

The Constant Times

Volume 3, Issue 2

April - May 2014

Spring Start for JuMP Playground Installation Daro Montag

Last year was a busy year for the Jubilee Memorial Park (JuMP) team. Building on the previous year's successful launch and local fundraising activity, the team have devoted their energies to raising funds for a new playground for Constantine. There have been a significant number of successes and one or two very close misses. For example, the voting for Constantine to be the best community in Cornwall showed what an outstanding community we live in – we were only narrowly beaten at the last minute by some postal votes going to Lostwithiel.

In March we were awarded £10,000 from SITA's Young Person's Volunteering Scheme, to work with teenagers and young adults. This has led to a group of teenagers repairing the gazebo and installing seating. They have also started the groundworks for the installation of the old cricket pavilion from the Trengilly Wartha, which will serve as a youth clubhouse. As soon as the weather allows, the group of young adults will develop other areas of the park to provide appropriate spaces for their age group. Around the same time we were also awarded £2,850 from the Cornwall Community Foundation to construct seating and a new welcome gate to the play park.

In April a Legacy scheme was launched allowing the community to learn about JuMP and the playground; contribute their thoughts to its development; and pledge financial support. Ideas for the playground were further developed in a series of 10 free creative workshops during the summer. These were delivered by a number of different workshop leaders to a range of participants aged from 3 to somewhat over 60. During these sessions ideas were generated to help develop the playground, including ideas for seating, pathways, and play equipment. (*cont. p. 2*)

Inside this issue

Community Land Trust?, Page 2



The Ghost Express, Page 6



Calendar, Pages 8-9

Night Sky, Pages 14-15

(cont. from p. 1)

A further workshop was run in the autumn term with Tamar class, who spent an afternoon visiting the park and helping work out the layout of paths, selecting equipment and designing play areas. We are grateful to all of our community members who devoted their time for free to lead these workshops.

In August we were able to confirm that Cory Environmental had awarded JuMP approximately £6,000 for a piece of play equipment. We also received further individual and group fundraising support, including £500 from Dr Adrian Roberts' triathlon success. Finally, towards the end of the year we received the news that a bid to SITA Cornwall Trust, for £30,000, had been successful. This brings our total fundraising to approximately £56,000 – a great achievement by all concerned in little over two years.

During the next few months work will start on installing the new play equipment. We would like to thank the whole community for their support of this project and hope to see you all when the playground officially opens.

Constantine School Head Teacher's Message Liz Brand

After seven happy and hard working years I will be retiring from the headship of Constantine School at the end of the summer term. Since I started in January 2007 there have been significant changes: our numbers have risen to nearly 150 and we have six classes now instead of four. Technology has advanced - we have removed our computer suite and the children use netbooks and iPads very confidently within the creative curriculum that we have put in place. Speed of change in education is increasing and there are always many challenges but it has been a very rewarding job and one that I will miss!

The Governors are delighted to have appointed a new Headteacher, Mrs Helen Bancroft, to take over in September. She is currently the deputy head at St Mary's in Falmouth, an outstanding school. Mrs Bancroft has worked in several Cornish schools and is familiar with the central role that our village school plays in its community. She will be bringing her own new ideas to continue to take Constantine School forward and I wish her and the school community every possible success for the future.

Community-owned Housing in Constantine? James Croftson

The Tolmen Centre is a wonderful example of the strength of the community in Constantine: it is owned, run and managed by the community, for the community. It is widely regarded as an excellent example of local people taking the initiative and making choices to invest time, effort, and money in an asset that is of benefit to the whole village.

What if that community-based mindset could be extended to include provision of community-owned housing, for local people who are unable to afford to buy local properties? And what if such community-owned houses could ensure that future generations of local people are as insulated as possible from rising fuel prices and resource scarcity?

Community Land Trusts are powerful examples of communities taking control to transform their own future. They are non-profit, community-based organisations run by volunteers to develop housing, work spaces and/or other assets that meet the needs of the community. They are set up by the community, and are owned, run and operated by the community, for the community.

