



# Town of Avon Newsletter

ISSUE XXXIX

January 2013



## Who Pays Attention to Weather?

For Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P), preparing for severe weather starts before the first rain drop, snow flake or gust of wind. How long will the weather take to arrive? Which 'projection model' will it follow? What kind of damage can we expect? Will we need to ask for help from other utilities? These are just a few of the questions that will be asked ahead of a potentially significant weather event in an attempt to ensure the necessary equipment and personnel are here and ready to go to work when it's safe to do so.

In certain cases, arrangements are made to bring extra line crews from out of state before a storm. For example, during Hurricane Sandy, line crews from as far away as Washington State traveled to Connecticut to help with the restoration effort. With crews and equipment in place, and recognizing that safety is **always** a top priority, crews wait until the weather event passes and it's safe to begin the restoration process. CL&P's first priority is to make sure emergency vehicles in the cities and towns we serve can access every street in their communities by responding to electric hazards and removing any wires or debris that may be blocking a road.

To help with this and other emergency work, a CL&P representative, known as a Town Liaison, is embedded in each town's emergency operations center. Their role is to update local officials of the utility's progress, provide a direct point of contact to CL&P for the town, and assist in any troubleshooting. Once all emergencies are responded to and any critical local facilities (as determined by town leadership), such as nursing homes and emergency shelters, have their power restored, CL&P begins the process of restoring power to other customers – focusing on repairs that impact the biggest block of customers at a time. Some of these fixes are temporary, with more permanent repairs being made once everyone is restored and the electrical distribution system is brought back to pre-storm conditions.

So, when your power goes out, be sure to call CL&P to report the outage, even if you think or know that your neighbors have already reported the outage. It is important that CL&P know, specifically, which homes are without power. The number to call is 800-286-2000. Or, you can also report the outage online at [www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com).

## FY 2013/2014 Budget Process

The process is well underway to prepare the FY 2013/2014 budget that takes effect on July 1, 2013. All town departments have submitted their capital and operating budgets, and Town Council will review the Town Manager's proposed budget at a workshop scheduled for February 9th. Residents who are interested in participating in the process are encouraged to attend the following meetings, during which details of the budget will be discussed:

**Town Council Budget Workshop:** The workshop will be held on Saturday, February 9th in the Selectmen's Chamber at Town Hall beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending in the early afternoon. The complete budget calendar is available on line at: [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us).

**Board of Finance Meetings:** The public hearing on the budget will be held on Monday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Senior Center. Residents wishing to provide the Board of Finance with input about the budget are welcomed to attend.

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## Construction Update

**Town Manager’s Office Renovations** – Work is progressing on the project to renovate and better utilize space in the Town Manager’s Office, including removal of the old Probate vault and conversion of the old Probate office area into a new conference room and welcome area. The fiscal year 2012/2013 Capital Improvement Program budget included \$30,000 for this work. The anticipated completion date is mid-February. Since October, Town Manager’s Office staff has been working out of the Selectmen’s Chamber, with regularly scheduled board and commission meetings relocated to the Avon Room, the Library, or other satellite locations.



**Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)** – Design is underway to extend sidewalks along the east side of Route 10 between Route 44 and Sperry Park using STEAP funds awarded to the Town in September 2010. The anticipated scope of work is to extend sidewalks and granite curbing past the Board of Education Annex toward Fisher Drive and the Rails-to-Trails connection. The project will go out to bid this spring, so that construction may begin in early 2013. In addition, the Town applied in early August for additional STEAP funds to continue the ongoing sidewalk, curbing, and lighting improvements along Route 44.

**Avon Free Public Library (recap)** – In October 2012, the Town issued long-term bonds to fund the Town portion of the



*Children’s Area*

Avon Free Public Library Addition & Renovations Project (\$7.1 million). In total, the Town saved roughly \$3.4 million on the Project as compared to the debt service projections presented at the September 21, 2009 Special Town Meeting: \$11.8 million projected versus \$8.4 million actual. These significant savings are attributable to \$900,000 in construction savings and historically low issuance costs. The Building Committee formally disbanded in December (after five years of service!) and turned the building over to the Town. Not only did the Project come in under budget, but it also included all of the amenities promised in 2009, such as a Teen Room, and included many “green” or energy efficient features; most notably, a new geothermal heating and cooling system, which draws upon the ambient temperature of ground water below the

