

Magnet Fishing

from page 14

especially if you have a pacemaker, metal plate in your head, or hearing aid. A neodymium magnet can weigh under two pounds yet have a pull strength of anywhere from 200 to well over 1,000 pounds. Even for those without health concerns, a magnet this strong can be a lot for a beginner to handle, as many find out after getting one stuck to their car, a bridge railing, or the badge of the law enforcement officer who has come to check out your catch.

In the interests of public health and safety, it should be noted that law enforcement has taken a sudden interest in magnet fishing. So have criminals, which, unlike neodymium, are not such rare earth elements. The reason is because it is not uncommon for magnet fishers to pull up guns, knives, bullets, handcuffs, safes, and other evidence hurriedly tossed after a crime. DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT put your fingerprints on them, or the next metal objects you see will be your cell bars. Even this, however, can't match the explosive excitement of pulling up hand grenades, mortar rounds, or other ordinance on which fingerprints, or fingers, won't much matter.

To me, the possibility of finding sunken treasure has far more appeal than finding a fish. There is mystery, excitement, and a touch of danger in magnet fishing that fish will never be able to match. There is also the added benefit of removing environmentally harmful objects from the water, an act which might make fish more inclined to skip the hooks and spend more quality time in their natural settings. On top of that, it is always magnet fishing season, as waterways are stocked with weapons and other metallic objects year round. If you are a beginner however, just remember that it is easy to go overboard with magnet fishing, especially if you are sporting any metal when you toss your line in. ■

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Public Library of New London Teen Programs

Teen Take & Make: Blackout Poetry - 4/1-4/10 - Learn how to make a blackout poetry from a variety of books!

Teen Take & Make: Learn to Make a Zine - 4/4-4/10 - Learn how to make a zine, a mini book of any story you want to tell.

Teen Take & Make: DIY Basil Planter - 4/11-4/17 - Pick up a kit that will include everything you need to grow your own basil!

Teen Take & Make: Grow an Alum Crystal - 4/11-4/17 - Pick up a kit that will include everything you need to grow your own crystal at home! No registration is required.

Life on a Submarine and How it Works: 4pm, 4/12 - Retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Chip Henson will go over how life on a submarine works, the differences of SONAR and RADAR, how navigation works as well as a variety of other submarine subjects.

Teen Take & Make: Acrylic Paint Kit - 4/18-4/24 - Come pick up a paint kit at the library! With each kit comes with 6, 1oz colors, paint-brushes, 1 canvas and a mini easel. No registration is required.

Teen Take & Make: Make a Dragon Egg - 4/18-4/24 - We've all seen the dragon eggs in different areas of the media, now it's your chance to make your very own! No registration is required.

Basics of Cosplay with Cass - 3:30pm, 4/19 - Professional cosplayer Cass Meehan-Marinich will go over the ins and outs of cosplay, where to begin cosplaying and attending cons, and how the cosplaying phenomenon has grown and changed over the years. No registration is required.

Teen Take & Make: Make Your Own Book Light - 4/25-4/30 - These kits will have everything you need to custom make your own book light, including the batteries! No registration is required.

Teen Take & Make: Make a Personal Fan - 4/25-4/30 - Now's the time to make your own fan to help you stay cool!

Learn about Snap Circuits - 4pm, 4/26 - No registration is required.



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Waterford Public Library Programs for Kids & Teens

Grab & Go Craft: Red Fox - 9-5, 4/2 - Drop in anytime to pick up supplies to make a red fox craft at home. Check the Facebook page (@waterfordpubliclibrary) for a step-by-step video tutorial.

Grab & Go Kit: Airplane - 9-1, 4/5 - Decorate your own styrofoam airplane and watch it fly! Recommended for ages 4 and up.

STEAM Ahead: Cotton Ball Launcher - 4-4:45, 4/11 - for 6-12 year olds - If you have ever launched a rubber band, you know it has enough energy to strike the target and also cause a sting! Explore the principles of elastic potential energy and kinetic energy to make a rubber band-powered cotton launcher. Registration required.

Grab & Go Craft: Train at Night - 9-5, 4/16 - Drop in anytime during the next two weeks to pick up supplies to make a Train at Night craft at home. Check the Facebook page (@waterfordpubliclibrary) for a step-by-step video tutorial on how to make your craft.

Grab & Go Kit: Wind Chime - 12-8, 4/18 - Create and decorate your own spring themed wooden wind chime. Recommended for kids ages 8 and up. Available while supplies lasts.