Transition Constantine is considering the possibility of setting up a "Constantine Community Land Trust", with the ultimate goal of providing affordable homes for local people. The aim would be for these homes to be truly exemplary in terms of minimal energy use and water consumption, with all demand for fuel and water being met on-site from natural resources, to avoid placing further burden on existing infrastructure. The homes would remain under community ownership indefinitely, to ensure that these benefits remain for future generations in the village too.

This is not to say that the community would need to fund the project: far from it. There are many sources of potential finance for CLTs, provided that the wider community is in support of the idea. What is important, however, is that the community ownership of the scheme would prevent the possibility of the homes "leaking out" on to the open market in the future, thus ensuring that the project would continue to meet the local need for local homes.

Progression of the idea will only be possible if there is enough support from within the community, so we really are keen to hear from everyone who is interested, not just those who may have existing skills and experience in the building trade! If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved as we start to explore the possibilities, please contact: Robin Curtis (tmconstantine@btinternet.com) or Chris Hussey (chris.r.hussey@gmail.com).

CEC Projects Report Liz Moore

Bosahan Wood and Quarry Project

Unfortunately, after considerable time and effort this has now stalled completely. Here is a resume of what happened following the public meeting we held last summer.

After that meeting we received nearly £6,000 in pledges. Thank you very much to all those who supported us in this way. We began to work up a purchase scheme using a Community Interest Company, with the pledge money as our lever, but before this could progress too far the vendors gave us some unexpected deadlines, firstly to a pay a deposit of £30k by the end of September, which was subsequently lengthened, but with completion of the sale by the end of March 2014. In addition the purchase price went up to £150K from the £120k professional valuation we had been working on.

At this time another purchaser, who was prepared to work with the community, but was in a position to move straight away, came on the scene. Happiness all round, but unfortunately we were not able to break open to champagne since after much work and an offer being put in before Christmas, this hasn't proceeded any further for a number of reasons. So, unless there is someone out there with funds available immediately who will work with us (and provided the vendors still have it on the market and there isn't another buyer in the wings already), sadly there is nothing more the CEC can do with this exciting project.

I have also had two phone calls recently about the motorbikes tearing through the woods, but unfortunately there's nothing we can do about it as we have no control over the land.

The Tolmen Garden Area Project

This has been delayed by the appalling winter weather but now it's a little drier and provided it continues we should be seeing some real progress soon.

CEC AGM - This will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 8th May at the Tolmen Centre and more information will follow.

Constantine Parish Council Report Liz D'Alton

Planning Matters

Mr David Martin's (Graceloft Ltd) application to convert 3 barns at Trebarvah Farm, with associated road and drainage, to dwellings was supported (with conditions); his application to erect eight new houses on the north side of his new road was not. Constantine Parish Council viewed this latter application as being one for eight new homes in the countryside. Eight new homes will have a considerable visual and ecological impact on the character and appearance of the countryside surrounding the village. There are already concerns about vehicular traffic, particularly along the very narrow lane from Trebarvah Road through to Trewardreva Cross, which will be augmented by the adjoining development. Constantine Parish Council did not support the development of this site.

Other Matters

The Council voted to accept a quotation from the Proludic Play Equipment Company to supply and install eight pieces of play equipment in the play area of the recreation ground. Old and /or damaged equipment will be removed and the ground levelled in preparation for the new apparatus. Thanks are due to all the members of the JuMP Advisory Committee who have worked so hard and to such good effect for bringing the project ever closer to a happy conclusion.

A request came from the Constantine Enterprises Company for financial help towards restarting the Tolmen Youth and Drama Family Project. Following discussion, it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council should forward a letter of support for the project and to indicate that once the group is up-and-running members would welcome an application for financial help. Constantine Football Club requested financial help and it was agreed to give a grant of £100.00.

The Parish Council agreed to continue with the care and maintenance of the closed churchyard. Mawnan Allotments Association invites applications for vacant allotments to contact the Secretary, Granville Williamson, telephone 01326 250112 or 07703 692185.

