

# New look for town's digital face

By Jennifer Senofonte  
Staff Writer

AVON — The Avon town website is getting a facelift.

Avon Free Public Library Director Glenn Grube is leading the project to revamp the town's website, which is 12 years old.

In an informal unveiling of the new site to the Town Council, Grube said web technology has moved forward several generations since the site was launched in 2002.

The current site, he described, is a long cluttered list of links and not easily navigable, noting that he was asked about a year ago by the Technology Committee to improve it. He's been working closely with Virtual Towns and Schools, the company who initially created and is now redesigning the Avon town website.

"We developed a Scope of Work, what we wanted in a new site, and asked them to get us a quote. They were looking for \$4,000 to design a new site, build it, migrate the information and provide training to our staff," Grube said, noting that it is an affordable price and that likely, Virtual Towns and Schools wants to keep Avon's business.

Though the site won't officially launch until September, Grube shared the prototype with the council at its July 10 meeting.

The first change was switching the domain from "town.avon.ct.us" to a simplified: "avonct.gov."

Content and functionality-wise, Grube surveyed town staff to find out what the site is most used for and what they thought about it.

"Over 60 percent of those surveyed found it crucial to their town business," he said. "Forty percent also said that their portion was not up to date or up to standards, so clearly we needed to make some improvements."

He added that the biggest problem for staff was being able to manage pages with updates.

He explained that software had to be purchased to update content on the pages and only five computers townwide had the software installed. With the new site, staff can update their pages anywhere with internet through a log-in procedure.

Staff members will also be able to log in to the site for access to documents or other information pertinent to their job. The Technology Committee is also exploring allowing citizens to log

in to the website for access to forms or to leave comments to the town.

The basic design includes the town seal on the top with a banner image representing Avon.

Just below are three new buttons so visitors to the site can select what they are there for from: residents, businesses or visitors, and click it for relevant information.

"We're trying to keep as much content as possible above the fold so you don't have to scroll down to find what you're looking for," Grube said.

Scroll-down menus bring users to town department pages with contact information, mission statements and other information while a column on the side houses calendars and announcements.

There is also capacity for a red urgent banner when needed.

In the process of merging the two sites, Grube said some content will be removed as there are currently more than 3,000 pages that occupy the town site.

He is working with staff and state requirements to see how long meeting minutes and agendas or other documents have to posted and archiving the rest.

"This is a big project and I just want to thank you for all your hard work you're putting into this. It looks fantastic," Councilman Douglas Evans said. The Board of Education is in the midst of redoing its website with Virtual Towns and Schools as well.



Staff photo

The preservation effort will bring Land Trust records together and organize them. Many of the records have found a home in file cabinets, boxes and piles in the Carey Barn, a structure on property owned by the Land Trust that is pictured above.

## Grant will help Land Trust preserve history

By Jennifer Senofonte  
Staff Writer

FARMINGTON — The Farmington Land Trust is cleaning out its closet.

The nonprofit has amassed records in its members' garages, basements and in the Carey Barn during its 43 years of operation.

A \$5,000 Land Trust Standards & Practices Grant from the Land Trust Alliance and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council will jump start the FLT's goal of updating and overhauling its current system and preserving records that span its history.

"It's like looking at your closet and wanting to clean it out. Like every other nonprofit organization, over time you accumulate a lot of things that get bounced around," FLT Executive Director Tina Delaney said.

The grant will provide funds for Phase 1 of its plan by bringing in the help of Peter Bartucca, a records consultant who is an expert in the field and also a strong supporter of the Land Trust, Delaney said.

Additionally, Farmington Town Clerk Paula Ray, a former FLT board member, will help in the records management efforts and said she is happy and excited to do so.

"It's what I do for a living, so to be able to do it as a volunteer for the Land Trust is very rewarding," Ray said.

The pair, Delaney added, are the captains of the preservation effort which will bring all the records together, sort through and organize them. Many of the records have found a home in file cabinets, boxes and piles in the Carey Barn, a structure on property owned by the Land Trust.

"We're very excited about this because the history of the Land Trust isn't just about the land, it's about the donors, the board members, everyone who has been part of this effort to protect open space," Delaney said.

It was discovered through a recent assessment by the alliance that the current system for accessing historical documents is not the best it can be and, "These records are very important," Delaney said.

She added that current

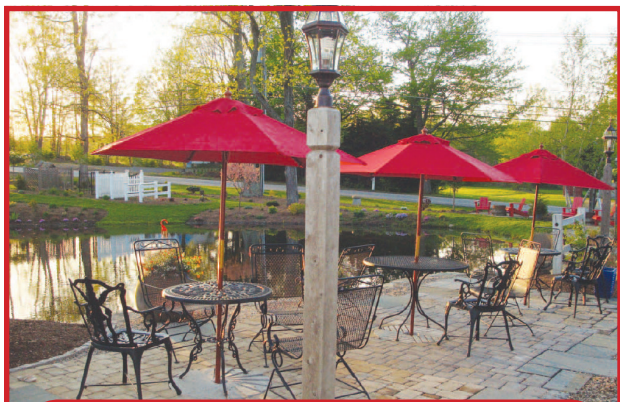
and former members have come out of the woodwork to help in this effort, offering records or photographs they have held onto.

She said the Land Trust is grateful that the grant was accepted and approved because it will help with the records management project as well as future historical record policy and procedures. The next phase will be to sort through photographs and identify the people and places in them.

The Land Trust is also applying for a Norcross Wildlife Foundation grant for \$3,200 which would help buy office equipment, folders, archival papers to duplicate records and other supplies.

The historical records will have a temporary home in the FLT office on Garden Street until the group moves to a house on the West District Nature Preserve.

The FLT currently has 11 board members and 175 household members. Founded in 1971, its mission is to protect open space in perpetuity through acquisition, stewardship, education and advocacy.



Dining 'al fresco' seated amongst our beautiful display gardens and water features, enjoy your lunch by the pond or dinner under the stars!



Greenhouse Cafe offers a fresh, innovative menu featuring locally sourced, seasonal food.



Complete your meal with a visit to the Frozen Gnome!



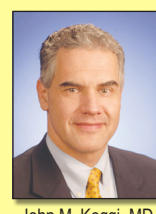
OPEN AIR LOCAL FARE  
BURLINGTON, CT



Mon., Wed, Thurs. 11:30-7, Fri. & Sat. til 8:00; 8:30 ice cream. Closed Tuesday.  
511 Spelman Hwy, Burlington • 860-673-8111



ORTHOPAEDICS  
NEW  
ENGLAND



John M. Keggi, MD



Robert E. Kennon, MD



Loel Z. Payne, MD

### Specialists in Hip, Knee, Shoulder and Sports

Orthopaedics New England offers decades of experience in total hip replacement and hip resurfacing procedures via the anterior approach as well the full range of knee and shoulder procedures including arthroscopy, reconstruction and replacement. We provide the spectrum of care from the latest non-operative treatments to complex reconstruction. **ONE** is your choice for staying active.

Evening Appointments Available  
Serving The Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute (CJRI)  
(St. Francis Hospital, Hartford) and local facilities.

VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION AT

399 Farmington Ave., Suite LL1, Farmington, 06032

Offices in Middlebury, Farmington and New Milford  
OrthoNewEngland.com • 203-598-0700



CJRI is the region's only hospital that offers an entirely separate staff and facilities dedicated exclusively to your joint replacement care. CJRI's newly-constructed facilities include the latest technology and well-appointed, private patient rooms for your stay.

