



hilltopper

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 4 , Issue 2

February 2011

HENRIETTA (SENEY) LACHAPELLE '23 OLDEST ALUMNI MEMBER CELEBRATES 105th BIRTHDAY –

Centenarian Henrietta (Seney) Lachapelle, TMHS Class of 1923, celebrated her 105th birthday on February 10, 2011. She was born in Thompson on February 10, 1906, 43 months *before* the September 1909 opening of the Tourtellotte Memorial High School.

Henrietta married George "Pat" Lachapelle, TMHS Class of 1922, in June 1929 and spent her life in Thompson, Connecticut raising a family and working at the Cluett-Peabody Company and the family store, Pat's News in North Grosvenordale.

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Left: A June 1929, wedding day picture of Henrietta and her husband Pat Lachapelle '22 at St. Joe's in North Grosvenordale. Above: Henrietta in February 2008. Photos compliments of Joanne (Witkowski) Thorstenson.

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Let the Alumni Association Help With Your Class Reunion This Year

ALUMNI BANQUET SET FOR JUNE 18, 2011

The daunting task of organizing a class reunion is made a bit easier this year. The TMHSAA Banquet Committee is seeking classes who wish to hold their reunion this summer. The committee will accommodate reunion classes at this year's alumni banquet to be held on June 18, 2011 at the Thompson International Speedway. Classes wishing to plan a reunion can contact us at TMHSAA@Charter.net or by calling Joe Lindley at 860-928-5527.

Members of the class of 1961 who are interested in attending their 50th reunion are to call Henrietta (Groh) Panu '61 at 1-860-923-2400.

WINTER AT TOURTELLOTTE



Left: The front entrance of the 1909 Tourtellotte building during a recent break in the record-setting 2011 winter season. According to several sources, Northeast Connecticut has set several snow accumulation records making the month of January 2011 the snowiest ever. Bradley Airport reports total January accumulation at 74 inches. Ice dams, common this time of the year, can be seen on the right side of the building. Photo compliments of Justine Gendreau '81.

The Real John E. Tourtellotte – Continued

Last month, with the help of Ted Raszka '55 and Catherine (Raszka) Stone '59, we ran a story about Gen. John E. Tourtellotte and John Eaton Tourtellotte. Over the past month we received more information to include a link to the Idaho Public Television program, Capital of Light which outlines the rebuilding of the Idaho state capitol building originally designed by John E. Tourtellotte of Thompson, CT (see: <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/1396275223>). The program is well done and highly recommended.

We also received the following from Michele Woodward of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission. It explains yet another piece of the puzzle. Joe,

The first Tourtellotte to come to America was named Abraham. He arrived in 1687 at Boston and then made his way to a settlement in the northeast corner of Connecticut where he farmed. That settlement didn't go well, so he moved to Newport, RI where he and his son Gabriel were lost at sea off Martha's Vineyard. Abraham's son, Abraham, begot another son - Abraham - who had a son whose name was ... Abraham. :-) Very creative people, those Tourtellottes. I believe that this is the point our families divided, with John Eaton's family descended from one of the non-Abraham brothers

That last Abraham had a son Thomas Benjamin who moved from Maine to Illinois, and became an early supporter of the Mormon Church. Disillusioned with the church after the death of Joseph Smith, Thomas left the group and was a Methodist for the rest of his life. His son, James Douglass, served in the Civil War in the 75th Illinois with the rank of Lieutenant. Unfortunately, with the death of his wife and three of his children, he was allowed to come home and tend to his surviving son. By this time, Thomas had changed the spelling of the name to Tourtillott - family legend has it that the spelling changed to reflect those Tourtellottes who believed that the veracity of the story of Jonah and the whale and those who saw it as allegory. Regardless, at some point my great-grandmother received a letter suggesting she change the spelling back to Tourtellotte, which she did in the 1890s.

So, Gen. John E. Tourtellotte was a distant cousin, but I have visited his grave at Arlington Cemetery, which is quite impressive.

I will look through the materials you sent - I really appreciate those.