Through the Clerk, PCSO Wood reported a single crime, possession of drugs, and seven 999 calls, none of which were emergencies. Please note, 999 calls are only to be made for emergencies. Otherwise the number to call is 101.

We still need two more Parish Councillors. Please speak to anyone on the Parish Council if you are interested.

Gweek Players Ride *The Ghost Express* Robin Lambert

Just around the corner from Constantine, in the little village of Gweek, a small group of people are fighting for their lives and the future of their country.

The Ghost Express is a play written specially for the Gweek Players to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. It tells the story of a group of railway passengers who find themselves stranded in an abandoned station during the Second World War. It's a story about relationships, duty, loyalty and how far people will go to defend what they love. It is a drama but also a comedy!

Rehearsals started in January, a long time for most plays, but this isn't just any play. Director Rob Lambert from Porthleven explains: "This is a play on many levels. Yes, it has a lot of comedy, especially in the first act, but it is about people, about personalities. We've managed to assemble an excellent cast, and we are taking the time to hone their performances to a level which would put most professionals to shame. My intention is to get the audience laughing, crying, shouting and cheering and I can see that we're well on the way to achieving that."

The village hall in Gweek is being transformed. The clock will be wound back, and when the audience walk through the door, they will find themselves back in 1943. It is an amazing group effort, with the backstage crew working all hours to create the illusion. More information is available online at www.gweekplayers.co.uk.



Rehearsal of *The Ghost Express*.

St Constantine Parish Church News and Events Liz Moore

St Constantine Parish Church AGM: Sunday April 6th, 11.45am.

Easter Services at Constantine

13th April. Palm Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion, 10.30am Holy Communion

17th April. Maundy Thursday. 7.00pm Holy Communion, (Mawnan Smith will be joining us).

18th April. Good Friday. 10.30 am, Stations of the Cross. Passion readings

20th April. Easter Sunday. 10.30 am Holy Communion with Alex Marshall.

Gardens and Homes Coffee Morning: 26th April, 10 – 12 noon

Usual stalls include Cards, Books, Cakes, Crafts, Plants, Raffle, Chicken Dinner, Tombola, Teas/cakes, Vintage, Pound pot. This was a great success last year following on from Vera's brilliant coffee mornings, so please support either by donating items, or by attending.

The Children's Sunday Special: 4.30pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month

The Sunday Special won't happen in April, as it is Easter Day, so the next special time of choruses, bible reading and drama will be on 18th May. Everyone welcome, 0 to 90, never too young or too old to join this happy group.

Trenarth Open Garden: 11th May. Watch for posters.

Church Flower and Music Festival: 24 to 27 July

Arrangements are in hand, letters being sent to all parish groups, sponsorship requests to the local businesses and a musical programme is being planned. The last one, 10 years ago, raised £3,000 which was divided between the Church and the Sunrise Appeal. This time it will be the Church and Cornwall Hospice Care. Fund-raising proceeds from this and other events will be used in part to address the Church Hall roof problem. The roof could potentially cost £20,000 to replace, and only a small amount is covered by insurance.

Other Social and Fund Raising Group News: We had a great time at Country Skittles on 1st March and requests for further events of this type were requested. 40 people were able to come, many of whom hadn't been to Skittles before. Then, within days, March 9th was the Parish lunch. 55 people attended, providing the usual amazing amount and variety of food. It was a joy to have both John Meek and the Rev Stewart with us, looking in better health.

The Constant Times

CONSTANTINE CALENDAR

April 2014

Tues 1 – Sloe Gin Evening. 7pm. Port Navas Village Hall. £5. David Burke 341018.

Wed 2 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 2 - Tolmen Movies. Philomena. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Wed 2 – Pop-up Baby and Toddler Cafe. 10.30am. Potager Gardens. £3 for parent and child.

Fri 4 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am. Tolmen Centre (same location for all following Fridays).

Mon 7 - One and All Club Group Meeting. 2.15pm. Sally 340050.

Wed 9 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Thurs 10 – Transition Constantine Meeting. 7.00pm. Queens Arms.

