

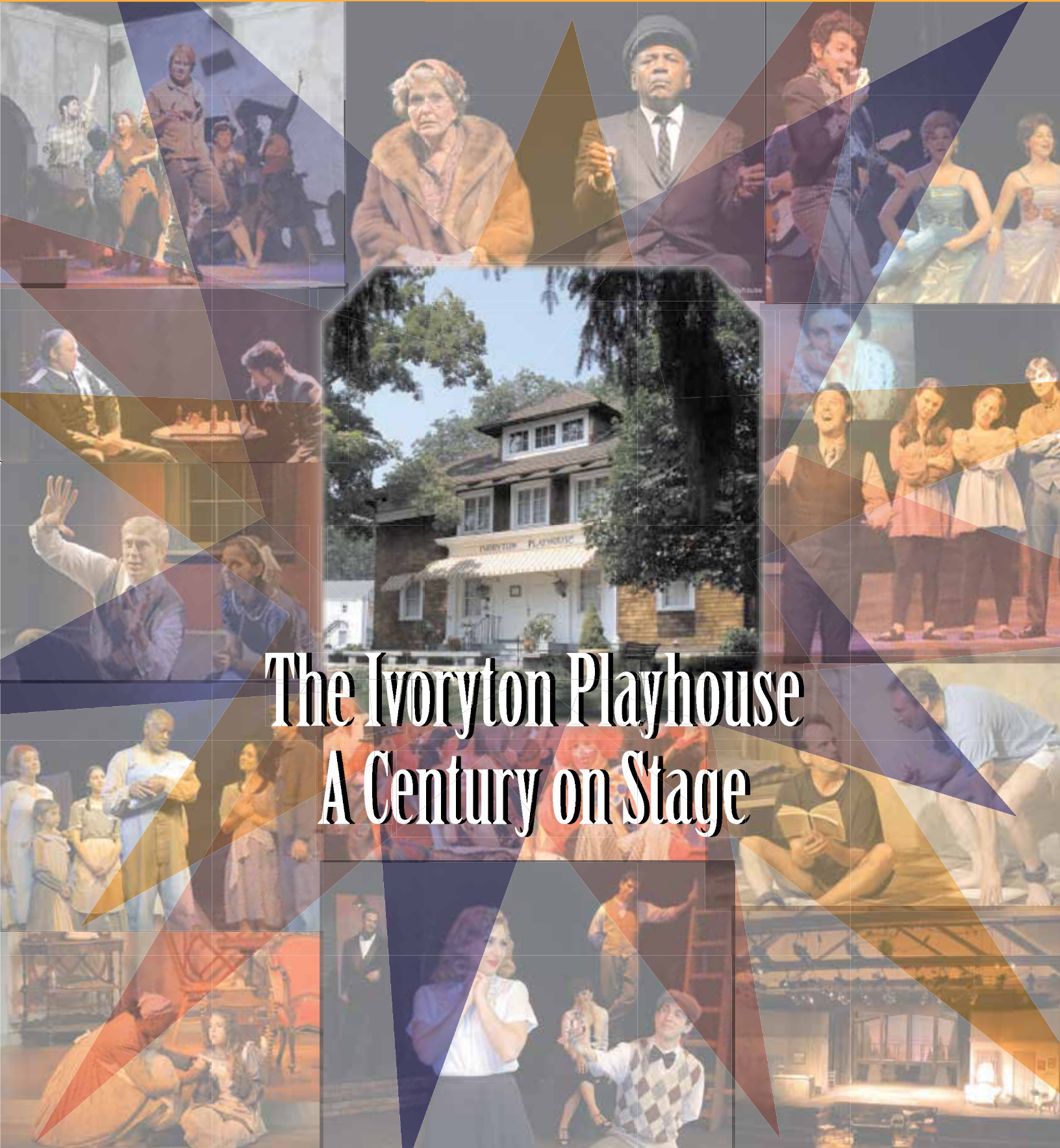
Essex



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Volume 15 · Quarter 2 · 2011



# The Ivoryton Playhouse A Century on Stage



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# Selectman's Corner

## Spring 2011

The Valley Regional men's basketball team captured a lot of people's attention this winter with a great season that culminated with the state championship. They weren't the first Valley Regional State basketball champs, as Lindsey Kucharski willed the women's team to victory thirteen years ago, but these guys dominated. By season's end, they arguably had three of the best five players in the tough Shoreline league, and several of their unselfish role players could have been stars on any other team. It wasn't that they won, but rather how they did it. They lost twice in close games before their successful tournament run. When they were upset, they never made excuses or alibis, and they congratulated their opponents. When they won, they did so decisively, but they never gloated, never played chippy, and always carried themselves in an exemplary manner.

The Valley Regional Women's gymnastics team won the state title once again, and they also showed how to do it well. These young women overcame injuries and rigorous training schedules to prevail, just like the guys. How fortunate we are to live in a town and region where our young people show us how to do things and how to conduct one's self so positively along the way!

Academically, artistically, and athletically, our young people are a force of nature, striving to succeed and remembering to say "thanks" to their families and community. It isn't unusual to hear a third grader bragging about their older neighbor who gets good grades and plays on the field hockey team.



It is very encouraging when you have a community that takes such pride in its young people. Sometimes, I'll get a question from someone who will ask me how our men's and women's lacrosse teams will do this spring. I've told them that both could have good seasons with hard work and maybe just a little luck, too. I hear of how people are so astonished at how awesome the senior play was or how many graduates are going to the University of Connecticut or other prestigious schools.

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the illustrious Ivoryton Playhouse. Enjoy the cover article in this issue of *Essex Events*. There will be special events all year long. This year also marks one hundred years of Comstock Field in Ivoryton. By the early twentieth century, baseball was getting

*Continued on page 7*

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**New**

**Old Saybrook Otter Cove** Marvelous c.1762 waterfront estate set on an exquisite 4.35 acre point on the CT River. Main house offers master suite addition. 3 bay carriage house with guest suite plus caretakers cottage, pool, dock with lift. *Offered at \$3,200,000*

[www.151RiverRoad.com](http://www.151RiverRoad.com)



**Essex "SandCastle"** Poised on four plus acres of beautiful waterfront property offering a panoramic vista, this renovated 5200sf home has a fabulous floor plan for family living and entertaining. 4-5 bds/5.1 bths. Pond and dock on the CT River! *Offered at \$2,650,000*



**New**

**Essex Village** Outstanding 4500sf Middle Cove waterfront Federal c.1837 with dock. Recently remodeled kitchen and baths. Wrap-around porch, balcony. Four bedrooms, 4.1 baths. Suite above garage. Views! *Offered at \$2,100,000*



**Essex New home** at Heron Pond. State-of-the-art energy efficiency, quality craftsmanship and architectural detail. **Award-winning LEED** builder. Coffered and vaulted ceilings. First floor master suite. Direct pond access. *Offered at \$797,500*



**Essex Village** Dream condo overlooking historic N. Main St. homes. Quality materials, rich architectural detail & luxury amenities throughout. Custom kitchen, master suite w/ steam shower. Bookcases, fplc, balcony, garage. Fantastic location! *Offered at \$620,000*



**Essex Village** Spectacular renovated village home with a view. Kitchen w/soapstone countertops, Viking oven/range, central air, in-ground pool, detached studio/office. Steps to Main Street. Priced well below cost. *Offered at \$599,000*



**Old Saybrook** Enjoy spectacular views from this stunning hilltop retreat. Gorgeous setting high above Old Saybrook. Hardwood floors, two-story entry w/winding staircase, office. Wrap-around porch. Master suite w/balcony. Convenient location. *Offered at \$579,000*



**New**

**Deep River Waterfront** Thoroughly renovated c.1780 waterfront home featuring vaulted kitchen, wide-board chestnut floors, beamed ceilings, 3 fplcs. Park-like landscaped grounds, outbuildings, 650 ft. of pond frontage! *Offered at \$569,000*



**SOLD**

**EssexVillage** A classic c.1930 home recently renovated with a subtle modern twist. Set on a quaint lane with water access to Middle Cove. A short distance from village shops, restaurants, marinas, clubs & the CT River. Air conditioning, garage. *Offered at \$415,000*





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**Essex Village Waterfront** An inviting home set well back on Main Street. Exquisite landscaped yard. 2450sf, 4bdrms/2.1 bths. 70ft of water frontage with dock. Two fireplaces, central air. Approved expansion plans convey. *Offered at \$1,595,000*



**SALE PENDING**

**Essex** Enjoy privacy and sweeping views of the CT River and Hamburg Cove from this shingle-style waterfront retreat set on over three acres! First floor master suite, eat-in kitchen, office, deck, pool, dock. *Offered at \$1,495,000*



[www.13HemlockDrive.com](http://www.13HemlockDrive.com)

**Essex** Private spacious shingled ranch offers gracious one-floor living. Serene setting with water access/views. Remodeled kitchen; Wolf, Viking appliances, 5 bds/4.1 baths. Patios, pool, gardens. Guest suite or au pair, detached office. *Offered at \$990,000*



**SOLD**

**Essex** "Pond House" is a unique updated brick and clapboard waterfront cape offering exceptional comfort and character. First flr master suite w/vaulted ceiling and spacious bath. Dream kitchen, slate roof, copper gutters, patios, pond and dock. *Offered at \$895,000*



**Lyme** c.1805 farmhouse with 30x60 barn+ 3-bay garage set on four level acres adjacent to Nehantic State Forest. Spacious kitchen with Viking oven/range, island w/marble countertop, pantry. First floor bedroom & laundry room. High ceilings, six fireplaces! *Offered at \$685,000*



**New**

**Old Lyme** Impressive lot waiting for a luxury home. Views to Long Island Sound. 14 acres with large level building site, stone walls. Access road is in place. Private, yet close to marinas, restaurants. The only sound is the breeze through the trees! *Offered at \$525,000*