*All the best,
Michele Woodward
Executive Director
Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission*

The TMHSAA would like to extend a special thanks to **Rose Tiernan '64** and **Lewis Elliot '53** for their recent generous donations. If you enjoy this newsletter please send your annual dues to TMHSAA, PO Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Initial membership due at time of application, yearly renewals due January 1st of each year

*Regular Membership..... \$15.00
Senior Citizens (65 and older)..... \$5.00
Graduating Class..... Free*

WE WANT YOUR OLD PICTURES AND STORIES!

We are looking for pictures and stories from your time at TMHS. They can be about anything Tourtellotte and can include athletics, classmates, plays, special events, etc. Each month we would like to feature pictures from the past. Send them to: TMHSAA@Charter.net or mail them to TMHSAA, Po Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. We'll scan them and send them back.

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Henrietta (Seney) Lachapelle – Cont.

Henrietta, according to her daughter Aileen Witkowski, was the youngest of five children. The family lived on Buckley Hill Road in North Grosvenordale, CT.

Based on our research, Henrietta is the only living person in Thompson who was alive during many TMHS' firsts. They include the opening of the school in 1909 and the first graduating class in 1911. If she was not personally at these events we can be certain she knew someone who was.

It would be nice to think that she might have even met and personally spoke with Mrs. Tourtellotte.



Left: Henrietta (Seney) Lachapelle '23. According to Aileen Witkowski, Henrietta's daughter, this photo was taken at the family's Buckley Hill Road (North Grosvenordale, CT) home in 1910 or 1911 when Henrietta was just four or five years old. She was the youngest of five children which may have something to do with why she does not appear very happy in this photo. Photo compliments of Henrietta's family.

Visit the TMHS Website at:
www.thompsonpublicschools.org

5 things you may *NOT* know about TMHS

1. According to the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Col. John E. Tourtellotte was a guest of President Hayes during a White House dinner in honor of General W.T. Sherman and his staff on February 20, 1878.
2. Tourtellotte Memorial High School saw more snow in January 2011 than any other January in its history. Meteorologists predict this season to be the second snowiest on record.
3. Tom Fatsi '43 was Jim Canty's first basketball team captain.
4. Chris Carabina '50 once caught a complete baseball game at Mitchell Air Force Base while serving in the United States Army Air Corp – The game lasted 20 innings!
5. Among the many track records held by Angela Giardin '95 (at least seven by our count) is the QVC 200-meter record – an amazing 26.26 seconds!

Tom Angelo Follows Sister Jane's Footsteps

The Angelo family continues to give to the Tourtellotte family. Nick's (Class of '51) daughter Jane (Angelo) Robbins '73 was a long-time Thompson Board of Education member, giving many years of sound advice to our educational community. Brother Tom '86 followed his sister and currently sits on the Board of Ed.

Tom graduated from TMHS in 1986 and like his father Nick, played basketball and baseball, and also soccer. After high school, Tom attended Anna Maria College where he played soccer and baseball and captained each team his sophomore through senior years. He won the Anna Maria Sportsmanship Award in 1989 and 1990, and graduated with a BS in 1990.

Tom is also now following another passion – Music. He is the creator and owner of Band Book, the hottest growing networking site for bands, musicians and music fans in the world. It can be found at www.bandbook.com

TMHS 2011 Season Basketball Pictures

More 2011 TMHS athletic pictures can be found at Geoff Bolte's (TMHS '01)

**ATLANTIC
 EXPRESSIONS**

Geoff's site can be found at:
<http://www.gcbphotos.com>



Old Guard Found at Recent TMHS Boys Basketball Game

Under the tutelage of Connecticut Hall of Famer, Tony Falzarano, the TMHS boys' basketball team has once again qualified for the CIAC State Basketball Tournament.

Former TMHS players, coaches and alumni members can be found at every game cheering on the current crop of Hilltoppers. During a recent match against Plainfield High School, held at the Canty Gymnasium, the ever-vigilant camera lens of Justine Gendreau '81 found Merrill Seney, former TMHS boys' basketball coach and long-time teacher, Jim Naum ('51), former boys' basketball coach and 1950, 1951 and 1987 State Champion, Nick Angelo ('51), 1949, 1950, and 1951 State Champion, and Tom Angelo '86, former basketball player rooting on this year's Tigers. The boys won an overtime nail-biter against Plainfield to improve their record to 12-3.

