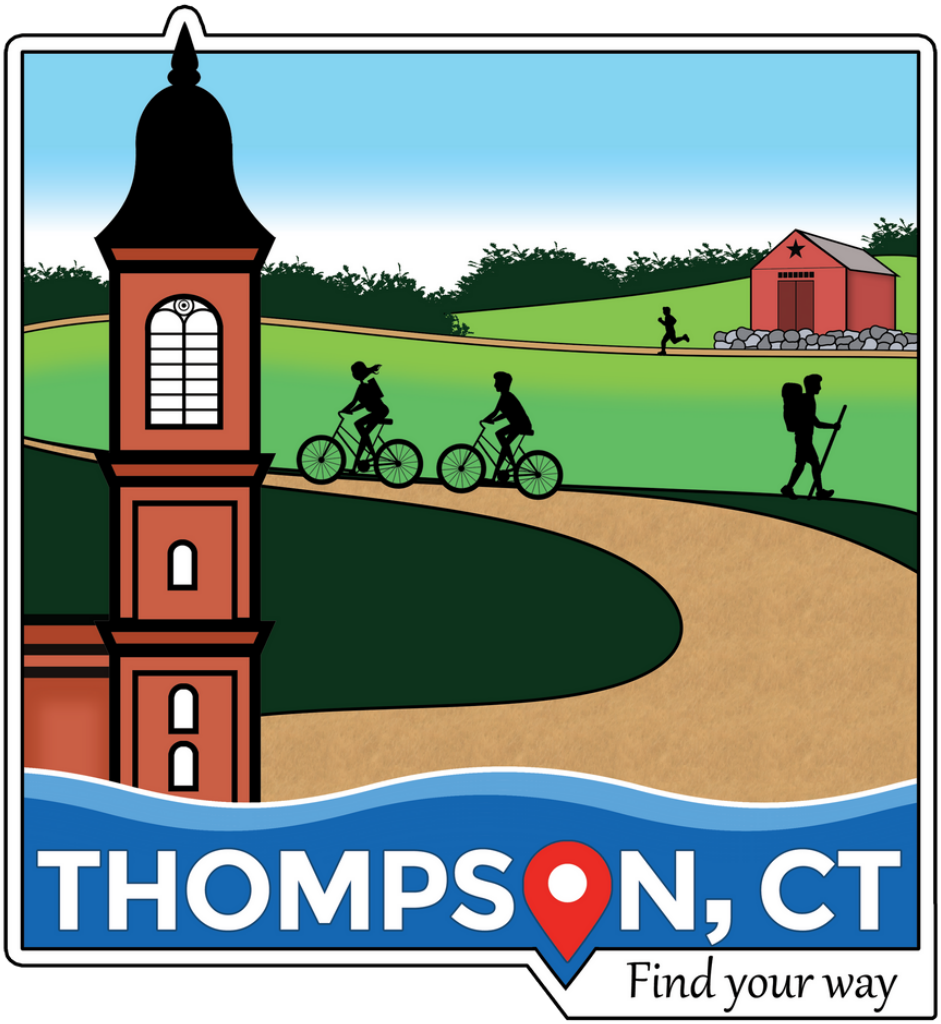
Selectmen's Update

Winter-Spring 2022



Amy St. Onge
First Selectman

Susanne Witkowski
Selectman

Ken Beausoleil
Selectman

Table of Contents

FIRST SELECTMAN 3-4
ANIMAL CONTROL 17
ASSESSOR 7
BUILDING OFFICE 12
COMMUNITY ART SHOW 18
CONSERVATION 20
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 25
FIRE MARSHAL 19
INLAND WETLANDS 11
LIBRARY 15
MILL SITES REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 9
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT 5
PUBLIC WORKS 10
PUBLIC WORKS - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT 11
RECREATION 14
TAX OFFICE 8
TEEG 22
THOMPSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 23
THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 21
THOMPSON TOGETHER 24
TOWN CLERK 6
TRAILS COMMITTEE 16
VETERAN SERVICES 19
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AHTHORITY 18
ZONING 13

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES 18

CONTACT US 26

From Amy St. Onge, First Selectman

Building a Unified Town

I am a firm believer in finding common ground and seeking to be unified.
I have used the term unity in my last three campaigns for Board of Selectmen.

Unity is the essence of community but that does not mean that a community should be filled with people who think and act the same way as I do. It is human nature to seek to be surrounded by "like minded" individuals. However, when we only expose ourselves to those who think and act like we do, we become polarized. A polarized person may assume the posture of "all or nothing". In this position, there is no room for middle ground. Lack of finding middle ground has become a common theme in National and State politics and is seeping into Local level politics. If we can't find middle ground, we can't make progress. Invariably, we will reach a stalemate and nothing will be accomplished. We can't let this happen to our wonderful Town!

Famed Football Coach Vince Lombardi is quoted as saying "Build for your team a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another, and of strength to be derived by unity". It is said that Coach Lombardi became a national symbol of single-minded determination to win. As First Selectman, I would like to see the Town of Thompson WIN. The Town of Thompson is a team of citizens. We are dependent on each other and each one of us adds value to the success of our entire Town. This includes people with differing viewpoints than mine. I am called to respect the person who holds those opposing viewpoints. Conversely, I would like those same people to respect my worldview, even if it is drastically different from theirs. If we are always holding fast to what is wrong with the "other side" of an argument, we will never be able to see the value in the opposing view.

Exposure to different viewpoints sharpens our thinking and reasoning abilities; but, most important it helps us see the world from a different angle. In Stephen Covey's book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People", Habit # 5 is "Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood: The Habit of Mutual Understanding". Quoting Covey, "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply. They're either speaking or preparing to speak." I think it is safe to say that at one time or another all of us have fallen short in our ability to listen to and/or respect an opposing view point. Just a few years before Covey's book hit the publishing

(continues next page)

house, the ancient book of old, "The Bible", said it best in James 1:19 (NIV) "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Sounds to me like the problem of polarized thinking has existed in society for quite a long time.

If Thompson is to win and succeed in the future, the anger, finger pointing and mistreatment of our fellow citizens has to end. We have to learn to coexist and find strength in what we do have in common. We may not agree on everything, but in a small town of 9,180 individuals, I think we can find a common thread. Let's begin to find strength through unity of purpose as we open our minds and begin to seek to understand one another.