**New**

**Essex Village** Charming Cape in immaculate condition with three first floor bedrooms and one bedroom suite upstairs. Remodeled kitchen, central air. Private setting adjacent to Essex Land Trust property. *Offered at \$389,000*



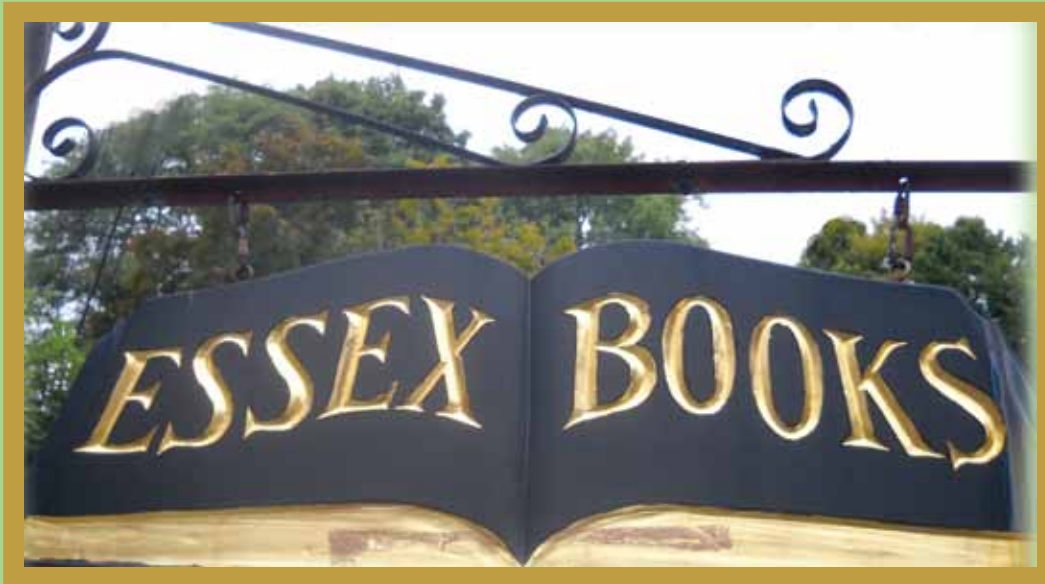
**SALE PENDING**

**Deep River** Enjoy direct pond frontage and private cul-de sac neighborhood. Updated kitchen/great room with vaulted ceiling. Finished lower level, media room. 4 bdrms, 2 full and 2 half baths, fireplace, deck. Open floor plan. Kayak on the pond! *Offered at \$450,000*



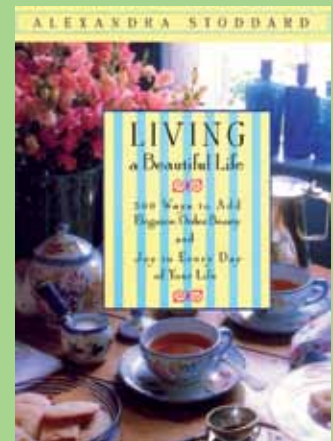
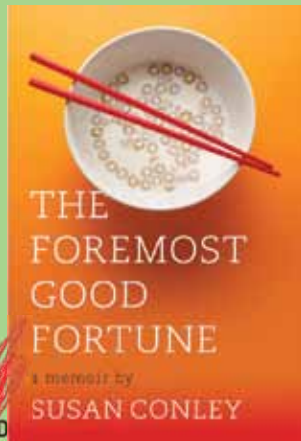
**New**

**Essex Heritage Cove Condo** Move-in 3 bdrm townhouse with Falls River and North Cove views. Open kitchen with corian counter tops and custom cabinetry. New wood flooring in living room. Enjoy Heritage Cove pool, waterfront and dock! *Offered at \$289,900*



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**June 2**

**Interior Designer Alexandra Stoddard**

12 noon - 1 p.m. at Gather  
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# Rachel Thomas



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5 Essex Square, Essex, CT 06426

[rachelthomasrealty.com](http://rachelthomasrealty.com)

[rachelthomas@rachelthomasrealty.com](mailto:rachelthomas@rachelthomasrealty.com)

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**Old Saybrook:** Year-round Knollwood Beach. Bask in the sun, just a short stroll to private beach. Delightful Cape Cod style home offering 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths with large master on first floor. Fireplace, large windows let's in the sun, 3 car garage. \$455,000 Nancy Johnson x 27



**Chester:** Not your typical home. Looking for something different, in perfect condition, with level acreage, and sustainable? This is it. High-end Oregon Dome home on 4 magnificent acres with gardens, fruit trees and in ground pool. Come see this property and imagine your home being fun again. Offered @ \$650,000. Nancy Johnson x 27



**Essex:** Imagine owning your own piece of paradise in the heart of Essex. Minutes to downtown Essex by foot, car or boat! Enjoy the convenience of docking your boat at the slip at your bulkhead. Relax on the deck and drink in the breathtaking views of Essex, Middle Cove and the Connecticut River. This antique house features 2 bedrooms, two baths on ½ an acre. Offered at \$885,000. Call Beth at 860-760-8635 X 23



**Essex:** Contemporary split located on 2 wooded acres in walking distance to the village. Great room features brick fireplace / gas insert, floor to ceiling windows, vaulted ceiling and plank floor. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, brick floor and top of the line stainless appliances. 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths. \$434,000. Beth Brewer x 23



**Haddam:** JUST SAY NO TO OIL. Break your heating oil habit! Enjoy gracious country living in an Architectural Showcase home heated and cooled by a Geothermal system, the most eco-friendly and economical to be had. Old world influences blend with contemporary elegance on over 3 pastoral acres. 3300 sf of luxury living plus 3 car garage. Close to Nature and major commuter routes. \$675,000. Katherine Catalano x17



**Chester Village:** COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL Completely renovated down to the studs this village ca. 1860 home has views on to all the village action. This property is both beautiful and convenient. Walk to Village shops, restaurants, galleries, etc. The enclosed side porch and rear terrace are very serene and private. Three bedrooms, 1 and ½ bath, fireplace, formal living and dining rooms and eatin kitchen. Floor plan conducive to in home business. Offered @ \$439,900. Maureen O'Grady x 16



**Haddam:** UNBELIEVABLE but true! 5 acres of CT River frontage and a home that all admire. Traditional Southern European architecture & design. All amenities are included from a heated pool with cabana, to a spa room with sauna. Gleaming hardwoods are featured throughout. The master suite is the entire second floor accessed up a curved stairway. 3 additional bedrooms. \$1,175,000. Deb Pach x 20



**Lyme Acreage:** Privacy and convenience. Minutes from I 95 and the center of Old Lyme and near Rogers Lake, Property of this size is rare in this area. This 37+ acre lightly wooded parcel has 250' of road frontage with possibility to subdivide. Excellent private location for your dream home or horse property. \$439,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



**Middle Haddam:** NEW PRICE Waterfront on the CT River. This traditional home with a contemporary flair is the perfect retreat for a hectic lifestyle. Built in 2005 this home has all the amenities including a first floor master bedroom w/ walk-in and luxury bath. Enjoy extraordinary water views from just about every room. \$795,000. Maureen O'Neill x 21

## *Gregory Shook Named to New Advisory Board*

Gregory Shook, president and CEO of Essex Savings Bank, was recently appointed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to a 12 member advisory council in response to new regulations.

Each Federal Reserve Bank across the country is establishing a First District Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council (CDIAC) in response to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. The councils will represent the perspective of smaller financial institutions and provide input on the economy and lending conditions, among other issues, according to a statement.

The First District's 12 CDIAC members represent commercial banks, thrift institutions and credit unions with assets less than \$10 billion. Members, which are from each of the six New England states, will meet three times annually.



## *Obtaining Vital Records*

A copy of a certified Connecticut vital record may be obtained directly from: 1 - the TOWN where the event occurred, or 2 - from the STATE Vital Records Office.

Town Vital Records - Vital Records offices are located in each of the 169 towns in Connecticut. The vital records registrar in each town is responsible for maintaining a registry of all births, marriages, civil unions, deaths and fetal deaths that occur within its town.

State Vital Records - If you wish to request a copy of a vital record from the State Vital Records Office, please note it has a turnaround time of approximately six (6) weeks for requests that are received through the mail. Expedited Service is also available for an additional fee for requests ordered on-line via VitalChek.

For more information, go to Dept. of Health at [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov).

## *Interiors and Staging*



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## REGION 4 EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Region 4 Educational Foundation, Inc. (R4EF) is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1998 to assist and enhance the quality of public education at Valley Regional High School and John Winthrop Middle School. By offering independent financial resources, R4EF provides innovative projects and programs not ordinarily funded through the district's budget. The foundation strives to expand the students' educational experience while increasing community involvement.

Gifts from individuals, families, corporations, and foundations are the primary source of funds for the Region 4 Education Foundation. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Taffy Glowac at 860-767-0650, or Emmy Cline at 860-227-1430.

• *Selectaman's Corner continued from page 1* •

very popular, and the interest has never faded. Anyone who has ever played will always remember the greatest competition in all of sports, the pitcher against the batter. This plays out weekly at our fields.

May and June are probably the busiest two months of the calendar and many of our nonprofits put on their best efforts to raise funds and further their missions. Our extensive corps of volunteers throughout town enable so many terrific endeavors, and these gracious volunteers and donors find themselves enriched through their generosity and service.

Now that the forests are green again and the weather is so gorgeous, more and more walkers and bicyclists are getting out, and so we respectfully ask everyone's help in driving safely throughout town so we can have good safety and health. We regularly hear about areas where neighbors travel too fast, such as Book Hill, Bushy Hill, Comstock, and Grove Street, to name just a few areas where our own drivers get citations, sometimes to their astonishment.