On February 11, the Tigers extended their record to 14-3 overall and 8-2 in the ECC small division with a 66-31 win over Lyman High School, placing them in second place in the ECC Small. This win also secures a high seed in the State Tournament for the Tigers.

Coach Falzarano, like former TMHS coach Jim Canty '29 (TMHS Coach '41-71), is a member of the Connecticut High School Coaches' Hall of Fame and the New England Basketball Hall of Fame. He coached basketball at rival Putnam High School for 33 years leaving that school, according to the Norwich Bulletin, with a 535-255 record. Unable to stay away from the game Tony sought other opportunities and was offered and accepted a position with TMHS in 2008.

Members of the 2011 TMHS boys' basketball team include Shane Gleim, Evan Touchette, Shawn Houle, Anthony Mantelli, Greg Biron, Andrew Trudo, Donald Scanlon, Nicholas Authier, Evan Majercik, John Ruoppo, Ryan Gunter and Keith Ducharme. They are coached by Tony Falzarano and Tom Driscoll.

The next scheduled game is at Killingly High School on February 22, 2011. Also keep an eye on the Norwich Bulletin for this year's playoff schedule.



Above: Left-right, Merrill Seney, Jim Naum '51, Nick Angelo '51, and Tom Angelo '86. The boys defeated Plainfield in an overtime nail-biter to bring their 2011 season record to 12-2. Photo compliments of Justine Gendreau '81.

Thompson Public Schools



Left: A picture of the Thompson Public school campus. The 1909 TMHS building is marked for reference. Having all four schools, Thompson Early Learning Center, Mary R. Fisher Elementary School, Thompson Middle School and Tourtellotte Memorial High School, all in one location and all connected, makes the Thompson Public School complex one of the largest public school buildings in Connecticut. The photo, taken on August 11, 2008, is compliments of Thompson, CT resident Joanne Baker. Below Left: A close up of the TMHS 1909 building. The crane used during the 2008 Restoration Project can be seen on the right side of the building.



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPLEX ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE STATE

For decades, the 1909 Tourtellotte Memorial High School building sat high on the hill all by itself – setting the standard for schools in Northeast Connecticut. Over the years that tradition has continued.

A growing school population and the ever-expanding needs of the education community have required the Town of Thompson to keep pace with its facilities needs. The school has now grown into one of the largest contiguous public school buildings in the State of Connecticut.

The recent bad weather and heavy snow have helped many in the town realize just how large the building is. Rumor has it the roof alone is more than 288,000 square feet – That's 6.6 Acres of roof!

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE STARTS 2011 PROCESS

On February 3, 2011, TMHSAA Hall of Fame Committee members met to review 2011 HOF nomination forms. During phase one of the nomination process, the committee reviews the nominations and recommends those candidates to be further investigated by school officials and HOF Committee members. "This is a daunting undertaking," states Joe Lindley, HOF committee member and TMHSAA president, "There are very few records kept and archived by most high schools and we have to put on our CSI hats and investigate every nominee who makes the first cut."

The mission of the Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize those athletes and coaches who have

distinguished themselves in athletics while at TMHS and after they have left TMHS.

Committee members include Deb Spinelli, TMHS Athletic Director, Jim Naum '50, Jim Sali '51, John Lesniewski '87, and Joe Lindley '74. If you have a nomination for the 2012 class or would like to become a committee member please contact us at TMHSAA@Charter.net. Nomination forms and the Athletic Hall of Fame by-laws can be found at: www.thompsonpublicschools.org/TMHSAA/index.html.

The 2010 HOF class included: Brian Murphy '75, Jim Naum '50, Ted Vriga '54, 1927 Boys State Championship Basketball Team, 1949, 50, 51 Boys State Champion Basketball Teams, Jim Canty '29, George Dargati '50, Jerry Ryscavage '55, Eva Houle '87, and Alan Lebeouf '79.