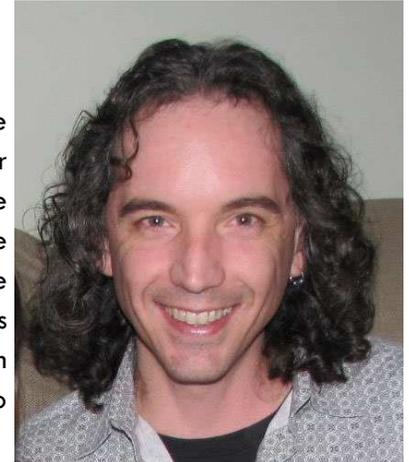
frost line for heat in winter and cool air in summer. One aspect of the Project that the Town, as a whole, should be proud of is the unprecedented support the community showed in raising more than \$1.3 million in private funds, comprised of many individual and corporate donations and a number of grants. The Library Board committed \$500,000 in fundraising to help offset the cost of construction, but the fundraising campaign was able to nearly triple this amount! This allowed for many “bells and whistles” in the new building that otherwise would have been impossible to include. A job very well done!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER,  
CALL STEVE BARTHA, ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER, AVON TOWN HALL, AT (860) 409-4300.



## Glenn Grube, Library Director

On December 4, 2012, Glenn Grube became Avon's new Library Director. Glenn came to Avon from the West Hartford Library system, where he was the department head for automated services, supervising both circulation and technical services. He brings more than 20 years of professional library experience to the community, having worked in the Manchester and Glastonbury Public Libraries as well as having served as a part-time reference librarian at the Avon Library for several years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Trinity College and a Masters Degree in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University. We extend a warm welcome to Glenn. Please drop in to the newly renovated Library to do the same!



## Real Estate & Motor Vehicle Tax

The second installment of the real estate taxes and supplemental motor vehicle taxes, which came due January 1, 2013, must be paid by February 1st to avoid State mandated interest charges. The Revenue office is open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Town Offices will be closed on January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Payments can also be made online. Go to [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us) and click the blue button, "Pay your Tax Bill" on the bottom left of the home page. Any questions? Please call the Revenue office at (860) 409-4306. Thank you.



## Avon Senior Center Events

### Friday, February 15, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. - "Love Your Neighbor" Day

This event is a collaboration between Avon Senior Center and Canton Senior Services. Older or disabled persons from **ALL** towns are welcome. Come celebrate good fortune and good neighbors with friends at the Canton Community Center. The Canton Community Nursery School will visit with Valentines, and a delicious meal of Panera soup and bread and Ben & Jerry's ice cream will be served. Please pay \$2.00 when registering by Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. - "Spring Fling"

Join the Avon Senior Center and Canton Senior Services as we enjoy this special event together. A delicious meal will be served. Please pay \$2.00 when you sign up.

For more information on these upcoming events and other scheduled programs, call the Avon Senior Center at (860) 675-4355.



The Memorial United Methodist Church at 867 West Avon Road is having a Pasta Dinner on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Avon and Farmington Fuel Banks. "At-will" donations requested at the door.



## From the Avon Volunteer Fire Department

**Snow Removal Reminder:** As the snow piles up, please make sure to dig out any and all fire hydrants near your home or office. It is imperative that firefighters be able to access the hydrants quickly when needed.

**Board of Directors:** The Avon Volunteer Fire Department welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors: Ramona Mansfield (September 2012), Tom Longworth (December 2012), and John Ryan (January 2013). Leaving the Board at the end of 2012 was Fire Police Lieutenant Jean Barton, who served for eight years, including four as secretary. The Board is grateful to Ms. Barton for her long service. In addition, the Board thanks Dennis Bianchi and Steve Johnson for their service on the Board in 2012.

**Citizens Fire Academy:** Do you often wonder what an Avon Volunteer Firefighter does? Would you like to find out? Join the Avon Citizens Fire Academy and see for yourself in a fun-filled environment! Students in the Citizens Fire Academy learn how to dress in firefighter gear, operate a fire hose, and conduct a victim rescue during a mock automobile accident.

The Citizens Fire Academy meets on Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Classes begin April 4, 2013, and run through May 23, 2013. The mock automobile accident takes place during a special Saturday morning class which also includes the involvement of other emergency services such as Life Star helicopter, AMR ambulance, and Rescue 2, a paramedic unit from UCONN Health Center (unless on medical calls).

Among the many topics to be covered in 2013 are fire behavior, hazardous materials, training of firefighters, tours of all 4 firehouses, fire prevention, hoses and water flow, and the history of the AVFD.