Thurs 10 – Save the Children Coffee Morning, 10am-noon, Budock Vean Hotel. £2.50.

Fri 11 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Sat 12 – Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Constantine Village Hall

Sat 12 – China Plate and Caroline Horton present 'You're not like the other girls, Chrissy'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. £10/£8. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Mon 14 – W.I. Meeting. 7.15pm.

Wed 16 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 16 – Tolmen Movies. Alpha Papa. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Fri 18 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Fri 18-Mon 21 – Easter Trail Activity. The Waymarker.

Fri 18-Mon 21 – Take 4 Art Group Exhibition. 10.30am-4pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

Wed 23 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 23 - One and All Club Lunch. Social Club. Sally 340050.

Thurs 24 – Parish Council Meeting. 6.45pm. Parish Vestry.

Fri 25 – Constantine Literary Pod welcomes Patrick Gale, 6.30pm, Tolmen Centre, £5, 341353, Booking essential.

Fri 25 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Fri 25 – Welsh themed Celtic Regional Evening Menu. 6-7.30pm Arrivals. The Waymarker.

Sun 27 – Save the Children Trek and Tea Sponsored Walk. 10am for 10 mile walk or 11.30am for 4 mile walk. Tea served for all at 3pm. Port Navas Village Hall. For info contact Mel 341484 or Roger 340718.

Mon 28 – Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Wed 30 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 30 - Tolmen Movies. The Time That Remains. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

May 2014

Fri 2 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Fri 2-Mon 5 – Mel Chambers Animal Spirit portraits. 10am-6pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

Sat 3 – Joyful Company of Singers present 'Peace before the Storm'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. £10. 341353. Booking essential.

Tues 6-Sun 11 – George Willoughby Exhibition. 10am-5pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

Wed 7 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Wed 7 – Pop-up Baby and Toddler Cafe. 10.30am. Potager Gardens. £3 for parent and child.

Thurs 8 - Transition Constantine Meeting. 7.00pm. Queens Arms.

Fri 9 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Sat 10 - Farmers Market. 9.30am-12noon. Constantine Village Hall

Sat 10 – Folk Singer Chris Wood presents 'None the Wiser'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. £12/£11. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Sun 11 – Miracle Theatre present 'The Case of the Frightened Lady' 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. £12/£10/£8. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Mon 12 – Constantine Community Choir. 6.45pm. Tolmen Centre.

Mon 12 - W.I Meeting. 7.15pm.

Wed 14 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen

Wed 14 – Tolmen Movies. Nebraska. 7.30pm. £3. 341353. Café Tolmen

open. Booking essential.

Thurs 15 – Parish Council Meeting, 6.45pm. Parish Vestry.

Fri 16 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Fri 16 – Constantine History Group. Penzance Historic Walk with Pauline Hope. 5.30pm. Constantine Car Park.

Sun 18 – Save the Children NGS Open Garden and Cream Tea, 1.30-5pm, Navas Hill House Port Navas, £3 Adult, Child free, Aline and Richard Turner 251233

Mon 19 - One and All Club. Dartmoor Trip. Coach pick up at Gweek 8.45am, Constantine Spar 9am, Bottom of Constantine 9.10am. First come first served. Sally 340050

Wed 21 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Fri 23 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Sat 24-Sat 31 – Port Navas Art Group Exhibition. 11am-4pm. Port Navas Village Hall.

Wed 28 – Todlins. 9.30am. Tolmen.

Fri 30 – Breton themed Celtic Regional Evening Menu. 6-7.30pm Arrivals, The Waymarker.

Fri 30 – Fitness Fusion. 11.30am.

Sat 31 – Victoria Melody and Farnham Maltings present 'Major Tom'. 7.30pm. Tolmen Centre. 341353. Café Tolmen open. Booking essential.

Please send calendar items to Lottie at constant.times@gmail.com. Remember to include: date/event title/time/place/price(if any)/contact details. Thank you!

CLUBS, GROUPS AND GOINGS ON

Calendar entries and reports on group happenings (400 words maximum) are welcome. We'll try to make space to print everything that comes in, though we may occasionally need to hold items over if we run out of space.