We'll be doing some streetscape work this summer and a new project at Essex Court.

Some key events coming up, to name just a few, are the Garden Club's great May Market on Saturday the 7th, the magnificent Burning of the Ships Parade on the 14th, Land Trust programs, and more.

Congratulations to Matthew Herman, our town's fourteenth Eagle Scout since 2000. Same to Monica Vandehei, a Rainbow Girl Scout who recently received the Congressional Service Award from Congressman Joe Courtney.

Thanks and keep in touch!

— Philip Miller, First Selectman

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# The Ivoryton Playhouse Turns 100 Years Old!

Happy Birthday to us! It's time to celebrate!

It's simply going to be an extraordinary year for the Ivoryton Playhouse in 2011 – our 100th birthday. What was once a thriving summer stock theatre is now a year round professional theatre and cultural arts center, offering quality performances and events for the community. This year the theatre will host cabaret and children's shows, community musicals and concerts, as well as our wildly successful professional theatre season. Patrons from all across the shoreline are showing their appreciation for our 2011 season:

**The Irish and How They Got That Way** – back by popular demand - by Frank McCourt ~ March 16 - April 3, 2011

**How the Other Half Loves** by Alan Ayckbourn ~ April 13 – May 1, 2011

**Barefoot in the Park** by Neil Simon ~ June 8 – June 26, 2011

**The Producers** by Mel Brooks & Tom Meehan ~ July 6 – July 31, 2011

**Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash** created and directed by Richard Maltby Jr. conceived by William Meade ~ August 10 – September 4, 2011

**The Marvelous Wonderettes** by Roger Bean ~ September 28 – October 16, 2011

**The Woman in Black** adapted for the stage by Stephen Mallatratt ~ November 2– 20, 2011

Centennial events that appeal to all of the Playhouse's audiences are also planned to help us reflect on the past, cele-

brate the present and plan for the future. Some important happenings to look for:

**Gala Birthday Celebration**, Saturday, May 21, 2011 at the Playhouse – a red carpet event featuring a one-night-only production *A Century on Stage* followed by a birthday party with dessert buffet, open bar and dancing. It will be a night to remember!!

**Ivoryton Celebrates the Playhouse**, Sunday, May 22, 2011. A town-wide festival featuring family theatre performances starting from 12:00noon. Bring the whole family to Ivoryton – there will be something for everyone

**Experience the History of the Ivoryton Playhouse** - Exhibit banners showcasing the 100 year history of the Ivoryton Playhouse will be traveling through public libraries this summer

**Become a Centurion** – play a part in the next century of the Ivoryton Playhouse! Buy a subscription, become a member or support our Centennial Sweepstakes fundraising raffle throughout the run of *The Producers* (July 6 – July 31)

So discover, experience and celebrate with us this year!

**Discover** that the Playhouse is one of the nation's oldest continually running summer stock theatres and has been home to many of the great names of the American stage that include among others Groucho Marx, Katharine Hepburn, Marlon Brando and Tallulah Bankhead.

**Experience** the past echoing off the walls of this old building and hear the voices of countless actors, directors and musicians who have been part of this drama for 100 years. Their voices remind us of the venerable history of the Playhouse and its legacy in our community.

**Celebrate** with us! Celebrate the Ivoryton Playhouse during its 100th year. Support us as we guide this landmark theatre into its second century on stage.

For more information on the Ivoryton Playhouse history, 2011 professional season and centennial events, please visit our website: [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org). Or call us on 860-767-7318 to secure your seats for any of our shows or special events.

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## News from the Ivoryton Library

Do you need a new library card? Our new cards include a key card to hang with your keys for an added convenience. Come in for an upgrade.

The Ivoryton Library annual Book Sale is moving from Mother's Day weekend to Sunday, May 22, 2011 as part of the town-wide centennial celebration of the Ivoryton Playhouse. This year, our sale will last from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature tables of used books in front and downstairs, perennials and annuals, baked goods, and a White Elephant table. As always, we welcome donations in all these areas. Adult and children's books, dvds and audiobooks as well as white elephant items are accepted any time, plants during the week before and baked goods Sunday morning after 8 a.m.

Several children's programs are in the works including soap-making for grades 3-6 on May 6, Chris Pimley returns

with a special telescope to view the sun, palm reading with Carol Young, summer workshops on papercraft and jewelry-making for teens, and our summer reading programs. This year's theme is "One World, Many Stories." Be sure to check our website, [www.ivoryton.com](http://www.ivoryton.com) or call the library@ 860-767-1252 for more information.

Storytimes in July and August: Wednesdays at the library at 10:00 a.m. and Thursdays at Viney Hill Brook Park, also at 10 a.m.

This summer, remember:

- We have passes that offer free or discounted admission to several museums and attractions in the state for you to check out. See our website for a detailed list.
- You have access to the complete catalog of movies available from Netflix by ordering through us. Contact a librarian for more information.
- You can download audiobooks and ebooks through the online catalog. Transfer these to almost any portable device to take your library books with you as you travel this summer or just to your backyard. See one of the Elizabeths for detailed instructions.

Deadline for the next issue of

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is June 17, 2011.

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# Events

MAGAZINES



## Essex Events

PUBLISHER

### Essex Printing Company

18 Industrial Park Road, PO Box 386  
Centerbrook, CT 06409  
860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259  
essexprinting.com

**Publisher & Editor**

David V. Winstead, Ph.D.  
dwinstead@eventsmagazines.com

**Director of Advertising**

Diane Brown dbrown@eventsmagazines.com 860-383-6376  
Advertising Sales in East Haddam, Essex, Old Lyme & Old Saybrook

**Advertising Sales**

Ward Feirer wfeirer@gmail.com 914-806-5500  
Advertising Sales in Chester, Clinton, Haddam, Madison & Westbrook

**Art Director/ Designer**

Kathy Alsop kathy.events@comcast.net 860-391-4372

**Magazine Layout**

Amy Bransfield

**Proofreader**

Michele Dickey

**Motor Sports Editor**

Dana Hill

**Video & Games Editors**

Tom & Liz Pester

**Music Editor**

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Cover: The Ivoryton Playhouse celebrates its 100th birthday.  
See article on page 32.

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Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

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*John & Alyson Finnegan*, 39 West Avenue, Essex

*John Musicaro*, 8 Chestnut Street, Ivoryton

*Christopher Fenger & Dominiques Fontaine*, 10 High Street, Essex

*Thomas Downing, Jr.*, 19 Blake Street, Ivoryton

*Maureen G. Cragg & Diane P. Davis*, 85 River Road, K-1, Essex

*Robert A. Bibbiani & Mary A. Walsh*, 25 West Hills Road, Ivoryton

*Christine L. Gemelli*, 19 Mallard Point Road, Essex

*Ricardo Sequin Guise*, 79 River Road, Essex

*Christopher E. & Jennifer L. Miller*, 29 Cedar Grove Terrace, Essex

*Winston R. & Joanne M. Lauder*, 7 Riverview Street, Essex

*Christina M. Storm*, 47 River Road, Essex

### Loss of our Residents and Friends

#### September

Josephine O. Bombaci

Roberta A. Rogouin

Joseph N. Greene, Jr.

#### October

Sally J. Bill

Otto F. Weiler, Jr.

Henry D. Towers

John J. Pacelle

Edward Lepore

Geoffrey C. David

Kenneth W. Kells

Richard C. Rastetter

#### November

Harry A. Fanslalu

Mary M. Olson

Ann Gaylord

Logan Clarke, Jr.

#### December

Craig Gubtil

Charles A. Rathbun

Elizabeth A. Greene

Cherie Graham

Daniel R. Kilty

#### December continued

Lawrence M. Hoyt

George T. Schwamb

Robert F. Tilp

Amarie W. Dennis

Christine A. Greene

#### January

Madeline Sipes

Gloria P. Gould

Verna MacMillian

#### February

David Dykes

Scott M. Prevost

Douglas Neville Jones, Jr.

Alice S. Powers

Minnie Jazo

#### March

Stannard H. Norton

Berit Swendsen

Marcia Scheinman

Jane M. Daniells

Edith L. Kessell

Gilbert A. Plumb

Johanna P. VonDeck

Jon S. Korper



## Want to Grow Your Business?

That's what my good friend kept asking me for weeks!

One day I'm in his office he says "Look at this stack of work I have on my desk". This is all new work and referrals I have to quote from my BNI Chapter. You have got to check it out! They allow one business to join in each category so you basically lock out your competition by joining. They have a chapter in Essex, just come to one meeting I know you are going to like it. I finally relented and attended my first BNI meeting in early December 2009. When I walked out 90 minutes later I felt like I was not alone in my quest to find more business. After all I was in a room with other businessmen and women who had the same goals as I did. *Find more business without spending tons of money on advertising.* Do it the old fashioned way, word of mouth. Get to know the other members and learn about their business while they do the same for you and your business. When someone they know needs something you offer they can say "I know a business that does that, here is their number". It is structured differently than the Chamber of Commerce, of which I am also a member.

I felt energized, invigorated, and ready to take on the business world with new zeal. I just found a new sales force for less than the cost of a business suit!

Flash forward to 2011 and Riverside BNI now boasts 35 different business categories filled but still have many openings. New business referrals are flowing and we are actively seeking new members.

So if you want to grow your business consider this a personal invitation to our next meeting. Just give me a call 860-662-1022 or shoot me an email to Tom@promofloats.com. We meet in the lower level of the Essex Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. - out by 9:00 - always!