Photos from the past - 1928



Above: 1928 Class during their Washington trip. Here, on April 2, 1928, the class poses outside the east façade of President Washington's Mount Vernon home. Mount Vernon remains one of the most important homes in U.S. history. While we don't know everyone in the picture, according to Thelma Barker sixth from left sitting is Rose Walden Munyon, seventh from the left is Thelma's mother Adeline (Tefft) Barker '28. Photo compliments of Thelma Barker '52.



CLASS ROLL	
Gertrude Eileen Chandler	
Fabienne Rita Coderre	
Mazie Annette Coderre	
Fernand L. Desaulniers	
Leonis Chapin Evans	
Viola Ada Handy	
Margarethe Helene Langer	
Nina Elisabeth Lynch	
Raymond William Mayhew	
John Nizamoff	
Romeo Joseph Bernard Poulin	
Donald Beattie Reardon	
Hazel Evelyn Richardson	
Elizabeth Marion Sobosik	
Carl Albert Strand	
Adeline Isabel Tefft	
Rose Arlene Walden	
Marion Ardelle Watson	
CLASS MOTTO	
"In Union There Is Strength"	
CLASS COLORS	
Green and Gold	CLASS FLOWERS
	Yellow Tea Rose

Class Day Program	
1. Song	SCHOOL
2. Class History	VIOLA A. HANDY
3. Class Prophecy	FABIENNE R. CODERRE
4. Fate of the Prophet	DONALD B. REARDON
5. Class Gifts	ROMEO J. B. POULIN
6. Class Will	HAZEL E. RICHARDSON
7. Class Statistics	MARGARETHE H. LANGES
8. Presentation of Class Gift	CARL A. STRAND
9. Acceptance of Class Gift	JOHN SHERRY

PROGRAM	
1. Senior March	
2. Daybreak	HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS Wilson
3. Salutatory Scholarship	ELIZABETH M. SOBOSIK
4. Solo—Cass, For It's June	EDNA E. LYCH
5. Usefulness	GERTRUDE R. CHANDLER
6. June Song	GIRLS CHORUS King
7. Efficiency	CARL A. STRAND
8. Societies—Nautical	DOUGLAS BOUGHTON GLENYS EVANS Neils
	RUTH LOGGIE STELLA TOWNE
	MARY SHRYVIVIAN LUCIER
9. The Student Life	ADLINE I. TEFFT Sir William Osler
10. The Last Chord	Sir Arthur Sullivan
11. The Ideal American	HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS
12. Blow, Soft Winds	RAYMOOD W. MAYHEW Flacout
13. Loyalty	GIRLS CHORUS
14. Song—Friends of Yesterday	ROSE A. WALDEN
15. Valedictory	JOHN SHERRY
16. Cantata—Our First Flag	HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS Rosner
17. Presentation of Diplomas	BY JOHN F. REARDON
	Chairman of the School Board
18. Class Song	
19. Senior March	
NOTE—Process do not occur during the presentation of diplomas.	

1928 Graduation

According to the 1928 graduation program there were 18 students who graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School in June of 1928, 11 girls and seven boys. The graduates included Gertrude Eileen Chandler, Fabienne Rita Coderre, Marie Annette Coderre, Fernand L. Desaulniers. Leonis Chapin Evans, Viola Ada Handy, Margarethe Helene Langer, Nina Elizabeth Lynch, Raymond William Mayhew, John Nizamoff, Romeo Joseph Bernard Poulin, Donald Beattie Reardon, Hazel Evelyn Richardson, Elizabeth Marion Sobosik, Carl Albert Strand, Adeline Isabel Tefft, Rose Arlene Walden, Marion Ardelle Watson.