OUTDOOR Family Storytime - 10-10:45am, 4/19 - Meet outside on the side lawn for an all ages family storytime. Read a few stories, sing songs, and share smiles together! Please bring a blanket or lawn chairs and dress for the weather.

ONLINE Haiku for Kids: An Introduction to Poetry Writing - for kids 5-11 years old - 4:15-5pm, 4/20 - Do you have a favorite season? Can you think of a moment that reflects everything you love about that time of year? The snow falling. A flower blossoming. A frog jumping. The leaves bursting with color. Join poet Jennifer Y. Montgomery as she walks us through the basics of writing haiku. Learn about the history of haiku and the pattern in each poem. Think about your favorite season and write and illustrate your own poems! Register in the online calendar of events at the library's website.

Sand Art Designs - 9:30-12:30, 4/21 - Design your own sand art picture by adding colorful sand to specific areas. Recommended for ages 5 and up with a caregiver.

ONLINE Teen Haiku Poetry Writing - 6:30-7:30pm, 4/25 - Celebrate poetry month and join poet Jennifer Y. Montgomery on a journey through the history of haiku and other forms of Japanese micro poetry. She'll guide you through the basics of writing haiku. Then think about your favorite seasons and write your own! Registration required for the online zoom program. Visit the online calendar of events at the library's website.

Teen Art Series - 3-4:15pm, 4/26 - for teens 12-18 years old - Do you enjoy learning about art, discovering new techniques, and trying different types of media? This art series is for you! Explore using different kinds of media such as paints, collage paper, and tile to create your own works of art to keep. This series will include the following weekly workshops: Bottle Birds; Fun and Funky Collage; Van Gogh's Starry Night Moon; Accordion Book; Mosaic Tiles. All materials provided. Registration required. Visit the online calendar of events at the library's website.

Grab & Go Craft: Tulips - 9-5pm, 4/30 - Drop in anytime during the next two weeks to pick up supplies to make a Tulip craft at home. Check the Facebook page (@waterfordpubliclibrary) for a step-by-step video tutorial on how to make your craft. ■



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North Stonington Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale is Back!

Having missed 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID pandemic, The North Stonington Garden Club will once again hold its Traditional Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 9AM to Noon at the North Stonington's Wheeler Elementary School, 311 Norwich-Westerly Road (Route 2).

Offerings will include a selection of perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings, herbs, hanging baskets and a great rummage table. University of Rhode Island soil testers will be on-site to test soil texture and pH for customers who bring a soil sample.

Other features will include a Master Gardener table where customers can get advice on their gardening issues plus a selection of affordable Mother's Day gifts.

This is one of the largest and most comprehensive of the many plant sales held in the area at this time of year. Many loyal customers travel considerable distances to take advantage of the variety of plant offerings. By the time the gate opens at 9AM there is generally a line of eager customers, many bringing their own garden carts to take maximum advantage of the bargains to be had – a practice the club actively encourages.

The Garden Club provides trays for customers to carry their plants, a holding area where keen gardeners who choose more plants than they can carry, leave their selections until they are ready to pay.

Another convenience to accommodate customers are multiple cashier stations and the services of 'talliers', members identified by their green aprons.

Cash payments, personal checks and credit cards (for totals over \$30) are accepted. For easier shopping, major credit cards will be accepted for all items totaling over \$30 (3% fee applied).

The majority of perennials offered for sale are dug from the gardens of club members allowing customers to feel confident they will thrive under local conditions. These offerings are supplemented by annuals, perennials, herbs, hanging baskets, tomatoes and vegetables purchased from reputable local nurseries and offered at prices only slightly above wholesale cost.

In keeping with the club's mission to promote native species in gardens and practices, this year they will offer a LIMITED selection of 3 choice native plants.

"The Painted Rock Treasure Hunt" is back with ten rocks hidden in North Stonington to be found and redeemed for a plant prize on the day of the Sale. Clues will be posted on NSGC's Facebook page so visit daily for updates! Club members will be hiding the rocks beginning one month prior to the Sale – April 7, 2022!

A portion of the proceeds from sales are returned to the community in the form of seasonal civic plantings at North Stonington's Town Hall and Village Green, winter wreaths on public buildings, an annual college scholarship and grants to local organizations. Recipients in recent years have been Wheeler Library, North Stonington's Hewitt Farm, Coogan Farm in Mystic, Ashaway Free Public Library, the West Vine Street School and local land trusts - Avalonia Land Conservancy and GOSA.