For more information about BNI visit [www.bnict.com](http://www.bnict.com)

*Captain Tom Kehlenbach,  
Director of Public Relations Riverside BNI*



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**BNI Meets every Tuesday morning**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
**ESSEX TOWN HALL**

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**THE PROBATE COURT is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday**  
**THE LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Philip Miller, First Selectman	x114	pmiller@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli	x112	mlucarelli@essexct.gov

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Joe Heller	860-767-3219	jheller@essexct.gov
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### ASSESSOR

Jessica Sypher, Assessor	x124	jsypher@essexct.gov
Nancy Berryman	x123	nberryman@essexct.gov

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT & FIRE MARSHAL

Keith Nolin, Building Official/Fire Marshal	x117	knolin@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Cheryl Haase	x143	chaase@essexct.gov
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### LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Mike Birner, Supervisor	860-767-1926	
Bill Armstead		

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Richard Audet, Park & Rec. Director	x148	raudet@essexct.gov
Mary Ellen Barnes, Rec. Coordinator	x110	mbarnes@essexct.gov

### PUBLIC WORKS

David Caroline, Director	767-0715	dcaroline@essexct.gov
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William Angier, Boris Churyk,  
James Danks, Richard Gallacher

### REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Lois Ely	x142	
John Heiser	x142	

### RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

<b>ESSEX POLICE</b>	860-767-1054	
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Marc Piscioti, Corporal		mpiscioti@essexct.gov
Russell Gingras, Corporal		rgingras@essexct.gov
Salvatore Bevilacqua, Officer		sbevilacqua@essexct.gov

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Dean Jacques	x201	djacques@essexct.gov
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### TAX COLLECTOR

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Lynne Skinner	x121	lskinner@essexct.gov

### TOWN CLERK

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Dana Novorio	x128	townclerk@essexct.gov

### TOWN HALL OPERATIONS

Mark Hiatt	x136	maintenance@essexct.gov
John Schumacher		

### TREASURER

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Kelly Sterner	x122	ksterner@essexct.gov

### ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Joe Budrow, Enforcement Agent	x115	jbudrow@essexct.gov
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**www.essexct.gov**

## Spring into Learning at the Essex Town Library

At the heart of town, the Essex Library is the hub for what's happening, and spring is bringing a whole new crop of programs, classes, and events for all ages and interests. Check us out! All are open to the public, and all you need to do is call in order to register for any of the events featured in this partial list below. You can see our updated events calendar at [www.essexlib.org](http://www.essexlib.org), as well as news on incoming books and DVDs. And, please, "Friend" us on Facebook. It's a great way to keep up with what's happening here at your hometown library.

Community Music School partners with the Essex Library for two student/teacher concerts in May. Tuesday, May 3 at 7, enjoy the sweet sounds of the CMS Flute Ensemble, who'll present a program of Debussy, Grieg, Bach, and more, plus some special arrangements of folk tunes. Tuesday, May 20 at 7 is the return of the CMS Adult Ensemble, under the direction of Tom Briggs. They'll be performing a mixed bag of pops, show tunes, and light classics.

Pilates, Yoga, Tai Chi, and meditation: if you've always wanted to try one or all of these mind/body exercises out but were shy about joining an established class, here's a way to get a "taste" of each of these with a group of other beginners, here at the library every Wednesday morning at 10, through the month of May. Wear comfortable clothes and keep an open mind!

Our beloved Centerbrook Architects Lectures will feature Rafael Pelli, AIA, Partner, Pelli, Clark, Pelli, who will present "It's Not Easy Being Green; Interesting Environmental Issues In Architecture From Around The World" Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Essex Meadows auditorium, 30 Bokum Road. Rafael Pelli is the partner directing the Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects New York office, established in 2000. Since that time, he has directed the design for several of the firm's New York projects. These include Bloomberg Tower, a 1.4 million-square-foot, mixed-use high-rise in Midtown that contains the new headquarters for Bloomberg L.P. and the residential condominiums One Beacon Court.

May also brings the beginning of a new film series, Dance @ The Library, on the second Friday afternoon of each month, beginning at 3 p.m. on May 13 with "Choreography By Balanchine." We'll feature a broad spectrum of dance films, from ballet to Martha Graham, Paul Taylor to Bob Fosse.

Parent programs include "Girl Matters; What Messages Do We Send Our Daughters?" Learn to protect them from media and societal pressures, with Michelle Kenefick, LCSW.

"Dealing with Dementia" will help you to identify the warning signs of this dangerous condition in an elderly relative or

*Continued on page 13*

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• *Town Library continued from page 12* •

friend and help you to help them cope. Presented here by the VNA on May 26 at 6:30.

Author Jeff Goldberg will talk about his new book, "Bird at the Buzzer; UCONN, Notre Dame, and A Women's Basketball Classic" at the library on May 17 at 7 p.m., and books will be available for signing and sale.

June brings a new dance class series, Eastern Swing with Sharyn Farrell, on four Tuesday evenings at 7, at Essex Town Hall starting June 7th. Bring a partner or come alone; you're guaranteed a fun time. And July marks the return of our ever-popular movie series, Cool Films for Hot Nights. Every Thursday evening at 7, enjoy a screening of an important indie, foreign, or documentary film on our big screen. Free popcorn!

The Centerbrook Architects Lectures continue when David Greenbaum, FAIA, Vice President, SmithGroup, presents "The Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center Overlooking Omaha Beach" Friday, June 3, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Essex Meadows auditorium, 30 Bokum Rd. Essex, CT. David B. Greenbaum is the leader of SmithGroup's Cultural practice. Driven by site and client mission, his work applies his philosophy of amplifying an institution's mission by creating powerful and memorable places. This has been most recently exemplified with the design of the Normandy American Cemetery Visitors Center, The International Spy Museum, and the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Pavilion renovation.

## REGENCY BALL

The Second Annual Sailing Masters of 1812 Regency Ball will be held on Saturday, May 14 at 8:00 p.m. at the Essex Town hall, capping a day of festivities that begins with the 47th Annual "Burning of the Ships" Parade at 2:00 p.m. through downtown Essex, CT. The events commemorate the British attack on Essex in 1814. The Regency Era refers to the British era from about 1800-1830 highlighted by steps popularly known as English Country Dance. This year's period ball will include music by Spare Parts and dance calling by Susan de Guardiola of New Haven. One does not have to be an accomplished dancer to participate but period dress is strongly suggested. Tickets to the ball are \$18 per person and are on sale at Gather in Ivoryton and Toys Ahoy! In Essex. Members of fife & drum corps, Connecticut River Museum, Essex Historical Society, and the Essex Garden Club receive a \$6 discount. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$20. For more information on the ball, making or buying period costumes, and purchasing tickets, please visit <http://www.sailingmastersregencyball.com> or contact Stasia Penkoff Lidbeck at (860) 767-2866 or [fyfer1812@me.com](mailto:fyfer1812@me.com)

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## Essex Park & Recreation Department

Essex Park and Recreation emerges from our snowy, dreadful winter excited about our full array of programs and activities planned for the community this spring and summer. We have a number of upcoming programs and special events planned for the community and we hope to continue our mission of providing recreational opportunities for the growth and enhancement of Essex.

**Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival.** Park and Recreation hosted the Essex Go Bragh (translated as Essex Forever) Irish Parade & Festival sponsored by the Ivoryton Playhouse and Tower Labs on March 19. The event featured an Irish-themed parade down Main Street into the heart of Essex Village followed by our Festival. The luck of the Irish bestowed good weather upon us that day, and a fun time was had by all. We look forward to hosting the event next year on March 17, 2012. The event was a success thanks to our sponsors: Bogaert Construction, Clark Group, Community Music School, Essex Savings Bank, J. Alden Clothiers, and Toys Ahoy! We extend a special thank you as well to the Essex Board of Trade, Village Provisions, Left Bank Gallery, Page Taft Realty, Essex Coffee and Tea, Porky Pete's, and the Griswold Inn for hosting activities. Lastly, the parade was a huge hit thanks to the many community groups who took part.

**Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit.** The Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit is a cooperative effort between the Land Trust and Park and Recreation Department. Our mission is to bring the families of Essex together through positive and healthy outdoor endeavors while increasing the presence and awareness of our local parks, open spaces, and preserves. For more information, please visit the Park and Recreation website.

To play the EGOP, all families who participate will receive a Great Outdoors Pursuit passport. With each event you complete, your passport will be stamped. For a family to officially complete the event, at least one parent or grandparent and one child must participate (except for the Turkey Plunge). You may pick up your passport at any event or in the Park & Recreation office. Participants will receive a small prize for attending and participating in an event. Families must turn in their stamped passports at the conclusion of our program to the Park and Recreation office no later than December 9, 2011. We will then hold a drawing for a really cool grand prize valued at \$250. Each family will have their name placed into the drawing the same amount of times for each event they officially completed. For example, if a family did two events they will have two tickets in the drawing, or for all eight events, you will have eight tickets in the drawing. The

*Continued on page 15*

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 14* •

greater number of events a family completes, the greater the chance of winning the grand prize!

Here is a brief listing of upcoming programs; for complete information visit the Park and Recreation website:

**Fishing Derby**, Viney Hill Brook Park, Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m. (Fishing class on Friday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall)

**Family Walk, Picnic, and Concert**, Cross Lots, Sunday, June 5, 4-6 p.m.

**Wiffle Ball Tournament**, Hubbard Field, Wednesday, July 20th, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Family Canoe/Kayak** on Mill Pond, Falls River Drive, Ivoryton, Sunday, October 2, 1 p.m.

**Ivoryton 5k Run/Walk/Road and Trail Race and Pumpkin Run**, Ivoryton Library, Saturday, October 22, 8:45 a.m.

**Family Turkey Tromp and Plunge**, Viney Hill Brook Park, Saturday, November 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Comstock Park Dugouts.** Our local youth baseball players and their parents will see the major improvement to our Comstock Park baseball fields. Both fields at Comstock received new dugouts, built during March and April 2011. The Essex Little League Board took on this initiative with the support of the Park and Recreation Commission. The dugouts project would not have been possible without a donation


from the Police Athletic League. Additional funding for the dugouts came from the player user fees paid for by each parent in the baseball programs as well as the Essex Little League's and Park and Recreation Department's budgets. Thank you to Essex Little League, especially our project leader Rob Connelly, for creating a great new amenity in our park.

