

NICHOLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION1773 HUNTINGTON TURNPIKE
NICHOLS, CT 06611VISIT NIA at www.nicholsct.org

N I C H O L S

NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEERS COMING TOGETHER FOR THE
BETTERMENT OF OUR NICHOLS COMMUNITY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN THE HEART OF THE NICHOLS FARMS HISTORIC DISTRICT, NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Holiday Events

The Holiday Season got off to a great start with the Nichols Garden Club Holiday Boutique, which filled the Starkweather House with traditional mailbox covers, wonderful wreaths, kissing balls, topiary and creative floral arrangements. The boutique was a great success and provided a colorful display for the Jingle Bell registrants picking up their t-shirts and race numbers.

The weather conditions made for a perfect Jingle Bell Run this year. We had 511 participants plus the children who participated in the in the Jingle Bell Jr. Kid's Fun Run. Adding to the thrill of the race was the new "chase" event that gave two runners a head start. Our first chase bunnies, Michelle Mueller from Monroe and Michael Bonnar from Trumbull, were great sports. As a result of their efforts the NIA made contributions from race proceeds to charities of their choice – Toys for Tots and a local food pantry. Race runners received plenty of goodies courtesy of Starbucks Coffee, Vazzy's Osteria, Bigelow Tea, Spinelli's Bros. Not Just Bagels, Panera



Race coordinator, Mike Burke with the winner Joshua Olsen.

and our other event sponsors. The NIA would like to thank Mike Burke and Ken Martin along with the other Jingle Bell Run Committee members for helping to make this years race such a success.

Many Nichols neighbors gathered for the annual tree lighting. The great tree on the Village Green looks wonderful adorned with Christmas lights! The Hillcrest Choraleers entertained the crowd with their carols and Steve Sabo performed the ceremonial lighting of the tree. The Nichols Fire Department did a tremendous job delivering Santa and his helpers on their trucks to the delight of the children. This year's bonfire was the most glorious in recent memory! The fire was unusually intense – with flames upwards of 40 feet! A "hot" time was had by all.

Thank you everyone who contributed to these events. It takes volunteers from the NIA to make each of these events successful. Please plan to volunteer at one or

more of the many NIA events planned for 2006.

To help you keep on top of all the NIA events, we are pleased to announce the NIA Activities Calendar for 2006 and provide our members with the **enclosed refrigerator magnet**. We hope that this will encourage you to plan and attend some, if not all, of the wonderful events provided by the NIA. Special thanks to NIA members Lynn Burke and Penny Schultz for their help with the magnets!

See you all at this year's events.