I could have used this article to explain all the amazing things that are happening in Thompson, but I believe our Town Staff and Board and Commission Volunteers have done a fine job in the pages that follow explaining all the great things that are happening. After working with these individuals these last 2 years, I have gained an understanding of how much work they put in and how dedicated they are to our Town. They have been a support for me and I can't imagine a finer group of individuals to work alongside every day. I invite you to read the Winter/Spring 2022 Selectmen's Update.

Let's celebrate all the good things Thompson has to offer and make it even better, TOGETHER.

OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director

2022 starts off with some exciting news regarding the progress of the redevelopment of the historic North Grosvenordale River Mill. On January 6, the State's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) formally announced that Thompson has been awarded $2-million to initiate environmental clean-up on the mill site. The grant will allow the developer, John Gumpert of River Mill Redevelopment LLC (RMR), to proceed with this important phase in the redevelopment of this historic structure. This latest grant was made possible in part because of previous investments by DECD in the redevelopment of the site, including a Brownfield Assessment Grant that the Town secured in 2015 which paid for comprehensive environmental investigations on the River Mill property.

Thompson is one of 14 towns in the State to receive funding from the Brownfield Remediation Program under this grant round, and one of only 3 towns to receive the maximum $2-million award, alongside New Haven and Torrington. The project will remediate soil, sediment and groundwater contamination, mitigating potential risks to human health and ecological receptors.

Work continues on the updates to the Town's regulatory structure. For the first half of 2022, two important projects will be underway simultaneously:

1. Responding to questions and concerns raised by members of Thompson's Agriculture Commission, we are exploring revival of the Town's participation in the open space option under Public Act 490. This State program allows property owners to set aside portions of their property to be preserved as undeveloped land for a minimum of 10 years. In order to properly participate, among other important steps, the Planning and Zoning Commission will need to add reference to the program in its Plan of Conservation and Development and the Board of Selectmen will have to approve an Ordinance adopting the Open Space section of the Act.

2. I will also be working with the Planning and Zoning Commission on the completion of the overhaul of the Town's Subdivision Regulations. This project will bring the Subdivision Regulations into better alignment with the updated Zoning Regulations. The public is invited to review the suggested changes, posted on the Town's website. Click here to view them.

The public is also invited to submit comments and questions via email: planner@thompsonct.org

Finally, the Town has been awarded $16,000 from CT DEEP Recreational Trails program, to enable development of the Train Wreck Park on the Air Line State Park Trail and is awaiting a request for funding from DECD to undertake major placemaking improvements in the North Grosvenordale Historic Mill Village. Notification is expected first quarter of 2022.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Renee Waldron, Town Clerk

Subscribe Now

To receive automatic emails for agendas, minutes, alerts, and more subscribe to the Town's website. Subscribe to the Town's website here.

To send comments or questions to town departments, click here .

Other business you can conduct online:

In the Clerk's Office:

Use Permitium to request a copy and pay for a vital record online (Birth, Death, Marriage). *You always have the option to come into Town Hall and request and pay for a vital in person.

During dog licensing season June-July use IQS to renew your dog's license.
*New Dogs and licensing outside of the dog season must be issued in the office or by mail.

Use Search Land Records to find your deed or mortgage and other land records and maps.

In the Building Office:

Use PermitLink to begin the process of applying for a building permit.

.

In the Assessor's office:

Use Parcel Maps to find your property field card and other pertinent information regarding your property.

In the Tax Office:

Use ACI Payments Inc. (Official Payments) to make personal property, real estate, and vehicle tax payments online.

In the Recreation Department:

Register for programs here.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Paul Hopkins, Assessor

Applied or Granted by the Assessor's Office

Home Owners

If you are homeowner in Thompson over the age of 65 or 100% disabled through Social Security and on a fixed income and a home owner in Thompson, you may be eligible to have a credit of up to $1,250 off your real estate tax bill. The application period runs from February 1st through May 15th each year.

Renters

If you are over the age of 65, or 100% disabled through Social Security and on a fixed income and rent in Thompson, you may be eligible to have up to a $900 refund on your annual rent payment (this is a State of Connecticut program. Applications are taken in the Assessor's Office). The application period runs from April 1st through October 1st each year.

Veterans

By filing your DD214 with the Town Clerk, you may be eligible to receive an assessment reduction of $6,000.

If you have a disability rating through the Veterans Administration (VA), you could be eligible for an exemption of up to $21,000. To have this benefit applied for this program, you will need to bring a copy of your disability award letter from the VA that shows your disability percentage to the Assessor's Office

If you are a veteran on a fixed income, you may be eligible for additional exemptions. You would have to provide a copy of all your income statements or a copy of your tax return for the year applying.

Disabled

If you have been listed as 100% disabled through the Social Security Administration (SSA), and provide the award letter from SSA, you may be eligible for a $1,000 assessment reduction.

Blind

By providing a letter from your medical practitioner that shows you are legally blind, you may be eligible for a $3,000 assessment reduction.

Public Act 490

Forest – If you have 25 acres or more of forest land, you may be eligible for a reduced assessment if you have that land designated as forest by a State of Connecticut certified forester.

Farm – If you are operating a farm for business purposes, you may be eligible for a reduced assessment on the land, equipment and buildings used for the farming operation.

Both Forest and Farm reduced assessments require an application and supporting documentation completed and returned to the Assessors Office between September 1st and October 31st each year.

