

Essex



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Volume 17 • Quarter 2 • 2013



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## First Selectman's Corner

As I write this to you on the first day of spring, the cold weather continues with predictions of snow. By the time you read this article, we will hopefully be enjoying sunny days with gentle breezes and a landscape come alive with new growth.

By all accounts it was a challenging winter. Judging from our recent snow storms, Hurricane Sandy last October, and the damaging tropical storm of 2011, we need to be ready for future weather events that were previously rare. Thankfully, we've learned a lot and are better prepared for it. The Town of Essex has upgraded our Emergency Management Department's technology to better coordinate services. Emergency Management responders have added more direct experience to their resumes, and are well-supplied for the foreseeable future.

We owe all our emergency responders a debt of thanks, including well-earned appreciation to the Essex Highway Department and private contractors who worked hard to aid our recovery. When the power goes out, as it inevitably will again, please have patience as everyone is doing their best to repair our systems as quickly as possible. Also, please consider allowing trees on your property that threaten power lines to be cut or trimmed to avoid additional problems.

The municipal budget process heads toward completion with a Public Budget Hearing on Monday, April 22, 7:30 pm, at the

Town Hall auditorium. The Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, at 7:30 pm in the same location. I invite you to attend to see how your local government works and have your voice heard.

As you may have noticed, the Town has a new website. Please be aware that we are still developing its



First Selectman Norm Needleman

continued on page 6

### Stay Informed


Signing up for the Essex News e-mail list will provide you with information and updates on events from the First Selectman's Office. (Your address will be used solely for this purpose.) To add yourself to the list, email your contact information to [essexnews@essexct.gov](mailto:essexnews@essexct.gov) with the subject **Town Email List**.

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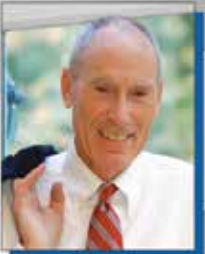
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**ESSEX** - Waterfront in the heart of Essex Village on Middle Cove. Spectacular views! Main House, Guest House, ingrd pool, fully permitted dock and a separate barn perfect for a studio or office. Offered at \$2,850,000. Additional house with sep. deed available for \$1,450,000



**LYME**

**LYME** - Magnificent country estate with unparalleled views of the CT River and beyond. Completely updated w/stunning new MBR suite, DR and commodious LR. Stone terraces, stunning pool, one of the valleys best! Offered at \$2,595,000



**OLD SAYBROOK**

**OLD SAYBROOK** - Fenwick year around waterfront with beach. Cottage with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. Views of Long Island Sound. Unique lifestyle with golf, tennis, swimming, and boating, deep water marina nearby. Offered at \$2.300,000



**ESSEX - NEW LISTING**

**ESSEX** - On a cape overlooking the North Cove and the Ct. River, this waterfront property features a ca.1870 home with double columns stretching the full length of the open porch, a widow's walk and original carriage house. Walk to the village of Essex. Offered at \$1,995,000



**ESSEX - NEW LISTING**

**ESSEX** - Waterfront building lots at Foxboro Point, breathtaking views of the Ct. River, Lyme Hills, and North Cove. Private location within walking distance to the village of Essex. Site plan assures open vistas for each. Perfect site for a classic home with modern conveniences. Price Upon Request



**HADLYME - NEW LISTING**

**HADLYME** - Waterfront on a peaceful peninsula Whalebone Cove in Hadlyme. Totally renovated to perfection with 4BRs, 3.1 baths, wide wood floors, custom doors, built-ins, detailed paneling. Two car garage with attached guest quarters. Offered at \$1,477,000



**LYME - NEW LISTING**

**LYME** - Sunny custom colonial style thoughtfully updated. 15 private acres of lawns, fields and stone walls. 24 x 30 country carpenter barn, an open 2 horses stalls. Spacious light filled rooms, custom kitchen, 3BR/bath suites. Offered at \$949,000



**NIANTIC - NEW LISTING**

**NIANTIC** - Majestic Victorian in Crescent Beach Assoc with water views shows pride of ownership. 2500 sqft. Original period include magnificent millwork & hardwood floors, leaded glass windows, 2 fireplaces. Updated kitchen & baths. A must see! Offered at \$449,000

**Colette Harron 860.304.2391**



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MLS: M9139102 \$1,895,000  
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



**MASTERFULLY RESTORED**

Essex: Fully renovated 3-4BR Colonial Cape ca.1782. Antique floors, wood fpl, top of the line appliances, deck, new Gunite pool. Beautiful gardens, Koi ponds on 1.5 acres close to town. Possible guest house.