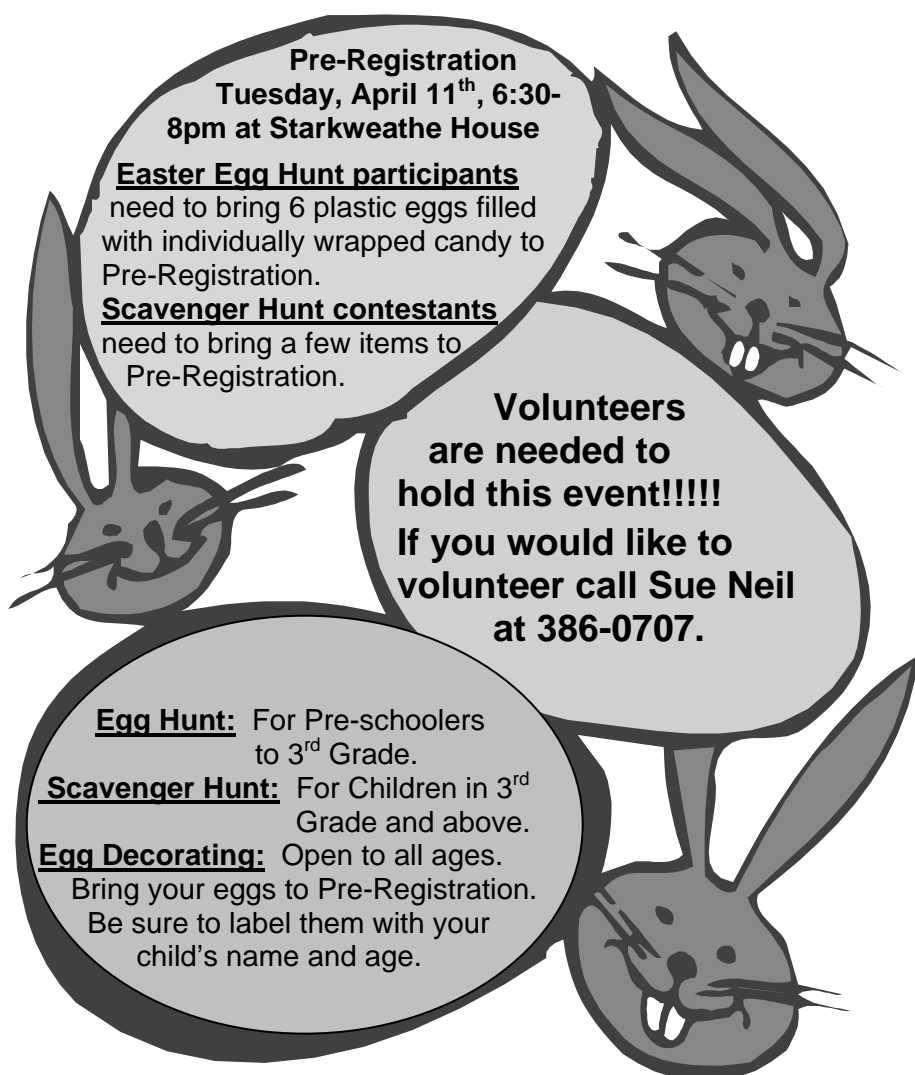
Santa handing out goodies.



The Nichols Tree.

EASTER EGG & SCAVENGER HUNTS!

Hosted by Sue Neil
Saturday April 15th – 11am
 (RAIN OR SHINE)



Help Wanted!

Volunteer Meeting

Many of you expressed an interest in Volunteering (or you currently volunteer) on our Survey / 2006 Membership forms. We always need help planning NIA Sponsored Events (and creating new ones). We will be hosting a meeting at the NIA house on Thursday, March 16th @ 6:30 PM to begin to workout the details and to put our membership base talent to work.

Everyone is welcome - regardless of age or commitment level.

Please plan on coming if you are interested - we will serve dessert.

NIA Mailing List

For those of you who have not updated your membership for the 2006 Calendar year - this will be your last News Letter Mailing. Please renew as soon as possible so that you will continue to receive the NIA Newsletter uninterrupted.

This event is free for all NIA members. There is an \$8 charge for non-members or guests. Membership will be checked at registration.

<u>NIA CONTACTS</u>	
NIA OFFICE	375-3611
PRESIDENT	
Scott Thornton	375-4364
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	
Fred Palmieri	378-6331
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	
Patty Kustom	378-9787
3RD VP/LEGAL CNSL	
Martin McCann	377-1203
SECRETARY	
Laurie Quatrella	375-9148
TREASURER	
John Forster	380-2276
BALLFIELDS	
Marc Hilinski	378-9401
CARETAKERS	
Nick & Rebecca Muller	375-3611
GROUNDS	
Jeff Williams	380-9242
HOUSE USE	
Jennifer Franko	378-8899
MEMBERSHIP	
Mark Manton	257-3500
NEWSLETTER	
Catherine Kalkstein	378-9893
PLAYGROUND	
Paul Goroff	380-2747
PUBLICITY	
Patty Kustom	378-9787
WEBSITE	
Gitte Elbek	378-8764

KITE FLYING

Sunday, March 19th
2pm
NIA GROUNDS

Come out and celebrate the beginnings of spring with some kite flying. Bring your kids and enjoy the outdoors as you watch your kite soar! So, hope for some breezes and come out to join your neighbors in this fun activity, held in the front pasture by the Gazebo.

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<p>Sunday, March 19th KITE FLYING 2PM NIA GROUNDS</p>
<p>Saturday, April 15th EASTER EGG & SCAVENGER HUNT 11AM NIA GROUNDS</p>
<p>Saturday, April 22nd WINE & CHEESE EVENT 7-10PM STARKWEATHER HOUSE</p>