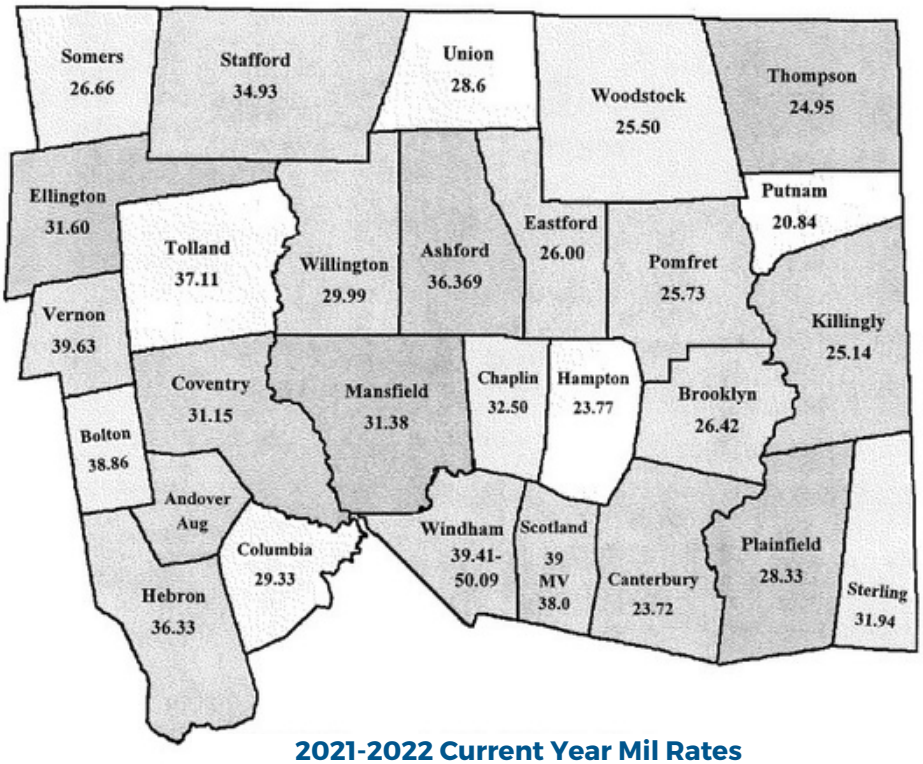
Click here to access Assessor's Office forms.
You can reach our office at 860-923-2259.

TAX OFFICE

Rene J. Morin, CCMC, Tax Collector

The Town of Thompson will soon be conducting another Tax Sale to recover delinquent Real Estate property tax. The Tax Sale will be conducted at the Thompson Town Hall later this Spring at a date yet to be determined. All States have Tax laws that allow the local governments to sell a home or property through a Tax Sale process to collect delinquent property tax that is owed to the local municipality. Accordingly, in Connecticut, when there are past due taxes, and a lien has been placed on the property, the Tax Collector can sell the home, land or property at a public auction (Tax Sale) through a tax foreclosure process. Currently 19 Thompson properties have been identified to be included in this next Tax Sale. Those accounts have recently been turned over to Attorney Adam Cohen of the Pullman & Comley Law Firm. Attorney Cohen specializes in conducting Tax Sales for many Towns in the State of Connecticut. Proper legal notices, title searches and notification to other interested parties have to be conducted prior to the auction. This process generally takes about 90 to 120 days to complete. During that interim period, payments from the property owner can still be made to Attorney Cohen's Office right up to the auction date to avoid said auction. The very last action that the Town wants to take is to have someone lose their home to a Tax Sale. Therefore, every attempt to collect the delinquent tax is made prior to a property being considered for the Tax Sale. It is expected that upwards of $325,000. could potentially be collected by the Town at this Tax Sale. For more information, you may contact our office at 860-923-2119 or Attorney Cohen's office at 860-330-2230.

Current Mil Rate for Thompson and surrounding Towns of Windham and Tolland Counties:



2021-2022 Current Year Mil Rates

In addition, the following towns have an additional District Tax or Fire District Tax: Brooklyn, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Stafford, Sterling and Windham.

MILL SITES REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSRAC)
Janet Blanchette, Chairperson

MSRAC has been working diligently to implement infrastructure improvements and promote redevelopment within our downtown mill district.

Route 12 Sidewalk Project - MSRAC was notified on December 23, 2020 that The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CONNDOT) awarded a $2.1 million Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTCIP) grant to fund the reconstruction of 7400 feet of concrete sidewalks with granite curbs along Riverside Drive (Route 12). Functional improvements will also include updated pedestrian crossings, Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant ramps, a bus shelter at Town Hall for the NE CT Transit District bus line, and intersection improvements at Rawson Avenue.

This project will significantly improve and connect the length of sidewalk on the east side of Riverside Drive, starting at Rawson Avenue and continuing south to the intersection with Thompson Hill Road (Route 200). The sidewalk will connect residents with shops and restaurants as well as the public schools, Town Hall and Post Office in the historic heart of Thompson.

Design plans, which are 100% complete and approved by CONNDOT, were funded from the 2018 Department of Economic Development (DECD) Brownfield Area Revitalization (BAR) Grant. The project is only waiting on the final "authorization to advertise" letter from the state. Once that's recieved, the Town will go out to bid for construction time for the 2022 construction season.

Blain Road- Riverside Drive Intersection Improvements with Parklet- The Public Works Department plans on reconfiguring the open expanse of asphalt into a safer, more defined intersection during the 2022 construction season. This project dovetails with the sidewalk project, as a new crosswalk will be added across Rte. 12. The town is applying for a state DECD Community Challenge grant to cover costs for the design of a parklet adjacent to the intersection, which will include a Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater bioretention area and other projects. The area will be attractively landscaped with native plantings and the project will improve access to the French River for fishing.

River Mill Update- The developer, John Gumpert's company, River Mill Redevelopment, LLC (RMR) has proposed to develop the mill with up to 300 market rate apartments. Ten percent of the planned units will be designated as "Affordable Housing" units. The Town partnered with RMR to apply for a DECD brownfield cleanup grant. The state awarded the grant for $2 million dollars to help remediate the property! Read more about it in the Planning and Development article. The developer is in the process of working with Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for financing. During the HUD process, the developer and the Town became aware of revised floodplain mapping for the French River proposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The new mapping, not yet in effect, proposed increasing the 100 year flood levels of the river in the vicinity of the mill and upstream beyond Buckley Hill Road. In response to the challenge of the revised floodplain challenge, the developers hydraulic engineer was able to identify likely flaws in the modeling, and the new maps are begin appealed. We are optimistic that FEMA will revise the data based on the engineer's thorough analysis.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (DPW)
Richard Benoit, Director

2021 proved to be a fight to the finish for our DPW crew. Thankfully, we were able to complete 95% of the necessary work on the Quaddick Rd. resurfacing project before Mother Nature took over for the winter. Once spring arrives, we plan to complete the backfilling of edges and lawn repairs before we move too far into the coming construction season.

This year we are looking to complete a few smaller road repair projects as well as some much-needed drainage repairs at various locations around town. This spring we will be completing the re-design work for the intersection of Blain Rd and Rt 12 which will coincide with the sidewalk replacement project along Rt 12 from Rt 200 to Rawson Ave. Later this season, we are hoping to begin drainage work/repairs in preparation for resurfacing projects on Lowell Davis Rd and the long-awaited Fabyan Rd.