MLS: M9137943 \$925,000  
Colette Harron 860.304.2391



**PERFECT CUL-DE-SAC HOME**

Essex: Stunning foyer, formal LR & DR, first floor office/bedroom, spacious first and second floor FR (first floor FR has fpl & built-ins) Lovely kitchen w/granite & stainless. Three car garage.

MLS: M9138038 \$599,000  
Leslie Sullivan 860.391.3337  
Kathy Schellens 860.395.4441



**IMMACULATE CLASSIC COLONIAL**

Essex: This Colonial offers 4BRs, 2.5 baths, gracious LR w/fpl & built-ins. Stunning formal DR w/bay window. Spacious FR w/fpl. Renovated kitchen. Library/office on first floor. Wonderful location, quick walk to town.

MLS: M9131544 \$585,000  
Kathy Schellens 860.395.4441



**'THE BEE HIVE'**

Essex: Charming gambrel, known as "The Bee Hive", has been newly renovated and tastefully decorated in soft serene hues. A short distance from the village on a quiet cul de sac in a much admired neighborhood.

MLS: M9139066 \$579,000  
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



**CHARMING CONVERTED BARN**

Essex: One floor living! 2 Story great room w/fpl leads to sun room overlooking private brick patio. Gourmet kitchen, finished lower level, second floor BR suite & loft study. Short walk to library, tennis and village.

MLS: M9138720 \$575,000  
Linda Hicks 860.391.1269



**GREAT LOCATION!**

Essex: Great location, views of CT River and North Cove. This 4 bedroom, 2.1 bath Colonial is within walking distance to the village. Detached former garage has guest/in-law/au pair apartment.

MLS: M9136102 \$489,000  
Joe Kelly 860.287.1222



**FABULOUS LOCATION**

Essex: Bordering on a nature preserve with walking trails, this Nantucket style cape offers a versatile floor plan and separate apartment for in law or guests. Well maintained and fabulous location. A must see!

MLS: M9133300 \$449,000  
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



**PRIVATE YARD & PATIO**

Essex: Delightful 3BR cape within walking distance to lake, park and walking trails. Spacious DR & LR, marble fpl & HW/parquet floors. Recent "Gedney" kitchen. Workshop too! Beautiful gardens & patio.

MLS: M9127886 \$339,900  
Donn Holland 860.227.4737

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# Town Clerk's Office

Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

- Amy J. Sroka**, 35 Main Street, Essex  
**Edward Barrientos**, 42 Ebony Lane, Ivoryton  
**Patrick K. & Beth A. Shea**, 10 Oakledge Drive, Ivoryton  
**Daniel McCurdy & Robert Anderson**, 44 River Road, Essex  
**Insuk E. Hainsworth**, 21 River Road Drive, Essex  
**Archie & Anne Leonardis**, 5 Gates Road, Essex  
**Christopher & Rene Gosman**, 2 Foxboro Road, Essex  
**Sandra S. Childress**, 41 North Main Street, Essex  
**Thomas & Carrie Grote**, 12 Westwoods Road, Ivoryton

## Loss of our Residents and Friends

<b>January</b>	<b>February continued</b>
Warren F. Howe	Margery C. Anderson
Beatrice W. Melino	William B. Bateman
Jeanette B. Bick	Geoffrey M. Kerrigan
Regina Godfrey	
Mildred Stevens	<b>March</b>
Lily S. Socci	James C. Constable
Arthur W. Lovell, Jr.	Mary F. Plowden-Wardlaw
	Helen L. Warren
<b>February</b>	Phyllis M. Winne
Elizabeth Jones	

# Tax Exempt Organizations Quadrennial Filing

A reminder to all scientific, educational, literary, historical, charitable, agricultural, horticultural, and private secular cemetery organizations, this year it will be necessary for you to file the quadrennial form with the Assessor's office of the Town of Essex. This form is necessary in order to maintain your tax exempt status.

The Assessor will mail you the application and information in June. Hopefully this will allow sufficient time to gather the necessary documentation that will be due by November 1, 2013.

All tax exempt entities should be prepared to return the completed application form, a copy of the IRS tax exempt certificate, and a copy of the By-Laws or charter (if applicable) of the organization.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at 860.767.4340 x123.

