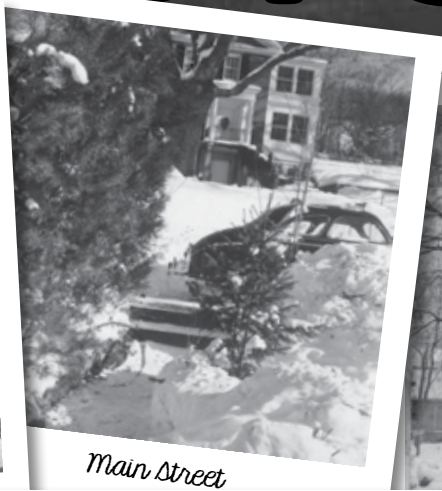


East Haddam

events

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First Selectman's Corner

I want to express my thanks for your support at the recent special election for First Selectman. Your trust in me is a gift that I plan to use carefully. We have many challenges ahead of us but with the help of our countless volunteers and dedicated staff, we will continue to be one of Connecticut's greatest places.

A primary goal is completing our major capital projects on time and within their budgets. Taking full advantage of the opportunities created by the relocation of our Town Office to Moodus is essential.

Have you noticed the attractive new signs welcoming visitors to our Town? A big thank you to Ron Turner for making that happen. The continued process of making our public spaces more attractive is an important part of what we do. As always, your participation and support are an essential part of the process. What we must always keep in mind are two questions: "What is in the best interest of our town?" and "What is fair?"



The holidays are now behind us and while we did not see the always hoped for snow, it was a glorious season full of

celebration and joy. We kicked it off with a Family Night on the Moodus Green. The beautiful decorations were provided by the Leo Club. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a fire engine with the help of the East Haddam Fire Department and the Moodus Drum and Fife Corps as escorts. Santa turned on the power for the Christmas tree and all in attendance enjoyed the talented student carolers led by Ms. Mazzaferro. After the entertainment ended, festivities continued at nearby locations. Santa was upstairs in the Methodist Church while snacks and goodies were downstairs. At the library, Mrs. Claus was handing out presents downstairs and upstairs letters to Santa were written. A petting zoo proved to be a very special attraction outside. It was a beautiful, fun filled night much enjoyed by all.

On December 18th a send-off was held for John Blaschik (JB) at Saint Bridget of Kildare Church in Moodus. John has been a mainstay for the East Haddam and Moodus communities for over 40 years.

continued on page 3



First Selectman Emmett Lyman with John Blaschik

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Annual Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 are available now in the Town Clerk's Office.

This book is filled with valuable information regarding meeting dates, Boards and Commissions, reports from all Town Departments and 2015-2016 summary financial report. The full 2015-2016 year-end audit can be viewed online at www.easthaddam.org. Feel free to stop in for your very own copy of the Annual Town Report.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S CORNER... continued from page 1

His service is legendary, ranging from four terms as First Selectman to filling every possible position within our Fire Department. He has served our town as a Constable, a Fire Marshal and in a host of other volunteer positions, all the while finding time to serve his church in equally endless ways. When you read this John will have departed to join the Trappist Monks at Our Lady of the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Virginia. It is his plan to spend the balance of his life there serving all of humankind. He goes with our heartfelt thanks and our gratitude for all he has given us over so many years.

Our June 30, 2016 Annual Report is now available and is dedicated to four residents who gave so much during their lives - Carol Bogan, Margaret (Peg) Sievers, Alice Tesar and Delphine Tuttle. Please make it a point to pick up a copy at the Town Office Building. This is the 9th year that our Finance Director Cindy Varricchio has prepared an essential document in a format which is both comprehensive and at the same time readable. This is a great way to review what happened over the last year in our town. You can find the accomplishments of our Boards, Commissions and town departments; and you can see how much our emergency services have done for us, the numbers are remarkable. The achievements realized by our schools are equally impressive. Our town finances are presented in a straightforward way where you can easily review how your taxes are put to work for the town.

All-in-all it's a quick and easy way to learn what's going on in our amazing town and to see the remarkable commitment of our staff and citizen volunteers in making East Haddam the great place in which it is to live.

The Heritage Park walking trail is proving to be a great success. You rarely go by without seeing it in use and often even late at night. It is a wonderful way to exercise or just to push a baby carriage, best of all you can do so in safety and comfort. Plans for lighting the path with low-level lights directed inward from outside, are well underway.

In addition, East Haddam is renowned for its open spaces and the opportunities to enjoy them. Winter is a great time to do so. The views are often better, bugs absent and best of all in cool weather you can easily control temperature. The Conservation Commission has prepared individual maps for our numerous trails. The maps are available at the Town Clerk's office, various locations around town and online. Skating, ice fishing, cross-country skiing and many other opportunities to enjoy our town abound. Why not invite your friends to a picnic in the snow and spend a day making the most of all our town has to offer.

Emmett J. Lyman
First Selectman

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Good Friday- 1:30-2:30 Confessions

3:00pm- Passion of the Lord

7:00pm Stations of the Cross, confessions following

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From the Assessor

The Town of East Haddam is preparing to conduct a revaluation of all property for the October 1, 2017 grand list. The town has chosen Vision Government Solutions to perform full inspections of all improved properties. Information concerning the revaluation will be available on the town's website.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in March 2017 to hear appeals on real estate assessments. Requests to the Board are due by February 20, 2017. Written requests should include the property owner's name, name and address of the person appealing the assessment, type of property being appealed (real estate or personal property), reason for the appeal, and opinion of value. Although any written request is accepted, forms are available at the East Haddam web site: www.easthaddam.org. The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is P.O. Box K, East Haddam, CT 06423.

The Assessor's Office will begin taking applications for the Homeowners Credit Program, and the Homeowners' Local Option Program on February 1, 2017. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2017. The income limits (including Social Security) for the state Homeowners' Program are

\$35,200 for a single person and \$42,900 for a married couple. The limit for the Local Option Program is \$50,000 per household.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31, 2017 to receive exemption benefits. Qualifying income for Additional Veterans Benefits is the same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted from February 1, 2017 until October 1, 2017.

Any person or entity starting a new business in town should notify the Assessor's Office so that we can send a personal property declaration in the fall. Personal property assessments are based on the declarant's filing. These assessments can be appealed to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Please note that legislation has raised the assessment limit for appealing to the Board from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Assessment appeals over \$1,000,000 will be tried in the Superior Court.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessor's Office at (860) 873-5026.

Registrars of Voters

A Presidential election year is always a busy one! We had Presidential primaries in April, a budget referendum in May, a Republican primary for First Selectman in October, a Presidential election on November 8 and, last but not least, the election for First Selectman on December 20.

Turnout for the November election was over 78%, with 5,176 East Haddam residents voting. Election Day Registration was available for the November election, and 77 people registered to vote that day. On December 20, 1,609 people voted for First Selectman, a turnout of over 24%.

Our office has been affected by several

changes this year. Registrars are now required to complete an eight-class certification program, plus an additional 10 hours of training. They must also attend two conferences each year, and any additional training sessions mandated by the Secretary of the State. A new assisted voting system was put in place and the state also instituted an Election Management reporting system to help provide election results as quickly as possible. People can now register to vote at Motor Vehicle offices and online. Online registration has been popular, with many people taking advantage of its convenience.

Connecticut's system of using paper ballots read by optical scan machines provides a

paper trail which can be audited to ensure the accuracy of the vote. The Secretary of the State randomly selects 10% of polling places for audit after each state-wide election. After the Presidential primary in April, East Haddam was selected for an audit. The ballots were hand counted and the results matched the vote totals from the optical scan machine.

Thank you to all of the dedicated citizens of East Haddam, we appreciate that you participate in the Democratic process by both working at the polls and voting! We could not do our job without your support. The Registrars of Voters office is located in the River House, at 7 Main Street, East Haddam, telephone 860-873-5029.