On Lowell Davis Rd, we plan to install drainage to the narrow section of road from Numa Tool to just beyond the tower heading towards 395. This will allow us to widen this section of road and make it much safer for traffic in that area. Once this and any other drainage repairs are completed, we plan to reclaim, grade, and pave the road during the 2023 construction season.

Fabyan Rd. resurfacing will be split into two separate paving projects. The first phase completed will be from Red Bridge Rd to Hagstrom Rd. This section was chosen first as it will require less prep work and potentially less cost, allowing us more time to work on the drainage prep for Phase 2. Phase 1 has multiple cross culverts and a few catch basins that we will inspect and make necessary repars with hopes of completing reclaiming, grading, and paving work during the 2023 construction season.

Phase 2 of the Fabyan Rd project will include the section from Hagstrom Rd north to its intersection with Fabyan-Woodstock Rd. Aside from repairs to existing drainage, this area will require additional drainage repairs which will include new drainage systems to better handle water runoff and surface water issues along this section. Proper management of both surface and sub-surface water will help to ensure the safety and longevity of the new road.

Material costs and availability are weighing heavily on project planning currently. This season we will use this as a chance to focus on some smaller projects and general maintenance items that have been pushed aside due to the workload of larger projects. We also intend to begin work that will support some of our upcoming road projects as well and hope that the future will bring back some normalcy to the supply chain. Completion of a few smaller road projects this year will allow us to continue our progress of repairing the almost 100 miles of town-maintained roads here in Thompson.

We are currently working on a few other important projects as well. This includes continued upgrades to our aging DPW facility, repairs at the Transfer Station, construction of a modern salt storage facility, continued planning for the replacement of the Buckley Hill Rd bridges, as well as multiple smaller bridge repair projects and other maintenance items throughout the town.

The Thompson Public Works Department is thankful for the support and patience of our residents while we strive to repair our aging roads and other infrastructure items. We wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2022.

DPW STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Kelley Genest, Aide to the Director of Public Works

Thompson's Stormwater Management Plan provides the framework and sets goals to maintain the best water quality possible. Click here to find and view a variety of topics with helpful tips such as Lawn Care and Septic System Care.

INLAND WETLANDS OFFICE

Marla Butts, Wetlands Agent

MapGeo Parcel Map is a web-based graphical information system (GIS) application supported by the Town. It can be found by clicking here and then the Parcel Map shown. Properties can be searched by owner's name, street address or assessor's account #. The map allows you to scroll down to a scale of at least 1 inch=50 feet to view the Assessor's parcel map and details for the parcel you are interested in. By clicking on the "Themes" button you can change the base theme from a Google Map to a Google satellite aerial photo or other various vintage aerial photos. To best view ground conditions without any snow cover and the least obstruction by trees, use the 2016 aerial photo layer. Other map themes can then be turned on (several at a time) with their transparency adjusted to view layers together or independently. The topography layer is very useful to get an understanding of ground conditions, at least those that existed in 2016.

Use caution when interpreting the information contained in the wetlands map theme. The wetlands information originates from soils mapping developed by the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and not very precise

Soils were mapped in blocks of 2-3-acres in size. So, wetlands soils under 2-3 acres in size may not show up in the wetlands layer. Additionally, the wetlands layer does not identify watercourses, which are also regulated. They include rivers, streams, brook, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs and all other bodies of water, natural or artificial, vernal or intermittent, public or private, that are contained within or flow through the Town.

Wetland mapping used in conjunction with the topography along with the aerial photography should only be used for guideline purposes in attempting to identify the location of wetlands and watercourses. It is the actual character of the land that determines if it is regulated as a wetlands and/or watercourse.

Note: For regulatory purposes wetlands are delineated by a qualified soil scientist and watercourses are identifiable by other means. For more information on qualified soil scientists and other helpful information click here.

BUILDING OFFICE
Terry Bellman, Building Official

We have had another very busy year and are doing our best to keep the process moving. We try very hard to process permits as quickly as possible. We have to be certain that all other required agency approvals have been granted before we can approve any building permit. We work closely with these agencies during the process – this includes the Northeast District Department of Health, Thompson's Water Pollution Authority, Inland-Wetlands, Zoning, the CT Department of Transportation, the Thompson Public Works Department, the Fire Marshal and others. We also have to confirm that the property taxes have been paid before a building permit can be issued.

Our new permit software, Permit Link, is now fully functional. This system is web-based so you can use it from home or any location where you have access to the internet. Click here to access PermitLink. The system works best if you use Firefox as your browser. This system allows you to apply for permits, pay the fee, follow the process, check on status of permits or inspections, right from your home. We also have a kiosk at the Building Office counter if you prefer to apply in person.

The following is a list of permits issued in 2021:
288 Building permits including 25 New Dwelling permits
82 Electrical permits
9 Plumbing permits
52 Mechanical permits
45 Fuel Gas permits
2 Fire Protection permits
5 Demo permits
---
483 Total permits

The Building Department receives applications, reviews plans and documents, and issues Building Permits for a multitude of activities. We are here to help you with this, sometimes complex process, so please call us for help. Our office hours (open to the public) are Monday through Thursday 7:00 am - 12:00 pm (noon).
If you have any questions, call us at 860-923-9002.

ZONING OFFICE

Cynthia Dunne,
Zoning Enforcement Officer

WHAT IS ZONING?
Zoning refers to municipal or local laws or regulation that govern how real property can and cannot be used in certain geographic areas. The laws can be modified or suspended if the construction of a property will serve to help the community advance economically.
The Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) is staff to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Both meet monthly.
PZC meetings: 4th Monday of the month.
ZBA meetings: 2nd Monday of the month.
All meeting agendas are posted on the website www.thompsonct.org, under respective departments on the Friday afternoon before the meeting date.
As ZEO I am available to work with you to answer Zoning questions and give direction on the appropriate action to comply with Zoning, Subdivision and Aquifer Protection Regulations. I research Citizen Comments on Zoning Issues and enforce the Town Ordinance 10-026 Abandoned Motor Vehicle Ordinance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
The Zoning Office has been working with the amended Zoning Regulations since September 20, 2020. Working with the new regulations gives me the opportunity to fine tune some areas that were left out of the 2020 re-write. To correct our regulations, the PZC has approved several amendments during the last year, with the last amendment approval date of October 22, 2021.

Click here to view the the Zoning Regulations.

Subdivision Regulations – The suggested updates are posted on the Website for your review; comments can be e-mailed to the director of Planning & Development at planner@thompsonct.org.

