

The North Haven Citizen

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Your Town, Your News

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Friday, October 26, 2012

Do you believe in ghosts?

By Kyle Swartz
The North Haven Citizen

Do you believe in the paranormal?

Do you believe in ghosts, spiritual energies, voices audible from other dimensions and historical tragedies haunting sites centuries later?

With Halloween spirit in the air, the North Haven Library invited attendees to consider such questions at an Oct. 16 presentation by the Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society.

"We're skeptics ourselves," said Adam Shefts, a North Haven native, and director, founder and lead investigator for NPIS. "We go into places as skeptics. We don't assume anything."

About 80 people packed the library's community room for NPIS' audiovisual presentation, which included examples from dozens of potentially supernatural locations in and near Connecticut.

"Everything we show is open to interpretation," said NPIS member Mark Firulli.

Shefts and his team use an array of recording equipment, from basic to advanced, to capture images, videos and audio examples of what they believe could be proof of paranormal activity. They visit and catalogue places rumored to be visited by spirits — with an emphasis on history, plus thorough examination and respect.

"We would never try to provoke," Shefts said. "We don't encourage trying to provoke, like people do on some of those reality shows on television."

"None of the experiences

we've had have been scary, because we conduct investigations respectfully," he added. "Our experiences are interesting, but not scary. And places we went to weren't necessarily haunted. 'Haunted' is one of the most-overused words. Haunted implies that something paranormal is making everyday life more difficult at a location. This is not generally the case."

A NPIS video shown early seemed to depict a clear, barely visible presence moving across the corner of a room in Madison's Deacon John Grave House, built in 1681. The see-through presence had the approximate size and shape of an adult person.

"We spent four hours trying to recreate that shadow, whatever you want to call it," Shefts said. "We stood in the corner of the room and couldn't recreate it. We had investigators standing outside the windows, walking past the windows and walking past streetlights outside the windows. It was impossible to recreate."

Typically, NPIS goes to places of past significance like the Deacon John Grave House. "We focus on historical locations to tie evidence into what we find there," Shefts said. "It gives us more to use as proof."

Another of these sites was Norwalk's Sheffield Island Lighthouse, constructed in 1827 and now a tourist attraction. Historical accounts, Shefts said, tell of a lighthouse keeper residing there in the 1800s with his wife and daughter. The relationship between husband

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Election 2012

Rebuild the middleclass

By Steve Fontana

Everywhere I go in Wallingford, East Haven, North Haven, and Durham, people tell me that their middleclass way of life is disappearing, and that they want their elected leaders to do something about it. I'm running for the State Senate because I will do just that — by starting to rebuild the middleclass.

To rebuild the middleclass, we can't keep pursuing the same trickledown economic policies that have failed to pull us out of this recession. We have to go back to what we know works: investing in people and businesses, and giving them the ability and opportunity to succeed.



Fontana

See Fontana, page 19

Compromise and leadership

By Len Fasano

Governor Dannel Malloy stated in his inaugural address that he is going to take us down a road less traveled. I believe we now know why that road is less traveled. Under Governor Malloy's leadership, Connecticut has been faced with the highest tax increase in history. The \$2.6 billion in tax increases over two years, including but not limited to raising of the sales tax from 6 percent to 6.35 percent, tax on non-prescription drugs, tax on clothing under \$50 and a significant reduction in your home property tax credit, has lead Connecticut in the wrong direction.

Unemployment has reached 9 percent.



Fasano

See Fasano, page 19

Happy Halloween!



Citizen photo courtesy of Faith United Methodist Church

After taking last year off, the Faith United Methodist Church haunted house is back, today and tomorrow, for another round of scares and fundraising. For more information, see page 2.

Ghosts

Continued from page 1

and wife, Shefts added, allegedly was violent.

Among the more chilling photos shown to audience members by NPIS representatives, an image of the lighthouse at night appeared to show a ghostly man and small child staring out a rear window.

Other evidence included white and grey mists, and erratically moving white orbs, both detectable only on film. NPIS investigators believed the two to be detectable mani-

festations of spiritual presences.

"All of us have auras around us," Firulli said. "In theory, who's to say that our auras are not still attached to us in the afterlife?"

Voices of spirits, Shefts suggested, talk twice as fast as the living's voices. Numerous sound clips — recorded at places of alleged supernatural happenings — replayed for attendees seemed to contain swiftly uttered messages. These statements, Shefts said, were not made by anyone in the room at the time of recording.

"All this is evidence we

gathered," Shefts said. "We didn't create any of this."

Among recordings presented by NPIS as possibly spiritual were incomprehensible whisperings, presences saying "help me" or "leave" and another using curse words at Firulli.

"People always ask us to play that one back for them a lot of times," Shefts said of the latter with a smile.

The formal program culminated in a video in which investigators, at the Shanley Hotel in Napanoch, New York, politely asked a spirit to turn on a flashlight left un-



Citizen photo courtesy of Adam Shefts

A "white mist" visible only in a photograph taken by investigators at Jonathan Pasco's Restaurant in East Windsor.