## ESSEX TOWN HALL

767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

THE ESSEX TOWN HALL is open 9 a.m. to 4 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

Norman Needleman, First Selectman x114 nneedleman@essexct.gov  
 Maria Lucarelli x112 mlucarelli@essexct.gov

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

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

### 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

Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health x143 lfasulo@essexct.gov

### LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

860-767-1926  
 Mike Birner, Supervisor  
 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

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

### REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Lois Ely x142 lely@essexct.gov  
 John Heiser x142 registrar@essexct.gov

### RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

860-767-1054  
**ESSEX POLICE**  
 Kerry Taylor, Resident State Trooper ktaylor@essexct.gov  
 Russell Gingras, Corporal rgingras@essexct.gov  
 Paul Kenefick jkenefick@essexct.gov  
 Scott O'Donnell sodonnell@essexct.gov  
 Todd Belcourt tbelcourt@essexct.gov

### SOCIAL SERVICES

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### TAX COLLECTOR

Megan Haskins, Tax Collector x120 mhaskins@essexct.gov  
 Lynne Skinner x121 lskinner@essexct.gov

### TOWN CLERK

Frances Nolin, Town Clerk x129 townclerk@essexct.gov  
 Dana Novorio x128 townclerk@essexct.gov

### TOWN HALL OPERATIONS

Mark Hiatt x136 maintenance@essexct.gov  
 John Schumacher

### TREASURER

Robert Dixon, Treasurer x127 rdixon@essexct.gov  
 Kelly Sterner, Director of Finance x122 ksterner@essexct.gov

### ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Joe Budrow, Enforcement Agent x115 jbudrow@essexct.gov  
 Kerry Berardinelli x119 kberardinelli@essexct.gov

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## Annual Closer to Free Bike Ride

The 3rd Annual Closer to Free Bike Ride for Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven will take place on Saturday, September 7th. Riders have the option of cycling 25, 62.5 or 100 miles. Our ride travels through multiple shoreline towns including Branford, Madison, Guilford, Essex, and Old Saybrook. We've been called the "best organized ride in Connecticut." And for good reason...our experienced staff and volunteers will take care of you from mile one until the finish line. Clear route cues and signage, lots of food and drink and efficient SAG when you need it will

help you leave the worrying behind so you can focus on the miles ahead. Plus our finish line festival at the Yale Bowl has fun for everyone, with live music, a beer garden, food trucks and so much more. Our volunteers and Road Crew are the backbone of the Ride. We've got fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities for anyone who wants to lend a hand. The Closer to Free Ride simply can't happen without the generous support of our family of sponsors. The Ride is the perfect platform to give your brand exposure while joining in the fight against cancer. We've got sponsorship packages to fit every budget and every goal, with lots of innovative ways to connect with our desirable demographic.

For more information on the riding, volunteering, or sponsorships please visit [www.ridecloserstofree.org](http://www.ridecloserstofree.org) or email [ridecloserstofree@ynhh.org](mailto:ridecloserstofree@ynhh.org). You can also reach us at (203) 200-CTFR (2837).

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

pages and functionality, there may be a few glitches as we learn the content management system. One feature of our new website is the "Report a Concern" module. This will enable a resident who wishes to report a non-emergency concern to the appropriate town staff quickly and easily. The website also features expanded information for doing business in Essex as well as visiting Essex. We welcome your feedback on our new website and hearing how it can better serve our residents. Thank you for your patience as we continue to fine tune our website as we make it a

great communication tool for town hall staff and residents.

To help you enjoy spring weather, consider attending the following seasonal events: the Garden Club's May Market (May 11, 12-2 pm), The Sailing Masters' Burning of the Fleet Celebration (May 11 at 2 pm) and Regency Ball (May 11, 8-11 pm), and the Memorial Day Parade (May 27, starting at 9 am). The Rotary Club will hold its Annual Shad Bake on June 1, 4:30-7 pm.

I wish you all the best

— *Norman Needleman, First Selectman*

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## Notice from State Fire Marshal

The Office of State Fire Marshal has received numerous requests pertaining to the relationship of Connecticut's fire safety regulations and the use of sky lanterns prompting this clarification.

Sky lanterns are airborne paper lanterns similar to a mini hot air balloon, also known as Kongming Lanterns (wish lanterns), which are also referred to as Chinese lanterns, sky candles or fire balloons. These lanterns have been used at a variety of venues such as weddings, ceremonies and celebrations. These lanterns are often released in large numbers to generate an impressive visual effect.