ZONING QUESTION: HOW DO I SUMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE?
All Accessory Structures need a Zoning Permit.
Structures under 200 square feet only require a 5 foot rear and side property boundary setback in all districts.
Structures over 200 square feet need to comply with the stated setback in the zoning district property where it's located.

Front Setbacks for all accessory buildings:
1. Must comply with the district required setback.
2. Where there is an existing primary structure that predates the 2020 amended regulations, the Commission may waive the front setback based on the physical characteristics of the site.
3. Zoning Permits for 200 sq ft and under are available in the Zoning Office; if over 200 square feet, the permit will be filled out at the same time you are filling out your building permit in the Building Office.

The ZEO office number is 860-923-9475 and the e-mail is zeo@thompsonct.org

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Brian Lievense,
Recreation Director

"Our mission is to enhance, promote and support quality recreation facilities and opportunities for all residents of the community." If you'd like to learn more, or if you would like to get involved with any activities within the Thompson Recreation Department, please email recreation@thompsonct.org or call us at 860-923-9440, or click here to visit the Recreation website. Please note - most Recreation Programs require pre-registration.

Ongoing events

Purely Recreation at Thompson Public Schools – Over 30 Thompson families are taking advantage of the Purely Recreation Before and After School Program this school year. The morning care program is open to K-4th graders from 7:00 – 8:15 am at Mary R Fisher Elementary.

The after-school program is open to K-6th graders from the end of the school day until 5:30 pm.. Program Coordinator, Darlene Tretheway (Mrs. T) offers a curriculum that mixes learning with a lot of fun activities. Students participate in outdoor play, science fun, arts & crafts, and special events.

Yoga – The Recreation Department continues to offer 6-week in-person and virtual yoga sessions. In-person yoga classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Thompson Public Library. Virtual classes are held on Saturday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Senior Programs – There are a number of senior programs being offered:

- Senior Craft classes are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Thompson Town Hall at 10AM.
- Virtual Strength & Balance classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 11:00 am.
- Line Dancing for seniors is held every Wednesday at the Thompson Public Library at 10:00 am.
- A free Senior lecture & discussion series takes place one to twice per month at the Thompson Public Library. For more information, visit www.thompsonrec.org or call 860-923-9440.

Upcoming Events

Garden by the River Community Plots – the Garden by the River project was started by a group of dedicated volunteers in 2019. For 2022, the garden has 15 raised bed plots available for rent. The season will be from April 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022. Further information about plot rentals can be found at ww.thompsonrec.org

Easter Egg-Stravaganza – This annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Thompson Common will take place on Saturday, April 9th for Thompson children ages 10 and under. The free event opens at 1:30 pm. with bounce houses, crafts, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. The egg hunt begins at 2:00 pm.

Bus Trips with Thompson Recreation – Thompson Rec is partnering with Fox Tours in 2022 to offer several exciting day trips for seniors and families! Residents will have the opportunity to attend a Red Sox/Yankees game, harbor cruises in Portland, Maine, foliage tours in New Hampshire, and several more. Please visit www.thompsonrec.org or call 860-923-9440 for more information!

100 BOOKS BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL
Thompson Public Library

THOMPSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Alison Boutaugh, Library Director

We're excited to launch the next chapter in our reading enrichment programs, thanks to the generous support of our Friends of the Library group. Reading earns your child free books to keep ... just visit the Library to choose your first free book and reading journal to begin.

Families are invited to participate in **1,000 books before Kindergarten** and **500 books before Middle School**... log all your reading – graphic novels, audiobooks, read to family – all reading counts! Stop in anytime to get your first reading log and free book.

Our Digital Library: Overdrive (Libby app) offers an extensive collection of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines for adults, teens and children. Certain additional titles are available for Thompson cardholders; log in to see current availability. **Tumblebooks** for kids offers an online collection of animated talking picture books, storybooks, read-alongs, nonfiction & language books. Funded by the Friends of the Library and Mary R. Fisher Elementary PTO.

"When the elderly die, a library is lost and volumes of wisdom and knowledge are gone." The Thompson Public Library is pleased to announce special additions to our collection. In partnership with the Thompson Historical Society, two local projects undertaken in previous decades have been modernized for today's technologies.

The Jane Johnson Collection: Memories of Old Thompson – Interviews with Thompson's Seniors This video project was undertaken by the Thompson Historical Society in the 2000's. The DVDs should play in most DVD machines and laptops or computers with a media player installed.

Northeastern Connecticut Oral History Project The project's purpose was to record the rich industrial and ethnic heritage of Thompson from 1900 to the late 70's, covering both local and national issues. Originally recorded in 1978 on cassette tape, and converted to MP3 files, this grant funded project was led by the Library in partnership with the Town of Thompson and he Thompson Historical Society. Discs are available at the Main Desk.

Also at the Library Collections for all ages: books, cds, magazines, movies, puzzles, passes to local attractions, Digital Library, *new* Kindle ereader models Programs: book discussion groups, monthly art shows Services: fax/scan station, Notary service, photocopier, Homebound Delivery.

Please visit our website for the most up to date information about our current programs.

Library Hours:
Monday - Thursday 10 am-8 pm
Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm
860.923.9779
Always online www.thompsonpubliclibrary.org
Follow us on facebook:
www.facebook.com/ThompsonPublicLibrary

Your Library 24/7
Need a library card? Sign up for a card via the My Account link on our website... it's that easy! Cards are issued to all Thompson residents, those who work in Town and property owners. In **My Account,** search our collection and Bibliomation consortium libraries as well, place holds, and see your check-out history at your convenience.

Return items anytime!
The outside book drop is always open.

THOMPSON TRAILS COMMITTEE

Karen Durlach, Chair

The latter half of 2021 saw action on several ongoing projects on our town trails.

• The November fundraiser Turkey Trot and Wobble and children's Fun Run at West Thompson Dam was a successful event, despite missing a year in 2020. The event raised close to $11,000 to support TEEG and Thompson Recreation (Rec) playgrounds and parks, as well as Thompson Trails. Thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers and racers.

• The Air Line State Park Trail in Thompson is the gateway to a 43.3 mile trail from the Massachusetts border to Portland, CT. Pick up one of the new pocket-size folding maps at Town Hall which shows the entire trail on one side, with Thompson highlights on the other. Detail maps of the other trail sections may be acquired from The Last Green Valley (LGV) or outreach@ctrcd.org. Thompson advocates are working in conjunction with the "12-Town Task Force," a working group of several towns along the trail to establish trail amenities and maintenance plans.

