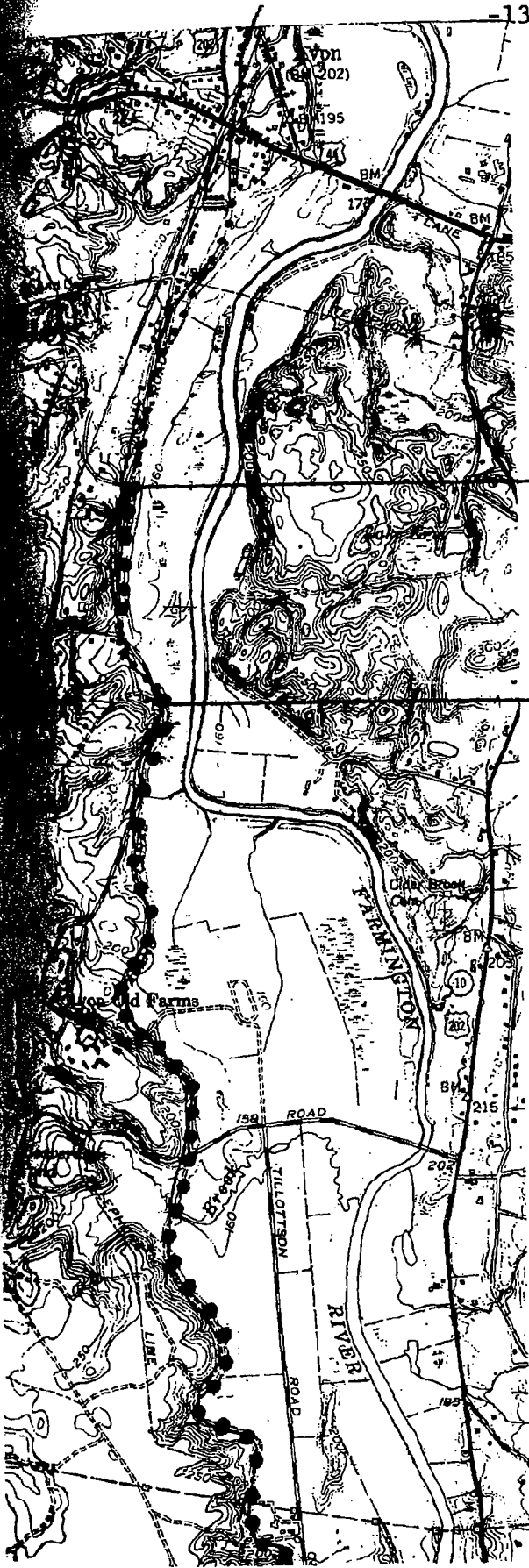


The canal has been almost eliminated by development in Avon Center and along Old Farms Road as far south as Sandscreen Road.

EXHIBIT NO.  
EDELSON 8A



● A single bank of the canal becomes noticeable as a distinct landscape feature for 2000 feet, until it is intersected by Old Farms Road.

● Here the canal reappears as a berm running alongside the road. From this point the canal bed is clearly evident with one or both banks intact for a distance of almost 2.5 miles - as far as the Farmington River crossing. This stretch, behind Avon Old Farms School, is almost entirely wooded, with many large trees standing in the bed itself.

EXHIBIT NO.  
EDELSON 18

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## Farmington Antiques Weekend

Travel about 1½ miles on Town Farm Road to the verdant pastures of the *Farmington Polo Grounds*, 152 Town Farm Road, (860) 677-8427. Most weekends between Mother's Day and Columbus Day, this spot hops with activity from various shows. In early June and over the Labor Day weekend, the Polo Grounds host the Farmington Antiques Weekend, (860) 677-7862, one of the most prestigious (and colossal) antiques shows in the country. Ralph Lauren, Steven Spielberg, and Barbra Streisand are style-setters who have been spotted here. The quintessential Farmington Antiques Weekend story is the one about the dealer who asked Robert Redford to show his driver's license before accepting his check.

Veteran showgoers know the ins and outs of successful antiquing, so take note of the following rundown. (Other events at the Polo Grounds include: two huge craft fairs, held over Mother's Day and Columbus Day weekends, folk-art shows, chili cook-offs, and horse shows.)

No matter whether you attend in the spring or fall, the Farmington Antiques Weekend is one mammoth show. Here's how to make the most of the show:

Don't dress to kill. Yeah, it's a kind of chi-chi show with an upscale crowd, but wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Don't forget your hat, sunglasses, and sunblock.