Tax Collector

The Tax Office would like to remind everyone that the second payment on Real Estate and Personal Property taxes was due January 1, 2017. The last day to pay without interest or penalty is February 1, 2017. Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills were mailed December 9, 2016 and were also due January 1, 2017, payable by February 1, 2017. If you cannot pay your taxes in full, please call the tax office to set up a payment arrangement. Payments may be made in person, by mail or online. To pay by mail, send to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 376, East Haddam, CT 06423-0376. To pay

or look up taxes online, go to easthaddam.org and click the link; "Pay Taxes Online." There is a fee for all credit/debit payments.

This office is for the collection of taxes only. Any adjustments to your bill must be made by the Assessor.

The Assessor may be reached at 860-873-5026 or assessor@easthaddam.org. You may contact the Tax Office at 860-873-5033 or taxcollector@easthaddam.org.

Denise Dill, CCMC

Ease Winter Blahs. Spend Time Outdoors.



Moodus River, former dam in EHLT's Hidden Valley Farm Preserve

Spending time outdoors in natural areas is good for more than one's physical health. Research continues to show that walks in wooded and natural areas renew short-term memory, revive concentration, lower stress, ease anxiety, and generally improve one's bad mood.

Children and adults reap these benefits by spending as little as 15 to 30 minutes wandering the woods and meadows of our town's preserved acreage. The idea is to get away from built-up areas and traffic so your senses can absorb the quiet wonders of Mother Nature. East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) maintains trails ideal for wandering in nature.

Golet Farm Preserve, just across Great Hillwood Road from Heritage Park, is a great place to meander through meadows and wooded trails. Follow the red then blue trails to reach interior meadows lined with wooded wetlands.

Take the blue trail in Hidden Valley Farm Preserve to enjoy the beautiful Moodus River. Once the power source for the Moodus twine industry, the Moodus River has been restored to its more natural and cleaner state. From the Gristmill Road parking area, take the red trail onto Gristmill Road and over the Moodus River. Take a right over a wood bridge and follow the trail markers (or use the map) to the red and blue trail intersection.

Sheepskin Hollow Preserve has three trailheads. Off the Mount Parnassus end of Sheepskin Hollow Road take the blue trail for a brisk walk across a stream and through woodlands. Stay on this trail a bit longer (left onto red and left onto white trails) to observe an active beaver pond. The white trail off the end of Ridgebury Road twists through the higher woodlands



Stream at EHLT's Sheepskin Hollow Preserve

of this 120-acre preserve while the yellow to red trails off Woodmont Circle meander wooded wetlands into deeper woods.

Find and download maps for these and other EHLT preserves at www.ehlt.org. You can also get your outdoor time during Land Trust scheduled hikes on the last Sundays and work parties on the third Saturdays of January-June and September-December. Check Events at www.ehlt.org, or follow East Haddam Land Trust on Facebook or www.meetup.com.

East Haddam Family Resource Center



A place to gather, connect and learn more about how your child is developing. All programs are FREE! Check out our website, ehccfrc.wordpress.com for up to date program information or "Like" us on Facebook.

Here is what we have going on now!

Early Learning Play Group; children ages birth to age 5 and their caregivers can come learn, sing, hear stories and create



with others in a play-based setting. Playgroup meets on Monday and Friday from 10:00 am-11:00. No registration required for this drop in program. For more information email or call Early Childhood Coordinator, Lauren Kasperowski at lauren.kasperowski@yahoo.net or 860-873-3296 with any questions.

The Family Resource Center is located in the East Haddam Elementary School, 45 Joe Williams Road, Moodus.

East Haddam Lions Club

The Lions have a number of projects planned for 2017. Perhaps the most anticipated is the annual auction & tag sale in July. The club is already collecting donations for the event.

If you have any "big ticket" items that you would like to donate - especially automobiles, boats & RVs, please contact Lion Joe Busher at (860) 873-2994.

This past December, the Lions Club again sold Christmas trees to families all over East Haddam. The Lions also donated and prepared over 100 holiday feast baskets at the East Haddam Food Bank. They arranged for their good friend, Santa Claus, to visit Chestelm along with elves from the East Haddam Leos & Lions. Special thanks to Lions Zac Jezek, Jim Prue, Dave Carpenter, Dan Ballek, and the Leo Club for helping East Haddam have a simply wonderful Christmas time.



The Lion Club 2017 Phonebook is on the horizon. If you have been left out of the phonebook in the past, please contact Lion President Mike Gilroy.

Lions Club scholarships will soon be available for East Haddam residents graduating from High School this year. Please contact your guidance counselor for more information.

If you have any questions about the Lions, upcoming events, etc. please contact Lion President Michael Gilroy at GilroyM@gmail.com.

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Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group (MRPG)

We are a charitable organization whose mission is to improve the quality of Moodus Reservoir through programs to control invasive weeds, and combat lake pollutants.

MRPG is concerned with pollutants entering the reservoir and impacting its quality as a resource for the town of East Haddam. Storm drains in surrounding streets that feed directly into the lake are of particular concern since they are a primary source of sand, salt, road oils and other contaminants.

In the fall of 2016 MRPG worked with students from Wesleyan University's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences to GPS locate the storm drains on fourteen roads surrounding the reservoir, these being a likely source of storm water runoff that could flow into the reservoir. Once GPS coordinates were obtained, the team used Geographical Information System software, mapping tools and a number of databases from ArcMap, Google Maps, US Census Data, and CT DEEP to identify storm drains

most likely to flow into the reservoir. A couple of conclusions were reached at the end of the project:

The surrounding environment can be a source of pollutants coming from public and private roads, developed residential areas and agricultural properties.

Because of the contour of the surrounding property, even if some storm drains don't lead directly into the reservoir they could enter the surrounding watershed and ultimately make their way into the water body.

Our thanks go to Ms. Kim Diver, Assistant Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences and our Wesleyan student team of Eliza Carter, Matt Forker, Ryan Nelson, and Natasha Nurjadin for their efforts in creating this analysis. MRPG, a 501c3 non-profit, welcomes anyone who would like to become a member. For information email us at Moodus.Reservoir@gmail.com and visit our website at www.moodusreservoir.org.

Town Budget Information

Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 18, 2017
7:00 pm
Nathan Hale-Ray High School

Annual Town Budget Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2017
8:00 pm
Town Hall

Budget Referendum

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Time to be Determined
Town Hall

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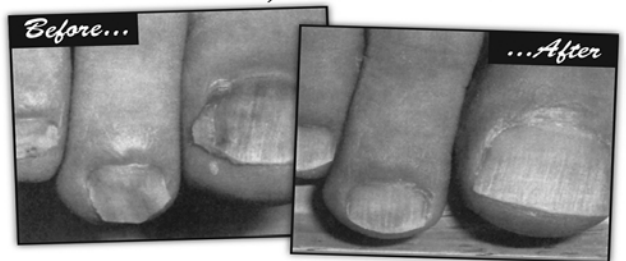


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East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors at East Haddam Youth & Family Services, I would like to extend our thanks to the local families, businesses, civic, community and religious organizations who donated to our 2016 Holiday Campaign. This holiday season we were able to assist 44 local families by providing gifts to 98 children.

Thank you for your continued support to the youth and families of East Haddam and Moodus. Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Kaitlin Hagan, Youth Activities Coordinator
East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

East Haddam's Earth Day April 1 Town-wide Clean Up

Picnic to follow!

The Moodus Sportsmen's Club and the East Haddam Scout Troops are sponsoring the Annual Town Wide Clean Up Day to be held on Saturday, April 1st. The goal of these organizations is to coordinate an annual effort to pick up the streets, lakes, streams, and other public access areas in the Town of East Haddam. Would your organization or individuals in your organization be willing to participate? We are still in search of families and groups to pick up sections of the streets on which they live. Is there a section of town that you or your group would like to take over the stewardship? Could you and your neighbors adopt a street?

We plan to start the pickup at 8:00 am. If you wish to join our groups, meet us at the East Haddam Town Hall on Town Street at 8:00 am or start from your own street. At the conclusion of this pick up day, an invitation is extended to all participating to a picnic at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club starting at 12 noon to 1 pm. Traditional picnic items such as hot dogs, baked beans, coffee and iced tea and lemonade will be served along with the seasonal bounty only a sportsmen's club could serve. At this time we can inventory the items collected and discuss solutions to reduce these problems. We also will have educational information about the Town's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities that are available to all.