• Last summer, the Thompson section of the Air Line Trail was also one of several site locations hosting a pilot program for a middle school youth hiking program organized by TLGV, Thompson Recreation and TEEG, with a grant from Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce.

• On October 3, a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the installation of several interpretive signs commemorating the 1891 Great East Thompson Train Wreck. "Windows on the Past" was supported by a grant from CT Humanities. Further developments in that area include acquisition of stones for the reconstruction of the train turntable. Thompson Trails was allocated funding from the American Rescue Plan to leverage additional grants to further the Train Wreck park site development. Click here for Thompson Trails inluding the Trails Action Plan for the Thompson section of the Air Line Trail, assembled by the National Parks Services - RiversTrails and Conservation Assistance program.

• At West Thompson Lake -the Blain Bridge replacement bridge arrived. The pre-fab bridge was installed this winter. Inspection will follow. Please respect all temporary signs until the bridge is open and safe.

Ribbon Cutting: Friday, April 22 - join USACE, Thompson Trails and The Last Green Valley for a Ribbon Cutting celebration. About 1:30 that afternoon, groups of ranger-led hikers, mountain bikers and kayakers will convene at the West Thompson Lake boat launch at 449 Reardon Road and meet at the new bridge for the 3:00 ceremony.

• The Thompson Trails Committee and other committed volunteers work to maintain the trails throughout the year. More volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you would like to help outdoors or become involved in Trails Committee work, contact us through the Thompson Trails Facebook page or **kdurlach@thompsonct.org.**

• Thompson's trails continue to see increased use. Please be respectful of others on the trails. Follow current COVID guidelines. Take only pictures; pack out your trash. Thank You.

T-Shirts support Thompson's trails:

• "**Take a Hike"** on "hunter" orange" with Thompson Trails logo is on the front.

• **"Great East Thompson Train Wreck"** on long-sleeve lime green shirt with trains on both sides & a salute to Thompson as **"More than Just a Train Wreck"** on the back. For sale at the Thompson Recreation office. $20.00 cash or check only. S, M, L, XL, XXL. Call for an appointment or stop in during normal business hours.

ANIMAL CONTROL
Janis M. Smith
Animal Control Officer

Happy Early Spring to all Thompson residents and their pets! There has been some hard work and changes at the Thompson Dog Pound since the last Selectman's Update, I would like to begin by thanking the Art Department and students from Tourtellotte Memorial High School for putting together a wonderful team of students and staff to paint the beautiful new mural on the Dog Pound. It is so bright and happy looking now, you all did an amazing job! A big thank you goes out to Greg Mountford a.k.a. Gumby from Mountford Construction LLC for donating materials and crew to give the Thompson Dog Pound a much-needed new roof, and also for adopting Brutus one of my early shelter dogs -a match made in heaven for all, Thanks Greg! A big shout out to Rich and his crew from Thompson DPW for fixing, upgrading and expanding the driveway and parking area at the Pound. We had a big clean up at the kennel this fall and I want to thank the many volunteers that showed up and worked very hard to get the area spruced up. A big shout out to Jeff LaBonte for all of his tree work at the pound, awesome work Jeff! Thanks to Nancy Angell for donating the raised flower beds and annuals this past summer.

The improvements and changes have not stopped there, The Animal Control Department is very grateful to be working with the Thompson Public Schools' I.T. Department investigating Animal Control Software to make greater strides towards going paperless. This will allow residents to create their own account with Thompson Animal Control's new website and have access to many different features regarding your animals. More information to come on this topic as we progress.

Some Winter tips for your fur kids - as temperatures drop, please watch the types of ice melt you purchase. Make sure it says Pet Safe before using; other ice melts use salt and other chemicals which burns the pads of their feet. Good food for thought is...if it's too cold for you...it's too cold for them. As temperatures approach freezing and below, and during inclement weather, your animals should only be allowed outside for 15-minute increments every couple of hours. Please make sure your shorter haired breeds have coats, and safe ice melt...or booties!

I've had the pleasure of meeting many residents in town concerning animal issues since I began my Animal Control services in town last year, Thompson residents are some of the most giving, genuine and kind folks I've had the pleasure of working for. Thank you for all of your support through the initial re-launch of our Animal Control Department, I hope to exceed your expectations. We've had a great start, and are continuing to work towards our many additional goals.

You can reach me at aco@thompsonct.org or 860-336-7606.

Many Thanks to All,
ACO Jan Smith

THOMPSON COMMUNITY ART SHOW

The 18th Annual Thompson Community Art Show will again be on view at the Thompson Library/Community Center during April 2022.

People of all ages who live, work, go to school or own property in Thompson are invited to participate by submitting their original artwork - drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, textile arts, pottery, collage, multi-media, etc.

Refer to the application for details and guidelines on the Thompson Recreation website www.thompsonrec.org, or look for paper applications at the Library and Town Hall. The deadline to submit your application is March 1, 2022.

The Mission of the Thompson Community Art Show is to foster an appreciation of the visual arts, to provide an inclusive venue to showcase the creative talents of Thompson artists, and to enrich the community of Thompson through artistic expression.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (WPCA)

Roland Demers, Director of Operations and Chief Operator

It's the start of a new year and we are looking forward to completing plan updates and upgrades this year, as well as starting new projects moving forward.

The Thompson WPCA is meeting its state permit requirements as required. We are always looking for ways to improve our effluent water and are working to make our plant more energy efficient as well as more eco-friendly to the receiving waters.

The Thompson WPCA would like to extend a warm welcome to our new board member Stephen Nickerson.

Click here for our webpage.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Jamie Seney, Jr., Fire Marshal

As we are dealing with the cold weather of winter, many people are relying on **portable space heaters** to supplement heat within their residence. If you plan to use these heaters, we recommend a few safety tips:

- Purchase a heater from a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep heater away from anything combustible.
- Place heater on a flat surface.
- Choose a heater with overheat protection.
- Keep children away from heater.
- Never block an exit with the heater.
- Plug a heater directly into a wall outlet and never use an extension cord.
- Anytime you leave the house, or when you go to bed, you should shut the unit off.