The mission of the North Stonington Garden Club is to promote good gardening practices through education, outreach and example. For more information on the sale or about the North Stonington Garden Club, visit their website at www.nsgardenclub.org.

Affinity: Connecting Bach, Chopin, and Shostakovich

As pianist/harpsichordist/organist Michael Bahmann was putting together recitals centered around Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, he was struck by the remarkable parallels between these studies of key and mood and similar ones by Chopin and Shostakovich.

In his Affinity, six pairs of preludes and fugues by the three composers explore the essence of how keys and intervals relate to each other and evoke mood. This deeply thoughtful music probes contemplation and reverie, while some angular, nearly surreal soundscapes will astonish us. The sonorous, finely nuanced 1886 Chickering concert grand piano lends its own dimensions of depth, infinite shading, and chiaroscuro to this remarkable program.

Please bring music-loving friends at 5pm, Saturday, April 9th, to share this intimate exploration of the very heart of keyboard music at the La Grua Center, 32 Water Street, Stonington. Michael Bahmann's hour-long performance will run without an intermission.

Tickets \$20. Visit LaGruaCenter.org to purchase. Seating is not reserved; all seating is first come, first served. Doors open 1/2 hour before the start of the event. Please note, you do not have to bring a paper ticket to the event; if you purchased online tickets, simply give your name to the attendant at the door. 

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AT THE MOVIES

with Joan Radell

Dog

*Directed by Channing Tatum and Reid Carolin
Runtime 101 minutes - Rated PG-13 for language,
thematic elements, drug content and some
suggestive material*

What makes some tropes turn into classics, and others into clichés? Can a film that relies heavily on overworked iconography make the jump from one to the other? *Dog*, the cinematic directorial debut of Channing Tatum and Reid Carolin attempts this challenge.

Dog is a buddy film, starring Tatum as Briggs, a troubled Army Ranger struggling with the physical and psychological after-effects of a traumatic brain injury, and Lulu, a retiring military canine. Briggs is trying to get a clean bill of health from his former captain so that he can be hired as a mercenary. The captain agrees to endorse Briggs if he drives the unpredictable, aggressive and sometimes uncontrollable Lulu from Washington state to Arizona, where she'll be the honored guest at her former handler's funeral. Briggs must then deliver the dog to a nearby Army post to be euthanized; the Army has deemed that she's unable to be rehabilitated.

Dog has plenty of "on the road" hijinks and shenanigans. It has a few lighthearted moments, a couple of sequences that touch on

veterans' issues, and some wacky characters that the unlikely duo meet along the way. The plot is completely predictable; there are no surprises or plot twists. But somehow, by film's end, you'll feel a little tug on your heartstrings. Who doesn't love a story about a boy and his dog?

Let me be honest here. *Dog* is not an example of cinematic greatness. Tatum and Carolin make some rookie errors, and you can tell where they've cut corners. There are lots of continuity hiccups—Briggs' battle scars appear and disappear, a woman carries her groceries into the left side of a duplex, and answers the door of the right side in a later scene. *Dog* also offers more than a few cultural stereotypes that feel a little misguided and thoughtless. The film cost \$15 million to make, and Tatum and Carolin, together or separately, are directors, writers, and headlining star. *Dog* feels like a vanity project with a potentially big payoff for the partnership. (Box office receipts are over \$65 million as of this writing.) Carolin's script is thin, the cinematographer neglects the magnificent backdrops of the the American west, the editing is uneven and choppy. But Carolin has a secret weapon: Channing Tatum to the rescue!

Tatum's one-sided conversations with Lulu the Belgian Malinoise save *Dog* from collapsing under the weight of its own predictability. Carolin uses Lulu as Briggs' friend, audience, co-conspirator and therapist. The co-directors meticulously avoid humanizing the dog—there are no pseudo-speak whines, no perfectly timed head tilts. Lulu is a dog and she is majestic. The relationship that develops between Tatum and Lulu feels genuine and reciprocal. So where does *Dog* ultimately fail?

Tatum and Carolin have a great opportunity to give their audience insight into the very real issues of veterans' homelessness and mental health issues. Briggs notes that most Army Rangers who have seen combat have brain injuries, but that conversation goes no further. They start to open a door that should be flung wide, but seem leery of making a commitment to shedding light on problems that military personnel and their families face too often. Lulu would be a perfect ambassador. Instead, she becomes a symbol of valor soaked in sentimentality, underscoring the traditional attitudes that keep some veterans from seeking the help they need from service agencies that are understaffed and underfunded. *Dog* lacks the courage and heart that Lulu showed throughout her combat career.