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East Haddam Ambulance Association



East Haddam EMT Certification Class sponsored by East Haddam Parks and Recreation. EHAA will gain three EMTs from this class. Students in this class came from East Haddam, East Hampton, Colchester, Glastonbury, Marlborough and Lyme.

Over the past few months, members of East Haddam Ambulance Association (EHAA) have been busy with various training sessions and community events. EHAA again participated in Project Safe Halloween. Children and adults had the opportunity to explore the ambulance and EMTs handed out candy.

An EMT course sponsored by East Haddam Parks and Recreation ended in December. Ten students including three students from East Haddam spent four months learning about patient assessment, cardiac arrest management, airway management, patient immobilization, diabetic emergencies, respiratory emergencies

and trauma. Students are currently going through certification testing. On November 19th, the class participated in a Lifestar Safety Program. After a lecture by a Lifestar crew member, students were given a tour of the helicopter and a chance to ask questions. Special thanks to East Haddam Volunteer Fire Department for setting up a landing zone.

EHAA members have completed protocol and medical control training that was mandated by OEMS and Middlesex Hospital. Technicians attend monthly training nights when skills are practiced and equipment is reviewed.

On February 11th, EHAA and East Haddam Parks and Recreation will sponsor the 2nd annual Evelyn Comer and Alumni Free CPR/AED Certification. East Haddam is a HeartSafe Community and offering CPR classes is part of our proactive approach in teaching our community what to do in the first few minutes of an emergency.

Please visit our new and improved website. Our website has information about the history of EHAA, how to become an EMT or EMR and a course listing of CPR/First Aid classes held monthly right here in town.

Please visit www.easthaddamambulance.org. EHAA is also on Facebook. Please search East Haddam Ambulance and "Like Us."

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860.391.2289



email:



wsavino@happytrailswaggingtails.com

website:

www.happytrailswaggingtails.com

Calling all Businesses!

MARC Community Resources (MARC) has advocated for the rights of people with disabilities since 1955. Since that time MARC Community Resources has grown into a multi-service agency with nearly 100 paid staff and over 100 volunteers. Today we serve more than 200 people with disabilities throughout Middlesex County and the Greater Hartford area by providing choices for housing, employment, advocacy and social/recreational life.

MARC's largest program is its Group Supported Employment Program. Small Group Supported Employment crews provide a vast array of companies with eager and enthusiastic employees capable of a multitude of tasks.

We provide a low cost work force while improving productivity. "The Crew from MARC has been an integral part of our Connecticut operation since 1996, and has contributed to our company's growth here during this period. They are a pleasure to work with; they have become family. There is no Greenwald without MARC," said Helmut Henry, Traffic Supervisor, Greenwald Industries (Chester).

Hiring a work crew from MARC provides companies with many benefits including increased profitability, employees who happily accept repetitive tasks without complaint, lower insurance risks, and a richer work environment for their own employees.

"The MARC crews are a valuable part of our stores, not only do they keep our stores clean and safe, they brighten the experience of our staff and guests. They bring inspiration, cheer and good work ethic everyday they are here," said Gino Pacitto, Facilities Maintenance Manager, Shop Rite East Hartford/Manchester.

No job is too big or too small for MARC's work crews. Work crews are available Monday through Friday from 10 am - 1 pm.

If you are interested in receiving more information on hiring a MARC work crew, contact Erin Gasparini, Vice President of Vocational & Leisure Services at (860) 635-5151.



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East Haddam Community Lions

P.O. Box 328 / East Haddam, CT 06423 / ehcl.org

Race into spring with a 5K Run/Walk or 1/2 Marathon! The race will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 with a start/finish at the East Haddam Senior Center in Moodus. Online registration fees are \$20 for the 5K, and \$45 for the Half Marathon. Mail-in and Race Day fees are \$25 and \$50. Register early and save! T-shirts will be handed out to the first 200 who register. The race is USATF certified with chip timing, mile splits, scenic routes, water stops and food for runners. Volunteers and police will be along both routes to direct runners and traffic. Registration begins at 8:00 am and both races start at 9:30 am. Register online at www.racewire.com or email ehclrace@yahoo.com for more information. See you at the races!

The fun and always delicious English Tea Party will be held on May 13, 2017 at St. Stephen's Church in East Haddam, 2:00 pm. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday with your Mom, Sister, Aunt, Daughter or Friend... the theme this year is the 'Kentucky Derby' with hats all the rage! Tickets are \$25. Call or email Lion Diane to reserve your seat at ddvp40@aol.com or 860-434-5611.

The Community Lions recently announced Sabrina Kaup as the winner of the 2016-17 Lions Peace Poster Contest in East Haddam. Julia Freeman placed second, Kayla Bartolotta placed third and Sarah Tozier received Honorable Mention.



Peace Poster Contest I to r: 3rd Place: Kayla Bartolotta; Honorable Mention: Sarah Tozier; 1st Place: Sabrina Kaup; 2nd Place: Julia Freeman; Art Teacher: Bev Ventres.

The Peace Poster Contest is sponsored both locally and internationally to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere. The theme for this year's contest was 'The Future of Peace.' The contest is open to children ages 11-13 in our middle school. There were over 45 entries. The East Haddam Community Lions thank Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Art Teacher, Mrs. Beverly Ventres for directing the contest and to Lions Patricia Thomas and Deborah Ryczek for coordinating the contest. View international grand prize and merit award winners at www.lionsclubs.org.

Our 'Light Up The Holidays' auction and holiday party fundraiser was held on December 2nd at the Rathbun Library. Over 55 individuals/groups donated a decorated wreath, centerpiece, wall hanging or gift basket for auction. Through your contributions and support we raised over \$1,700! This money will be equally divided among the Fuel Bank, Food Bank and Youth & Family Services. In addition to the auction, we held a Tech Gadget Raffle. The items won were a Smart TV, Go-Pro Camera, Apple Sport Watch and Bose Bluetooth Speaker. We raised over \$2,000! All funds raised will be donated back into our community. Thanks to you, we held two successful events.

For more information about our events and fundraisers, and if you are interested in becoming a Lion, contact Lion Janice at jnowik@aol.com.

Holiday Closings

The Town Office Building and Transfer Station will be closed on the following holidays:
Monday, February 20 - Presidents' Day
Friday, April 14 - Good Friday

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East Haddam Garden Club

Beat those winter blahs with a visit to the Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show!

February 23 – 26, CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford (presented by The Federated Garden Clubs of CT; info at www.ctflowershow.com)

SPRING EVENTS

Join the East Haddam Garden Club in welcoming spring with a special program, "Gardening for Seasonal Interest," on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 pm at the East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Rd., Moodus. The speaker will be Harry Link of East Haddam's "Deciduous Designs by Harry." Harry is the creator of the Lee May Memorial Garden at the Senior Center. His presentation will be free and open to the public; refreshments will be served. A brief club business meeting at 7 pm will precede the program.

"Why Use Native Plants?"

Underused Stunners of our Native Landscapes"

Horticulturalist and Horticulture Therapy Consultant Cathy Beauregard ("Beau's Bouquets and Horticultural Therapy Gardens") will present "Why Use Native Plants? Underused Stunners of our Native Landscapes," on Wednesday, April 19, at 11:30 am at the East Haddam Grange. At our May meeting, we'll be learning more about "Edible Flowers."

Other spring activities will include Arbor Day with the third graders at East Haddam Elementary School; assisting middle school students with their vegetable and butterfly gardens; Taste of East Haddam; our high school photography contest; and the club's annual Plant & Bake Sale (with the annual Tag Sale of the East Haddam Historical Society) on Saturday, May 20.

For more information about any of these programs, contact Betty Gross at (860)873-8732.