Another safety concern during winter is **wood and pellet stoves.** If you are using these devices, have a qualified professional install stoves, chimneys, and connectors. Only dry seasoned wood or pellets should be used. Chimneys and stoves should be inspected and cleaned at the beginning of heating season and periodically based on usage. All combustibles should be kept at least 3 feet away from stoves, and children should be kept away from any heated parts of a stove.

For the safety of everybody inside the house, **smoke alarms** should be located inside each bedroom, in the living space outside of the bedrooms and on each level of the house. **Carbon monoxide detectors** should be located on each level. As a reminder smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. The Fire Marshal's office has batteries available for town citizens for the replacement of batteries in these devices. Please contact Town Hall if need any for your devices.

VETERAN SERVICES

Bob LeBeau, Veterans Officer

We invite veterans and their spouses to stop by the office for information on benefits available to them from the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund. We also provide transportation to the V.A. Hospital or Office for checkups.
Our office is generally open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 – 11 am.
You can reach me at 860-923-9562

Veteran's Tax Exemption

If you are a veteran and have not yet record your DD-214 (Military Discharge Papers) with the Town Clerk's office I recommend that you do so. You may be eligible for a veteran's discount on your taxes. If you are uncertain you qualify please call the Assessor's office at 860-923-2259.

CONSERVATION
Dan Malo, Conservation Agent

WHAT WE DO:

• Advocate for the wise use of natural resources and conservation of open space lands

• Advise the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the natural resources involved in proposals for development before the boards

• Advise the Board of Selectmen and the land use boards regarding acquisition of priority open space lands and conservation easements

• Oversee stewardship of the Town's conservation easement lands

• Update natural resources mapping as new data become available

OUR PROJECTS:

Bluebird Boxes
The Commission offers bluebird boxes each spring to Thompson residents interested in helping to strengthen the bluebird population. To join our Bluebird Box distribution list, please e-mail conservation@thompsonct.org.

Cemeteries
Headstone repairs were recently completed at Wilsonville Cemetery under the State's Neglected Cemeteries Grant. The Commission has established an online record of all known cemeteries in Thompson . Click here for more details.

The website also hosts a local historic barn survey, the Town's Conservation & Open Space Plan and mapping of Thompson's natural resources.

Interested in joining? The Conservation Commission has vacancies!
You can reach us at 860-923-1852.

THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACULTY AND STAFF

Melinda S. Smith, Superintendent

Thompson Public Schools (TPS) faculty and staff have proven time and time again their dedication to the students and families attending school in this fine community. COVID-19 has presented many challenges over the past two years and Thompson personnel have stepped up in significant ways to support our students.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Thompson employees worked together in a collaborative effort to keep our schools open. In fact, TPS had the most in-person full school days in the region. Everyone understood the importance of keeping students in school and did whatever it took to make this happen.

Typically, a school year ends in June; however, this past summer, it was different. Teachers and paraprofessionals taught programs throughout the summer to help close the learning gap for students. In addition, they wrote curricula and developed new high-interest classes that were offered this fall. Our cafeteria staff prepared breakfast and lunch that was distributed free to families across town all summer long. Custodians and security personnel chipped in wherever needed, which was very often outside of their job descriptions.

Let's not forget the remarkable office staff who tried every avenue to reconnect with families and facilitate the business side of school operations. Members of the technology team spent countless hours collecting computers and repairing laptops to ensure that all students, faculty, and staff had access to a well-running device for the start of this school year. Special recognition must be extended to our school nurses who constantly communicate with parents with health or COVID-related questions.

As the virus still lingers, it continues to present obstacles that impact regular school routines. However, it is comforting to know that the dedication of Thompson school employees still prevails, and they all deserve a "tip of the hat."

Click here for the Thompson Public Schools website,
We are located at 785 Riverside Drive in North Grosvenordale, CT.
Our phone number is 860-923-9581.

TEEG
Anne Miller, Executive Director

TEEG is Thompson's Youth Service Bureau (YSB).

TEEG was established in 1985 by Sister Susan Gebrian to address the cultural and social needs of youth in what is now the River Mill Village area of Thompson. In the 37 years since, the TEEG has grown to serve as a social service provider to Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock as well as becoming the designated Youth Service Bureau for those three towns and the town of Putnam.

A Youth Service Bureau (YSB) is dedicated to promoting the well-being of Connecticut's children, youth, and families. The State provides funding for the work and each participating town contributes as well. The YSB then works with the school and an advisory board that represents parents, youth, law enforcement, and educators, to ensure that the unique needs of youth and families in those towns are well-served. We work with the schools in each town to provide attendance support, referrals for services, parent education, student education, youth activities, One on One Youth Mentoring, Camp Scholarships, our Back-to-School Program, our Holiday Giving Program, and more. We work with youth and their families to find supports and pathways to help ensure success both academically and socially.

TEEG's YSB includes a wide variety of services, open to all youth and their families, regardless of income. In Thompson, these services include, but are not limited to:

Our Juvenile Review Board – A restorative justice model that works to provide youth and their families with an alternative to the juvenile justice system. The goal is to reconnect youth to their community in a positive manner.

Youth Programming groups such as:

- Got Drama – A free, drop-in drama program for youth ages 8-16.
- Parent/Child Playgroup – Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30-11:00 am in our TEEG Community Room. This program is a free, drop-in offering.
- Hang Time – A drop-in program for Thompson Middle School Students, providing activities, snacks, and homework help.

For information, or to register for any of these programs, please call the TEEG office at (860) 923-3458.

TEEG is located at 15 Thatcher Road, PO Box 664, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
Office Hours:
Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed Daily from 12:30 – 1:00 pm for lunch
Click here for our website.

TEEG

THOMPSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY (THS)

Joseph Iamartino, President

Beating back the pandemic, THS has focused since May 2021, on operating as normally as For folks not aware of our activities, here is a summary:

Ginny Flood and Sue Vincent led outstanding Holiday Bazaar and Makers Market events this year. The DVDs of Blair Cole's PBS movie "The Nine Lives of No. 9, the Story of the Ramsdell Engine" are selling well, thanks to streaming on CT and ME PBS. A great thank you to the many visitors and patrons of the shop and to the volunteers who created and worked it. The 1840s-era Old Town Hall has its place in our town. Every old building needs a purpose.