**Spotlight on the Parks.** Main Street Park is located in the heart of Essex Village on Main Street. This beautiful, peaceful park is cherished in our community and hosts many events each year drawing thousands of visitors. The Essex Garden Club recently completed an enhancement to the park by extending our walkway of blue stone near the park entrance and adding cobblestone around park benches. This beautification of the park and will be appreciated by our patrons for years to come!

**Keep Your Eyes on the Parks!** The responsibility for our parks is shared among all residents of Essex. What happens in the community is a reflection of how much you care for the place you live. If you see a concern in any park please call us right away.


**Essex Basketball Center.** The Essex Basketball Center (EBC), to be located in the rear of the former Park & Ride Lot adjacent to the Essex Fire Station, is a new planned facility the Park and Recreation Commission has been working on for several years. The plan includes the basketball court as well as a complete makeover of the parking lot and gateway

*Continued on page 16*




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Essex: A landmark Village residence of significant and historical architectural distinction, the Maria Post House, built in the Greek Revival genre, has graciously moved from Circa 1851 to the present with peerless renovation & restoration. Offered at \$1,795,000



Essex: This beautiful and carefully maintained historic property the Stephen W. Starkey House, is sited on a lovely landscaped lot with room for a garage or barn. Exquisitely updated bathrooms and a flexible open floor plan make this a delightful village home! Offered at \$725,000




Essex: Meticulously restored C1850 Federal with fully updated baths, chef's kitchen, spacious family room with fireplace, all sited on a professionally landscaped lot with boxwood framed perennial gardens and stone walls make this a perfect weekend retreat! Offered at \$419,500




Essex: This stunning C1818 village residence, the Justin Loomis Homestead has been thoughtfully renovated & updated. Magnificent private rear yard w/glorious gardens and a separate barn, perfect for office or studio. Spectacular master suite, chef's kitchen & lovely public rooms. Offered at \$1,290,000

**JUST SOLD**



Essex: Charming North Cove waterfront features an open floor plan and enjoys a full service deep water dock. Perennial gardens, decks and porches making it a summer paradise and fabulous weekend retreat! Offered at \$895,000

**ON DEPOSIT**




Essex: Views of North Cove out to the CT River permeate this delightful architectural designed home. Hand-hewn beams, brick faced fireplace, bead board details and banks of French doors create a unique ambiance. Deeded deep water dock access now in place! Offered at \$850,000

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 15* •

intersection of Rte. 154 & West Avenue. We are very excited about the project and are particularly excited about the development of a facility the young people in Essex can use and gather in a safe and constructive environment. This will also be actively used by families, adult groups, and the Essex Fire Engine Company. The EBC Committee is a team of three partners: Essex Park and Recreation Commission, Essex Fire Engine Company No.1, and Essex Rotary Club. The town has asked the committee to raise all the funds toward the completion of the project. In doing so, the committee has started its fundraising campaign. If you have any questions about the project or wish to assist in helping complete it, please contact the Essex Park & Recreation Department.

A glance at our Programs starting soon...The complete Spring/Summer 2011 Brochure is available online, [www.essexct.gov/](http://www.essexct.gov/) click on "Park and Recreation" with full program information. Check it out often as we are always updating our program listings and listing important information. Remember that most programs allow for online registration.

**Spring Tennis.** Our teaching pro Coach Ribchinsky is back, teaching the fundamentals of tennis including ground-strokes, volleys, serves, and game play. For grades K-8, held on Saturday mornings starting April 30.

**Skyhawks Flag Football.** Skyhawks Flag Football is the perfect program for our young athletes who want a complete

introduction to America's Game or for those who simply want to brush up on their skills in preparation for league play. For grades 1 - 6, held on Thursdays starting April 28.

**Skyhawks Cheerleading.** This entry level cheer program will ensure that each camper learns cheers, proper hand and body movements as well as jumping techniques. For grades 1-6, held Thursdays starting April 28.

**Summer Day Camp & New Summer Squirts Camp.** Our full-day camp consists of group games, field trips and tons of other fun activities led by our experienced, caring staff. Summer Camp will be open to children ages 6-12 and entering 1st to 7th grade in the fall. We are excited to introduce our new Summer Squirts Camp Program for campers entering kindergarten, offered 9 a.m.-12 noon daily. Both camps will be held at Essex Elementary School and are planned to run for 8 sessions: June 27-August 19. Extended care will be offered for full-day campers only. Mail-in registrations for residents will be accepted starting April 1 and nonresident registration will begin May 1. Space is limited so please register early. All camp forms and information are available on our website under the Summer Camp tab.

**US Sports Institute's Sports Squirts.** This is a great way to introduce children ages 3-6 to a variety of sports such as soccer, t-ball, lacrosse, hockey, basketball, and tennis. Sessions take place in a safe, structured environment and skills are taught through a series of games and activities designed to ensure learning and, most importantly, having fun. For ages 3-6, held the week of August 15-19.

*Continued on page 18*

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 16* •

**US Sports Institute's Tennis Squirts.** This is a fun-filled learning adventure that introduces children to the world of tennis. Following the guidelines set out by the USTA, children will quickly develop their skills using the highly praised Quickstart Tennis Model. For ages 3-5, held August 8-12.

**Running Rams Track and Field Camp.** Local resident and Old Saybrook High School Track and Field Coach Pete Capezone will again host our Track and Field Camp. This program will feature instruction in most of the track and field events from some of the area's best coaches, eight in all, at one of the finest venues in Connecticut - Valley Regional H.S. in Deep River. For ages 6-15, held June 27-July 1.

**Mad Science Camp-Secret Agent CSI.** Discover how chemistry and the science of forensics work. Identify and collect evidence, from fingerprints, to tracks, to trash! Recreate the scene of a crime using clues and detailed observations. For ages 5-12, held August 8-12.

**Junior & Youth Summer Tennis Clinic.** Teaching Pro & Valley Regional Girls Varsity Tennis Coach Gary Ribchinsky will instruct the fundamentals of tennis including groundstrokes, volleys, serves, and game play. For ages 6-16, five week-long sessions will be offered.

**Beach Volleyball.** Skyhawks Volleyball takes the energy and excitement of this great team sport and puts it together into

one fun-filled camp. All aspects of the game are taught through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting, and serving. For ages 11-15, held August 8-11 from 9 a.m.-12 noon at Hubbard Field.

**Slamma Jamma Basketball Camp.** The camp is built on individual instruction and fundamentals led by Class S State Champions Coach Woods & VRHS players. Our goal is to provide drills and games that will help your child become a better basketball player. As the saying goes, "Basketball players are made during the summer and perform in the winter." Every camper gets a Slamma-Jamma t-shirt, basketball, and certificate. For grades K-8, four sessions will be offered during the weeks of July 5-8 and August 1-5.

**Between the Lines Baseball Camp.** Our camp will help your baseball player improve their overall baseball skills. Fundamentals will be taught through appropriate drills, techniques, and various games. For ages 8-11, held July 11-14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Comstock Park Little League Field.

**Football Camp & Boys & Girls Lax Camps—Summer 2011.** More information to come, contact Park and Recreation.

**Summer Concert Series 2011.** Spend your Wednesday evenings with Essex Park and Recreation enjoying the sounds of great music. Country, jazz, classic rock, acoustic blues, and more, make a beautiful summer evening in our parks. Our venue changes each week letting everyone enjoy our town greens in Ivoryton and Essex. All concerts are free!

*Continued on page 22*

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**Essex:** "Sandcastle," magnificent 6,000 SF waterfront home offers privacy, stunning views. Dock on the CT River. Gorgeous 4.4 acres w/pond. First floor MBR, 4BRs, 5.1 baths. Near Essex Village and marinas. Spectacular! 151RiverRoad.com  
M9120999 \$2,650,000  
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



**Essex:** A landmark Village residence of significant and historical architectural distinction, the Maria Post House, built in the Greek Revival genre, has graciously moved from circa 1851 to the present.  
M9122148 \$1,795,000  
Helen Sant' Andrea 860.227.6631  
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



**Essex:** This beautiful and carefully maintained historic property, the Stephen W. Starkey House, is sited on a lovely landscaped lot with room for a garage or barn. Exquisitely updated bathrooms and a flexible open floor plan make this a delightful village home!  
M9126977 \$725,000  
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



**Essex:** Circa 1810 Farmhouse offers 3BRs, 2 baths & was totally renovated in 2001. Set on 1.62 acres, this lovely property is a combination of meadow, woodland pasture & spring fed pond. Essex Village is just a mile away.  
M9121869 \$635,000  
Colette Harron 860.304.2391



**Essex:** Village living at its best. New first floor luxury condo nestled among antique homes and w/views of CT river. Highest quality materials, fabulous kit. w/granite & high end appliances. Private entrance, large covered pillared porch, garage, ample storage.  
M9124211 \$585,000  
Donn Holland 860.227.4737



**Essex:** Wonderful village location. Adorable 1961 Cape w/3BRs, 2 baths, lovely bright DR, and formal LR w/fpl. Water at the end of street, 10 minute walk to village shops, restaurants and CT River.  
M9122568 \$449,000  
Leslie Sullivan 860.391.3337



**Essex:** Well maintained country Cape within walking distance to Essex village. Open kitchen/dining room w/fireplace. Large LR with fireplace. Master bedroom suite with lots of closet, large bath and separate sitting area. Two 1st floor bedrooms and baths.  
M9124591 \$423,000  
Joe Kelly 860.287.1222



**Essex:** Stylish Ranch set on landscaped lot. Gourmet kitchen with exquisite craftsmanship, large sunken living room with a VT castings blower fireplace and custom built-ins and moldings. A house with real character within minutes of Essex village.  
M9126956 \$349,000  
Ellen Henderson 860.961.9643



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Schedules & Updates



## May Market Saturday in the Park – An Essex Garden Club Extravaganza

You're in for a treat on Saturday, May 7. The Essex Garden Club May Market will have a one-day extravaganza in Town Park on Main Street. Updated by talented Garden Club members under the guidance of Phyllis Graf and Renate Houchin, this is a new kind of May Market.