They are constructed from oiled rice paper on a bamboo or wire frame and fueled by an open flame. When lit, the flame heats the air inside the lantern causing the lantern to rise into the air. The sky lantern is only airborne for as long as the flame stays alight, after which the lantern floats back to the ground. These lanterns are known to achieve an altitude of 1,500 feet and travel a significant distance from the point of release which creates a serious fire and safety hazard because of the potential to start an unintended fire on or off the property from which they are released.

As found in Connecticut General Statute §29-356, the definition of "Fireworks" includes in part "the type of balloons which require fire underneath to propel the same". Based upon this definition, we have determined that sky lanterns are considered "fireworks" by the Connecticut General Statutes. As such, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §29-357, it is illegal for the general public to sell, possess or use such devices. Further, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-357 and the CONNECTICUT FIREWORKS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS CODE, the display of "Sky Lanterns" requires a permit and must be handled by a person holding a certificate of competency for special effects issued by the State Fire Marshal.

**ENFORCEMENT:** Use of sky lanterns is a violation of Connecticut General Statutes §29-357, Illegal possession of fireworks. State or local police may issue a misdemeanor summons.

Should you have any further questions regarding this issue, please contact Sgt. Mark Grasso via the DESPP message center (800-842-0200 or 860-685-8190).

*For town updates & information:*

**www.essexct.com**

# Events

MAGAZINES



## Essex Events

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Patricia Stenbeck

Cover photo by Jim Denham. Cross Lots magnificent Copper (European) Beech tree. It has a circumference of 15 feet at its base and is estimated to be at least 90 years old.

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## Arbor Day in Essex



One cannot help but think of Essex when the subject of trees comes up. All kinds of trees inhabit our town adding to the beauty and the character of our community. We find trees lining our sidewalks and streets, we find them in our visits to our parks and

preserves and, indeed, they contribute to the landscaping of our homes. Trees are all around us and impact our lives in so many ways. They contribute to the quality of air which we breathe and provide shelter and habitat to wildlife. While 150 years ago open fields bounded by stone walls characterized much of what we call Essex, today we have nearly the opposite: countless trees and vegetation all of which contributes to some of Essex' unique appeal.

Given the above, it is perhaps altogether logical that we celebrate Arbor Day in our community. Arbor Day itself is an annual event which first took place in 1872 when J. Sterling Morton promoted the idea of celebrating the role of trees in our lives. One hundred years later The Arbor Day Foundation was established as a nonprofit conservation and education organization with a mission to inspire people to plant, celebrate and nurture trees. The Foundation is one of the world's largest nonprofit conservation organizations dedicated to planting trees planting and distributing more than 10 million trees each year.

### Community Effort in 2012

This past year, a number of Essex organizations began an initiative of promoting the planting of trees. The idea was to combine forces across various organizations to demonstrate their commitment to the tree-scape of our town. The Essex Land Trust along with the Essex Garden Club, The Park and Recreation Department and members of the Essex Elementary School and Brownies collectively planted a variety of trees and bushes at various locations around town.

- At the Land Trust's Cross Lots preserve, Four Scarlet Oak trees (*Quercus coccinea*) went into the ground on the upper reaches, as part of a plan to maintain this downtown Essex parkland;
- Essex Brownie Troop 62029, planted American Pussy Willow bushes (*Salix discolor*). American Pussy Willows were chosen because they are native to the region, and suited to the damp soil in which they were planted;
- Members of the Essex Garden Club gathered at the south end of South Main Street to plant a Little-leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*) as a memorial for two club members who had passed away;
- The Park and Recreation Department put in a replacement tree next to the Ivoryton Playhouse, which saw its enormous evergreen toppled in the prior year. In this case, a *Stewartia ovata*, a white-blossomed tree also called the Summer Dogwood, was planted.



*Essex Garden Club plant Little Leaf Linden memorial tree at corner of South Main and Route 154 – Photo by Steve Knauth.*



*Cross Lots tree planting demonstration led by Essex Town Tree Warden Augie Pampel – Photo by Dick Levene.*

### Plans for 2013

Arbor Day will again be celebrated in 2013 with activities planned around the official Arbor Day in Connecticut, April 26. Essex will be joining many other communities across the state in planting trees; in 2012, 75,000 trees were planted across the state. Come celebrate Arbor Day in Essex by attending the events outline below.