ABOUT THE EAST HADDAM GARDEN CLUB

The EHGC currently has 46 members, and new members are always welcome! Please join us at one or more of our programs and get to know us! You can find out more about membership on our Facebook page ("East Haddam Garden Club") or check us out on Instagram. You can also drop us a note at P.O. Box 193, East Haddam CT 06423. The EHGC is a member club of The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.

We enjoy hands-on civic planting projects, such as maintaining the Goodspeed green and Shagbark triangle planters. We plant annuals every year at Gillette Castle, and help out with planting projects around town whenever we can. We also visit notable gardens and learn from many knowledgeable speakers. Come have some fun with us!

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East Haddam Fire Department

Dear East Haddam Residents,

The East Haddam Fire Department has a long history dating back to the 1940's of reaching out to local families and especially kids in need at the holiday time. That tradition is still alive and well with the help of our generous residents. Every year, the EHFD coordinates dinner fundraisers' to help support our Adopt A Family, Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween events and every year East Haddam residents always come through and generously support these great events. With your help and the help of some anonymous donors we had another spectacular season of helping to fulfill some local families' wishes.

On December 21, 2016, Santa loaded up his fire truck with the help of his firefighter helpers and headed out to spread some Christmas cheer to several amazing kids and their families. Santa was able to visit 3 families with a total of 5 kids ranging from 2-12 years old this Christmas. Some of the largest requests from parents is the assistance in fulfilling the families' basic needs such as clothes, diapers and food. This year when we asked what toys the children

were asking for, one mother replied that her son loved police cars! Santa quickly enlisted the help from the East Haddam Police Department and the Connecticut State Police, who stopped by the boy's home that night and took him for a ride with lights flashing and sirens sounding through his neighborhood. We also were able to purchase an abundance of toys and clothes to deliver to all of the children that evening! Meeting all the families and seeing the all of the children's smiles truly makes this the most memorable and rewarding nights of the year for all of the volunteers who make this happen.

This is an event that we look forward to every year and without the support of the East Haddam community it would not have been possible. So on behalf of the East Haddam Fire Department, thank you for all of your support and have a safe and Happy New Year.

The Law Office of SCOTT W. JEZEK

Scott W. Jezek, Esq.
Deborah L. Barbi, Esq.
Terrance D. Lomme,
of Counsel

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East Haddam Public Schools

Mission Statement: The mission of the East Haddam School District is to develop a community of lifelong learners who are prepared to become independent, creative and productive citizens for our diverse and ever-changing global society.

Break a leg! Is one of the more ironic ways to wish a friend good luck. While there are a few highlights to getting a broken limb, like signatures from celebrities or friends, the reality is that it can be a miserable process for both the young and the experienced. In the future, you could receive a cast on your leg and have the doctor explain to you it that contains a material that lets the doctor know if an infection breaks out under the cast. Before reading this article, you might think that some MIT graduate invented this idea and you would be mistaken. In fact, one of Nathan Hale Ray Middle School students invented the idea and was celebrated in Washington DC for her creativity and ingenuity. While this student deserves tremendous credit for her accomplishment, I am including this example in this article to bring attention to the focus of our improvements.

Our teachers are developing opportunities for our students to innovate and think creatively throughout their classes. These lessons are integral to our students' success as graduates. Law school at one time was a guarantee of sorts for a position with commensurate salary and even prestige. Like medicine, engineering, and many of career paths, the degree in law is important, yet, the successful graduate will need to develop her niche and find new ways to use her knowledge to stay relevant to be successful in our current economy. There is less and less chance that the daily tasks of their career one year will be the same in five years. Our students are being supported to adapt and thrive by learning by experience to innovate and think critically. The Senior Project Expo is a great example of a time that I was amazed at what our students produce. Highlights are on our website www.easthaddamschools.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Reas
Superintendent of Schools
East Haddam Public Schools



Congratulations to Samantha Van Valkenburg and Thomas Barlow for being awarded the Superintendent/Student Recognition Award presented by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

HAVE
2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTIONS?
EMAIL US AT:
BUDGET.QUESTIONS@EASTHADDAMSCHOOLS.ORG



Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

February 14th —6pm— HS Café
March 14th —7 pm—HS Café
April 18th—7 pm—HS Cafe

A complete listing of the Board's regular and Subcommittee meetings can be found on our website: <http://www.easthaddamschools.org/>



East Haddam Elementary



**Principal
Joanne Collins**

Telephone: 860-873-5076

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 7

PTO Sponsored
Living Abe Lincoln
2nd Grade

March 15-17

Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal Days

March 22

Incoming Kindergarten
Parent Orientation
6-7 pm

March 24

Basketball Jam

March 31

PTO Sponsored
Gateway to Ellis Island
2nd Grade

May 5

Basket Bash

PTO Meetings:

7:00 pm Room 205
2/23/2017
3/23/2017

Pre-School Learning Partner Screening Deadline March 6, 2017

The East Haddam Public Schools Preschool special education program is now taking applications for the September 2017 enrollment of non-disabled 3 year old children. Children accepted into the program will be learning partners for children who have disabilities and/or developmental delays.

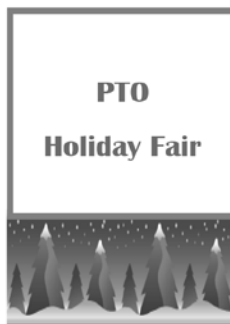
To be considered as learning partner for the program, children must be toilet trained and exhibit age-appropriate language, behavior and play skills. Children who will be 3 years old by September 1, 2017 will be considered for the morning program.

Preschool classes follow the East Haddam Elementary School Preschool time schedule. Learning partners will attend two morning classes weekly.

Appointments for a development screening and interview will be scheduled in the spring. All children need to follow this process before being considered for the preschool program. Eligible children will be chosen by the lottery method.

Parents interested in having their child screened as preschool learning partner candidate should complete the learning partner interest form located on our website at <http://ehes.easthaddamschools.org>.

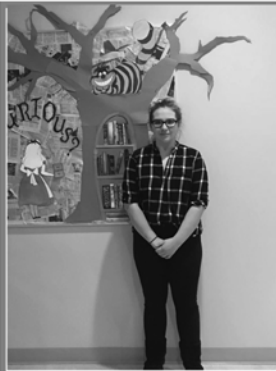
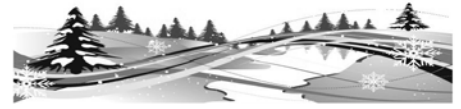
If you have any question regarding the preschool learning partner program you can contact Tammy Nye at (860) 873-5076 by March 1, 2017.



Winter
Concert
Success!



The East Haddam Elementary School's 2017 Fall Kindergarten Registration has begun. To reserve your child's spot in the Class of 2030, please visit our school's website www.easthaddamschools.org to complete the pre-registration form, email Annette.vaccarino@easthaddamschools.org, or call the main office at 860-873-5076 between 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Please include a guardian's first and last name, home address, phone number, child's first and last name and date of birth. An informational packet will be mailed at the beginning of February.



HOLOCAUST ESSAY

Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School is proud to announce our participation in the 2017 Holocaust Survivor Interview Project. This is a project that has been happening in the greater Hartford area for the past six years, as part of the Greater Hartford Community – wide Yom HaShoah Commemoration Program. Students from high schools in the greater Hartford area have been paired up with Holocaust survivors. The project gets its inspiration from the “Adopt a Survivor” Program which was developed by Irving Roth, Director of the Holocaust Resource Center at Temple Judea of Manhasset, NY. The goal of the “Adopt a Survivor” program is to preserve the memory of a survivor’s experience. The students meet with the survivors on an individual basis to learn their story. The students trace the survivor’s story from childhood and retell experiences with parents, siblings, friends and school life in pre-war Europe. The students continue to tell the story through the war years and then through rescue and liberation. The program has several goals. One is that the students learn of the survivor’s attitudes and feelings towards these events to understand exactly what the survivor experienced through a living primary source. Seeing and hearing an eyewitness makes history come alive. Another critical goal of the program is that the student is able to retell the survivor’s story and preserve the story accurately for future generations. Unfortunately, Holocaust survivors are aging and dying. The availability of eyewitness accounts are becoming more and more difficult to obtain. Someone needs to keep their story alive. The students make this possible. After meeting with the survivors, the students write an essay which will appear in the program for the Yom HaShoah Commemoration which takes place on April 23, 2017 at Beth El Synagogue in West Hartford.

