

## The Joys of Technology!

In last week's newsletter, I was sure I had a great picture of the tree Christine Sniadach decorated for the [Rockville Public Library 3rd Annual Community Tree Festival Fundraiser](#).

The preview page told me I did.

Unfortunately, the email everyone received showed a rather squashed version of the tree.

Here is what the tree really looks like!



And not only did Christine do a tree, but I forgot to mention last week that she also contributed to the Friends of the Library cookie fundraiser.

To recap from last week:

- For the Tree Fundraiser, bid on your favorite tree until Saturday, December 16th when bidding ends at 1pm.
- Order your container of homemade cookies from the Friends of the Library by calling by calling 860-875-5892 x100.

## Vernon Police Explorer Post 800

At this year's Harvest Festival, I missed most of the action that was going on with the exception of the wonderful music performed by Gypsy Hearts!

Part of the action I missed was being done by the volunteers from Vernon Police Explorer Post 800 who were helping with the parking.

Did you know that the Explorer Program is part of the Boy Scouts of America? I didn't until I did my research for this week's newsletter.

That's not to say you have to be in the Boy Scouts in order to participate in this wonderful program.

In fact, according to the Post's website: ". . . *the Explorer program is distinctively different from scouting. Explorer is a co-educational, young-adult program developed and supervised by local community organizations, businesses and individuals providing an opportunity for young adults to explore a particular career field of their own choosing.*"

Jasmine Kermode, who built a beehive for the farm as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award requirement, is a lieutenant in the Explorers.

Becoming an Explorer is not something to be undertaken lightly. Among other requirements you must -

- Be Community Service Oriented
- Take and pass a written exam
- Be able to attend weekly Explorer meetings
- Be willing to volunteer your time to attend Explorer functions
- Be willing to live by the Explorer Code and exemplify the professional image of the Vernon Police Department

Yet upon being accepted, members not only become educated in basic law enforcement, but they also have educational opportunities at an Academy, regular classes, on the job training and through online courses and Emergency Organization Training, as well as courses provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

What a great program! For the kids and for the community as well!

To learn more about the Vernon Police Explorer Post 800 program, go to their website at <http://www.vernonpoliceexplorerpost800.org> where you'll find more information including how to contact them.

## Something New in My Neighborhood

Since I moved to my neighborhood in Wethersfield about 12 years ago, nothing much has changed.

It's an older neighborhood that's a few blocks away from the historical district. Our postal carriers walk from house to house delivering the mail to your door. I have a well worn path from my neighbor's house to mine, and have my mailbox at the foot of my front steps.

So too do other people.

Then one day about a week ago, something akin to a very large mailbox appeared in front of one of the houses. It was positioned right where the house's walkway met the public sidewalk.

My first thought was that the owner of the house was trying to make it easier on the postal carriers.

Then yesterday, when walking my dog, all was made clear.



It's a neighborhood book exchange for children.

I peeked inside and it was chock full of books for kids of all ages.

What a wonderful idea! Encouraging kids to read by giving them easy access to books.

Granted this doesn't really relate to anything on the Farm, but as most of you probably know, Nancy Strong is a librarian.

Plus, there is an item on one of the Farm's to-do lists to create a circulating library at the Farm that will house gardening and growing related books!

To learn more about the Little Free Library, [click here to me taken to their website.](#)

All the best,

Quinn Eurich, Editor