

Trail brings pride to three towns along its path

FROM C1

ing trails. Retired volunteers joined Preston Boy Scout Troop 75 and the Ledyard High School National Honor Society to carry planks of lumber into the forest to build two wooden bridges across larger streams and 14 rivulet crossings.

The group had to create safe access across vertical wetlands, with water running from stone outcrops. Rocky's Landscaping in Ledyard volunteered to mow the meadow trail before Sunday's grand opening.

"That's so nice," Parkinson said, smiling. "That's the way it's been. People say: 'Hey, I'm here, what do you need?'"

In the heavy rains of a tropical storm in early September, one wooden bridge washed away and has been rebuilt in time for Sunday's grand opening. One spot required a 16-foot-long aluminum bridge to allow emergency ATVs to access the trail.

But those would be the only wheeled vehicles allowed. The

The next step for the Tri-Town Trail Association is to extend the trail from the completed northern section to Route 214 in Ledyard. At the same time, the association will work on a way to get from Route 1 at Bluff Point State Park in Groton to Route 184.

narrow trail now is open only to hikers. No bicycles or motored vehicles are allowed, and no horse riding. Dogs on leashes are allowed, and there is a dog poop bag dispenser at the trailhead. Parkinson said future improvements could allow the trail to be open for mountain bikes.

The trail has been in use for about a year, Parkinson said but was very muddy in spots. The association wanted to wait until the bridges were in place before hosting the grand opening and volunteer appreciation event.

The northern section is a 4.2-mile loop nearly straight south from the trailhead on Route 117 at the Preston-Ledy-

ard line to the Clark Farm property, owned by the town of Ledyard, and back. The loop crosses a meadow, goes through a mature forest and through active farmland. Two private property owners provided easements, Parkinson said.

The meadow loop

Shorter spurs are available, including a 0.72-mile loop around the trailhead meadow, now thick with blooming goldenrod, wildflowers and grasses. Parkinson hopes the meadow loop becomes a cross-country skiing haven in winter. The main trail is marked with orange arrows. Other colors mark

the spurs, such as yellow arrows for the meadow loop.

High-power electrical lines cross the northern meadow. Eversource has offered to create a parking lot at this entrance and a second parking lot at the Red Barn trailhead on Route 117 in Ledyard.

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Throughout the planning and trail development, the association has partnered with Parks and Recreation departments in Groton, Ledyard and Preston. The group will seek future planning grants and work with landowners for potential easements to connect the trail to publicly owned or trust properties.

"I hope it can be done in my lifetime," said Parkinson, who will turn 82 shortly.



SCOTT RITTER/THE DAY | SOURCES: TRI-TOWN TRAIL ASSOCIATION, STAMEN DESIGN, OPENSTREETMAP, CT DEEP A grand opening will be held Sunday for first phase of the proposed Tri-Town Trail, a 4.2-mile loop that starts near the Preston-Ledyard town line.

Absentee ballots are now available for Waterford and Montville races

FROM C1

Applications and ballots can be mailed to ATTN: Town Clerk, Montville Town Hall, 310 Norwich New London Tpke., Uncasville, CT 06382 or placed in the Town Hall drop box.

Sandberg said she is in the clerk office throughout the whole process, from issuing of the absentee ballots to counting on Election Day, acting also as the head moderator. Absentee ballots do not leave the office and they are vaulted in a safe location.

COVID-19 is still a valid reason to vote by absentee ballot if voters are nervous about going to polling stations, she said.

Sandberg also assures residents that precautions will take place on Election Day.

"All the polling places will be open and the same sanitizing process used in 2020 will be done to keep people safe," she said.

Polling stations on Nov. 2 will be located at the Town Hall gymnasium for voters in Districts 1 and 6; Mohegan Elementary School for Districts 2 and 5; and the Montville Community Center in Oakdale for Districts 3 and 4. They will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sandberg said the people of Montville can get all the information they need about voting

COVID-19 is still a valid reason to vote by absentee ballot if voters are nervous about going to polling stations, Montville Town Clerk Katie Sandberg said.

on the town's website, recently listing a link titled "Election Information - November 2, 2021" on the homepage under announcements.