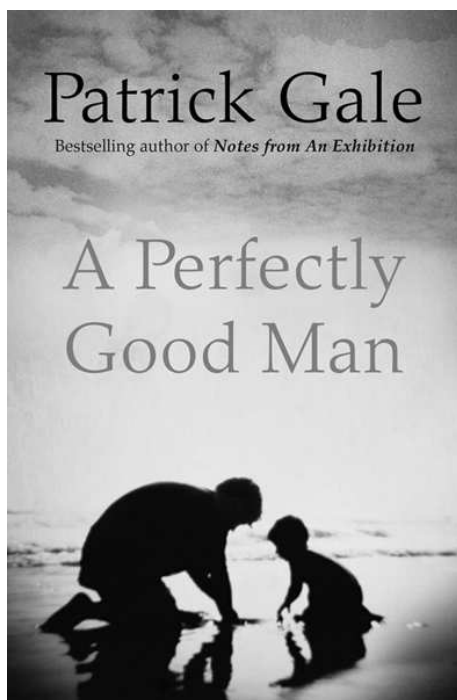
Constantine Literary Pod Welcomes Patrick Gale Hazel Perham

Constantine Literary Pod invites you to join us on April 25th for an informal evening event with the author Patrick Gale.

Patrick was born on the Isle of Wight where his father was the governor of Camp Hill prison. His father subsequently moved to Wandsworth prison, where Patrick remembers chatting to prisoners through the windows of the mail-bag workshop. In his 2000 novel, *Rough Music*, the lead character is the son of a prison governor.

Patrick is a prolific writer who lives in the far West of Cornwall. His works include: the acclaimed *Notes from an Exhibition* (2007) and, more recently, *A Perfectly Good Man* (2012). Join us on Friday the 25th of April, downstairs at the Tolmen Centre, to hear Patrick talk about mothers in his fiction and the diplomatic challenges of writing about family life without causing mortal offence to relatives. He will also be giving a sneak preview of his next novel, *A Place Called Winter*. This is based on the mystery of his great grandfather, and will be published in Feb 2015. The talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

Wine and refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. There will be second-hand books on sale and lots of opportunity to talk books! Tickets available from the Tolmen Centre on 01326 341353 – book early to avoid disappointment. (Only 80 available) Tickets £5.00 each.



Constantine W.I. Report Barbara Willoughby

Family History was the topic for our March meeting – the topic most people wished they had spoken to their parents or grandparents about so they could find out who that mystery person was in the photos found when clearing out the attic! Mr Peter King gave a very informative talk with a great deal of information. Much information can now be found on the internet, with a large number of websites covering all sections of family history (including births, marriages, deaths and the family census, taken every 10 years from 1849).



Newspapers are also available online, and information can be found from wills, which have been recorded since 1858. Research can also be done into the military movements of grandfathers/fathers, especially if you have any regimental information. The Mormon Church in Helston has world-wide information and are happy to help with family research. If you do not have access to computers, most libraries have computers available and some even have family history sections with Parish Records revealing many family secrets! The competition, 'A Family Heirloom', included a stunning black and white family photograph of a large family history, an antique doll and even a family member's School Certificate.

Later this month we are welcoming Mawnan Smith W.I. to a social evening, and on Monday 31 March our Soup & Pud Lunch will be for the Daffodil Appeal, and all proceeds will go to the Marie Curie Cancer Care fund. All are very welcome. Our speaker on 14th April will be Katie Sainsbury with the talk 'Roses from the Heart'. The competition will be 'An Old or New Bonnet or Hat'. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Do you like time to select your entries for the photograph section of the Garden Society Summer Show? The show date is 19th July... get snapping!

Next year's titles are: Any pet or pets; Reflections; The Garden Path; Flowers or plants; Black and white-any subject; Sunset; Market Day; Head and Shoulders Portrait; Daffodil fields; A Cornish Lane. Additional titles for Juniors: A sporting event; My pet or pets.

