



# The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents



## Historical Society Activities

By Kim Sperry

The Historical Society has been busy hosting fund raisers and community outreach activities. The season opened in September with the town Fall Festival then, in October, the Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society revealed their results of investigations on the Burnham Tavern and the John Bishop House to nearly 60 people whose interests range from the paranormal to the histories of our unique properties. The presentation was a fund raising event supporting the Burnham Tavern Revitalization Project. Early in November the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford, brought 43 guests by coach bus to the Anshei Israel Synagogue to hear Ken Mahler tell the story of the synagogue's founding and its transition from a place of worship to the historic site on the National Register of Historic Places that it is today. Built in 1936 by George Allen and Sons, and founded by 15 families of Russian and Polish heritage some who lived as far away as Plainfield and Baltic, the synagogue was restored and is maintained by the Lisbon Historical Society. It is open by appointment; please call President Paula Adams at 860-887-8052 for more information.

Upcoming events this winter include the Saturday, December 6, Holiday Open House at the John Bishop House. Wintergreens to adorn window boxes and front doors will be for sale. Join us by the fire for hot mulled cider and holiday cheer. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This season's Winter Cooking Classes are scheduled on Valentine's Day, which is a Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 21, 2015, 1:30

p.m. Please call Paula Adams or visit the Lisbon Historical Society Facebook page for a registration form.

Restoration has begun at the Burnham Tavern, the first order of business was to remove the 1920s porch and tackle the emergency repairs to the front of the house. Jacks now support the front of the house, which was bowing outward. Restoration carpenter, Nick Anderson reports that working on the Burnham Tavern is almost a religious experience, in all his years working on old structures, he reports that he has never seen so many early construction techniques in one building and that includes a circa 1740 house in Montville. Burnham Tavern is constructed without studs, instead 2 inch by 10-inch sheathing boards that are tenon and mortised into the sill and the clapboards are nailed to the sheathing. Inside the building the plaster and lath are nailed to sleepers instead of the backside of the sheathing, or to studs as it is most often done.

The concrete steps in the front of the house were dismantled and the site excavated with the volunteer help of Ken Mahler and his equipment. Numerous artifacts turned up in the process including glass, pottery, a pipe and bricks dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and a few hand formed dating to the 1700s. Nick believes he may have found the original front steps on the property near the site of the old big barn. Removing the porch and revealing the original façade strongly suggests that the foundation footprint is original to the house and not a section of an earlier house.

Work will continue as long as the weather holds. The plan is to replace the sill, the columns on either side of the door, and inspect the girt between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. A girt is a horizontal structural member (beam) that provides lateral support to the wall panel, primarily to resist wind loads. Also, the corner post on the northeast side of house needs to be addressed. Finally, the old sty at the rear of the site needs shoring up; it too is a historic structure.

Last fall, with the help of Boy Scout Troop 73, a section of the old stagecoach road that was part of the Norwich to Woodstock Turnpike dating back to the 1750s, was cleared. This original section is located just a thousand feet north on the right side of Route 169 from its intersection with Route 138 by town hall. Posts have been placed, and discreetly painted, at the ends of that section of road. Lowes of Lisbon donated forty boxwood shrubs that have been planted at each end of this road section. When they grow enough, the posts will be removed, but in the meantime they fulfill the requirement by the State DOT that gave us permission to clear this historic site.

You can tune into [www.99main.com/~chill/Historic.html](http://www.99main.com/~chill/Historic.html), or Facebook page by typing Lisbon Historical Society in the "find friends" bar for information, schedule and registration forms. You can also watch a couple of cooking class clips on YouTube.

Thanks once again to everyone who donates their cans and bottles, all the hands that sort seven days a week, and the men who truck to the redemption centers in Norwich, Willimantic, and our helpful local friends at the Lisbon Package store. This is truly a community effort. Please try to bring your glass in original 6, 12, 18, 20, packs, or in the 24 bottle cases even if the brands don't always match the glass!

### **Winter Parking Ban**

The winter parking ban is in effect for town-owned roads and is enforced when the weather is expected to be hazardous for vehicles. Any vehicle found parked on Lisbon town roads during the ban may be towed at the owner's expense.

### **Notes from Marcia Shafer, Town Historian**

What would our ancestors think of the way we travel today? We have the potential to fly on rockets to the moon. We can travel by bullet trains that go from Boston to New York and other cities in the Northeast Corridor at a speed of 150 mph in a very short period of time. We can fly on a plane that takes us across the continental United States with layovers, in less than twelve hours. I recently flew to the Midwest in four hours with a time zone

change. If I were driving a modern car it would have taken me twenty-two hours of straight driving without stopping to eat or sleep. We can now travel in electric cars and recharge them at a recharging station or drive a hybrid car with gas and electric options. We have the luxury of calling from our cars, using a GPS to direct us to our intended destination and even a backup sensor that tells us if we are in the right area with no one behind or how close we are to the next vehicle for parallel parking.

What would our ancestors think about all of the luxuries such as cell phones, laptops, ipods that we "can't live without". We take them for granted but must have them to keep in touch and to immediately know what has happened elsewhere in our family, hometown, state and beyond.