Choral Concert

The students of NHRMS ramped up their holiday spirit and presented two extraordinary vocal concerts. The first of these, on December 12th at the Middle School, featured the voices of the 4th and 5th grade choruses under the direction of Marisa Alfano. They performed a song in Spanish, a mock “opera” tune called “Christmas Is Coming and We Are Getting Fat”, a beautiful arrangement of Trans-Siberian Orchestra’s “Christmas Canon” and a hilarious song and dance- “The Reindeer Prom”, among other numbers. Both audience and students had a wonderful time and left the concert full of holiday cheer. On December 14th, the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choruses and newly formed “A Cappella Choir”, again under the direction of Marisa Alfano, joined the high school Concert Choir and Trillium, directed by Rose Marie Evans, in an outstanding program in the high school auditorium. The middle school choirs sang a wide variety of music- from traditional “snow themed” songs to the music of contemporary artists like Kelly Clarkson to jazz standards like the great Louis Armstrong’s “Cool Yule”. There were several featured soloists, including 6th graders Yiana Kariotis, Elizabeth Olander, Marisol Chupas and Ella Rogerson who did a splendid job facing the huge audience with poised and elegant singing. The “A Cappella Choir” also made their debut, wowing the audience with a challenging jazz version of “Carol of the Bells”.

After the high school choirs’ extraordinary entertainment, the night ended with a combined a cappella piece, “African Noel”, accompanied by percussionists from the high school and middle school. It was the perfect way to end the evening and a wonderful way to celebrate the outstanding talents of both schools’ vocal departments.

Bravo!



Band Concerts



On Wednesday December 7th, members of the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands joined with the high school band for their annual winter concert in the NHRMS auditorium. Both the 6th grade band and the 7th and 8th grade band gave impressive performances before members of the 7th and 8th grade band joined the high school band students for the final piece of the evening. With approximately 100 musicians on stage, the Jingle Band finale was a fantastic ending to a very musical evening. Mr. Blain would like all of the students to know how proud of them he is for the progress that they have made so far this year.





Nathan Hale-Ray High School

NOISES NEWS



Principal
Eric Spencer

Assistant Principal
Michael Regan
860-873-5065

School Counselors
Mary Little-Finnegan
Laura Corbet

COMING EVENTS

February 1
Hale Ray Chamber Music
Goodspeed Opera House
7 pm

March 16
Parent Teacher confer-
ences

April 28&29
Spring Drama Produc-
tion
7 pm—HS Auditorium

May 13
Prom Night

This December, students are participating in the 12 Days of Kindness by distributing inspirational quotes to all students, faculty, and staff.



FFA Attends IMAGE Conference



Ray FFA members attended the 3rd annual Connecticut FFA “IMAGE” Conference on November 21st at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, CT. The day was sponsored by the retirement firm of Brunettilled and past National Officer Brian Walsh, along with the FFA Team. The members participated in three different sessions about empowering, leading, and inspiring. Teams from around Connecticut practiced their teamwork skills with fun activities and discussed how they can lead members in their own chapters. The day

concluded with time to reflect on the lessons learned and practiced. Ray FFA Chapter pictured left to right: Austin Adams, Trinity Giersz (treasurer), Dylan Hutra (sentinel), Laura Distefano, Emily Forsyth (president), Alexis Stanley (vice president), and Haddie Walters.



Future Business Leaders of America members celebrated *A Legacy of Leadership* at the 2016 National Fall Leadership Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida. They heard dynamic key-

note speakers attended exciting workshops and networked with members from across the country.

The NHRHS Unified Sports Team participated in a Bowling Tournament on October 26 in Newington

The NHRHS Unified Sports Team participated in a Bowling Tournament on October 26th in Newington. Team members competed against many area high schools including, Westbrook High School, Portland High School and Bacon Academy, to name a few.

The next sport season is basketball, which started up after the holiday break. Unified Sports is looking for student leaders to be involved in this community building program that involves friendly interscholastic and an opportunity to make new friends while being a role model for other students.



Students from the UConn ECE Behavior & Training of Domestic Animals class helping to desensitize a dog to people wearing hats.

RED RIBBON DAY



East Haddam Library System

Winter Reading Advisory: January and February are the perfect months to curl up with a good book. With that in mind, the East Haddam Library System is happy to announce its first ever Winter Reading program for adults and teens. Simply stop by EHFPL or Rathbun, pick up a brochure, and start logging your winter reads. For each book you read, you'll be entered to win one of several great prizes from local businesses. The program ends on February 28th. Happy reading!

Other program highlights from the library system include:

Guest Speakers

Billie Kowalewski, Author of Enlightened, a new YA Series, Saturday, February 4th, 10:00 am, East Haddam Free Public Library.

Karl Bacon, Author of The Shiloh Trilogy, a series of Civil War novels, Saturday, March 25th, 10:00 am, East Haddam Grange Hall.

Paul Colburn, Wildlife Expert presenting: Bobcats in Your Backyard, Friday, April 7th, 6:30 pm, East Haddam Grange Hall.

Kids Programs (please call to register)

Baby Time - Every Wednesday at the Rathbun Library at 10:30 am.

Saturday Storytime - The last Saturday of every month at the Rathbun Library at 11:00 am.

American Girl Club - The first Tuesday of every month at the Rathbun Library at 3:30 pm.

Science Club - The second Tuesday of every month at the Rathbun Library at 3:30 pm.

Teen Programs

Teen Game Night - The fourth Friday of every month at EHFPL at 6:00 pm.

February 24 – Rock Band;

March 24 – Werewolf;

April 24 – Just Dance 2017

Teen Write Club - The third Wednesday of every month at EHFPL at 6:00 pm.

For more information about Storytimes, Book Clubs, and more please visit our website: www.EastHaddamLibrarySystem.org

East Haddam Parks and Recreation

MISSION STATEMENT

The East Haddam Parks and Recreation Department seeks to create recreational opportunities for the growth and enhancement of all community members by developing diverse programs that promote citizen involvement and a strong sense of community while striving to increase the social, cultural, and physical well-being of its residents. We believe that working in cooperation with local businesses, organizations and community members we can achieve success in meeting the needs of all residents.

OUR MOTTO

“East Haddam Parks and Recreation - the Bridge to our community”

VISION STATEMENT

East Haddam Parks & Recreation will be considered an essential and valued service in the community by developing, promoting evaluating and sustaining innovative programs. Our staff will be known for their leadership, honesty and genuine commitment to excellence as well as their ability to grow and change with the community.

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Online at www.easthaddamrec.com (click “Register” on the right side of the home page”).

2. By mail, print out a registration form at www.easthaddamrec.com, under the “forms” tab and mail it to P.O. Box 278, East Haddam, CT 06423

3. Call Tiffany at the Recreation Office at (860) 873-5058 and ask to have a registration form mailed to you.

HOW TO CONTACT THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. By phone, (860) 873-5058

2. By email, parkandrec@easthaddam.org

3. By fax, (please put Attn: Tiffany on all correspondence- faxes will go to a different building and be placed in my mailbox) (860) 873-5025

4. In person, 7 Main St., in the River House, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm on Monday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday and 8:00 am – 7:00 pm on Tuesday. Please call ahead to be sure that I am in the office and not at a meeting or a program!

HOW TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH NEW PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION

Follow us on social media:

Facebook - Tiffany Quinn,

East Haddam Rec;

Twitter- East Haddam Recreation

Check the homepage and the calendar of the website for updates

(www.easthaddamrec.com)

Sign up for the email newsletters - don't miss any of our new programs! <http://eepurl.com/jKq9f>

While it is the middle of winter, we are spending our time getting ready for the summer.