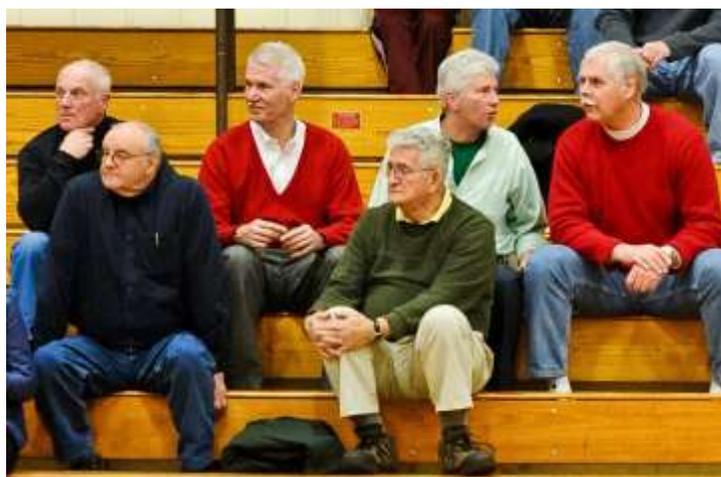
The program lists Elizabeth Sobosikas the class salutatorian and John Nizamoff valedictorian. Their class motto was "In union there is strength," their class colors, green and gold, and their class flower yellow tea rose. The brochure above compliments of Thelma Barker '52.

Photos from the past - continued



Above left: Graduation Day 1981. L-R: Glen Cotnoir, Bill Guillot and Emil Picard. Above right: The full 1981 class posing for photos. Photos compliments of Justine Gendreau '81. If you have any photos send them to TMHSAA@Charter.net or mail them to us at PO Box 437, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. We will scan them and return them to you.

Old Guard – Cont. from pg. 3



Above: Members of the 1968 TMHS basketball team with former coaches Merrill Seney and Jim Naum at a recent Lyman Game. The Tigers won the game 66-31. The 1968 team was the first since 1951 do have an undefeated regular season (19-0). Above Left (L-R): Alan Messier '68, John Martland '68, Barry Kitka '68, Jim Naum '50, and Bill Pederson '68. Above Right (L-R): Allan Messier '61, Merrill Seney, John Martland, Jim Naum, Barry Kitka, and Bill Pederson.

1968 Boys' Basketball -A Season to Remember

Representatives of the 1968 TMHS boys' basketball team were among the many fans found in the Canty gym this season supporting this year's Tourtellotte Memorial's basketball teams.

The 1968 TMHS boys' basketball team, arguably one of the best ever at Tourtellotte, finished their regular season with an undefeated 19-0 record. They defeated Ledyard, Griswold and Norwich Tech. to become the 1968 Quinebaug Valley Conference Champions. They then moved on to the CIAC State Championships easily dispatching Somers High School 77-60 in first-round of play and then Woodstock Academy 56-39 in the quarter finals. Their season ended on March 14, 1968 at the Payne-Whitney Gymnasium at Yale University with a 48-52 heart-breaking loss to Litchfield High School.

Tourtellotte led the game at the half 28-24, but was outscored by Litchfield 28-20 in the second half. Bill Pederson led all scorers with 21 points, scoring 11 in the second half, but it was not enough to hold off the Litchfield crew. Cromwell High School eventually defeated Litchfield 61-33 for the State title.

The 1968 team included Captains Bill Pederson and John Martland, Greg Bates, John Lenky, Alan Messier, Greg Pederson. Dennis Surprenant, Barry Kitka, Paul Lenky, Charles Valade, Gary Coutemanche, Michael Guile, Jeffery Schwend, and Greg Kneeland. Kirk VanderSwaagh, George Arsenault and Kevin Rothwell pitched in as team managers and scorer. They were coached by Jim Canty '29 and Jim Naum '50.

Team Captain Bill Pederson was the Tiger's season-high scorer with 573 points. He was also selected as All-State, the first Tiger player to make the distinguished list since Ted Vriga in 1953.