See Ghosts, next page

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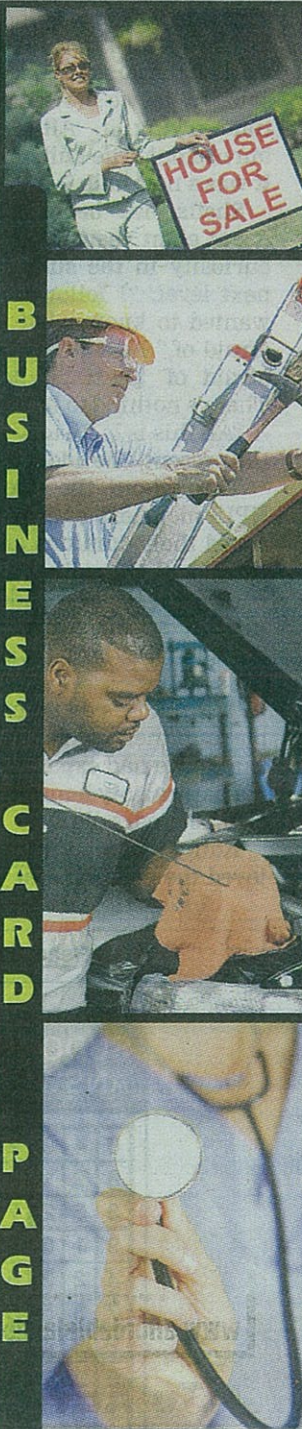
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BUSINESS CARD PAGE



Halloween

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reflection, and fasting, and others celebrate with costumes, candy, and parties. Regardless of how one may or may not celebrate Halloween, ghosts and goblins, witches on broomsticks, zombies, trick-or-treaters ringing doorbells, pumpkins, candy and spider webs, are

Ghosts

Continued from page 21

touched on a bed. In the video, the flash light turns on without anyone touching it, and then moments later turns off after NPIS examiners requested that the spirit do so.

"We'd heard that the flashlight thing worked there, so we tried it out," Firulli said. "What we showed you was our first time trying it. After that, the bulb burned out. The bulb no longer worked. It was a new bulb."

Shefts has been behind NPIS for about eight years, ever since he took a curiosity in the subject matter to the next level. "I followed my curiosity. I wanted to know what there was to be afraid of," he said. "A lot of people are afraid of ghosts. I don't know why. There's nothing to be afraid of."

"All this is is history connecting with the present," he added. "That's all."

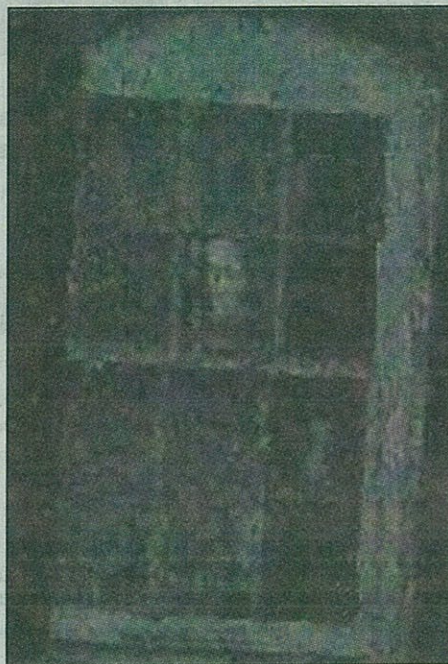
Throughout the two-hour function, NPIS members engaged attendees and asked their opinions about videos, pictures and recordings. Audience member, North Haven resident and believer in the supernatural Patty Gianotti thought NPIS brought convincing materials.

"I think this could prove a lot to people out there who are skeptics," she said. "I've had experiences with the supernatural. My house in North Haven is over 100 years old."

Kathy Pierce, of East Haven, also enjoyed the evening, but was not as com-

around us . . . it's that time of year again.

Paul Colella is a published author, North Haven resident and former history school teacher. His novels "Patriots and Scoundrels: Charity's First Adventure," "The Undeclared" and "Loyalty and Deceit" are available online at Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com, and can be checked out from the North Haven Library.



Citizen photo courtesy of Adam Shefts

Investigators took this picture — which could be a man and a child looking out a window — at Norwalk's Sheffield Island Lighthouse.

mitted to belief for certain. "It was interesting — I've never seen anything like this," Pierce said. "I believe in this stuff — to a certain extent. So I do believe, but I'm still a little skeptical."

For more information — including all described photos, videos and recordings and more — visit northeastparanormal.org

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TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF DECISION

Please take notice that the following decisions were rendered by the North Haven Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Mildred A. Wakeley Community and Recreation Center, 7 Linsley Street, in Room #2 at 7:30 PM.

A2-SURVEY WAIVER:

1. A2W-12-04 Approved the application of Navin Patel, Owner, Bhavna Patel, Applicant, relative to 11 Revere Road, (Map 81, Lot 40), seeking a waiver of the A2 survey requirement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. #12-23 Postponed to the November 15, 2012 meeting the application of John Paul Garcia, P.E., L.S., Applicant, David Fantarella, Owner, relative to 1125 Ridge Road, (Map 25, Lot 5), per Section 8.6.2.1, requesting a fence height variance of 3' to permit a 6' high fence in a front yard where 3' is permitted. R-20 Zoning District.
2. #12-24 Approved the application of Sylvia Dell'Oro, Applicant, Piazza, LLC, Owner, relative to 144-154 Washington Avenue (Map 73, Lot 34), per Section 4.4.2, requesting a front yard variance of 6.6' to permit a front yard setback of 43.4' where 50' is required, and requesting a side yard variance of 11.6' to permit a side yard setback of 3.4' where 15' is required. CB-20 Zoning District. Subject to conditions.
3. #12-25 Approved the application of Jonathan Bodwell, Town Engineer, Applicant, Town of North Haven, Owner, relative to 110 Elm Street, (Map 52, Lot 20), per Section 8.6.2.1, requesting a fence height variance of 3' to permit a 6' high fence in a front yard where 3' is permitted. R-20 Zoning District.

Donald F. Clark, Secretary

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