We are accepting applications for camp staff, lifeguards, and all summer staff. The application deadline is March 1st. Job descriptions and applications can be found on the website at www.easthaddamrec.com, or call the office if you would like one mailed to you.

Speaking of camp and swimming lessons... we have so many exciting summer activities planned! Registration will begin in the beginning of April. More details and program information will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

While you are doing your spring cleaning this year - don't forget to save your treasures and join your neighbors in our Town Wide Tag Sale. Applications will be available in March, all tag sales will be posted on a map and the tag sales will all occur on the same day!

East Haddam Elementary School - PTO

The East Haddam Elementary School (EHES) PTO had a wonderful fall! This year our fall fundraiser was held during the month of October. Our fifth annual Mixed Bag Designs fundraiser raised a total of \$6,534! Proceeds from our fall fundraiser funded our annual staff disbursements.

Our annual Holiday Fair was held December 6-8th and was a huge success. This fair is completely created and run by our very own PTO volunteers. This event provides an opportunity for children to shop for the special people in their lives in a safe, supervised environment, with the help of our parent volunteers. This valuable learning experience teaches many important real-life skills – planning, money management, kindness and pride!

We have many exciting Cultural Arts events coming up this winter. Community Music School will be performing for the entire school on January 18th. Second Grade will enjoy a hands-on presentation by Mad Science on January 25th. Living Abe Lincoln will visit the Third Graders on February 7th.

Our third annual Basketball Jam will take place on March 24th. Staff and parents will show off their skills on the court in a friendly competition. Come and cheer everyone on!

Scholastic's Spring BOGO Free Book Fair will be April 4-6th.

Lastly, the 17th annual Basket Bash will take place on Friday, May 5th. Each year, every classroom, as well as members of the EHES staff and our community, each create a basket with a different theme. Baskets are then raffled off the evening of the event. Basket Bash is our school's biggest fundraiser. All proceeds from the event fund our Cultural Arts Program, which enables us to welcome special guests for our children to enhance their learning experiences.

For any information regarding the EHES PTO, please contact PTO President Trish Hagerty at EastHaddamElementarySchoolPTO@outlook.com.

MPAC (Middle School Advisory Committee)

On October 28th, students, staff and parents participated in the annual NHRMS Walkathon. Over \$10,200 was raised with 56% student participation! From this fund, MPAC is able to distribute \$1,500 yearly to each grade level, including the Unified Arts department. Take a look at some examples from last year of how this money benefits students: 4th grade - helped fund the fall Connecticut River Museum field trip and the spring State Capitol field trip; 5th grade - helped fund the Mystic field trip; 6th grade - helped offset costs for Connect field trip; contributed towards end-of-the-year gathering; 7th grade - helped fund Boston field trip; 8th grade - helped fund student costs for Camp Hazen trip, contributed towards Washington D.C. scholarships for annual trip, end-of-year activities, and 8th grade promotion night; Unified Arts: pedometer batteries; transportation for the Connect field trip; two workshops with two Connecticut authors on Read Across East Haddam Day.



7th graders showing their school spirit!



Taking laps around the school

Hadlyme Garden Club

The Hadlyme Hall Garden Club has lined up many interesting programs for the coming year. We welcome anyone who is interested in gardening to attend our meetings, which usually take place at the Hadlyme Public Hall on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the evening.

You may contact Ellen Fennema at ellen.fennema@att.net for more information.

Take a Hike: Get to Know the Harris Preserve



Five years ago, our town, with the help of the State of Connecticut, acquired a remarkable piece of property of some 134 acres that offers delights for hikers, birders, cross-country skiers, and history buffs alike. Twenty of those acres were set aside for future municipal use, but the balance is joyfully managed by the Conservation Commission and considered by us to be one of East Haddam's crown jewels of rural character.

Over three miles of marked and maintained trails wind the walker through old farmland and near upland forest, and then near wetland, vernal pools and intermittent streams. The nearly one and a half mile orange trail makes a loop deep into the forest and over streams, and the red trail, just under a mile in length, offers distant, seasonal views of Long Island Sound.

Two other trails invite you to explore as well. While the Harris preserve is easy to find at the top of Mt. Parnassus, situated right in the middle of town, it is possible to escape completely there from the noise and clutter of civilization.

There is another side to the Harris Preserve, however, that makes it a treasure: Its connections to East

Haddam's rich history. First there is its connection to our history of farming. The old barn is gone, but the handsome saltbox farmhouse remains adjacent to the Preserve and is being brought back to life by its new owners. The farm lanes and fallow fields bespeak a time when East Haddam was dotted with farms that fed their owners, their neighbors, and even people far away. Picture the farm wagons coming down Mt. Parnassus Rd. to the landing on the Connecticut River, with milk and produce bound by boat and train to towns and cities to the south.

Perhaps the most surprising historical footnote to the Harris Preserve is its immediate neighbor to the north, a tiny piece of state land that commemorates one of our most fascinating historical figures, George Comer, polar explorer, whaler, cartographer, and authority on the native peoples of Hudson Bay. If you look closely as you drive across the top of Mt. Parnassus, you will see a stone monument with an inscribed plaque. All the activity at the Harris preserve has helped revive interest in this fascinating East Haddam citizen, who died here in 1937 and whose grandchildren and great-grandchildren still reside among us. Watch the news next spring for a ceremony to rededicate this monument.

In the meanwhile, lace up your walking shoes and take a hike through history, both natural and man-made, at the Harris Preserve.

Detailed trail maps of The Harris Preserve and other East Haddam outdoor opportunities are always available to you online. Just go the East Haddam town website, click on Town Boards, find the Conservation Commission, and click on East Haddam Trail Maps.

If you want to know more about what the Conservation Commission does and how you can be involved, please email Sue Merrow at Amerrow@snet.net.

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East Haddam Leo Club

by Leo President Sarah Gieseler

The East Haddam Leos have had yet another busy year! This past December, the Leo Club helped the East Haddam Lions sell dozens of trees to wonderful families within our community. They also accompanied Santa Claus and the East Haddam Lions to Chestelm to deliver gifts, volunteered at Family Night on the Green, and decorated the Moodus Green. Thank you to all the Leos who participated, and to all the parents who helped get them there.

The East Haddam Leo Club will be hosting their annual Valentine's Day Bake Sale on Saturday, February 11th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Leos will be at several locations across town, including the Pharmacy, Gristmill, and Ballek's. There will be plenty of amazing sweets for your sweetie (or just some snacks for yourself). Simply make a kind donation of your choice, and enjoy some tasty treats!

The Leos will be continuing their exciting outreach program for the older members of our community! Once a month seniors will have a chance to go to the East Haddam Free Public Library and take themed technology classes taught by Leo members. The next class date will be on Wednesday, February 22nd at 4:00 pm and it will cover everything anyone will need to know about e-mail! On March 22nd Facebook will be the topic of choice, and on April 26th the ins and outs of tablets and smartphones will be gone over. The Leo club is very excited to offer this popular and innovative program within our town.

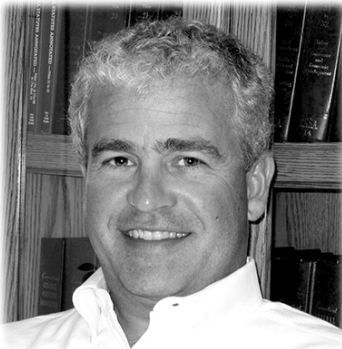
The Leos will be hosting an exciting Mad Hatter's Tea Party for possible new members on March 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. It will be held at the Senior Center and there will be great food and snacks the whole night



Photo: Top Row (L-R): Tucker Perry, Justin Wordell, Kailee Goodine, Francis Hasuly, Talon Close, TJ VanValkenburg, Will Sanders, Owen McLean. Second Row: Ben Locke, Lauren Peckham, Lacey Dargenio, Nate Goff, Dan Riley, Antonio Addario. Third Row: Oliver Ross, Sarah Cassenti, Ben Deschene, Roxy Napolitano, Charlotte White, Jaylen Napolitano. Bottom Row: Samantha VanValkenburg, Anastasia Belcher, Sarah Gieseler, Hannah Leibowitz, Emma Dargenio, Cameron Jirowitz.