The process in Waterford for applying and issuing absentee ballots is the same as in Montville with the exception that Waterford's clerk does not double as moderator or handle ballots on Election Day. And unlike Sandberg, the town clerk in Waterford is elected into office, not hired.

David Campo, the Waterford town clerk for the past six years, said those who cannot access an absentee ballot application online can get one in person by calling the office or emailing him at clerk@waterfordct.org.

"For those voting by absentee ballot, the earlier they get them in, the better," he said.

Residents can mail the applications and ballots to Waterford Town Clerk, 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT 06385, or place them in the drop box at the back of Town Hall.

Once absentee ballots are out, Campo said he checks the drop box every day and even weekends to assure every vote is accounted for.

Campo said he checks-in the sealed absentee ballots, counts them, stores them in a vault inside a locked cabinet and reports the final number to the moderator, who will recount the ballots and make sure not one is missing.

As they come in, Campo goes through the absentee ballots he has received with the registrar's office so they can cross off names on a list of residents who have already voted. Even on Election Day, the registrar's office will call poll stations to notify them what voters in the district have already voted by absentee ballot.

Waterford will have four polling locations for residents who would like to vote in person on Nov. 2: Town Hall for District 1, Quaker Hill School in District 2, Oswegatchie School in District 3 and Great Neck School for District 4.

Study: Reinfection likely for unvaccinated

New Haven Register

New Haven — A team of scientists led by faculty at Yale School of Public Health and the University of North Carolina have concluded following a study that strong protection following natural COVID-19 infection is short-lived.

"Reinfection can reasonably happen in three months or less," said Jeffrey Townsend, the Elihu Professor of Biostatistics at the Yale School of Public Health and the study's lead author, in a release.

"Therefore, those who have been naturally infected should get vaccinated," he said. "Previous infection alone can offer very little long-term protection against subsequent infections."

The Yale/North Carolina study, published in the journal *The Lancet Microbe*, is the first to determine the likelihood of reinfection following natural infection and without vaccination, according to Yale.

"Townsend and his team analyzed known reinfection and immunological data from the close viral relatives of SARS-CoV-2 that cause 'common colds,' along with immunological data from SARS-CoV-1 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome," the university release said. "Leveraging evolutionary principles, the team was able to model the risk of COVID-19 reinfection over time."

"Reinfections can, and have, happened even shortly after recovery," the researchers said in the re-

lease. "And they will become increasingly common as immunity wanes and new SARS-CoV-2 variants arise."

"We tend to think about immunity as being immune or not immune. Our study cautions that we instead should be more focused on the risk of reinfection through time," said Alex Dornburg, assistant professor of bioinformatics and genomics at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, who co-led the study, also in the release.

"As new variants arise, previous immune responses become less effective at combating the virus," Dornburg said. "Those who were naturally infected early in the pandemic are increasingly likely to become reinfected in the near future."

Norwich property boasts 348 acres

FROM C1

Holdings LLC, covers 17 parcels, including the former Tarryk and Doolittle farms, where plans for a proposed luxury golf resort fell through a decade ago.

The property has a total of 348 acres, but initial studies found that about 185 acres are developable, with another 10 to 15 acres of sloped land to

be reserved for solar power structures, and 6.6 acres for roadways.

The city's existing business park has 355 acres. c.bessette@theday.com



PROUD TO SERVE THE CITY OF NEW LONDON

In honor of the Resolution of the City of New London declaring October to be Italian Heritage Month, I would like to honor my grandfather **Francesco Pescatello**. Francesco worked for the Public Works Department of the City. He swept State Street for the merchants of the City, acquiring the name "Frank State Street." He was proud of his job.

Thomas J. Londregan grandson and former Director of Law for the City.

Francis T. Londregan grandson and former mayor of the City.

Jeffrey T. Londregan great grandson and Director of Law for the City.

Timothy A. Londregan great grandson, commercial developer in New London.

Jack Corcoran great grandson former athlete and football coach at NLHS.

Casey Corcoran great-great grandson former student athlete at NLHS.

Mary Ellen Tudisco great granddaughter NLHS graduate and volunteer.

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