

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2014

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2014 Annual Appeal

In early September letters were mailed to all postal patrons in Harwinton as well as some out-of-town friends of the Historical Society seeking contributions to the annual appeal. The money raised will be used to further the efforts of the Society to preserve and protect the history of Harwinton.

Thank you to those who have already contributed.

Please Support the Historical Society at the Fair

OCTOBER 4th and 5th

The Harwinton Historical Society traditionally operates the Country Store, Blacksmith Shop and Shingle Mill located in the Early Americana area at the South end of the Harwinton fairgrounds. This is a major undertaking.

Ken Birden will return to demonstrate the workings of a blacksmith shop. Brian Dunbar, millwright, and volunteers will demonstrate making wood shingles in the circa 1850's mill.

There will be baked goods, good used books and hand crafted items for sale in the country store. Pam Chambers of New Hartford will return to demonstrate her pottery skills and will have hand-crafted items for sale.

See FAIR on page 4.....



Harwinton First Selectman Michael Criss presented certificates to a group of local children for their fund-raising efforts. See Story page 2.

Can You Help?

Each year the Historical Society conducts an election of officers.

In order for the process to take place, a three-person nominating committee is needed to seek candidates for the offices listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

This is a valuable short-term contribution. Please contact President Ellie Woike at 860-485-1418 or ewoike@charter.net if you can serve. You must be a member in good standing.

Children Raise Funds for Harwinton House

Nine local children were given special recognition by Harwinton First Selectman Michael Criss for showing leadership in the community. The children collected just over \$200 in one month at two lemonade stands in support of the Harwinton House restoration project.

The first stand was set up on South Road at Village Lane in late August. The second was along Route 118 during a September schoolhouse and barn museum open house sponsored by the Harwinton Historical Society. The Society provided the lemonade for that event.



Seven of the nine children were able to be at Town Hall on Tuesday, September 23, when Mr. Criss presented them with certificates noting their hard work and community spirit. The children who participated in the lemonade stand events were Sam Bushka, Luke Bushka, Eliza Criss, Spencer Criss, Kayla Czaplicki, Thomas O'Connell, Mary O'Connell, Colleen O'Connell and Kai Denton. Sam and Luke Bushka were unable to attend the ceremony at Town Hall due to a prior commitment. Michael Criss is the uncle of Eliza and Spencer Criss.

Harwinton House Sign Temporarily in Storage

You may have noticed that the thermometer monitoring fund-raising for the Harwinton House project has been removed from the bottom of Bentley Drive. The sign is in storage while grant money and new fund-raising efforts are pursued.

Harwinton House was built in Harwinton in 1795 by Loyalist Stephen Graves. In 1931 the house was dismantled and rebuilt in New Canaan. When the family that owned the property in 2010 decided to build a new home on the property, the older adjacent house was schedule to be demolished

A New Canaan group with an interest in preserving history alerted Harwinton officials who quickly arranged to have the house disassembled and returned to Harwinton where it is stored in trailers as fund-raising continues. The project to rebuild the house is expected to cost about \$500,000. Toward that goal, \$250,000 to \$300,000 must be raised to finish the effort.

The Harwinton House Committee, which has been working for about three years on plans to rebuild the house, will be suspended by the Board of Selectmen once the architect phase is complete. This should be by the end of this calendar year. Suspension of the nine-member committee is expected to continue until resources or grants are pursued through the Board of Selectmen to fund the full project.

FAIR, continued from page 1

The Harwinton Library friends will provide a display explaining plans to expand the local public library. The Harwinton Seniors will make their colorful hand-crafted fleece blankets available.

Three books about Harwinton's history will be for sale as well: *Vignettes* by Lloyd Shanley (former first selectman and town historian), *"This n That"* by Raymond Bentley (the town's first historian) and *"More Memories"* a collection of Harwinton memorabilia by the Harwinton Historical Society.

This is a major fund-raising effort by the Historical Society to help preserve the history of Harwinton. You can help by volunteering or donating bakery items for sale at the fair. To volunteer contact Dennis or Bonnie Andrews at band43@optonline.net or 860-482-7978.

If you can contribute to the bakery booth, drop your items off at the country store Friday evening, Oct. 3, before 7 p.m. or any time after 8 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday. The fair will be open until 6 p.m. Saturday. The most popular items are homemade pies, cookies and sweet breads. Please do not mark items with prices in advance, but please do note if your item contains nuts!

NOTE: Brian Dunbar can use some additional help in the Shingle Mill. If you can volunteer for a few hours in the mill, please contact Brian at brian@kaszney.com or 860-485-9056. Training will be provided for new comers.

**** **Recipe Correction:** *The Harwinton Fair Premium book incorrectly added an extra ingredient in Mom's Applesauce Cake on page 24. There should be NO Cake Flour in this recipe* ****



This baby carriage, which was carefully and beautifully restored by Fred Fiore of Harwinton will be on display in the country store at the annual Harwinton Fair.

OFFICERS:

President: Eleanor Woike
Vice Pres.: Nancy Schnyer
Secretary: Loda Sheehan
Treasurer: Harry Schuh

DIRECTORS:

Luella Bartes
James Curtis
Carol Kearns
Candace Jones-Pacholski
Elaine Sederquist
Open

CURATORS:

Beverly Mosher
Bonnie Andrews

BUILDINGS:

Dennis Andrews

***HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACHIEVEMENT
- Bronze Status Reached -***

The Harwinton Historical Society has participated in the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations, or StEPs for the past two years. This is a program offered by the American Association for State and Local History, or AASLH. StEPs is a national self-study educational program that recognizes selected historical societies' completion in each of the program's six phases.

Upon completion of each phase, AASLH provides certificates enabling the society to demonstrate its work in the various areas. Six areas were studied and evaluated. They included: Mission, Vision and Governance; Audience; Management and Stewardship of Collections; Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Interpretation.

Six Harwinton Historical Society members attended training and information sessions over the past two years. Those attending were: Harry Schuh, Carol Kearns, Richard Pacholski, Candace Jones-Pacholski, Bonnie Andrews and Dennis Andrews. Mary English also attended some of the sessions.

Bronze is the first major level on which the six-member STEPs committee devoted its efforts. Harwinton's Bronze Certificates have been received. The committee is currently working on the Silver Level of Achievement. That level should be completed during the winter months. The Gold Level is the final level that the committee will attempt to achieve.

The Society is grateful to AASLH for the opportunity to participate in its StEPs study program.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

September Trivia Question: What year did emergency 911 phone service start in Harwinton?
Answer: 1989

October Trivia Question: What was the original name of the Harwinton Fair?
Answer In the November newsletter

Newsletter Distribution

The Harwinton Historical Society's monthly newsletter is currently distributed to about 175 email addresses. If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter via email, send their name, address and email to harwhistsoc@gmail.com.

About 30 Historical Society members who do not have an email address receive the newsletter via the US Postal Service. Because of the cost of first class postage, the newsletter will only be delivered by first class mail to members who do not have an email address.