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More Than \$82 Million Awarded for Arts Projects Nationwide Includes a \$20,000 Grant to the I-Park Foundation

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant will support a 2017 residency and exhibition of site-specific, ephemeral artworks in the landscape. NEA Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$82 million to fund local arts projects and partnerships in the NEA's second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2016. Included in this announcement is an Art Works award of \$20,000 to the I-Park Foundation in support of its signature Environmental Art Biennale (residency and exhibition), which is scheduled to begin on May 15. The Biennale will culminate into an exhibition which will take place over the first weekend in June of 2017. Art Works supports the creation of new works, the presentation of both new and existing works, lifelong learning in the arts and public engagement with the arts. For the Environmental Art Biennale, retitled the Site Responsive Art Biennale, a multi-disciplinary jury and curatorial panel will choose 12 artists who will create their installations during the 3-week residency.

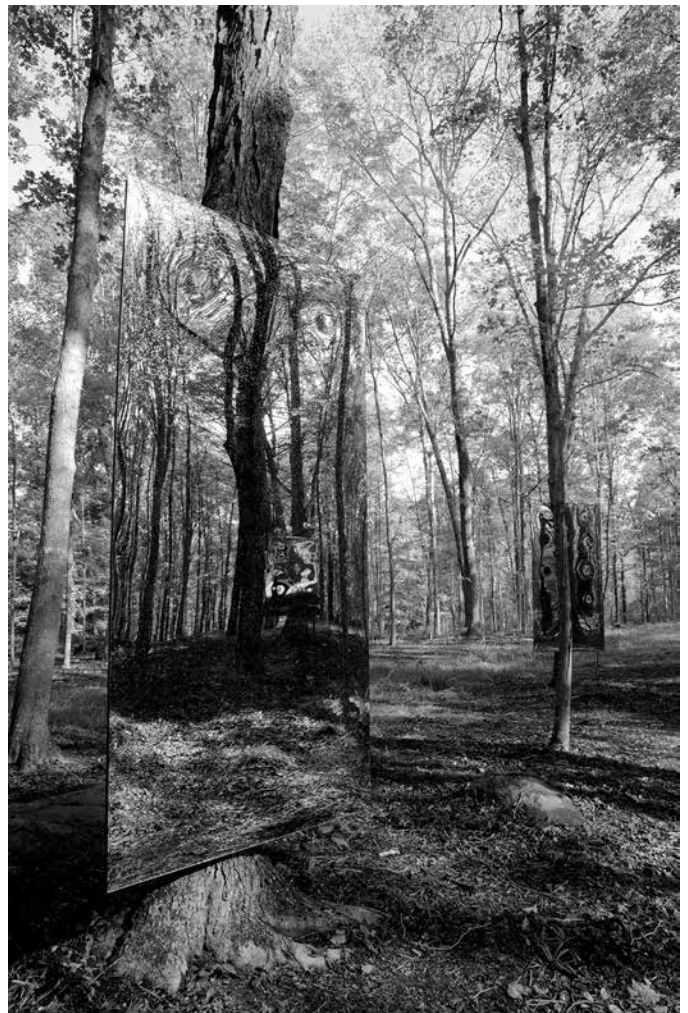
The public is invited to meet the artists during the public exhibition on Sunday, June 4, 2017.



Group shot of our June 2016 Artists-in-Residence, photo credit by I-Park

“The arts are all around us, enhancing our lives in ways both subtle and obvious, expected and unexpected,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Supporting projects like the one proposed by I-Park offers more opportunities to engage the arts every day.”

I-Park's co-founder and Executive Director, Joanne Paradis, said: “We are gratified to receive this important award by the NEA. We consider it an important milestone in our evolution. The NEA



Title of work: To A Constellation. Created by architects and husband and wife team of Jennifer Newsom and Tom Carruthers. Photo credit: Jennifer Newsom

grant, along with the State of Connecticut, individual, foundation and corporate support allows us to continue providing impactful, fully-funded artists' residency experiences, across a broad range of creative disciplines, in an intimate, collegial setting.

We invite the public to join us on Sunday, June 4 for Connecticut Trails Day and the Site Responsive Art Biennale Public Exhibition. Visitors will get an opportunity enjoy the trails, experience the new art works on the land and meet the artists who created the site responsive, site-specific installations.

The work that continues to be created at I-Park is truly exceptional! This work is possible because of the generosity of the NEA, the State of Connecticut, individuals, foundations and corporations. Our sincere gratitude to all for their continued support. Contributions can be made by visiting our website at www.i-park.org or by calling the office at 860-873-2468.”



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Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to noon

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Sisters' Gift to Support Where We Live, Work and Play



The Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC) received an early 20th anniversary gift this year with news that the nonprofit organization will be the recipient of an \$8 million bequest from the trust of the late Mary Janvrin.

Ms. Janvrin and her pre-deceased sister Natalie Janvrin Wiggins lived quiet lives in Old Lyme. They shared a life-long love of all nature, particularly birds, as well as the arts and history.

Mary later resided in Chester and continued to enjoy the beauty of the region until her passing in September 2016. At that time her trust set into motion the establishment of an \$8 million fund at CFMC, as well as an \$8 million fund at the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (CFECT). The CFMC bequest will be used to establish the “Mary Janvrin and Natalie Janvrin Wiggins Fund for Birds, Other Animals, and Nature,” which will celebrate numerous and creative possibilities honoring the sisters’ passions.

To date, CFMC’s environmental grant making has supported many programs, whether it be ones that bring urban youth into the woods for the first time, or ones that help community coalitions organize to preserve their environment.

The Community Foundation’s support for environmental efforts emphasizes the relationship between people and nature, with education and empowerment as a focus of its holistic approach to environmental work. CFMC President and CEO Cynthia Clegg commented, “It is indeed a great honor to be given the responsibility of ensuring that Mary’s and Natalie’s life passions are supported now and forever, and to be one of the chosen facilitators. We look forward to finding many ways to maximize the community impact of their profound legacy. What a wonderful gift to everyone in our region.”

Pictured above are the late sisters, left to right: Natalie Janvrin Wiggins and Mary Wiggins.

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The Williams School Fall Athletic Wrap-up

The 2016 fall season has come to a close and all who can proclaim, "I am a member of the Williams School community" should be proud, as this season's participating student athletes were really quite exceptional.

Varsity Cross Country

Our Cross Country team, under the tutelage of Mr. Bowerman, Ms. Barth, Ms. Sakorski, and led by captain Will Jarrett '18, showed great dedication from the start of the season, and only got better with each meet! The family-like atmosphere created by the team and coaching staff translated into a wonderful support system that pushed each other during training sessions. Come race day, the Blues were always prepared - mentally and physically - and dominated a great many of the races they took part in.

Top runners this season included:

- Will Jarrett '18 finished the season with ten top 10 finishes and two 1st place finishes. Will finished 8th out of 198 runners in the 2016 NEPSTA Division IV Cross Country Championship race.
- Catherine Shannon '21 finished the season with three 1st place finishes and four 2nd place finishes. Catherine finished 2nd out of 114 varsity girl runners at the NEPSTA Division IV Championship race.
- Mary Madaus '21 placed 4th out of 114 varsity girl runners at the NEPSTA Division IV Championship race.
- Grace Cassineri '22 finished 20th out of 114 varsity girl runners at the NEPSTA Division IV Championship race.

Williams hosted the SENE Cross Country Championship race this year, and what a beautiful day it was. The sun was shining brightly on that early November day, with a crisp breeze and an air of anticipation, as 200 plus runners took to our home course. Proudly, the Blues performed as they had all season—with strength and confidence; third-place team finishes for both boys and girls was the result! Earning SENE honors: Will Jarrett '18, Catherine Shannon '21, Mary Madaus '21, and Grace Cassineri '22.