- Once again the Essex Elementary School third grade will be responsible for the planting of a Star Magnolia to

*continued on page 10*



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ABR, SFR, SRS  
860.391.1701  
peg@mitchel.net



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**Essex** - Build your dream home in this fabulous location within minutes to Essex Village and the Connecticut River. Dramatic two acres site in area of comparable homes. Private natural setting. Possible build to suit. Call today for survey map and information packet. \$199,000 Call Peg (860-391-1701) or MJ (860-995-9665)



**Essex** - Custom home to be built by Sapia Builders. Beautifully designed shingle style home to be prominently set on a lightly treed, level lot close to the Village. Quiet street, located at the end of the cul-de sac. Still time to customize this home. Survey map, floors plans and specs available. \$635,000 Call Peg (860-391-1701) or MJ (860-995-9665)



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## Source to Sea Cleanup on Great Meadow

On a damp and overcast day this past September 29, a hearty group of volunteers headed out to the Essex Land Trust's Great Meadow as part of the 16th annual 'Source to Sea' Cleanup of the rivers, streams and banks that make up the vast Connecticut River system from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound. Since the river curves and narrows here, Great Meadow's mile-long shoreline catches and holds more than its share of debris.

A total of 50 volunteers, including members of the Essex Boy Scout Troop 12, were led out onto the meadow by property steward George Rambeau and chief Land Trust steward Tom Rutherford. Over a 3 hour period, the following list of debris weighing over 1000 lbs. and filling two truckloads was collected:

- 1239 recyclable items (bottles, cans, plastic, etc.)
- 17 automobile tires
- Numerous and assorted pieces of wood, metal, Styrofoam

The annual Source to Sea Cleanup is a one-day cleanup coordinated by the Connecticut River Watershed Council in all four states of the Connecticut River Watershed, home to more than 2.5 million people. For 60 years the Connecticut River Watershed Council has been advocating for the sustainable use of the Connecticut River watershed from source to sea.



The Source to Sea Cleanup is the Watershed Council's largest event and a feel-good volunteer opportunity for all. In the past 15 years more than 700 tons of trash were collected and kept from flowing downstream and into Long Island Sound.

A big thanks goes out to all who volunteered by giving up some of their free weekend time.

The year's Source to Sea event has been such a success that it will be repeated in 2013 where the date has already been set for September 28. Mark the date on your calendars!

— Jim Denham

### • Arbor Day continued from page 8 •

replace one damaged this past winter. In order to purchase the tree, third graders will be raising funds through class projects that will be matched by the Essex Land Trust. At the conclusion of the ceremony they will receive a free white pine tree seedling for them to take home and plant;

- The Essex Land Trust will continue its efforts to place new trees in Cross Lots as part of "succession planting," which eventually replace the current, older ones, while enhancing the beauty of the land and providing wildlife habitat, both in terms of food and viable territory. Essex Tree Warden Augie Pampel will explain the techniques involved in a successful planting, from how to prepare the tree and roots and how big the hole should be to final mulching and watering advice;
- The Park & Rec Department will be honoring former commissioner Jack Spangler with the planting of a tree in his memory;
- The Essex Garden Club will be funding the planting of a new town tree, a practice which has been in effect for many years

### Mark the following events on your calendar and celebrate Arbor Day in Essex:

- Star Magnolia Tree Planting by Third Grade. Friday, April 26, 12:45 pm, Essex Elementary School.
- Essex Land Trust: Tupelo Tree Planting. Saturday, April 27, 9 am, Cross Lots Preserve.
- Park & Rec Memorial Tree for Jack Spangler. Saturday, April 27, 9:30 am, Bushnell Street/ Teal Lane intersection.



Essex Elementary School Third Grade and Green Team plant dogwood in front of school last April – Photo by Dick Levene.

- Essex Garden Club: Valley Forge Elm. Saturday, April 27, 10:30 am, 41 Main Street.

### A New Essex Tradition?

The organizations involved in celebrating Arbor Day are hoping to make this an annual event much the same as many communities do throughout the US and abroad. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful and unspoiled town. We can all do our part in perpetuating the very special character of our town by caring for our environment while making a concerted effort to plant and care for our trees. Let's celebrate Arbor Day in our homes and throughout our community.

