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Prospect Lions Club News

By Glenn Noble & Friends

The next monthly meeting of the Prospect Lions Club will be held on Thursday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Manor Inn in Plantsville. All are welcome to attend to meet and greet our guest speaker from the Jocelyn Diabetes Center of Boston.

The next American Red Cross blood drive will be held in memory of Sgt. Joseph Nolan, Jr. and will be co-sponsored by the Prospect Lions Club in conjunction with Oliver's Supermarket. The drive will be held on Friday, October 6 at the Prospect Firehouse hall from 8:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. This event will also serve as a drop-off point for "Treats for Our Troops" (see other press release within this issue).

The Prospect Lions Club would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who participated in the 6th Annual Golf Tournament held on September 16. The weather was great and we had the most participants ever. As always, we appreciate your support.

The club is always in need of your used eyeglasses. We currently have three drop-off locations for these eyeglasses. The drop boxes are refurbished United States Postal Service mail boxes that have been painted purple with the Lions Club emblem on them. The boxes are located at Doyon's Mobil Mart, Eye Care Associates and Oliver's Supermarket.

Each year the Prospect Lions Club serves our town by gathering donations for food baskets that are then distributed back to Prospect families who are in need during the holidays. This year is no exception. The club will be accepting monetary donations that will be put towards the purchase of necessary items needed to fill these holiday baskets. If you would like to donate, checks may be made payable to the Prospect Lions Club, P. O. Box 7173, Prospect, CT 06712. Make sure to put "Holiday Baskets" on the memo line of your check.

Governor Rell Announces \$135,000 "STEAP" Grant for Prospect Senior Center

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced recently that \$135,000 in new state funding will soon be available to help the Town of Prospect pay for additional parking and an electrical generator for its newly-renovated senior center.

The funding will come from the state's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP), with approval expected at the next meeting of the State Bond Commission.

"I am very pleased to approve this funding to add parking capacity at the new and improved Prospect Senior Center," Governor Rell said. "The expanded parking will be icing on the cake, if you will, for the beautifully renovated senior center. The grant will also pay for a generator to allow the facility to be used as an emergency shelter, if necessary."

In January 2005, Governor Rell and U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro announced the awarding of a \$700,000 federal Small Cities grant to Prospect for expansion of the senior center at 6 Center Street. The expansion included recreational facilities, extra program space, new rest rooms, an elevator and other amenities.

A total of \$20 million has been authorized for more than 100 small towns under the STEAP program this fiscal year. The Bond Commission, chaired by Governor Rell, will meet Friday, October 6, at 10:30 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.



Prospect Land Trust News

Fall is a wonderful time for the senses. It is the sight of beautiful colors, the smell of freshly fallen leaves, the feel of cool air on your face, the sound of geese migrating and the taste of freshly squeezed apple cider. Come join us for the Prospect Land Trust's Annual Fall Hike and give your senses a treat. The hike will be held on Sunday, October 15 (rain date October 22) at 2 p.m. and will be approximately two hours long. Hikers will gather at the cul-de-sac on Boardman Drive, off Plank Road. They will follow a section of the original Quinnipiac Blue Trail, established in 1929, and proceed to the Land Trust property near Matthew Street, and return by

way of an abandoned town wood road to the starting point.

At the end of the walk, there will be a brief program, presented by Boardman Kathan, recognizing the 100th anniversary of his historic, late Victorian home built by Albert Field. Mr. Field was the inventor of sliding curtain rods, metal buckles for firemen's raincoats, as well as arctic boots, which were manufactured in Waterbury at the Shoe Hardware Company. Cider and donuts will be served.

Vehicles can park on Boardman Drive and its cul-de-sac. Hikers should wear comfortable walking shoes for this hike, as the terrain will range from relatively easy to a moderate climb.

AARP Driver Safety Program at Senior Center

The AARP will present its Driver Safety Program on Wednesday, October 11 and 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Prospect Senior Center. The cost of the course is \$10.00 with checks made payable to "AARP." Class size is limited. This is a two-part course and students must attend both sessions for a completion certificate. Those individuals completing the program may be eligible for a discount on their auto insurance. Please call (203) 574-1113 to register.

Business Spotlight

GIL Foundation by Veronica Boulden

The GIL Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that serves Connecticut residents who have special needs. GIL stands for "Grounded in Love." The GIL Foundation partners with the State of Connecticut's Department of Mental Retardation to offer citizens with special needs a variety of opportunities many people may take for granted, including residence in a comfortable home and life experiences within an excellent community like Prospect.

The GIL Foundation began serving this community in 1985 when it offered a respite program during periods of crisis for local individuals and their families. During that time, the GIL Foundation operated out of the lower level of the Prospect Town Hall.

A few years later in 1987, Joseph A. Mascia, a long-time resident of Prospect, became the Executive Director the GIL Foundation. That year, the GIL Foundation also became a full service, twenty-four-hour care provider and it developed the first community residence for individuals with special needs.

Today, the GIL Foundation has four such residences located in Prospect and in nearby Cheshire. The GIL Foundation's offices are located at 34 Waterbury Road in Prospect.

The GIL Foundation sincerely pledges four things to each individual they are entrusted with: they will care, serve, train and encourage them. By doing these things, those in their care will be able to embrace all the opportunities they are given, so they can enrich their own lives and the lives of others. The GIL Foundation insists that their service is "Grounded in Love."

For more information about the GIL Foundation, you can write to GIL Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 7331, Prospect, CT 06712. You can also call 758-3506 or email gil.foundation@snet.net