Earning All New England Honors for the Blues: Mary Madaus '21, Catherine Shannon '21, Grace Cassineri '22, and Will Jarrett '18. All four student athletes qualified to compete in the New England Preparatory Schools Track Association All Star Cross Country Meet at St. Marks School in Southborough, MA.

Boys Varsity Soccer

The boys varsity soccer team, coached by Joe Langton, showed marked improvement from start to finish and earned them a spot in the SENE Tournament. The team came ready to practice hard as Coach Joe put them through their paces—well organized drills

that forced skills to improve and team unity to strengthen - each and every day! This attitude and grit transferred to game time and led to many positive outcomes and losses by very small margins.

Keeper, Alexander Bowdler '18, did a wonderful job in goal all season in conjunction with his teammates holding down the defensive positions. On the offensive end, the Blues were led by Nicholas Chirillo '18 and Oliver Falla '17. Also, earning a spot in the scorer's column: Fehme Braish '18, Kevin Masson '19, Harrison Anselmi '20, George Sun '18 and Jacob Marchesi '18.

Post-season honors included:

- Fehme Braish '18 - Boys SENE All League Team
- Andrew Little '18 - WNEPSSA Class C/D Select Team
- Nicholas Chirillo '18 - honorable mention for the WNEPSSA Class C/D Select Team

Girls Varsity Soccer

The girls varsity soccer team, coached by Andrew Capewell, complimented the boys varsity team effort, as far as hard work, dedication, well organized practices that enhanced all skills and enthusiasm for team and success. The end result was the team earning a spot in the SENE Tournament.

In the keeper position, several key players deserve the spotlight: Deriyana Carter '17, Victoria Hersant '17 and with the JV call up, Olivia Guinan '22. Each girl in front of their keeper worked hard on the defensive side of the ball. No matter the opponent, the Blues made a consistent effort to challenge every attempt and to make the opposition truly earn their goals.

On the offensive end, the team was led strongly by Camryn Werbinski '18 and Audrey Matson '20. Both Camryn and Audrey scored more than 10 goals each over the course of the season. The Blues leading scorers were not alone in their effort: Katerina Bourganos '18, Mia Taylor '18, Morgan Pill '20, Kayla Capano '19 and Grace Powell '19, also found the back of the net.

Post-season honors included:

- Katia Bourganos '18 - Girls SENE All League Team
- Mia Taylor '18 - Girls SENE All League Team
- Audrey Matson '20 - Girls SENE All League Team
- Isabella Nucci - honorable mention for her defensive play this year in the SENE

The dedication and discipline displayed by the Williams School fall season student-athletes was a wonderful extension of their leadership and excellence in the classroom. The Williams School prides itself on being a small school that makes a big difference, and these all-around student-athletes exemplified Williams' hopes, accomplishments, and mission statement beautifully!

Thank you to all coaches and athletes - we are so very proud of each and every one of you! Go Blues!

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Eddie and Carol Lupinek approach every aspect of their business, Eddie's Auto Body Specialists, the same way. They want their East Haddam repair shop to provide you with the highest standard and quality of service. For example, at Eddie's, only Original Equipment Manufactured (OEM) parts are used in the repair process.

no chemicals, to detail an entire car. The traditional method can use upwards of 40 gallons of water per vehicle. In the shop area, many innovations are in play - like a customized bumper rack that rises into the ceiling allowing the technicians a roomier area in which to complete repairs. A state-of-the-art spray booth was custom designed by Eddie. It utilizes a clean room above the booth that triple filters air and warms it along the way. Then, with the use of infrared catalytic drying units, drying time can be reduced to as little as 6 minutes. This process uses a mere 5 gallons of propane each month, resulting in a cost of just 30 cents per curing cycle, saving thousands of dollars in monthly expense.

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Carol focuses on providing a customer-friendly front office and making sure there is a great work environment for the staff. Always looking forward, the Lupinek's strive to educate their clients and focus on a transparent repair process each time out. Seems this could be the reason they are so successful!

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National Glaucoma Awareness Month

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Glaucoma affects 60 million people worldwide and more than 3 million people in the United States. Glaucoma is often called the “thief of sight” since often there are no symptoms and glaucoma-related vision loss is permanent. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing. If not diagnosed and treated, 1 in 10 people go blind from glaucoma. Glaucoma affects people of all ages, even infants.

There are two main types of glaucoma: Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma and Angle-Closure Glaucoma. Open-angle glaucoma is dangerous because most of the time a person affected will not notice any symptoms until vision is severely damaged. The vision loss isn't noticed because it often starts with your peripheral vision and the brain makes up for what you don't see. The inner eye pressure (IOP- intraocular pressure) rises because the

correct amount of fluid can't drain out of the eye. This occurs usually deep into the drainage canals. Closed-angle glaucoma occurs when the drainage canals get blocked or covered. Angle-closure glaucoma is dangerous because, while there are often symptoms of pain including headaches, nausea, and eye pain they happen rapidly and without warning.

It is very important to get an annual dilated eye exam. As you age or if you have a family history of glaucoma you may have the visual field test performed. This test checks your peripheral vision and the loss of your side vision is one of the first signs of glaucoma. If you are diagnosed with glaucoma there are ways to manage it. In the early stages you might be prescribed eye drops or have laser surgery performed. Other ways to manage glaucoma are done by performing filtering surgery or a drainage implant. Dr. Mascarenhas at Middlesex Eye Physicians is our Glaucoma Specialist. She is a Yale educated specialist and trained in Trabectome glaucoma surgery.

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Essex Winter Series Brings Music to the Shoreline for 40 Years

The Essex Winter Series celebrates its 40th anniversary season on February 19 with the Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert featuring Dan Levinson's Roof Garden Jass Band performing a centennial celebration of recorded New Orleans Jazz. The Band will perform at 3 pm at Valley Regional High School in Deep River.

An unconventional event for the Series on March 5 is Garrison Keillor with a program called "Stories in Mind, Poems by Heart." Already a sell-out, the beloved raconteur, author, and entertainer will share his unique brand of wisdom and humor in what is sure to be an unforgettable afternoon.

The season will conclude with Chanticleer, an orchestra of voices, on April 2 to perform the program "My Secret Heart." It includes a world premiere by Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi, Cole Porter and Noel Coward standards, and the return of Augusta Read Thomas' "Love Songs" to the repertoire. The Chanticleer concert takes place at 3 pm at Old Saybrook High School. Individual tickets to all concerts are \$35 and \$5 for full-time students. Seating is general admission. To purchase tickets or learn more, visit www.essexwinterseries.com or call 860-272-4572.



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Ziobron Sworn In for Third Legislative Term

State Representative Melissa Ziobron took the oath of office for her third time on Wednesday, January 4th.

House Minority Leader Themis Klarides has appointed Representative Ziobron to be an Assistant Republican Leader. She will also be retaining her role as House Republican Ranking Member on the legislature's Appropriations Committee.

"I am honored and humbled to be appointed as an Assistant Republican Leader and Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee for the 2017 legislative session," said Ziobron. "We are in a unique position to make some serious policy changes that will improve the future of our beautiful state. Connecticut continues to face perpetual deficits and the time has come to change the way the state does business. I look forward to the opportunity to get to work on these important issues and being a strong voice for taxpayers across Connecticut."

Aside from serving as Assistant Republican Leader and Ranking Member on the Appropriations Committee, Representative Ziobron has also been appointed to the Environment Committee and the General Law Committee.



"I will continue to be the 34th District's voice on the legislature's Environment Committee" Ziobron continued. "The state parks in our district and across Connecticut need to be adequately maintained and preserved. I am eager to continue my work towards that goal for the next two years."

The 2017 regular legislative session is scheduled to run from January 4th to June 7th. For more information or to contact Representative Ziobron, please visit www.RepZiobron.com or call (800) 842-1423.



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A collage of various books and binders. At the top, there are several spiral-bound notebooks with colorful covers (yellow, red, blue). Below them, an open book with white pages is visible. In the center, there are more spiral notebooks with colorful covers. At the bottom, there are stacks of books with colorful spines (green, yellow, blue, red).

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