on the side of buildings, on a cupola to mimic an aquarium, on columns of a house, and on fence posts to create free standing murals. When I see a large empty or unattractive area, my mind visualizes a mosaic to brighten up that space.

My mosaics depict all kinds of subject matter, but some of my favorites include renderings of floral and water scenes, mermaids, portraits, company logos, and abstract explosions of color. Some of my completed pieces are available for sale at The Stained Glass Apple. Some pictures of my artwork are on Instagram at [Beverlyroberts245](https://www.instagram.com/Beverlyroberts245).

Beverly Roberts



To the Editor:

In the Northeast corner of Stamford is a small community made up of the roads Woodbine, Thornwood, Brushwood, Bittersweet, and, at its center, Quails Trail. The series of dead end streets which define this quiet, tranquil area make for great social interaction. It is ideal for walking, baby strollers, and children bike riding as it has flat roads with very little traffic. It is noteworthy that this is the only backcountry part of Stamford, north of the Merritt, that has street lights, so as the sun sets the lighted neighborhood still beckons.

There is a very strong sense of a cohesive neighborhood community. A stroll will inevitably lead to conversations with many neighbors and not a car passes where waves aren't exchanged. Many neighborhood events are enjoyed.

To that end, for the better part of 50 years, the Woodbine Civic Association has collected dues and operated social events for its neighbors. Currently run by Anne Engel, president, there are cocktail parties, food truck evenings, social gatherings, Christmas caroling, and an annual Halloween gathering. As children play, dogs cavort, and adults enjoy conversations with a libation, it is a time for all to leave the isolation of their homes and interact with their neighbors. We've been doing this since the 1970s.

This is a special part of the city of Stamford, one that still reminds us of a simpler, more social time. It's a neighborhood.

Bill James

Dear Editor:

We recently adopted a dog who loves other dogs and people and loves to run and play. My husband, Raymond, frequently take our dog to the Stamford Dog Park, which

works well for Charlie but not for us. It is located on Glenbrook Road near Exit 9 off the Turnpike, which is at least a half-hour drive from here, longer with frequent bad traffic.

It seems that with so many dog owners and lovers in North Stamford, we should have another dog park. New Canaan no longer lets non-residents use theirs.

It takes much work and dedication to create such a park, but we are willing to spearhead the effort. However, we know of no location possible at this point, but suspect that land could be found, maybe at Dorothy Heroy Park. If enough folks are interested, we could work with the Stamford Parks Department to learn the process and work to get a dog park built in our community. We hope other NSA members will join this project to help.

Trish Dayan
tdayan@aol.com



Next time you are on the walkway around Scofieldtown Park, take a load off at its new (and only) park bench, which was donated by your North Stamford Association over the summer.



Eddie and Dan hard at work.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the association is to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of life in North Stamford, identified as all areas north of the Merritt Parkway and within the limits of the City of Stamford. The mission of the Association shall include, but not be limited to:

- ~ Seeking to ensure a fair share of city services commensurate with the taxes paid for North Stamford;*
- ~ Protecting the integrity and seeking to ensure the appropriateness of land use regulations and decisions, including but not limited to the regulations and decisions of the Planning, Zoning, Zoning Appeals, and Environmental Protection Boards of the City of Stamford;*
- ~ Encouraging the enhancement of the quality and availability of educational opportunities in North Stamford;*
- ~ Promoting communication among the residents of North Stamford;*
- ~ Maintaining the natural beauty of North Stamford, and:*
- ~ Advocating the need to preserve, protect and defend the natural resources and environment within North Stamford and its surrounding communities.*

NSA Membership

Join your neighbors who are already working to help the community. Please complete the membership form and mail it to us with a check.

If you would like more information, phone us at 203.329.2498 or email us at Info@northstamfordassoc.org

Please send your Letters to the Editor to:
NSA
P.O. Box 16830
Stamford, CT 06905
www.northstamfordassoc.org
 or
Mark Diamond at
markd53@hotmail.com

NSA Membership — Year 2024 North Stamford Association Membership Dues

Please complete this form and mail it to:
 P.O. Box 16830, Stamford, CT 06905
 or join/renew online at northstamfordassoc.org

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 Email _____



Membership per Household

- Gifts \$ 25
- Sponsor \$ 50
- Patron \$125
- Benefactor \$125+