

May 2005 NewsLetter

Living History Week For Area Students

'Revolutionary War 101' was presented to area school children at the three day Living History School Days. The Friends of Putnam Park organization has offered this program to area schools for the past half dozen years. The FANs program heads include retired teachers that can relate to the schools history curriculums when planning the event.



The bus convoys enter the north gate at Putnam Park. Hundreds of kids pile out of the buses, and form into groups.



Colonial cooking over the open- fire shows pre-microwave methods.

What better venue to teach kids about Revolutionary War history and colonial crafts, than an actual 1778 Continental Army encampment. Up to 1400 soldiers camped at this location during the winter of 1778-79 under the overall command of Maj. Gen. Israel Putnam. This camp was one of three along the Redding/Bethel border that winter.



The apothecary was the traveling drugstore. Pills and potions.

Combining history of the camp along with colonial crafts persons demonstrations really presents to the kids just how things were done 225 years ago. There were no malls and Home Depots to run to back then. The population relied on artisans for even the basic tools of everyday living. Need lumber?; go to sawmill. Need flour?; go to gristmill. Coopers, cordwainers, weavers all contributed to the demands for everyday supplies.



The whitesmith makes lead musket balls and pewter objects.



The blacksmith makes everything from pots to hooks to nails.



The CT 11th Militia Regiment tells about military history.

1893 Pavilion/Visitor Center

The new visitor center, scheduled to open this summer, will become another educational tool in exposing students and the general public to the park and its history.



The military surgeon is an annual favorite.

May FAN's Meeting

The May meeting of the Friends group was held on Monday, May 9th at the Redding Town Hall.



Discussions held included:

1. President Herman was away for this month's meeting.
2. 2005 Living History School Days report. The dates for the school groups have been revised and will now be May 18th through May 20th. Nancy Cowles reviewed the final agenda and timeframe and assigned tasks for the FANs volunteers. Canopies and flyers will be erected on Tuesday afternoon. Craftsmen will be ready to demo at 9:00am. Nathan Hale's park crew will be on hand to open gates and direct bus traffic directly into the park, so kids will not be on the highway.
3. Update of the 1893 Pavilion and park projects.
4. Jim Freebairn, our resident musket ball maker and member of the CT 5th Regiment asked if a representative of the CT 5th could appear at our next meeting to give an overview of their organization, and also discuss possible participation of their regiment at Putnam Park. Additional discussion will be held on the possibility of constructing an enlisted men's hut at the park.



Behind The Scenes!!

Key FAN players at the Living History School Days event. They kept things moving and on time. Musket balls, medallions and pewter sundials were huge hits at the FANs souvenir table this year.



Schuyler Merritt and Joan Leveille man the very busy FANs Sales Table.



Rosemary Payne, behind window, ran the Scavenger Hunt at the museum,



Head School Marm and event chairperson, Nancy Cowles, blasts the fog horns which signaled groups to move to the next stations.



Pavilion In The Home Stretch

The big custom-made windows are finally almost installed. What a difference. Now the remainder of the exterior walls can be sheathed with cedar shingles.

The building is full of tradesmen other than the carpenters ... heating and air conditioning men, plumbers, electricians, painters and masons. Lighting is almost complete.

The outside landscaping crews are also in full swing. Stone walls, grading, parking lot and outdoor lighting are all in progress.



There are very few level areas to work on the window installations, so the installers are using a cherry picker.



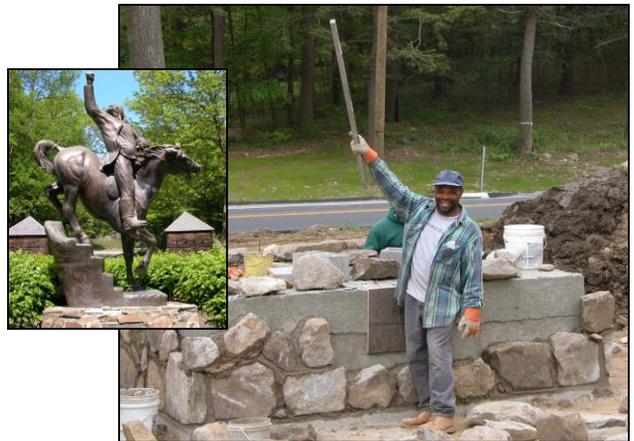
Can you imagine the 1893 carpenters seeing how modern technology helps on today's job?



The windows are in. The front entrance glass and doors are almost finished.



The north wall getting its final sheathing..



Sir Robert of Kronenberger poses where the Old Put statue will rest on new pedestal.

Next Meeting

The next FAN's Meeting will be on **Monday Evening June 13th** at the Redding Town Hall. The meeting will start at **7:00pm**. Please come and join with us in the planning of events and projects at Putnam Park.

