



06855
CONNECTIONS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

HAPPY
New Year



TTD's
FEATURED BUSINESS PICK

NORWALK
SHOE REPAIR
Soul to Sole from Mt. Olympus

East Norwalk Library: Groundbreaking Changes!

The East Norwalk Library has been serving the community since 1915, and for the past several months there have been many positive changes at the Library. These changes have enhanced the exterior and interior space, with the support and continued funding from the Third Taxing District ("TTD") and donations from library supporters.

Sylvia Archibald, Executive Director of the library, explains that the most significant change is the use of the physical space within the building. Book and media shelves have been reconfigured to allow more light, exposing the fifteen windows that surround the building. We have enhanced browsability and opened up walking space within the building.

The TTD is very supportive of the library and is generous with funding the newly completed projects such as repairing the pillars and library steps, installing four new air conditioning units, applying window films (think energy conservation), and re-painting the parking lines.

Another big positive shift is the library programming and Sylvia says, "We make investments in people". The Library hired a new Children's Librarian to focus on a new Early Literacy Initiative which focuses on parents, babies and toddlers early education and preparation for kindergarten.

"Unfortunately, because of our limited resources and finite monies, which most people aren't aware of, as we are funded differently than the other libraries in Norwalk, that has limited what we can do, we can't be all things for all people, but if we can have parents come here to get their children ready for school, then we've done something that furthers our mission statement," said Ms. Archibald. Her staff is in full accord with this ideal.

The library now offers year-round programming to children, teens and adults. "We are striving to try to engage the interests



of all the members of our community" said Sylvia. They have had cooking demonstrations, art classes and local authors present programs. The Library is looking forward to bringing in informational programs as well, such as, recognizing the signs of dementia, and a live dramatic play. The new programs we are offering range from the "fun with your children" variety, to those touching on more serious issues. Timely topics like teaching teens how to deal with bullying and the consequences of drunk driving. Our new program schedule is going to prove to be much more informative. We want to get our name out there and let people know we are here, providing ongoing programs that have real value to parents and children of our community."

Sylvia would also like to emphasize that while the East Norwalk Association Library is a private library, they are very much open to the public. This important fact means they are not eligible for state and city funding, but rely solely on funding from the TTD, grants, and donations from the community. So, when a donation is made, it is instrumental in helping to provide programming and enables enhancements to the Library which allows it to continue to provide its services to the community. ●



Ms. Sylvia Archibald

Kosta Koutsimanis started Norwalk Shoe Repair October 1st, 2012, and was an entrepreneur from day one.

Growing up in Mt. Olympus, Greece, at six years old Kosta worked on his family's farm with his father herding and milking sheep. At age 12 he worked as a shoe shining boy in his uncle's shoe business.

As he grew older Kosta loved to camp with his friends at the higher altitudes of Mt. Olympus where they cooked food and built fires.

Kosta joined the Army at age nineteen. After the Army, Kosta left Greece and came to America in 2006 to begin a new chapter.

It was at that time Kosta rediscovered his love for the lost art of shoe making. "Every day is something new, so when a shoe walks in and it's something different, it gets me excited because I fix and repair it differently every time. I am always inventing," Kosta says.

Kosta is looking forward to 2018. His plans are to expand the store by adding a new sewing machine, finding a leather distributor and handmaking custom leather shoes, purses and more for his customers.

A father and an experienced businessman, Kosta is happy because he has everything he needs in this world. ●



Kosta Koutsimanis

For more information call Kosta at (203) 838-1481, or visit his store at 61 Van Zant St, Norwalk, CT 06855.



RECENT HAPPENINGS



TTD Annual Tree Lighting Dec. 3rd

Live music, children's choir, caroling, cookies, hot chocolate, Santa... and fun. For over 25 years, the tradition continues.



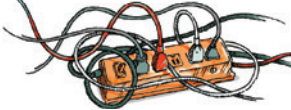
TTD Food & Toy Drive Nov. 13th - Dec. 15th

Thank you to everyone who donated holiday toys and food for families in need. All of the donated items have been dropped off to all of the appropriate locations.

L to R: Cynthia Tenney, Alyssa Fortunato, Ron Scofield

PRACTICE ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

DON'T OVERLOAD YOUR HOME



OVERLOADED WARNING SIGNS



Flickering, blinking or dimming lights



Crackling, sizzling or buzzing from receptacles



Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses



Burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches



Warm or discolored wall plates



Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches

Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters **for appliances**



Only plug one **heat producing appliance** into a receptacle outlet at a time



If you have too few outlets in your home, have a **qualified electrician** inspect your home and add new outlets



Power strips **only add additional outlets**; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet



Use **appropriate watt bulbs** for lighting fixtures



Infographic supplied by APFA 

Monthly Tree Lightings

JANUARY

The tree is lit in **WHITE** to symbolize bone cancer also known as Osteosarcoma. The supporting foundation is the Sarcoma Alliance with offices located in California. Suzanne Leider founded the alliance in 1999 with a manifestation of "guidance, education, and support."

With the help of family, friends and personal volunteers, the Sarcoma Alliance was born as a non-profit 501C(3) organization. The Sarcoma Alliance strives to improve the lives of people who are affected by sarcoma through complete diagnosis, access to full care, guidance, education and support. Suzanne unfortunately passed away in 2002, and now the legacy she has built is supported by her fellow family, friends and volunteers who started with her in the beginning. In loving memory of Suzanne Leider.



FEBRUARY

The tree is lit in **RED** to symbolize the American Heart Association during the American Heart Month. The American Heart Association was founded in 1924

and is dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, both nationally and internationally. Along with their 30 million

volunteers and supporters who understand heart disease, a lot of risks can be lowered by adhering to what they call, "Life's Simple 7": not smoking, being physically active, maintaining a healthy body weight, eating a healthy diet, controlling blood pressure, controlling cholesterol and controlling blood sugar." In loving memory of those who passed from heart disease or stroke.



Other Important Dates

- January 1: New Year's Day (Office Closed)
- January 8: Commission Meeting
- January 15: Martin Luther King Jr., Day (Office Closed)
- January 29: Commission Meeting
- February 12: Commission Meeting
- February 19: President's Day (Office Closed)

 **To report a power outage during non-business hours, call 203-663-6875.** 

Contact Information:

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