There will be an exciting Silent Auction Tent, chaired by the dynamic Alyson Danyliw, featuring an incredible array of goods and services donated by 25 local businesses—many of them from favorite Main Street merchants. We can't give you the whole list now, but we can tell you there will be lots of exciting items – an overnight reservation at an inn, a dozen roses per month for a year, a personalized home/garden photo album, a handcrafted birdhouse, theatre tickets, and exciting gift certificates. And everyone, whether you garden or not—can put in a bid. This Big Tent Silent Auction will be a centerpiece of the new May Market.



Other special departments include the Garden Accents Tent filled with treasures—small troughs filled with succulents, iron arts trellises, topiary frames in the shapes of turtles, mushrooms and teddy bears, fashionable hand-made tote bags knitted by garden club members of recycled plastic, (You have to see these!) The Herbery Tent will feature crated moss-lined boxes and baskets ready to go or which can be personalized with your own hand-picked combination of hearty herbs. Also available will be a selection of champagne mustards and famous Essex Garden Club garlic salt. Garden Treasures has collected all sorts of slightly used garden and household items. And back again this year— last year's favorite booth—the Jewelry Tree, coordinated by Tia Smith. Here you'll find an extensive and superb collection of vintage

bangles, earrings, necklaces and pins.

Always the star of Essex May Market is the ever-popular Members Plants Tent. People have been coming to Essex on May Market Day for years from all over New England to take advantage of the healthy plants dug and nurtured by Garden Club members. And, an early sell-out in the Members Plants department each year are the many varieties of tomato plants grown from seed and cultivated carefully under the supervision of plant specialist Coral Rahn. People start lining up at 8 a.m. to get the finest specimens. One couple from Maine who has been coming each May for the last 10 or 12 years says that plants from Essex May Market Members Tent are the best buys in New England. On the other side of the park, the Annuals Tent will be stocked with the healthiest hanging baskets, geraniums, patio tomatoes, and blooming annuals available.

The date again is SATURDAY, MAY 7. Opening bell is at 9 a.m. Auction bidding will close at 1:30. And the May Market Fair will close at 2:00. Our charming Garden Café, run by DeDe Charnoff and Gay Thorn, will feature sandwiches, hot dogs, clam chowder, and DeDe and Gay's famous Lavender Cupcakes and Red Velvet Cupcakes. Don't miss May Market. It is a true Essex Event! We promise you'll enjoy it.

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## CT Clean Energy Options Program – Spring 2011 Update

As of December 2010, Essex had 227 Clean Energy points. Currently 6.4 percent of the residents – or 191 customers – are involved in the program. Essex ranks twelfth in the state with regard to the household penetration rate. Due to a recent change in the program, every 200 points entitles the town to a free 2 kWh solar array including installation provided by the CT Clean Energy Fund. With another 73 points, the CT Clean Energy Fund will give Essex a 2 kWh solar array for installation on a public building.

Essex Citizens for Clean Energy want to thank the town officials and employees and all of the residents, businesses, and organizations that have chosen to participate in this program. You have made a choice for a cleaner environment and a reduction in carbon-dioxide emissions. We will all benefit by reducing the impacts of climate change.

To those people who have not yet enrolled, please consider joining the program.

- Each household can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 7400 pounds annually.

- You can help increase our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign fossil fuels and increasing the diversity of our energy resources.
- You will be patriotic and strengthen our economy by investing in it.
- You can reduce pollution from coal-, natural gas-, and oil-fired power plants.
- You can help to insure a clean, sustainable, and cost-efficient energy future.

Enroll online at [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov).

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Go to [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) to select a less expensive supplier of your electricity. Also, check out Home Energy Solutions at [www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com) or call 1-877-WISE-USE for more information.

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 18* •


- July 6, Middletown Symphonic Band, Essex Main Street
- July 13, Long Island Sound, Ivoryton Green
- July 20, Blues on the Rocks, Essex Main Street
- July 27, Gold Rush, Ivoryton Green
- Aug. 3, Shiny Lapel Trio, Essex Main Street
- Aug. 10, Amalgamated Muck, Ivoryton Green
- Aug. 17, Rain Date—TBA, Essex Main Street

**6th Annual Ivoryton Village Fourth of July Parade.** The 6th Annual Ivoryton Village Fourth of July Parade will take place on Monday July 4th, 2011 (rain date, July 5). Stepping off from the old piano factory at 10:00 a.m., the parade will wind

its way through the streets of Ivoryton before ending at the Ivoryton Green, where there will be a patriotic ceremony. The Parade Committee extends an invitation to all residents of the town of Essex! Gather your family, neighbors, groups of any kind and decorate your bike, scooter, wagon, tractor, truck, or antique car. Come march with us on the 4th of July! Call Susie Beckman for more information at 860-767-9755.

**Viney Hill Beach Party.** Celebrate the end of summer on August 27 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at beautiful Viney Hill Brook Park with a beach party! The Park and Recreation Commission sponsors this event as a thank you to the residents and community organizations of Essex. Our party features swimming, a guided hike, sand castle building contest, bounce house, live music, refreshments, and more!

**Contact Us!** As always, we welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements and program information, go to the Town website [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov), click on "Park and Recreation" on the right side of the page. We offer online registrations and many people are taking advantage of this convenience. Join us on Facebook as a way to hear about our department and interact with our friends. Please call Program Coordinator MaryEllen Barnes at 860-767-4340 x110 or Park and Recreation Director Rick Audet at 860-767-4340 x148 anytime.



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**Old Lyme** - \$890,000. Charming house @ Old Lyme Shores, short walk to beautiful sandy beach. 4BRs, LR w/fireplace, hardwood flrs, enclosed porch. Private yard, deck, playscape, detached garage. Views. Perfect location for special summer memories.  
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## Summer Adventure Starts at Connecticut River Museum Camps!

The Connecticut River Museum is offering week-long summer camps that promise adventure and exploration for children age 6 through 12.

**Colonial Survival Camp.** July 11 - 15. Ages 6 - 10. Travel back in time and discover what life was like on a valley farm in the 1600s. Spend the week at historic Bushnell Farm in Old Saybrook investigating colonial life - build a timber frame barn, learn to weave and work in a heritage garden. You'll also make and play historic games and be a part of a Market Day.

**Return to Colonial Life.** July 18 - 22. Ages 9 - 12. Did you survive Colonial Life last summer? Are you ready to return to the past? Come back to beautiful Bushnell Farm for a week of new activities! Leave 2011 behind and become a member of a colonial community, working and playing with fellow citizens. Try your hand at farming activities, daily chores, and woodworking projects. Take part in a school day and cook a meal on the open hearth.

**Wild River.** July 25 - 29. Ages 6 - 9. Discover what is over, under, and along the Connecticut River. Spend the week exploring the river, studying the fish, plants, birds, and animals that call it home. Try your hand at catching critters using dip and seine



*Continued on page 25*

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• *River Museum Camps continued from page 24* •

nets, search for animal tracks, learn how to “read” the river and find out what is around the bend as we journey upstream. Finish the week creating a mini exhibit to share your discoveries!

**Life at Sea.** August 1 - 5. Ages 9 - 12. Ahoy Matey! Join the crew and learn to survive on the high seas as a Privateer. Exciting hands-on activities will include shipbuilding, rope making, knot tying, scrimshaw, navigation, sea chanteys, and more. Even try your hand at creating a boat design and testing your model in a race. Sail on a historic wooden schooner, navigate the river, and search for privateers.

**Digging into the Past.** August 8 - 12. Ages 9 - 12. What treasures lay buried beneath our feet? What clues do they reveal about the past? Join us for a week of discovery and adventure as we search for answers! Explorations will take us to Nott Island, Bushnell Farm, and other mysterious sites. Using archaeological tools and techniques we will uncover the stories of the past.

**River Rangers.** August 15 - 19. Ages 9 - 12. Exploration and adventure await when you join the River Rangers and challenge yourself to find out all you can about the river. Spend each day in coves, on islands, and on the water, conducting experiments, gathering samples, and building a study lab in the museum.

Camp sessions are Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. daily. Aftercare is available from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Program



*The Connecticut River Museum is offering week-long summer camps that promise adventure and exploration for children age 6 through 12.*

Fee: Family Members \$170/week. Nonmembers \$185/week. Aftercare Fee: Members \$80/week. Nonmembers \$90/week.

Phone the CRM Education Department at 860-767-8269 ext. 13 or email [jwhitedobbs@ctrivermuseum.org](mailto:jwhitedobbs@ctrivermuseum.org) for more information.

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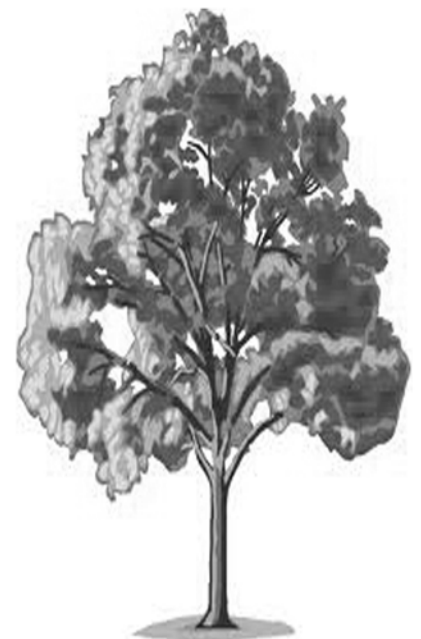
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# Surviving Bad Times

As the recession continues, more and more people are finding themselves in jobless situations where they do not know how to help themselves.