Tourtellotte Board of Trustees

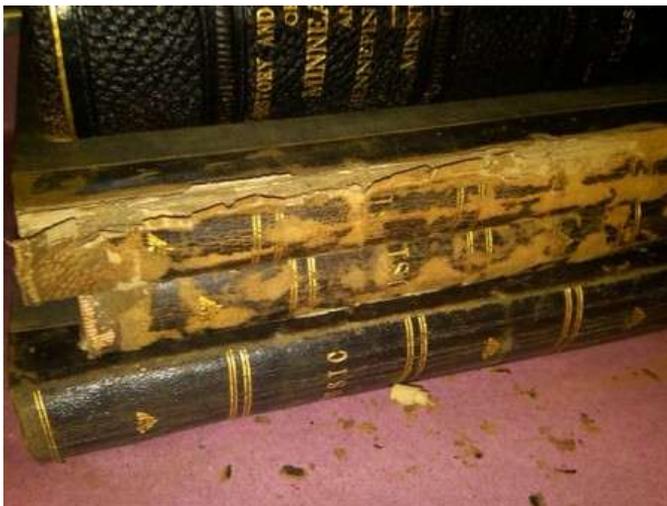
The Tourtellotte Board of Trustees met on Monday February 7, 2011, for its second annual BOT Public Hearing. The TMHSAA, with input from members of the Thompson Historical Society, presented to the BOT a list of accomplishments made by the Tourtellotte Committee, TMHSAA, and Thompson Public Schools over the past year. The Association also presented upcoming needs and concerns for the 1909 Tourtellotte Building, and Memorial Room and art work.

During the meeting the BOT also heard a presentation by Crestwood Investments on the condition of the Tourtellotte trust fund. The news was good. After many months of a depressed stock market, trust earnings started to move in a positive direction and showed total earnings of \$184,946.82

The BOT unanimously agreed to pay the Town of Thompson \$80,000 it authorized for spending from the 2009/2010 season and \$20,000 authorized in the 2010/2011 season, \$74,630.99 of which was used during the recent restoration project. Another \$13,631.99 of insurance money was also used to repair damage caused by a 2006 Memorial Room water leak placing the total restoration costs at \$88,262.98. Of the \$25,369.01 remaining from the 2010/2011 budget the BOT voted to spend \$22,000 for building repairs and \$3,000 for art restoration and Memorial Room operating expense. It also approved a 2012 budget amount of \$20,000.

One key item set for restoration over the next few months is Mrs. Tourtellotte's music books. Over the years the leather bindings on the books have disintegrated, something common for books of this type. Restoration will include new covers, bindings and lettering.

Members of the BOT include Donna Lynch, Dr. Michael Jolin, Michael Martin, Larry Groh, Joe lamartino, Joe Lindley, and David Johnson.



Above: Mrs. Tourtellotte's music books. These books are scheduled to be restored this year. While the books' condition appear serious all curatorial experts have assure us they can be fully restored.

TMHS Project Graduation 2011

"Butts Roast Beef"

Sunday, **March 27, 2011** (12 to 2 pm)

Knights of Columbus

1017 Riverside Drive (Route 12)

N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Adults / Take-Out \$12.00

Children 5 - 10 and Seniors \$8.00 - Limited tickets available at the door For tickets call Ed 860-923-7424 - Or email d.danielson@charter.net



G7 Chicken Pot Pie Sales

Ready-Made, Precooked,
Single Serving Size

\$6.00 per pie

Order now - Pickup **March 5, 2011**

Thompson Town Hall ~ 9:00am - 12:00 pm

Benefit TMHS Project Graduation 2011

Order Deadline - Monday, February 28, 2011!!

Freeze 'em * Heat 'em *** Eat 'em**

(For questions call Carla Faucher (860) 923-3793

Keep top portion for your refrigerator as a reminder of pick-up date!



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Quantity Ordered	
Amount Due	
Amount Paid	

Return completed order forms & payments by 2/28 to any committee member **or** send to TMHS Project Graduation 2011 mailbox in the high school office.

Congratulations to the Santerre Family! Michael '71, wife Anita (Dupont) '74, and son David became one of the first complete families to join this year. More important - TMHS senior David Santerre became the **FIRST** member of the class of 2011 to join the Alumni Association.

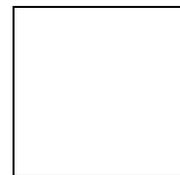
TMHSAA ELECTION REMINDER

In March 2011 we elect our new officers and staff. If you have any recommendations please send them to TMHSAA@Charter.net

Also

The Association cannot run without your support. The good work we do, to include this newsletter, is the result of members giving where they can, some a few hours, others a few dollars. If you have any questions as to what you can do to help call Joe Lindley at 860-928-5527 or Deb Spinelli at 860-923-2350

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Office
PO Box 437
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
TMHSAA@charter.net