

Greetings from Colebrook Town Hall.

As noted in last week's newsletter, the Northwestern Connecticut Transit District, which has been supporting Colebrook through its Dial-A-Ride program for many years, has requested a significant budget increase, beginning in March. At our meeting earlier this week, the Board of Selectmen determined that it will be much cheaper (and a better experience for our Seniors) for us to leave the district and offer the service ourselves through Town Hall and the Community & Senior Center.

During January, the Board of Selectmen made the decision to replace the Town pickup truck (CK1) which was on its last legs, with a new Chevy Equinox (at a little over half of what had been appropriated last year for a new truck, saving the Town \$22,000). Historically, the vehicle was used by the First Selectman to travel around the town, county and state to satisfy the duties of the position. It is feasible and feels appropriate to expand the use of this vehicle to accommodate our internal Dial-A-Ride program. It will be used for many of our Senior medical appointments, preserving our aging bus for group outings, or for situations when a handicapped-accessible vehicle is required. Dee Pond will remain our driver—and the process for booking rides will remain the same. Later this year, we'll begin the process of planning for a new bus, hopefully with the assistance of grant money.

The Colebrook Volunteer Fire Department hosted an ice rescue training exercise at the Colebrook Town Pond last Saturday. Members from the Colebrook Center and Forge Companies participated using their ice rescue safety shuttle sled and ice rescue suits, and practiced pulling members from the icy water. After the exercise, everyone adjourned to the Center Firehouse for coffee, hot chocolate and homemade cookies—followed by hosting of their annual skating party at the Town rec area.

Colebrook is becoming a member of Sustainable CT. Sustainable CT provides opportunities for grant funding and certification to help communities promote economic well-being and preserve natural resources. Colebrook joins Norfolk and Winchester and 129 other communities from around the state. An early initiative being explored with Sustainable CT is a potential dollar-for-dollar match to raise up to \$15,000 for preservation of Pisgah Mountain Road.

In December, we told you that the Boards of Finance and Selectmen agreed to participate in non-binding mediation with Wind Colebrook South—an important local taxpayer—at no cost to the Town. That session has been confirmed for Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Our lead representatives, joining Town Attorney Pat Power, will be Board of Finance Chair Duncan Wilber and Selectman Ernie Marmer.

Please join the Colebrook Associates on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> for their first annual Winter Warmer. In the spirit of a classic English Tea, they will offer live music, a variety of hot tea selections, finger sandwiches and cookies as you shake the chill of mid-winter. Join them between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Colebrook Town Hall Meeting Room. The Winter Warmer is free.

The Colebrook Community & Senior Center is hosting a Scrapbooking Event on Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please RSVP by February 21<sup>st</sup> at 860.738.9521, or email [seniordirector@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:seniordirector@colebrooktownhall.org). Cost is \$10. The Center will also be hosting a Leap Year Community Bingo on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m.

#### **Upcoming municipal board meetings in Colebrook:**

Capital Improvements Committee – Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 5 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org), or call me at 860.379.3359, extension 202. Please send news items to Karen at [kodell@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:kodell@colebrooktownhall.org) by noon on Thursdays. And, if you know of other residents who would like to be added to our email distribution list, please let us know.

Cordially,

**Brad**

Brad Bremer  
Colebrook First Selectman  
860.379.3359 ext. 202  
[bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org](mailto:bbremer@colebrooktownhall.org)