Stormy weather. It's more likely the spring show will be washed out, but Labor Day is smack dab in the middle of hurricane season, so be prepared. Umbrellas are OK, but a rain hat and poncho or foldable raincoat is better.

Hands-free. Forget the designer leather bags. Bring a fanny pack or, better yet, a backpack for money and personal things. A folding tote bag for carrying small breakable stuff is also helpful.

Bring folding green. Forget charge cards and even checks. You'll get the best deal if you pay in cash. Many dealers and the food vendors can't break large bills (and many are suspicious of counterfeit \$50s and \$100s), so bring along small bills.

You'll pass a monster forty-five-hole golf course called *Tunxis Plantation Country Club and Golf Course*, 87 Town Farm Road, (860) 678-7128. How Tunxis Plantation Country Club came into being is something of a local legend. Denied membership in one of Farmington's snootier golf clubs, a local developer simply built his own. Golfers of our acquaintance highly recommend the place, especially for autumn golfing. Tunxis Plantation usually opens around Easter and closes mid-November. Open 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. weekdays, 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. weekends. The clubhouse serves food.

About 2 miles past Tunxis Plantation you'll happen upon the *Simmons Family Farm*, 199 Town Farm Road, (860) 679-9388. This was one of the oldest family farms in Connecticut, but in 2001 it was bought by the town of Farm-

Nix the early admission. Unless you're a dealer or have a long or very specific hit list, don't pay the early buyers fee (\$20 per person for admission between 7:00 and 10:00 A.M.), but do arrive as close to the 10:00 A.M. general public show opening as you can.

Bring extra water. Various service clubs sell beverages and food at the show, but we usually tote along some extra water. The field gets dusty, so pack some Wash & Dry towels or a damp washcloth for mopping up. The food at the show is just OK, so bring a snack and eat elsewhere after the show.

Leave tiny tots and dogs at home. Neither will have a good time. It's hot, crowded, dusty, and full of boring, big-people stuff. And the tents are chockablock with fragile, very expensive pretties that tempt tiny hands and wagging tails.

Use the porters. It doesn't cost much to have them haul your treasures to your car. It's easy to get lost. Set up a meeting place like the main food tent or the ATM for reunions. Also, it's a good idea to decide who stays put and who hurts if someone wanders off.

Use your program to mark dealers and to take notes. Trust us, by the end of the show, you'll never remember where you saw the perfect Roseville vase at 10:00 A.M.

If you snooze, you lose. When you find the absolutely perfect whatever, snag it.

Prices are relatively high at the Farmington show, but if you ask, most dealers will do a little better on the price. Nonetheless, the discounts might not be as generous as you're accustomed to. The closer you get to the end of the show, the easier it is to dickie.

Be prepared. Bring a notepad, pen, and measuring tape. Bring measurements of any space at home you want to fill.

ington. Be sure to see the rolling meadows in this gentle valley. They are marked by glacial mounds left by the last Ice Age. During spring and fall you can often see a raft of wild turkeys grazing in the fields. Yes, *rufier* is the term for a flock of turkeys. The farm's vegetable stand is open from tomato and corn season through pumpkin season. You'll also find wonderful tiny nubbin new potatoes, squash, some herbs, and colorful bouquets of old-fashioned kitchen garden flowers.

Crossing into Avon, follow Town Farm Road to its end. If you turn left, you travel the narrow, winding roads past *Avon Old Farms School*. This private school for boys was designed by Theodate Peope Riddle of Hill-Stead Museum fame. The buildings are modeled after cottages in Great Britain's

Databases selected: ProQuest Newspapers

## **LAND PLAN DRAWS CHEERS; [5 WEST HARTFORD/NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT Edition]**

STEPHANIE REITZ, *Courant Staff Writer*. *Hartford Courant*. Hartford, Conn.: Apr 24, 2002. pg. B.3

### **Abstract (Summary)**

Overall, the [Fisher] farm consists of 424 acres in Farmington and Avon. The town of Farmington has purchased the property within its borders.

Town officials say the land in Avon has many attractive features, including level fields for farming, well-preserved remains of the 1850s-era Farmington Canal, and frontage on the Farmington River.

The Fishers can keep farming on the property until the end of 2003, but the town hopes afterward to lease out the farming rights. The buildings and barns are on the Farmington portion of the property, but much of the fields are in Avon.

### **Full Text (715 words)**

*(Copyright The Hartford Courant 2002)*

Open-space advocates have watched the picturesque Fisher family farm for decades, worried that a developer might try to snatch it up.

On Tuesday, those conservationists reacted with joy over word that the town of Avon has signed a deal to buy 318 acres of the land, contingent upon voter approval.