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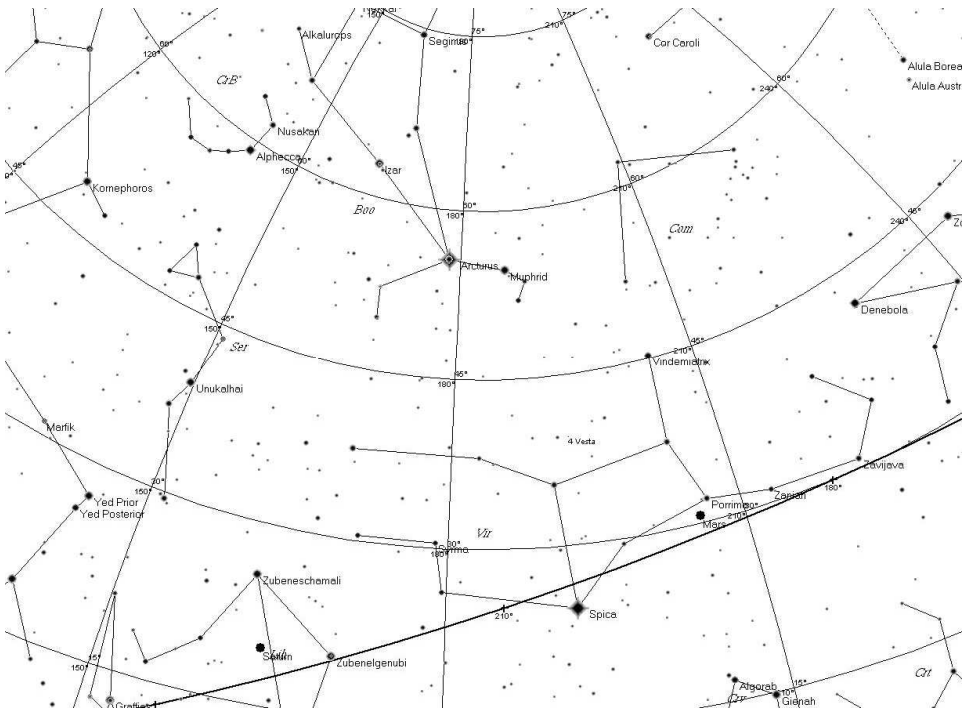
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* * * **Night Sky April/May** Robert Beeman
*

The spring and summer constellations are now starting to make an appearance and Cygnus will be high in the night sky to the east, with Deneb at its head and Altair at the tail. These two stars, together with Vega, form the summer triangle.

The constellation of Corona Borealis is a semi circular arrangement of stars which lies about one third of the distance from Vega to Arcturus. Find Arcturus by extending the handle of the plough southwards towards the horizon. The brightest star in Corona Borealis, sometimes known as the Northern Crown, is Gemma (or Al-phecca), and is said to represent the shining jewel in the crown. On an imaginary line between the top and bottom stars of this constellation, about one third of the way up, is a star known as R Coronae Borealis or R CrB for short. This is a variable star with a light output which at irregular intervals appears to switch itself off and disappear from view altogether. It is a carbon rich star and it is this property which causes it to dim. It is thought that a build up of carbon in the star's atmosphere eventually condenses out into a dark sooty cloud. This eventually gets dispersed by radiation pressure from the star and R CrB again becomes a dim sparkle in the Northern Crown. R CrB is currently close to naked eye seeing, but should be easy to see in binoculars.

April brings the Lyrid meteor shower; the radiant is close to Vega. The prediction is for 10 to 20 per hour and they peak from evening on the 21 to dawn on the 22, but they are around in reduced numbers from 6th to 25th April. Planets are a little sparse as Jupiter is now starting to slip away to the west but both Saturn and Mars should be good for viewing from about midnight onwards in early April.

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Volunteers distribute free copies to households in Constantine Parish every two months. Please let us know if you do not receive a copy, or if you would like to help with distribution.

Submission Deadlines:

News items, calendar entries and other submissions are required by the second Saturday of each month prior to publication. Please send to constant.times@gmail.com or post to the addresses above.

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