



Ellington Historical Society

P.O. Box 73

Ellington, Conn. 06029

June 2015 Newsletter

June Meeting Notice

The Ellington Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and potluck supper for members on Thursday, June 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Hall Memorial Library, 93 Main Street. Those with last names beginning with A-J are asked to bring a main dish. Those with last names beginning with K-Z are asked to bring a salad *or* side dish. Beverages will be provided. Our traditional strawberry shortcake will be served for dessert.



News from the Curator-Nancy Long

Museum Season

The Nellie McKnight Museum is open for the season on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 through the end of September. Stop in and visit or take some time to really explore our exhibits. We have been trying to keep busy on Thursday afternoons doing jobs inside and outside the museum. Your help is always welcome and we can find a job to fit your interests!

Flea Market/Bake Sale

Cool weather and some showers started the day on May 16, but the weather improved and folks showed up to set up their booths and shop so the day was a success. We had fewer vendors this year and blame the weather for smaller participation. Our bake sale was well attended, and we thank all of our members who took the time to bake and wrap their baked goods for sale. A special thank you to our volunteers: Pat Clapp, Connie Nichols, Bev Nichols, Dot Manner, Ann Berak, Nancy Lombard, Mary Temple and Tina Fiore.

The museum was open for tours on May 16. Thank you to our volunteers: Tim Fahy, Shirley Hayden, Hilary Brady, Dave Lehmann, Nancy and Jim Long. The flea market field was set up by

Tim Fahy and Nancy Long, Dave Lehmann and Jim Long checked in vendors on Saturday morning.

Herb Garden

The herb garden on the museum grounds has been readied for the growing season. Thank you to the Tussie Mussies from the Ellington Women's Club for their efforts in maintaining the garden through the summer.

News from the President-Tim Fahy

On May 3rd, interested members of the Ellington Historical Society met to discuss the state of our society and by extension, the fate of the Nellie McKnight Museum. We need an active, engaged membership to continue running both the EHS and the museum. As if to illustrate our problem, 20 members came to the meeting and only one person was under age 65, with the average age being over 75. Since EHS owns the museum, selling the building and many of its contents is an option that was discussed. The members voted to bring that option to our annual meeting for a vote. Since that meeting we have talked to the First Selectman to inform him of our situation. We also met with Sue Phillips from the library who will look for appropriate space for the archives and other items from our collection. The McKnight family has also been consulted. We have yet to consult a lawyer, but we will do that soon.

Our first choice of course, would be to have a group of new, energetic, people join our society and be willing to be officers and committee chairmen and do the work needed to continue what we have now, and bring new ideas to fruition. Since that doesn't seem likely, we must be prepared to take alternative actions. Our June meeting is our annual meeting at which we elect officers. Three of our four officers have served for 12 years and would like to step down, so this will be a topic of discussion also.

Thank you to Jaime Peckham, who gave a generous donation in memory of her father, Homer Peckham.



The Ellington Farmers Market theme on Saturday, June 27th will be "Farming Through the Years" and will feature a selection of items from the kitchen of the Nellie McKnight Museum. They are representative of what would have been in a farmer's wife's kitchen. Try your hand at churning butter or washing clothes in a tub with a washboard. We will be at the market at Arbor Park on Main Street from 9:00-12:00.