— Jim Denham

# Arbor Day Foundation Timeline

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1872 The first Arbor Day is held in Nebraska City, Neb., through the efforts of J. Sterling Morton. More than one million trees were planted in Nebraska during the first Arbor Day.</p> <p>1972 The Arbor Day Foundation is formed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day and to carry on the mission of the tree-planters' holiday.</p> <p>1976 Tree City USA begins with 42 communities in 15 states honored. Today, more than 3,300 cities and towns are honored as a Tree City USA community.</p> <p>1977 The Arbor Day Foundation offers a membership opportunity for the first time. Today, the Foundation has nearly one million members from around the world.</p> <p>1989 The "Trees for America" program kicks off with a visible public service campaign featuring John Denver.</p> <p>1990 The Arbor Day Foundation begins working with the U.S. Forest Service to plant trees in America's national forests that are in need of reforestation. Since 1990, the Foundation, through the generous donations of its members and corporate partners, has helped the Forest Service plant nearly 13 million trees in our national forests.</p> <p>1992 Rain Forest Rescue program is formed to save valuable land in South and Central America. So far, more than 48,000 acres of rain forest land has been preserved.</p> <p>1993 Lied Lodge &amp; Conference Center opens in Nebraska City. The lodge is owned and operated by the Arbor Day Foundation.</p> | <p>2001 The Arbor Day Foundation encourages people to vote for America's National Tree. The winner was the oak tree.</p> <p>2005 The first Nature Explore Classroom is constructed at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City.</p> <p>2006 Enterprise Rent-A-Car celebrates its 50th anniversary by teaming up with the Arbor Day Foundation to plant 1 million trees in the U.S., Canada and Europe for the next 50 years. Enterprise's 50-million tree pledge is the largest ever made to the Foundation.</p> <p>2008 "Exploring Trees Inside and Out" traveling exhibit opens at the Pacific Science Center. The traveling exhibit is part of the Nature Explore program, a collaborative project of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and sponsored by Doubletree Hotels.</p> <p>2008 Tree Campus USA launches as 29 colleges and universities are recognized for following best tree care practices on campus.</p> <p>2010 The Arbor Day Foundation passed a milestone of planting 20 million trees in 20 years in our National Forests through an enduring partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. The Foundation's first National Forest tree-planting project was in 1990 in the wake of the Great Yellowstone Fire.</p> <p>2010 The Arbor Day Foundation surpassed more than one million members, each sharing our mission, caring for our earth, and engaging in good work of deep and lasting value.</p> |
|---|---|

## Ivoryton Library

**Local Voices.** The Ivoryton Library announces the first annual "Local Voices," an afternoon of prose, poetry, musings and more. This event will feature four members of our community who will read works of their own or of others. Also featured will be local children with brief recitations. The program will be followed by a reception. Sunday, April 28 at 4:00 pm at the Centerbrook Meeting House. Suggested donation of \$10.

**Annual Mother's Day Sale.** Saturday, May 11 from 9-12 at the library. Used books, plant sale, bake sale and a big tag sale in the backyard. Clean out the home and garden, bring your donations to the library anytime, then come on back the day before Mother's Day to fill up again! A great time to stock up on summer reading for all ages, a treat (or two) for Mom and treasures for yourself!

**More Bricks!** The library will be holding another brick campaign to enlarge the size of the patio in front of the building. Buy an inscribed brick for \$50. Drop by the library to see where it will be placed and pick up the form. Or download from our website. Paid brick orders must be in by June 21.

**For More Information.** Please contact the library for more information on any of the above and about any way we can better serve you:

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# Essex Garden Club's May Market



Essex Garden Club's May Market.

May Market is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th from 9 to 2 pm, rain or shine, in the Essex Town Park. As always the special feature of the Market will be Members' Plants, including prized perennials, ground cover, grasses and shrubs dug and potted from the Essex Garden Club's members own gardens. Tomato plants including many heirloom varieties guaranteed to grow in our climate will be of special interest to vegetable lovers. Also a favorite will be the Annual Plants Booth beautiful and blooming flowers for your garden. Hanging baskets, garden ready herb plants and a selection of native plants and shrubs will also be for sale. May Market will showcase Essex Garden Club's famous Garlic Salt, made from a closely guarded recipe since 1953.

Gently used home and garden items and jewelry will be available at our Treasures Booth in the Gazebo. The popular Silent Auction, featuring goods and services donated by local merchants and club members will be open for bidding throughout the morning and early afternoon.

The May Market Café will provide assorted refreshments, donuts and coffee starting bright and early in the morning and a light lunch fare at midday.