But the bond that forms between Briggs and Lulu is genuinely endearing, and there's something to be said for a feel-good film in uncertain times. While *Dog* brushes by important issues, it does offer hope, and optimism. And that's a little bit of light, at least. So, again: is *Dog* a classic, or a cliché? Unfortunately, the film's bright spots aren't enough to raise it out of the pack.

The dog-loving community, including rescue and shelter agencies, have expressed great concern that the public will become so enamored of Lulu that the demand for Belgian Malinoise dogs will skyrocket. The Malinoise is a breed that's not well-suited to the role of easy going family dog.

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AT THE MOVIES 🎬

continued

They are smart, high-stamina working dogs that are so fiercely loyal that they're often wary of and unwelcoming to strangers. They need an exceptional amount of exercise, and if they're bored, they'll find something to do, and not always in a positive way. These traits, combined with their courage, keen sense of smell and ability to learn new skills quickly make them ideal K9 officers and combat dogs. But they can prove to be problematic in a family pet.

The backyard-breeding market may very well be flooded with Malinois for sale; but don't be tempted. A reputable breeder will only place a Malinoise with an owner who understands the challenges of the breed. With disreputable breeders, however, it's "let the buyer beware!"

If Dog makes you yearn for a pup of your own, head to your local shelter and adopt.

Dog is currently playing in theaters, and is available for rent via Amazon Prime Video. Some sequences of aggressive canine behavior might be upsetting to younger children. 🎬



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This spring they are offering it as an online-only webinar series. In Session One, participants will review whether they have a good idea and explore the feasibility of their product or service idea and how it can become a viable business. Do you have access to the operational skills (yourself and others) to manage the business to success?

Pre-registration is required to receive link to join the webinar. The series continues 4/7, 4/12, 4/14, and 4/19/2022. It is strongly suggested to attend all five sessions. To learn more and pre-register for additional sessions, visit sect.score.org/fundamentals-starting-your-business. Contact SCORE Southeastern CT: (860) 388-9508, scorechapter@gmail.com

Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program

Your library card opens the world to you through physical books, audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs—including downloadable or streaming versions. Now let your library card open the doors of Connecticut libraries by participating in the Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program!

Nearly one hundred forty (140) Connecticut libraries are proud to participate in the Connecticut Library Association's Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program, including Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton. To celebrate National Library Week during April, the Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program invites you to visit all of the participating libraries. Each library has its own architecture, vibe, and collection to explore and browse. The program is open to adults and children, and the hope is that it encourages residents to explore the amazing diversity of our public libraries.

To begin, visit your local participating library to pick up your Passport. They will stamp it and give you a token gift to get you started. Then, take your Passport along as you visit other participating libraries. At each visit, you must show your library card, and then the library will stamp your passport and give you another small gift.

If you visit at least five participating libraries and return your passport to a participating library by May 6, 2022, then you will be entered into one state-wide drawing for a chance to win a \$150 Visa gift card for adults (18 and up) and a \$100 Visa gift card for children (under 18). This is a state-wide contest where four winners will be selected: one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited at least five libraries, and one adult and one child from a random drawing from all who visited the most libraries.

What will YOU discover? For more details and a full list of participating locations please stop by the library or visit www.hchlibrary.org.

Groton Public Library

Programs

Connecting to What Matters with Darilyn Sky Farley - 11-1, 4/2 - How do we discover and connect with what really matters? This workshop for adults will explore how to bring awareness and connection to those things that are most important in our lives, both personally and as a society. Integrative wellness practitioner Darilyn Sky Farley will lead this interactive, in person event; registration is required. To register for this program, call the Library at (860) 441-6750 or visit the Library's online calendar.

Teens - Can You Beat the Librarians? - Join in the fun every Wednesday for a different board game, and see if you can beat the librarians, Miss Jessa or Miss Lindsey.

Children's Book Bundles - 10-5:30, 4/1 & 4/22 - Bundles include books handpicked by children's librarians along with a small craft and a list of suggested activities to do with the family. Reserve online at grotonpl.org or by calling (860) 441-6750. Participants must have an active library card.

Toddler Time - 10am, 4/5, 4/19, 4/26 - Children ages 0-3 are welcome to join Miss Tracy for stories, fingerplays, bounces, and more.