There are social service programs available, but none are capable of eliminating huge expenses. Because of that, people need to take certain steps as soon as trouble hits.

Start by **assessing your own resolve**. It is important to face the fact that a new job may not be forthcoming right away. Job openings are few and the competition is fierce. Denial or unreasonable expectations often lead to tragedy.

Your best chance is to **deal with the problems head-on**. Make immediate, cost-reducing changes to your lifestyle. Become frugal to stretch out what savings or supplemental income you have.

**Depression can reduce your marketability and job seeking effort**. How you face the coming challenges will determine your success or failure. You need to be strong and mentally alert during tough times. Unfortunately, the onset of depression often follows job loss. Not getting hired right away only makes things worse. If you feel depressed, **get help!** Turn to someone close to you, a professional, or a job-networking support group. **Don't make the mistake of turning to drugs or alcohol** for comfort.

**Make a realistic assessment of your situation**. You have expenses that need to be paid regularly, such as rent or mortgage, heating fuel, phone, and electricity. Car payments and car taxes are also priorities. On top of all this, you have to keep food on the table and maintain your health. That includes a positive outlook. If you have children or a spouse, you have to see to their basic and emotional needs as well. **Cut back on unessential expenses**.

Pushing credit card limits is not the answer. **Avoid building up debt that will make it impossible for you to fully recover after you find work**. Interest rates can cripple you even in better times.

If you're having trouble paying bills, **contact your electric company right away and let them know your situation**. Ask what assistance programs are available. They will be happy to work with you. If you just stop paying your bills, however, they will view you as willfully delinquent and will eventually shut off your power and ruin your credit. **DON'T WAIT!** Utility companies have ways of helping people who show a good faith effort, including a forgiveness program with reduced monthly payments.

You should probably communicate with your mortgage company or landlord for the very same reasons. It is surprising

*Continued on page 27*



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• *Surviving Bad Times continued from page 26* •

how helpful they can be if you work with them before your debt becomes too large to handle. If you are able to refinance at a lower rate, do so before the rates increase.

Consider applying for seasonal **energy assistance** through CRT in Middletown or through your local social services representative.

If you were just laid off from a job, contact the **Labor Department** in Middletown at **860 344-2993** to initiate an application for **unemployment benefits**, or **860 754-5000** for a worker if you have questions. It pays to apply for benefits even if you think you are not eligible. If you are denied, ask for a hearing. Many companies automatically deny benefits but never show up for the hearing, which places you in a good position.

**Fix up your resume for success.** There are support groups and professionals at the Labor Department who can help you with this.

Learn to do a job search online. There are many web sites available to help you with that. The most popular is **Monster.com**. **CareerBuilder.com** is another. The Labor Department can give you a list of helpful resources. Check daily, so that you are among the first to apply for the job that you want.

**Temporary employment** can provide a means to survive until better jobs become available. They may pay less than you are used to, but take pride in your efforts to do the best for yourself and your family.

One of the most difficult things to face is knowing that you cannot afford to keep your home. **Call your mortgage company early on and ask for advice.** There are no government assistance programs that will help pay a \$2,000 a month mortgage payment. Waiting month after month without making payments not only places you in incredible debt, it ruins your credit rating. You may have to place your house on the market to avoid foreclosure.

We are blessed in our area by incredible food pantries where quality nourishment is available for the asking. What you don't have to pay for food can go to other bills. Contact your local social services department for more information.

The important lesson to learn from all this is **not to wait until problems grow into emergencies.** Be as proactive as possible. Attend support groups. Educate yourself about job interview techniques and how to spruce up your resume. Find good answers to trick questions that recruiters might ask. Be sure to dress and groom appropriately for your interview.

If you don't get the job, try to learn how you might interview better next time.

Depending on your age, you may be eligible for early retirement or Social Security. It pays to look into these potential avenues. Even a small pension from an old job can help you weather bad times.

If you need advice, call the appropriate person at your town hall. In Essex, call 860 767-4340, Ext. 201.

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# Time for Courtesy

*"These are the times that try men's souls."* — Thomas Paine

On one hand, the last few decades have introduced incredible advancements in technology. New conveniences crop up every day. The abundance and variety of foods at the local market is something I never imagined as a child. On the surface, it appears that we are living in "the best of times," to quote Charles Dickens. But the best of times was only half of that famous quote. In certain respects we are living in "the worst of times" as well.

Wars, terrorism, unemployment, a fragile economy just rising from the brink of collapse, and a society so distracted by technology and constant entertainment it can scarcely uphold the things that are meaningful. The once-healthy tension of political ideologies now has many of us snapping at each other's throats. Inappropriate fears and anger are being encouraged by the media to the point that it threatens everything we believe in. As individuals, we feel little hope in changing things for the better.

You and I have little or no control over the wars and politics of the Middle East. We just inherit the debt and mourn the losses. The insanity of terrorism lies outside our influence as well. Many, if not most of us, continue to suffer in various

respects from current economic conditions. As for the media, we can always turn a skeptical ear away from the propaganda, or write letters of complaint, or change the channel, or shut the radio and television off.

But there is something positive that we can do also, something we have to do if we hope to protect the very best of our own human nature. We can stop allowing ourselves to be shaped by the events around us, including the proliferation of anger and fear. We can live up to the principles we really believe in. Our patriotism need not be limited to regional concerns but can include the overall ideals that America was founded upon.

We can start by displaying the healthy self-control and moral dignity of acting with courtesy toward others. Yelling, threats, and angry demonstrations are signs of regression, not patriotism or heroism. The inability to communicate with courtesy and reason is not something to be admired. It is not a sign of strength. It is a sign of weakness, a refuge for those who do not know how to cope or effect change properly.

Some adopt bullish behavior and use it to get what they want. What they fail to realize is that such victories come at a terrible cost. When social courtesies are ignored, the society becomes more coarse, more unreasonable, more contentious.

*Continued on page 29*



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• *Courtesy continued from page 28* •

Temporary personal gains produce long-term losses. Problems multiply and resolutions are thwarted. Instead of teaching our children proper behavior that will make them happy and capable, we slight their growth with all the wrong lessons.

As a civilized people, we actually start to devolve. Even freedom loses its main significance, which is the attainment of our full potential.

Our nation was founded on ideals based on reason and virtue. If we do not incorporate reason and virtue into our relationships with other people, including strangers, we are not living up to the expectations of our founders. That includes courtesy.

We do live in the best and worst of times. And yes, they try our souls. But we must not succumb to barbarity. We must not only defend our ideals, we must live up to them as well.

The Golden Rule tells us to *“do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”* That was written thousands of years ago. That it has morphed into *“do unto others before they do unto you”* is something that should shock us all into serious reflection.

It is time that we take our behavior seriously in everything we do.

— Dean Jacques



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## Essex Historical Society

**The Pratt House.** Opens June 4! The Pratt House opens June 4 for tours Friday - Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Pratt House was home to ten generations of the Pratt family for over 200 years. The oldest section of the house was built in 1701 and was expanded with two later additions to adapt to the family's changing needs. It has been a museum and showplace since 1952, when it was acquired by Historic New England, who subsequently deeded the property to the Essex Historical Society in 1985.

The house spans a period of Essex history from its agrarian stage to its maritime stage, dominated by the building of sailing ships, to its early industrial stage, dominated by the ivory industry. Our docents will discuss the area's history and guide visitors through the museum. The house includes a typical eighteenth-century kitchen with a large open hearth and home furnishings from two centuries. A barn on the site houses various exhibits, including an antique loom that is still in use by our weavers. Behind the barn is a recently restored two-seater outhouse complete with its original wallpaper. The property also includes a period kitchen herb garden adjacent to the house and a recently added community garden, reminiscent of the property's agricultural roots.

The society is preparing for the upcoming tour season and is recruiting individuals interested in becoming docents to augment our current staff of seasoned docents. We hope that an expanded corps of docent volunteers will allow the museum to be opened more days during the summer, as we are now only able to be open on weekends. In addition to learning about the 300-year-old house and the town's history, docents will learn about the significant furniture and artwork within the house from an antique expert.



*An EHS Town Crier Heralds the Annual Opening of the Pratt House.*

The Essex Historical Society is proud of its showplace and invites you to take a Pratt House tour and/or volunteer as a docent. Bette Taylor and Mary Ann Pleva, docent co-chairs, are coordinating docent activities and training. If you are

*Continued on page 31*

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• *Historical Society continued from page 30* •



The Pratt House

interested in more information on tours or volunteering, call 767-0681.

**Join EHS in 2011!**

Join the Essex Historical Society! Visit us online at [essex-history.org](http://essex-history.org) for more information and a membership form.

**Members:** keep your dues current by sending them to: EHS Treasurer, Essex Historical Society, P.O. Box 123, Essex, CT 06426.

**Gather in the Garden.** An English Garden Party & Tours. An elegant cocktail party at the garden of Howard and Peggy Tuttle. June 9, 5-7 p.m. Live Music, Fine Wines & Hors d'Oeuvres. Contact: Peggy Tuttle 860-767-7916, [peggytuttle@gmail.com](mailto:peggytuttle@gmail.com).

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**Brian has been named a  
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The award is only awarded to only 7% of real estate agents in any market area who have scored highest in client and industry peer based research. Each respondent was asked to evaluate only real estate agents whom they have worked with and evaluate them based upon nine criteria: customer service, integrity, market knowledge, communication, negotiation, closing preparation, finds the right home, marketing of home, and overall satisfaction.

