



## Welcome Aboard



Joan DiMartino is the newest member of the SHPO team and will serve as curator of the Prudence Crandall Museum.

Prior to joining the SHPO, Joan served as executive director of the Smith-Harris House in Niantic where she managed a staff of three and 13 volunteers. In addition she was communications & museum administrator for the Colchester Historical Society, where she had many duties, including grant writing/fundraising and assisting in the creation of the Community Conversations forum on race and education – just to name a few. Joan is also on the advisory council for CT History Day, and serves as the CT representative for the National Collaboration of Women's History Sites Votes for Women Trail.

Welcome to the SHPO, Joan!

## WALK Bridge, Norwalk

The SHPO has been in consultation with the Department of Transportation concerning DOT's plan to replace the historic Norwalk River Railroad, or WALK, Bridge. As part of DOT's responsibility for taking into consideration potential impacts to historic resources, they completed historic research and identified maps that noted an abandoned fort. Despite its highly developed location, based on some analysis of the landscape, archaeologists hypothesized that portions of an early 17th century fort may still exist.

Indeed, evidence of the fort were discovered, and it offers a rare glimpse into the relatively unknown lives of Native Americans in Norwalk. Very few sites like this one remain in Connecticut as most have been destroyed by development, erosion and/or the actions of vandals. Although the site contains evidence of thousands of years of habitation, artifacts related to the 400 year old fort occupation consist of wampum, glass and copper beads, Native American ceramics, stone arrowheads, and iron trade tools. Public outreach efforts are being planned to further share the unique story of this site when all the analysis is complete. Stay tuned!



## New to the National Register

The Connecticut Valley Hospital Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places this month. The cemetery, which is located approximately 0.6 miles from the main CVH campus, was excluded from the previously documented Connecticut Valley Hospital Historic District. The cemetery is individually eligible for its association with significant historical events under the themes of health/medicine and social history, and for its association with the evolving practices of cemetery design.



## Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits



The SHPO recently awarded \$4.5 million in state historic rehabilitation tax credits for completion of Phase 1 of the Ponemah Mill redevelopment in Norwich. The project created 116 new units of housing all while preserving the industrial building's historic character and significant architectural details. Phase 2 is currently underway and is expected to be completed next year.

Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you for preserving this remarkable property for generations to come!

## Funding for Cultural and Historic Sites



The **Good to Great grant program** provides funding for capital projects that link art, history and tourism in ways that enable cultural and historical sites to enhance the visitors' experience. Eligible applicants are Connecticut 501(c)(3) organizations that own, operate and/or sponsor a cultural venue or historic site in Connecticut. This funding is targeted for small to medium-sized cultural organizations with an average annual income of \$500,000 or less and which have received limited state funding in the recent past. The Department of Economic and Community Development seeks

applications which look beyond basic facilities repair or expansion to projects

that tell the stories of our cultural and historic sites in engaging, meaningful, and relevant ways. We are prioritizing funding for collaborative projects that demonstrate a clear vision of how individual sites and organizations can effectively tie together local, regional or statewide cultural assets. Grant will range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 and require a 25% cash match **in hand** at the time of application.

Full applications and guidelines will be online **August 20, 2018**.

Full applications will be due **October 1, 2018**.

Awardees will be notified **December 15, 2018**.

## News from the Museums



### Eric Sloane Museum

On August 4th, Joe Brien of Lost Art Workshops, instructed students on how to follow a plan, measure a board, lay out square lines, cut with a handsaw, drill holes, fasten with nails and screws, and more, all while crafting a useful wooden tool box to take home. Each box could be customized to fit specific tools, supplies, collectibles, etc.

The museum is open Friday-Sunday, 10 to 4. Follow us on [Facebook](#)



### Henry Whitfield State Museum

The Henry Whitfield State Museum hosted a group of young visitors from the Guilford Keeping Society's week-long Colonial Camp. The campers toured the Whitfield House and completed a scavenger hunt of colonial artifacts, and they learned about the people and homes of 1640s Guilford through an interactive map in one of the Visitor Center galleries.

Photo credits: Guilford Keeping Society





### **Prudence Crandall Museum**

In late July the Friends of Prudence Crandall, Inc. offered their annual "Music at Twilight" program. The event featured musical duo "Burning Bridges," and took place on the lawn of the Prudence Crandall Museum. Young listeners twirled and danced, while others foot-tapped and even sang

along. It was a lovely evening --the grey skies held!-- and our audience enjoyed the cooling weather and the cooler tunes, and the first floor of the museum stayed open for visitors.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit Workshops**

Throughout August and September, the SHPO will be hosting workshops around the state about the Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. The tax credit provides for a 30% return on expenses associated with rehabilitating owner-occupied one- to four-family homes listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. These hour-and-a-half workshops will detail the program's benefits, qualifying work, and application process. Join SHPO to learn more about this unique funding opportunity for private homeowners and help the office spread the word in your community! For questions, you can contact Alyssa Lozupone: [alyssa.lozupone@ct.gov](mailto:alyssa.lozupone@ct.gov) and 860.500.2426.

- August 15, 7:00pm, Mansfield Public Library (544 Warrenville Road) in partnership with the Mansfield Historical Society
- August 21, 6:00pm, Vicki G. Duffy Pavilion in Old Saybrook (155 College Street), in partnership with the Town of Old Saybrook
- September 8, 10:30am, New Haven Free Public Library (134 Elm Street), in partnership with the New Haven Preservation Trust
- September 19, 6:30pm, St. John's Lutheran Church Parish Hall in New Britain (295 Arch Street), in partnership with the New Britain NRZ
- September 24, 6:00pm, Woodstock Town Hall (415 CT-169), in partnership with the Woodstock Historic Properties Commission

Saturday, September 1

10 am to 4 pm

Suggested donation: school supply item



Celebrate the 215th birthday of Connecticut's State Heroine! The 32nd Annual Prudence Crandall Day will take place rain or shine! Enjoy crafts, demonstrations, live music by "Song-A-Day," 19th-century children's games on the lawn, vintage glass sale, and FREE admission to the museum! Food available for purchase until 3 pm by the Canterbury Lions Club, with a gluten-free birthday cake served at 3 pm to all at no cost. In the spirit of Prudence Crandall's commitment to education, we will also be collecting donations of school supplies to support the students in need at local schools.

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**Connecticut**  
*still revolutionary*