Learn & Play - 10am, 4/6, 4/20, 4/27 - Playgroup is for young children and their caregivers. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with others, make new friends, and learn by playing in a literacy-enriched environment. Each session will include activities, sensory materials, and toys.

Preschool Stories - 10am, 4/7, 4/21, 4/28 - Children ages 3-5 are welcome to join Miss Andrea for stories, songs, and activities.

Children's Grab & Go Bags - 10-5:30 - Pick up a bag full of all the supplies you need, plus instructions. Available while supplies last. Recommended for children ages 5 and up.

Teens - Club 306 - 3:30-5pm, 4/12 - Club 306 is a social group for teens and tweens that celebrates and supports the LGBTQ+ community. Join up to make buttons, get to know each other, and set goals for our new group. Want to learn more about the LGBTQ+ community? Check out the books with the Dewey Decimal number: 306.76!

STEAM Teens: Peep Science! - 3:30pm, 4/19 - Join the fun outside on the patio at the Groton Public Library for an afternoon of science and Peeps! You will be using a variety of household items to see if you can slime, dissolve, and catapult spring's favorite marshmallow.

Teens - Craft Buffet - 3:30pm, 4/21 - The library will be putting out their surplus craft supplies and a handful of challenges to get you inspired. What can you make? Bring your creativity! This program is open to all ages; registration not required.

Earth Day Family Art Kit - 9-5:30, 4/22 - Pick up your Earth Day Family Art Kit! Each kit will include recycled materials, random art supplies, and suggestions on how to use them to make art. First-come, first-served; available while supplies last.

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Celebrate spring and help save lives by giving blood or platelets

It's officially spring! As the weather warms up and the latest COVID-19 surge continues to slow, many people are looking forward to meeting up with family and friends. At the start of this new season, the American Red Cross encourages the community to play an important role in helping save lives by making blood or platelet donation part of their spring plans.

The Red Cross is grateful to the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have rolled up a sleeve to give in early 2022. It's important to remember donated blood has a limited shelf life, so supplies must be constantly replenished.

In the days and weeks ahead, it's critically important to maintain a readily available blood supply. Donors can make an appointment by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

While getting back into the stands to watch the home team play this spring, donors can join a team of their own – Team Red Cross! As a thank-you, all who come to give April 1-18 will receive an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Support Groups at Brian's Healing Hearts

Support Groups meet in-person at Brian's Healing Hearts, A Center for Healing and Hope, 461 Main Street in Niantic unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required for all Support Groups. To register, call (860) 451-8354 or email: info@brianshealinghearts.org.

Young Adult Grief Support - Meets Online- 6-7pm, Tues., 4/5

Bereaved Parents, Grandparents, or Siblings - 6-7:30 pm, Tue. 4/12

Loss of a Spouse - 10-11:30am, Wed., 4/13 and Wed., 4/27 & 6:30 pm - 8pm, Wed., 4/6 and Wed., 4/20

Survivors of Suicide Loss - 6-7:30 pm, Thurs., 4/7 and 4/21

Understanding Your Grief - Online - 6:30- 8pm, Thurs., 4/7 and 4/21

Book Club - Meets Online Weekly 6:30-7:30 pm, Tues., 4/12 - Book: "The Gift" by Edith Eger

For Men Only - 6- 8pm, Tues., 4/26 - For many reasons, men often will hold back from the honest feelings surrounding the grief and loss of a loved one. Telling your story, sharing your pain, is part of healing. It is our hope that this group will give men permission to say whatever they need, in a safe space, with others who understand.

Long Term Survivors – Loss to Suicide - 6-7:30 pm, Thurs., 4/28

Seasoned Loss of Spouse Social Group - Fridays once-per-month
Call/email for location and time (event dependent: dinner, show, home gathering, etc.)

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If you or someone you know is ready to enter the workforce, change or transition into a new career, or explore local opportunities, then drop by on April 6 at the Job Fair. Stop by the Library's table for a complimentary resume review as well as job search tips, interview coaching, and more. Pre-registration is encouraged; visit theday.com/section/jobfair.

For more information about Groton Public Library programs or services, please call (860) 441-6750 or visit grotonpl.org.

"Get Real" Nonfiction Book Group: Beautiful Country

Join Henry Carter Hull Library on Tues. 4/12 at 1 PM for their April "Get Real" Nonfiction Reading Group discussion of "Beautiful Country" by Qian Julie Wang.

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