The property, on Tillotson Road in the southeast part of town, would be the town's largest open-space land purchase in decades.

"Had that property not been preserved, it would have been a crime," said Thomas Morganti, president of the Avon Land Trust, a nonprofit organization that has acquired and preserved more than 330 acres in town.

"It's such a boon to the community. It's really an incredible thing," Morganti said of the proposed purchase.

The town council voted unanimously Tuesday to send the \$2.23 million proposal to voters on June 6. Details will be presented at the annual town budget meeting May 6 and also will be explained in a townwide mailing before the referendum.

Some preservation-minded residents say they believe that if the town does buy the property, few other groups would have the resources to preserve the Fisher land.

The acreage is one of five parcels that town leaders identified two years ago as crucial to preserving what remains of Avon's rural character.

Overall, the Fisher farm consists of 424 acres in Farmington and Avon. The town of Farmington has purchased the property within its borders.

The area that Avon wants to purchase is bounded by Old Farms Road on the north, the Farmington River on the east and the Farmington town line on the south.

The western border is west of Tillotson Road, which runs vertically through the land.

Town officials say the land in Avon has many attractive features, including level fields for farming, well-preserved remains of the 1850s-era Farmington Canal, and frontage on the Farmington River.

"The shore is particularly important because it's the first line of defense for protecting the river," said Kevin Case, director of the Farmington River Watershed Association.

Some of the specifics of the proposed purchase:

The town would pay \$2.128 million to Fisher Family Properties to buy the 318 acres. However, the town intends to raise \$2.235 million -- which includes about \$107,000 in administrative costs, such as legal work and surveying -- if voters give permission to issue bonds.

The state already has offered a \$938,000 grant to reduce the cost.

About 275 of the 318 acres are classified as wetlands or floodplain, but the western end of the property could support 24 to 63 housing lots.

That worries town officials because residential development, while important, eliminates open space without substantially boosting the tax base.

Unless the homeowner has no children in school, taxes on a home often do not cover the costs of schooling or other town services.

For instance, a family in a house assessed at \$200,000 would be charged about \$5,180 in annual property taxes under the current tax rate -- but it costs the town about \$8,500 per year to educate just one child in that family.

For the owner of a house assessed at \$200,000 -- which assumes a market value of almost \$286,000 -- the cost of the 15-year bond package to pay for the Fisher land purchase would be \$186 in extra taxes.

The Fishers can keep farming on the property until the end of 2003, but the town hopes afterward to lease out the farming rights. The buildings and barns are on the Farmington portion of the property, but much of the fields are in Avon.

It is not yet known who might lease those farming rights from the two towns.

"Our intent is to work with the town of Farmington to try to keep an active farm going there," Avon Town Manager Philip K. Schenck Jr. said.

The town could convert 11 acres on Old Farms Road into athletic fields, but only if it notifies the farmers at least five growing seasons in advance. The town also would offer them equal space elsewhere on the acreage to keep farming.

Those athletic fields, if created, would be grassy, rectangular layouts suitable for soccer or lacrosse practice -- not the kind of fields that require backstops, sprinklers, paving or other permanent changes.

**[Illustration]**

MAP: 1(B&W); The Hartford Courant

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from: **Select language****LAND DEAL MOVING AHEAD ; OFFICIALS EXPECTED TO SEND PROPOSAL TO REFERENDUM; [5 WEST HARTFORD/NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT Edition]***STEPHANIE REITZ, Courant Staff Writer. Hartford Courant. Hartford, Conn.: Apr 23, 2002. pg. B.3***Abstract (Summary)**

Overall, the Fisher farm consists of 424 acres. Of that, 317 acres are in Avon and 107 acres are in Farmington, which purchased 79 of those acres last fall. Farmington plans to purchase the remainder with the help of a state open-space grant.

The Fisher family still runs a dairy farm on the Farmington side, and leased much of the Avon portion to farmer Dick Merritt for decades.

Avon has had a fruitful relationship with the Fisher family. In 1976, Stanley Fisher donated the 223-acre Fisher Meadows Recreation Complex, adjacent to the land that Avon is now targeting.

[» Jump to indexing \(document details\)](#)**Full Text** (516 words)*(Copyright The Hartford Courant 2002)*

Town officials are scheduled to authorize the purchase of 317 acres of the Fisher farm today. The objective is to protect the land from development.

The \$2.23 million purchase plan, described by town officials as one of the most crucial land transactions in recent Avon history, will be formalized in a special meeting of the town council and board of finance at 8 a.m.