Check out the full article in the March edition of *Connecticut Magazine*.

To everyone who took time out of their busy lives to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and expertise that Brian works hard to provide every day, Thank you. Your confidence and kind words are appreciated more than you know.

**Brian Jermaine**, ABR, ASR, CRS, #PRO, GRI, SRES, SRS  
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## Estuary Council

**Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.** has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for thirty-five years. Call us to receive our **Gazette Newsletter** or go to **www.ecsenior.org** for our online newsletter, calendar, menu, and more.

**Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council.** Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling **1-800-716-5868**. Vehicle does not have to run. *Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide in the nine-town Estuary Region.*

**HEALTH & WELLNESS EXPO;** May 7 from 9 a.m. – Noon. Save the Date. Get healthy at the Estuary Council, 220 Main

Street, Old Saybrook. Take a few moments on Saturday, May 7 and come to the Estuary. Health experts from a variety of fields and expertise will be here to talk about ways you can improve your health.

**GET CONNECTED!** The Estuary Council is now WiFi! Bring your laptop, iPad, or smartphone with you and get free WiFi connection. Enjoy a peaceful atmosphere overlooking North Cove while you connect. Don't forget – our Computer Club meets every Monday to discuss new technology, gadgets, websites, and trouble shoot. Everyone is welcome to join this free group each week.

**Save the Date!** Our annual Autumn on the Dock Wine Tasting and Auction will happen on Sunday, September 18 – so mark your calendars now.

**Volunteer Open House** – The Estuary Council is hosting our annual Volunteer Open House, where all ages are welcome to come in and speak to various local nonprofit organizations about their volunteer needs. Watch local newspapers or our website for an announcement of the date and time.

**INTERESTED IN WOODCARVING?** 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 9 a.m. Beginners to advanced levels welcome. This group of men and women met and did their first project. Call Ed Gorman at 860-388-5737 for more information.

**STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION.** For medical appointments, to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at 388-1611. Suggested donation of \$25. EMOTS is supported by the Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

**CAFÉ MEAL SITES** – Chester, Clinton, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, & Westbrook. Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 a.m., 24 hours in advance.

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# ESSEX NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

## Welcome to Essex!

On behalf of *Events Magazines*, welcome to Essex. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just new to Essex you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town. Essex has something for everyone. Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference. The Essex Library has a Welcome Bag for you. Stop by the library to pick up yours. It has information on local non-profits and will have coupons for local Board of Trade businesses. We at *Events Magazines* and Essex Printing support local businesses.

Please use this guide and "Buy Local" – we do!

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## “Where have all the Bats Gone?”

Last August 15th, some 150 people attended a forum “Where have all the Bats Gone?” held at the Chester Meeting House. Jenny Dickson, Supervising Wildlife Biologist of the Ct. DEP, briefed the audience on the status of a disease known as White Nose Syndrome (WNS) that has killed over 1 million bats in the US.

The condition, named for a previously unknown fungus, *Geomyces destructans*, first appeared on bats in upstate New York caves in 2006 and has now spread from the northeast to states south and west as far as Virginia and Tennessee and into Ontario, Canada. It is believed that the disease erodes, and invades the skin, particularly the wings, of hibernating bats. While scientists have discovered that the fungus responds to some antiseptics, there is no method at this time for curbing the disease and many questions remain unanswered. Furthermore, most bat species give birth to only one pup per year, which means that it is unlikely that affected populations can recover quickly from the devastating effects.

Jenny Dickson has been surveying caves in Connecticut and tracking the mortality rates of bats in the state since the inception of the disease. Connecticut has eight species of the eleven hundred known species of bats in the world, and the two most common here and in much of the northeast are the Little Brown Bat and the Big Brown Bat.

In Connecticut, WNS is affecting the Little Brown Bat and the Indiana Bat which is already on the Federal Endangered Species List. Some fear that the Little Brown Bat faces regional and possibly total extinction. Three of the other species in Connecticut are tree roosting bats which are not affected by the fungus. Why some are infected and others are not is unknown at this time.

The August meeting was sponsored and built by eleven organizations, primarily local Land Trusts from the towns of Deep River, Chester, East Haddam, Haddam, Essex, Lynde Point of Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, and Westbrook. The meeting had originally been planned by the Deep River Land Trust as a town event. However, members felt that it was vital to reach out beyond the town and join forces with other land trusts to educate as many people as possible in the Lower Ct. River Valley, an important area for bats during the summer months when they give birth and raise their young.

As a result of this coordination, posters, informational leaflets and brochures, and even a special “bat bookmark” designed by Maureen Heidtmann of East Hampton were widely distributed, plus the meeting received extensive press and coverage along with information about the WNS crisis. Notices were seen at town fairs, farmers markets, in store windows, town halls, libraries, schools, and garden centers among others. Organizers believe that the widespread publicity was significant in getting out educational information on bats and WNS to many in area way beyond the number that attended the meeting. This could not have occurred without the joint efforts of all the groups involved.

In addition to land trusts, sponsors included the Chester Conservation Commission, the Connecticut River Gateway Commission which broadcast the meeting on its web site, and the Connecticut River Estuary Region (CRERPA) which deserves special mention for laying the groundwork for collaborative efforts among the land trusts.

Since October 2009, Margot Burns of CRERPA has been holding bi-monthly meetings of “The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange” which gives the land trusts an opportunity to discuss common issues, learn about grants and programs of interest, and hear presentations that can aid them in their work. As a result of having this organization in place, CRERPA was able to reach out to the land trusts for sponsorship and organizational support in building the August meeting. The Agency was also able to get the word out at town halls and libraries as a result of CRERPA's work with the towns in the region.

The most important point, however is that these bi-monthly meetings of CRERPA have helped the land trusts see themselves as part of a particularly important region that has issues that must be addressed by all of us collectively from time to time. We are learning that sometimes we must reach beyond

*Continued on page 36*

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## **A Letter to our Loyal Readers from the Publisher**

*During the last 30 months our local area merchants have been overwhelmed by a deep recession. Many have closed, unable to weather the storm of financial uncertainty, while others are just hanging on, waiting for an improved economy.*

*We at Events Magazines are extremely aware of the problems facing local merchants and service providers. Closed storefronts and going out of business signs are now more the rule, rather than the exception.*

*It is becoming increasingly easier to order products from the internet, rather than traveling a few miles to our local store to purchase the same product. The excuse is almost always the same . . . "I can buy it for less and I pay no sales tax."*

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• *Bats continued from page 34* •

our town and the lands that we manage and join forces for a common good, a larger stewardship – helping to protect the wildlife and natural space that makes up this lower Connecticut River Valley area, known of course as one of the “Last Great Places.”

Thus the idea of working together to inform the general public about the plight of bats and the important role they play for humans might have seemed unusual just a few years ago, but now was seen as the right thing to do.

**What can we do next?**

Dickson pointed out that it was important to follow the bats during the summer period to find out if their numbers are decreasing in the areas where they are usually seen and also if the birth rate is being affected by the disease even if the adult bats are free of the disease. The DEP has a program to coordinate site surveys to provide them this information gathered by the public. This is clearly something that groups and individuals can do in our area which, with its marshes and woodland ponds, provides important areas for bats during the summer months.

At the meeting, a number of people signed up to volunteer. Coordinating the activity of these volunteers and working with the DEP can be an important project for individual land trusts this

*Continued on page 36*



William Pitt

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• *Bats continued from page 34* •

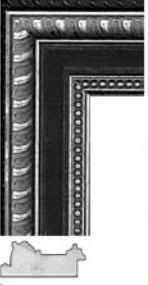
spring and summer. Dickson has also indicated she would report back to us after the winter surveys of caves are completed.

People have also been asking about setting up bat houses. If set up in the proper location, these can provide a permanent location for bats to raise their young, and it makes surveying the colonies easier.

It should be noted that enthusiasm and concern was so high that between individual land trusts and participants at the meeting \$600 dollars was donated. After expenses were taken out, \$450 was given to the DEP "Nonharvested Wildlife Fund."


Since last August, a central coordinating body, the White-Nose Syndrome Executive Committee has formed, co-chaired by the US Fish & Wildlife Service with other governmental organizations as well as representatives from Canada and Mexico. The committee will provide the cooperative leadership necessary for implementing a national plan, and providing grants for targeted research. It will bring together the various scientific and technical efforts that have been ongoing since the surfacing of the disease. Further information on this effort can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/>.

— *Suzanne Haig of the Deep River Land Trust for the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange*



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## A Follow Up

Hello Friends and neighbors. A few months ago I appealed to you on behalf of my colleague Kellie Kenney R.N. Kellie was an ICU nurse at Baystate Medical Center, a devoted wife to police officer Mark Kenney, and mother to 5-year-old Johnney who has special needs.


During surgery to remove polyps from her sinuses, her carotid artery was severed. Kellie never recovered and died shortly before Christmas. Thanks to your prayers and generosity Mark and Johnney are moving forward. They have decided that the best way to honor Kellie is by living life fully. They snow board, ski, and spend a lot of time



with friends and family. Johnney is doing very well in Kindergarten.

Thank-you again for your out pouring of support and generosity. I am extremely grateful to all of you for your help. At the request of Kellie's family, all further donations will be forwarded to The Sturge-Weber foundation. This is the disorder Johnney was born with. Contact Dianne Hunt-Mason, 67 North Main Street, Essex, CT 06426 or phone (860) 662-0650, or e-mail at dihm8@yahoo.com.

— *Dianne Hunt-Mason A.P.R.N./ Psychotherapist*





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[bril-yuhnt] adjective - shining brightly; distinguished; vivid; bright; splendid or magnificent.

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