May Market is the Garden Club's only annual fundraising event. The proceeds are used to support the Club's educational and civic improvement projects. With these funds the Club is able to beautify the landscapes of our town parks and traffic islands in the villages of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. Plantings are also purchased for the Essex Town Hall, Town Park and for the public schools serving Essex students. Finally, May Market funds provide scholarships for high school seniors and college students, summer camperships for young students and educational programs for students at Essex Elementary School and JW Winthrop Middle School.

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## New Addition to Fire Department

Essex Fire Engine Company #1 has acquired a new piece of apparatus in its fleet. The department took delivery of a 2013 Polaris Ranger 6x6 this past November and has been outfitting the unit over the winter. The unit has been outfitted to perform both off-road rescue and brush fire attack operations.

The tank unit that is going to be used for brush fires allows us to transport 100 gallons of water into areas of the woods that would normally not be accessible by our other brush units. This Ranger is capable of maneuvering into very tight areas.

If the Ranger needs to be used for an off-road rescue the empty tank unit can easily be removed by two people. Once the tank is removed it leaves the bed of the unit open to carry in equipment that will be needed to affect the rescue. This also allows us to transport out two victims at once if needed.

The unit was outfitted with money raised at the Essex Fire Department Golf Tournament which was held this past October at Essex Meadows. The graphics and lettering on the unit were designed and completed by firefighter Jim Danks of the Essex Fire Department. The Emergency lighting was donated and installed by Whelen Engineering of Chester Connecticut and the Radio was installed by ADEC Communications of Essex.

Six members of the department attended an 8 hour training course at Tom Ashmore Enterprises in Woodbury, Connecticut. The course consisted of several topics including properly outfitting the unit, learning the unit's limitations, patient removal



and operating the unit on all different types of terrain. This project could not have been done without the committee which consisted of Deputy Chief Doug Harreys, Assistant Chief Paul Fazzino Jr., Lt. Robert Dahlstrom, First Responder Coordinator Jim Connelly and Deputy Engineer Pete Lempicki.

Essex Fire Engine Company #1 is looking forward to serving the community with this new piece of apparatus for many years to come.

— Steven Olsen, Chief of the Department,  
Essex Fire Engine Co.#1

## ASK Marian



Marian Bairstow  
Marketing Director, Chester Village West

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**Let's Hear It for the Boys!**


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County. The Foundation will manage all the money accepted into the fund from sponsors, donors, other contributors and sources.

From the total proceeds, \$10,000 or more will establish a permanently endowed Let's Hear It for the Boys "Field of Interest fund." This fund will grow in perpetuity and all future distributions from the fund will be used to support programs and projects that will enhance positive educational, work and life experiences for at-risk boys and young men. All remaining proceeds will be distributed to qualified organizations, serving at-risk boys and young men, throughout Middlesex County this year.

The Let's Hear It for the Boys event will be an inspiring evening of good food, entertainment, live auction, door prizes and fun. The event will be held on Saturday, May 4th at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester, CT. Please visit the event's new website at [www.letshearitfortheboys.org](http://www.letshearitfortheboys.org) to learn more, and help support this great cause.



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Through many years of experience working with seniors and their families, we at Chester Village West have discovered that there is a need to assist adult children with the approach and eventual conversations they will have with their parents and loved ones.

These adult children are usually between the ages of 45 and 60. They are managing work, educating their children, and worrying about their aging parents at the same time. They have many options, but little time to do the research on their own. They need answers in a factual and timely manner.

Through our new "Conversation Starters Program," we offer free consultation services for your family, employees, clients and/or peers. We will provide a balanced approach, whether the family decides to re-locate their parents to a senior living community, or access in-home care. We will help them assess their current situation and streamline the process to give them enough knowledge to make their own decisions. We understand that "knowledge is power."

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1. Contact Marian Bairstow at 860-526-6800, bairstow@lcsnet.com
2. Visit our Conversation Starters Landing page, www.AConversationStarter.com/CT

## Oregon Wines

Spring into warmer weather with light, bright and savory wines from Oregon. Oregon produces several different styles of light and refreshing whites. Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Riesling and Pinot Gris are the most widely grown varieties. One of the most sought after, Pinot Gris, is the same as the Italian Pinot Grigio grape, however from Oregon it tends to have more body with the same great acidity. The Rieslings are fruity with a slightly sweet edge to them. Due to the cooler climate, most of them tend to have a bit more acidity in the finish which makes them pair nicely with spicy dishes.