Newspapers, magazines, and other paper forms of communication would have been "old news" by the time some people had the most recent "news". Can you imagine how long it would take the latest news about an event that had taken place in the U.S. during the wars that occurred on American soil from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, to the Civil War. As time progressed the messages would have been relayed via Post Riders, stagecoaches, and personal delivery. Today we have almost instantaneous technology that tells us of battles on other countries soil almost as they are occurring. Those technologies bring images of the battles right into our homes as they are occurring here or in foreign lands. Along those same lines, we can still use the United States Postal Service to mail greeting cards to our loved ones and we can contact our loved ones by actually seeing them on a phone or computer screen to keep in touch if they are in the military or far away from

home. You can see them usually within hours of leaving your home.

Taverns were a means of learning the latest news. It was where town meetings were held and where voting must have taken place. Taverns/Inns were a place for socializing and town functions until towns developed a place to meet without the influence of alcohol. Taverns were a place to eat, sleep, have meetings dance and socialize.

As the winter months come upon us and we are snow bound with cold temperatures, we may travel in a car, a truck, a bus, a train or plane. In the 1700's and before, our ancestors would have walked, ridden a horse or in a horse drawn wagon, or possibly in a stagecoach. For the winter months they would have bundled up in a horse drawn sleigh with foot warmers and heavy blankets to brace against the cold.

For this winter may you travel by the fastest means possible but may you appreciate the wonders of our forefathers and what they did to survive. When they traveled distances it took many days or weeks. They didn't have reservations and chanced the weather without a forecast. They didn't have a fast food place to stop and eat and use the bathrooms. Enjoy your journeys and give gratitude for living in the 21st century.

If you would like to share any family history with the Lisbon Historical Society or Town Historian, please **c o n t a c t m e a t [lisboncthistorian@yahoo.com](mailto:lisboncthistorian@yahoo.com)**. May you experience the coming holidays with family, friends, and loved ones.



## LISBON FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Annual Santa Parade

### GIFT DROP OFF

DECEMBER 4, 7-9PM OR ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, BY NOON

#### Fri Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 5PM

138 to Route 12  
Sylvandale Road  
Lee Road  
Route 12 to Dogwood Drive  
Kananan Road  
Mell Road  
Blueberry Lane  
Ames Road  
Preston Allen Road  
Kendall Road  
Kendall Road Ext.  
Strnad Road  
Kenyon Road  
McNeeley Road  
Versailles Road  
Paper Mill Road  
Allen Road  
Kinsman Hill Road Ext  
Town House Road

#### Sat. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 5PM

138 towards Ross Hill  
Bushnell Road  
Ross Hill Road Ext.  
Ross Hill Road  
Bayberry Lane  
Strawberry Fields  
Phillips Road  
Oak Drive  
Meadowbrook  
Kimball Road  
Kimball Heights  
Rex Road  
Baron Road  
Regina Drive  
Sullivan Road  
Gavin Way  
Westminster Road  
Inland Road  
Kinsman Hill Road  
N. Burnham Hwy  
Autumn View Drive  
Lisbon Heights

#### Sun. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5PM

S. Burnham Hwy to Mell Rd.  
Route 12  
Round Hill Court  
Tunnel Hill Rd  
Tunnel Hill Court  
Lower Blissville Rd  
Ice House Rd  
Blissville Rd  
John St  
Jurewicz St  
Nora St  
Graham Terrace  
James St  
Bundy Hill  
Lisbon Mobile Park  
Rimek Rd  
School House Rd  
Club House Rd  
Ethel Acres  
Laurier Lane  
Rocky Hollow Rd  
169 to Fire House



For up-to-date information

### For Additional Information Please Contact

Lisbon Firehouse 860-376-2558

Mike Gallagher 860-334-9344

Matt Babcock 860-608-5044

# Lisbon Senior Center

	weekly events	time	room
Monday	lunch	11:30	lunchroom
	drawing	12:30	lunchroom
	pickleball		
Tuesday	exercise	9:30	main room
	quilting	9:30	main room
	rummicub	10:30	main room
	lunch	11:30	lunchroom
	Wii bowling	12:15	main room
Wednesday	chair caning, carving, etc	9:30	main room
	lunch	11:30	lunchroom
	The Yarn Club	12:30	lunchroom
	pickleball		
Thursday	exercise	9:30	main room
	Rummicub	10:30	main room
	lunch	11:30	lunchroom
	bingo	12:30	main room
Friday	crafting	9:30	lunchroom
	lunch	11:30	lunchroom
	Rummicub	1:00	main room

The Lisbon Senior Center is for young, vibrant folks, age 60 and up who are looking for a club like setting that includes socialization, activities, trips, classes, information and more.

The Senior Center is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 3:00. Call 860-376-2329 for more information about: Transportation and the delivery of Meals on Wheels: restaurant style, made to order lunches: help with applications and insurance decisions and much more. Check out the newsletter at [lisbonct.com](http://lisbonct.com)