The Thompson Schools system held a timeline history presentation and tour of the 3 museums in the TMHS complex for the 6th grade class. Thank you Mrs. Groh and the school leaders for allowing this to happen again. In August, the premiere of "The Nine Lives of No. 9" movie was shown at the large auditorium at Tourtellotte Memorial High School (TMHS). Director Blair Cole was honored with a THS Lifetime Achievement Award. Dale King, the owner of the Ramsdell locomotive and donor of the Ramsdell Transportation Collection, was honored for his generosity.
The three TMHS museums were open to the public the same day as the movie. The transportation collection is in TMHS as is the Kenney Store and Post Office, donated in her family's name by Ms. Kenney. The 1909 Tourtellotte Memorial Room is the third of these historic collections.

The Thompson Library hosted our 1891 Four Engine Wreck Diorama and six THS presentations. The Zoom web conferencing tool allowed our talks to reach attendees around the county. The third "Echoes of Old Thompson" book is in development, and we are soliciting ideas and materials from those interested in contributing to the new book. The collaboration between THS and the Library grows stronger every year. Many 1970s oral histories and Blair Cole videos of town elders, called the Jane Johnson Video Collection, entered circulation. A portrait of Major Robert Thompson has been found.

THS has been active in grant work and researching for those needing historical support. This research is for religious groups, trails teams, Native American groups, five movie/book projects and mill restoration in the area.

We applaud the Town Planner and Town leaders for pushing the restoration of the mill district in North Grosvenordale. Thanks also to the Trails Committee working to highlight the area in East Thompson of the Four Engine Wreck site. The Jacobs Tavern site has its George Washington visit marker on the Speedway Golf Course. THS won a $5,700 CT Humanities Grant for enhancing our video, presentation, sound, and website capabilities.

Lastly, we thank the directors of THS, present and past, and those of the Tourtellotte Trust. Your donation of time and expertise makes a lasting contribution to our wonderful town.

Click here to visit our website.
Our museum is open most Sundays from 9:00 am to noon. Please call us at 1-401-208-605l to confirm we're open before you visit.

THOMPSON TOGETHER 20th Anniversary

Beth Goldsmith, President

We are a group of civic-minded town residents, sometimes working in partnership with the Recreation Department (Rec.) as well as other town departments, to offer fun events and to work on projects that benefit all of Thompson. If you'd like to learn more or if you have a great idea for an event/project, contact me at elizabeth6020@sbcglobal.net

Events coming in 2022

• **April Roadside and River Clean-up** – entire month of April
Now in its 20th year, town residents coordinate to remove trash from Thompson roadways and part of the French River. Please join us in this popular effort! Call Norma O'Leary at 860-923-2969. Supported by The Last Green Valley.

• **Maker Fair** – Saturday, May 7
Come to Riverside Park for this popular event, featuring artisan and crafter booths, along with food trucks. Vendors, register by visiting www.thompsonrec.org or by calling the Rec office at 860-923-9440.

• **Town-wide Tag Sale** – Saturday, July 30
We work with Rec on this event.
When you register ($10), your address will be listed on the tag sale map which leads everyone to the sales. Tag sale maps are available for $2 in the library parking lot on the day of the sale. Make sure you get your sale on the map by registering with the Rec at 860-923-9440 or by visiting their website www.thompsonrec.org.

• **Community Day** – Saturday, October 1
We again partner with Rec for this very popular town fair in Riverside Park which highlights Thompson's volunteer and civic groups and businesses. Come to see your neighbors and learn more about the volunteer groups who help our town and the businesses located in our corner of CT.

There will also be musical entertainment, classic cars, fire trucks, craft booths, food trucks, and more. To register your group or business, call Rec at 860-923-9440 or register on-line at www.thompsonrec.org.

• **Cemetery Restoration** – year-round
In partnership with the Town, several of Thompson's 24 cemeteries are getting much-needed attention to cut down overgrown trees and to repair or reset broken gravestones and stone walls. While professionals are doing the heavy work, volunteers are always welcome to help with seasonal clearing and routine maintenance. Call Norma O'Leary at 860-923-2969 to learn more.

• **Youth Services** – year-round
Working in Riverside Park, mainly during the warmer weather, this group provides fun sports and crafts activities with an anti-bullying theme to kids of all ages. No registration necessary. Email me for more information at elizabeth6020@sbcglobal.net
To visit the Thompson Together website, click here.

Thompson Emergency Management would like to remind residents about the
Emergency Management's Special Needs List
and how important it is to update your information.

This list is for Emergency Management only to contact you in an emergency for wellness check and to help you meet your needs during an emergency. The special needs application is at bottom of page.

We would also like to meet with elder housing in Thompson to go over your emergency plan for the complex. If you would like to meet with us please email sbenoit@thompsonct.org

Keep safe!

Town of Thompson - Emergency Management
Data Sheet for People with Disabilities and Special Needs for Evacuation and Power Outages

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Please check all that pertains to you and your condition.

( ) Medical equipment needing electricity
( ) Vision impaired
( ) Hearing impaired
( ) Use of a wheelchair
( ) Walker
( ) Canes
( ) Oxygen
( ) Any other special equipment or needs

Please return to:
Town of Thompson - Emergency Management
815 Riverside Drive
PO Box 899
N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

For more information from Emergency Management, click here.

General Town Hall Information

Visit our website at www.thompsonct.org

If you click on the office name below, it will bring you to their webpage.

Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am-6:00 pm & Friday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

(Some offices are staffed part-time noted with *, please call for their hours.)

Town Hall Address

815 Riverside Drive, PO Box 899, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

OFFICE	PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Animal Control *	860-336-7606	aco@thompsonct.org
Assessor	860-923-2259	assessor@thompsonct.org
Building *	860-923-9002	buildingofficial@thompsonct.org
Conservation *	860-923-1852	conservation@thompsonct.org
Emergency Management *	860-923-9320	sbenoit@thompsonct.org
Fire Marshal *	860-931-6229	firemarshal@thompsonct.org
Inland Wetlands *	860-923-1852	wetlands@thompsonct.org
Planning & Development	860-923-9475	planner@thompsonct.org
Public Works	860-923-2680	dpwdirector@thompsonct.org
Recreation	860-92.3-9440	recreation@thompsonct.org
Registrar of Voters *	860-923-9636	rov-dem@thompsonct.org and/or rev-rep@thompsonct.org
Selectmen	860-923-9561	selectmensoffice@thompsonct.org
Tax	860-923-2119	taxcollector@thompsonct.org
Town Clerk	860-923-9900	townclerk@thompsonct.org
Veterans *	860-923-9562	veteransofficer@thompsonct.org
Zoning *	860-923-9475	zeo@thompsonct.org