"This is one of the few large pieces of open space left in the community," Town Manager Philip K. Schenck Jr. said of the property, which is on Tillotson Road and is bordered by the Farmington River and the Old Farms School property.

The council will vote on whether to authorize issuing \$2.23 million in bonds to pay for the land. The land purchase and bond sale are contingent on voters' approval, so a June 6 referendum is also expected to be scheduled today.

A state grant of \$938,000 for open-space preservation would help reduce the cost. That would leave the town's share at about \$1.69 million, including almost \$400,000 in interest on the 15-year bonds.

Details of the land purchase will be presented to the public at the annual town

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 Fisher, Stanley[More options](#) ↓

budget meeting at 7:30 p.m. on May 6 in the Avon Senior Center. The transaction also will be explained in a mailing to all town residents before the June 6 referendum.

Town council Chairman Richard Hines said the 317-acre purchase would cost about \$186 in extra taxes over the next 15 years for the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000.

Town officials have had their eyes on the Fisher farm for more than 15 years, worrying that a developer might buy it and build houses there.

Overall, the Fisher farm consists of 424 acres. Of that, 317 acres are in Avon and 107 acres are in Farmington, which purchased 79 of those acres last fall. Farmington plans to purchase the remainder with the help of a state open-space grant.

About 36.5 acres of the 317-acre parcel in Avon would be set aside as a potential site for athletic practice fields, but the rest is expected to remain largely untouched.

"It's a remarkable property. We're going to ensure the recreation is very passive," Hines said.

Some walking paths might be added along the 3.7-mile stretch of the Farmington River, possibly along the former canal bed and towpath from the old man-made Farmington Canal.

The canal was the lifeblood of the area's economy in the mid- 1800s. One section, which runs for about one-third of a mile, is among the historic canal's most well-preserved sections.

The Fisher family still runs a dairy farm on the Farmington side, and leased much of the Avon portion to farmer Dick Merritt for decades.

The Fishers would be allowed to continue farming on the land through the end of 2003, under terms of the transaction that goes to the town council for its vote this morning.

Avon has had a fruitful relationship with the Fisher family. In 1976, Stanley Fisher donated the 223-acre Fisher Meadows Recreation Complex, adjacent to the land that Avon is now targeting.

#### Indexing (document details)

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**18** Meditation Classes, Wisdom of the Ages, Simsbury, call for information and reservations, 651-1172

**20** Salons at Stowe: Literacy for Adults, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, 5-7 pm, RSVP's requested, free to the public, 522-9258 x 317

**20** 5 Course Wine Dinner with Sarah Jenkins, Metro Bis, Simsbury, 6:30 pm, reservations required, 651-1908

**21** "A Night out in Style," Gifts of Love, Avon, sponsored by some of our FVVA members including Old Avon Village, The Shoppes at Farmington Valley, and The Hair Loft, 7pm, reservations and ticket purchase: 676-2323

**Wine Tastings every Friday night** from 5-7 pm at the **Farmington Gourmet Wine & Spirits** 230 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, 677-4937. General Manager Paul LoCascio invites you to enjoy these free wine tastings.

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**EXHIBIT NO.  
EDELSON 20**

**October 2008**

**2** Creativity Workout - Monotypes from Plate to Paper by Paula Billups, Farmington Valley Arts Center, Avon, 7-8:30 pm, \$5, 678-1867

**2** Christian College Fair, The Master's School, Simsbury, 10am-12pm, 651-9361

**3** Patricia Guadagnolia Piano Concert, Avon Free Public Library, Avon, 7:30 pm, 673-9712

**4** 15th Annual Fall Festival, Holcomb Farm, Granby, 10:30 - 4:30 pm, 844-8616

**4** Women's Self Defense Workshop presented by Soroptimists, Canton, 2-4 pm, \$5 donation, reservations, 614-5676

**4** Avon Historical Society's Cow Chip Raffle, Simmons Farm, Avon, 2 pm, \$5 per square, 677-4690

**4** "Night Visions," Opening Reception, Farmington Valley Arts, 7-9 pm, masquerade attire, 678-1867

**4** Impressionism with Carolann Dvorak-Brewer, Farmington Valley Arts Center, Avon, 10-2, 678-1867

**4,5** Farmington Valley Quilt Festival 2008, Art, Craft, Tradition, at The Hartford, Simsbury, 10/4: 10am-5pm; 10/5: 10am-4pm, \$8 admission, [www.fvqi.org](http://www.fvqi.org)