Application deadline: March 24, 2013. To request an application for the 2013 Citizens Fire Academy, please call the AVFD headquarters on Darling Drive at (860) 677-2644 or visit [www.avonvfd.org](http://www.avonvfd.org) to download the application.

## Subscribe to Town of Avon News

Would you like to know what is going on in Avon? Receive board and commission agendas and notices? With the e-mail Subscriber Service for the Town of Avon, you can sign-up to receive e-mail notifications about everything from public hearings on the budget to choral concerts. Subscribing to this service is free and easy. Just visit the Town Website, [www.town.avon.ct.us](http://www.town.avon.ct.us), click on the **Click Here** link (shown below), and follow the simple instructions.



**Automatically receive emails of Town News - [Click Here](#)**

### Annual Town Report & Calendar

Residents are reminded that a limited number of the Town's Annual Report and Calendar are available for pickup in the Town Manager's and Town Clerk's Offices at Town Hall, or at the Avon Free Public Library, Senior Center and Landfill. Please come get them while they last!



## News from Social Services

**"Give Kids a Smile Day!"** is occurring at Canton Valley Dental (191 Albany Turnpike, Canton, 860-693-0887) on Friday, February 1, 2013. This is an annual program sponsored by national and local organizations and is an opportunity for children who otherwise would not have access to dental care to receive treatment. Treatment will be provided, free of charge, by dental professionals, and may include cleanings, x-rays, fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings and extractions, as needed. Appointments are necessary to accommodate as many as possible. If you are interested, contact Canton Valley Dental!

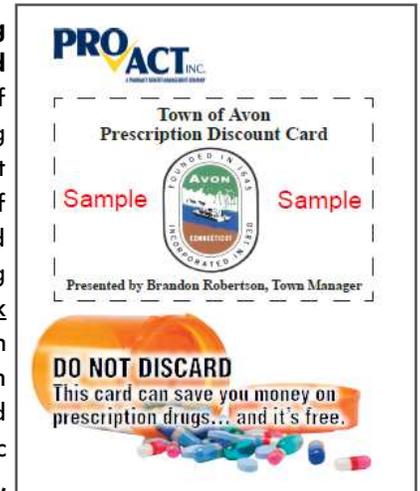


**CT Energy Assistance Program:** The State of Connecticut can help households pay for primary heating bills (i.e. oil, propane, electric, and gas). To be eligible, household income must be less than 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines and the applicant must meet a certain limit for assets. If you have never applied and/or are interested in receiving more information on this program, please visit our website, under the Social Services link ("Energy Assistance & Renters Rebate"), or call our office at (860) 409-4346 to see if you may qualify and to schedule an appointment.

**Operation Fuel:** Provides one-time assistance with heating bills for those households who may be slightly over income/asset limits for other government programs. More information is available through Gifts of Love at (860) 676-2323.

### Prescription Drug Discount Card

**Program:** The Town of Avon will be partnering with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and ProAct, Inc., enabling Avon residents who lack coverage to save an estimated 20% on brand name drugs and up to 70% on generic prescription purchases, as well as to receive



vision, LASIK, and hearing product and services discounts! Social Services staff unveiled the program on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Avon Senior Center. Discount cards will be available to residents in the near future. Check your mailboxes in the next month or so for more information!

## Avon Youth Services

Avon Youth Services is seeking to host a Parent-Youth Focus Group. We are seeking 6 to 12 youth paired with 6 to 12 parents or adult caregivers to explore the topic of "Gaming" (playing video games). The goal is to gain a sense of what teenagers consider normal gaming behavior and what parents' concerns are regarding gaming.

Any Avon family interested in participating should contact Suzi Alexe, Youth Services Coordinator, at (860) 409-4396 or via email ([salex@town.avon.ct.us](mailto:salex@town.avon.ct.us)). Groups



will meet in February and March for approximately 90 minutes, and a light dinner will be served to all participants. The information gathered will be used to enhance learning about the effects of the internet and other video game use, and the perceived positive and negative effects on our youth.

If interested in learning more about how you can be part of this important and current topic impacting our youth, please let us know!

The Recreation and Parks Department is currently accepting registration for its winter/spring programs. You can register online at [www.avonrec.com](http://www.avonrec.com).

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Town Council Budget Workshop**  
**Saturday, February 9, 2013**  
**Town Hall - Selectmen's Chamber**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**FY 2013/2014**  
**Budget Public Hearing**  
**Monday, April 8, 2013**  
**Avon Senior Center**  
**7:00 p.m.**