**5** Collinsville Auction, held at Green Crow Art & Antiques and Gallery 101 Main, Collinsville, 2 pm, 693-1785

**5** First Sunday Gallery Talk: Whistler & the Popes, Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, 1 pm, museum admission, 677-4787

**5** First Sunday Guided Estate Walk, Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, 2 pm, museum admission, 677-4787

**9** "Little Wave and Old Swell," conversation and book signing with artist/illustrator Catherine Elliott and author, Jim Ballard, Farmington Valley Arts Center, Avon, 678-1867

**9** "Race, Gender and Politics Today," Harriet Beecher Stowe Center - Salons at Stowe



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## 175th Upcoming Events

Printer-Friendly Version

### Avon's 175th Anniversary Celebration

#### Upcoming Events

**EXHIBIT NO.  
EDELSON 21**

**April 1 - 2. Great Avon Photograph, Archive and Artifact Search, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the Avon Free Public Library. Residents are encouraged to bring item(s) related to Avon's history during this open house with the Directors of the Avon Free Public Library and the Avon Historical Society. Consider donating or having your item reproduced for their collections.

**April 3, 2005, Avon Old Farms School, 3 p.m.** Enjoy an organ and choral concert and reception sponsored by Avon Old Farms School to celebrate Avon's 175th anniversary. Performing will be Ezequiel Menendez, director of music since 1998 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph and an Avon resident. The concert is free but space is limited. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact Nora Howard at 678-1043 or [oakeshoward@aol.com](mailto:oakeshoward@aol.com) to reserve their places. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. The concert will be followed by a reception. On display will be vintage photographs of Avon.

**Thursday, May 5, 2005, 7:00 pm.** Attend a special meeting and reception sponsored by the Avon Town Council to commemorate Avon's Incorporation on May 5, To be honored are former members of the Council and Board of Selectmen and Town Managers. Avon High School, 510 West Avon Road. RSVP by April 28, Caroline LaMonica, 409-4311.

**Saturday, May 14, 2005. Genealogy Workshop at Avon Library 10:00 a.m. - noon.** The Avon Free Public Library and the Avon Historical Society will present a genealogy workshop, "The Internet and Genealogy - You Want Me to Google What? What Do You Mean, I Need to Yahoo?" The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Leading the workshop will be Judy and Paul Steiner. They will cover sources for genealogy information on the Internet, basic research and documentation techniques using the Internet, and Internet security.

**June 4 - 25, 2005. "Let's Create" Art Show at Avon Library - Artists Needed.** Throughout the month of June, the Avon Free Public Library, Avon's 175th Anniversary Celebration Committee and the Friends of the Avon Library will sponsor a special exhibit of postcard-sized creations on the theme of "Avon". It will be held in the Community Room of the library. The goal is to include as many Avon residents and friends as possible - artists of all ages, visitors to the exhibit and those who wish to purchase items. There will be an opening reception for the artists and the public on Friday, June 3, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Original artwork must measure 4" by 6" and relate to life in Avon. The entry fee is \$1.00 per artwork with a limit of three entries per person. Children under 12 may participate free and are limited to one entry each. Participants may use any creative medium they choose, including photography.

Descriptive brochures (with entry forms) and protective plastic sleeves are available at the library's main desk. Participants are asked to deliver their art to the Community Room on May 25, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., or May 26, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Volunteers from Avon organizations will be staffing the Community Room during the show.

Also on view and for sale during the exhibition will be a handmade quilt created and donated by Avon resident Marge Will. Proceeds from the sale of the quilt, designed especially for the 175th anniversary of Avon, will benefit the Marian Hunter History Room at the library.

**June 5, 2005. 2-6 PM. Town-wide pasta supper.** Old Farms Road. Dancing in the streets, live band, strolling musicians, table decorating contest with Avon celebrity judges. Ticket donations are \$15 adults and \$7.50 for children and under. There will be seats for over 1,400 people of all ages, all gathering at tables of eight, stretching from Route 44 to Rotondo Precast. Area restaurants will donate their services, preparing food under tents along Old Farms Road. Reservations required. Deadline is May 22nd. Every Avon resident will receive a ticket order form in the mail. Tickets can be ordered from Mary Harrop, 678-1538.

**September 10 - 11, 2005, 10 a.m. - dusk.** Simmons Family Farm Days, 184 Town Farm Road. Tour this historic site and dairy barn and visit the farm stand for fresh pumpkins, fruits, vegetables, eggs and breads.

EXHIBIT NO.  
EDELSON 22



**EXHIBIT NO.  
EDELSON 23**

Painting by local Artist – farm scene

(to be brought to hearing)