The top producing red varietal from Oregon is by far Pinot Noir, followed by Gamay Noir. The cool climate is the ideal condition to grow Pinot Noir, much like its birthplace in Burgundy, France. This varietal brought notoriety to Oregon in the mid-seventies from wine lovers all over the world, though they have been producing other varieties since the mid-late 19th century. Pinot Noir has complex flavors while showing a light body and occasionally an earthy finish. The flavors most often noted are cherry/black cherry and blackberry. Due to its complexity Pinot Noir can be enjoyed with a wide variety of food choices spanning from light appetizers to heavier fare and meat dishes.

Prepare your palate for the warmer days ahead by venturing out and trying a few of these savory, mouth-watering wines from the west coast. They will be sure to please both you and your guests!

— Art LiPuma, Manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits



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## Building Community through Music for 30 Years

From the top floor of Essex Town Hall in 1983, to the basement space of a dental office in 1987, to its current location at Spencer's Corner in Centerbrook, the Community Music School (CMS) has been in a constant state of forward and fluid motion. The school has grown from five instructors teaching 40 students to 30 instructors teaching over 500 students of all ages through private and group lessons, instrumental and voice ensembles, orchestras, music therapy, special events, and summer programs, all covering a broad spectrum of musical interests.

"Our mission is one of enrichment with a focus on public performances and community outreach," stated Executive Director Robin Andreoli, who joined the private, non-profit organization in 2010. "We are fortunate to be situated in an area where both are valued, appreciated and supported."

In fact, in 2012 alone, CMS faculty and students presented dozens of free public performances and participated in eight community events, a feat that clearly sets the school apart from most music instruction alternatives and reflects the core principle of its programming philosophy. "There are many fine music schools offering private lessons," added Ms. Andreoli, "but you don't have access to the depth and breadth of genres and performance opportunities that we have here."

Essex resident Patricia "Paddy" Hurley, who founded CMS when she was the Music Director at John Winthrop Middle School because she saw a void in quality music education for her students and her own children, likens the school's operating model to that of a conservatory where music education is deepened through solo and group performance opportunities,



Former CMS student and now visiting instructor Jason Domnarski teaching last summer's "Rock n' Roll Song Writing & Recording" program at Community Music School. Photo courtesy of CMS.

master classes and workshops. "Starting with the Kindermusik program for ages six-months to six years and right up through to our New Horizons Band for entry-level senior musicians, our students build on their individual musical skill and appreciation by performing with others, explained Ms. Hurley, "As the director of the New Horizon's Band with an average member age of 71, I can tell you that there are no age boundaries when it comes to being engaged and passionate about music performance. Our senior members are probably the most enthusiastic and dedicated that I have ever had."

Music Director Tom Briggs embodies the faculty commitment to helping students grow musically by developing a broad spectrum of performing ensembles and specialized programs covering everything from Classical to Rock to Broadway. As an accomplished musician and composer in his own right, having served as principal percussionist, arranger/composer and musical director of the Coast Guard Masters of Swing jazz septet during 30 years of service, Briggs formed the school's very first performing group, the CMS Jazz Ensemble, in 1996. Today, there are 12 jazz ensemble members ranging

*continued on page 19*

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## *Run for Chris – Run for Education*

In memory of Christopher Belfoure, the 2nd Annual RUN FOR CHRIS 5K will be held on Saturday, June 22, in Essex, CT. Chris was a 2005 graduate of VRHS and received his Bachelor's in History and Chinese from WVU. Chris appreciated educational opportunities that introduced him to new places, such as China. He believed everyone should have the same opportunity. The Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund has been established at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC). It will serve as a catalyst toward integrating multicultural experiences, learning foreign languages, and integrating environmental programs into the schools and libraries of the Lower Valley of the Middlesex County. This year a grant was given to VRHS for their trip abroad to France and Costa Rica. Register online: [www.aratrace.com](http://www.aratrace.com). For more information: "Like" Run for Chris at [facebook.com/runforchris](http://facebook.com/runforchris). Any questions contact Robin Chapin, [robinc83@gmail.com](mailto:robinc83@gmail.com); OR Cathy Bishop, [cbishop56@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cbishop56@sbcglobal.net); 860-767-0354.

• *Building Community continued from page 18* •

from age 12 to 16 under Brigg's direction. Writing arrangements to accommodate each instrument of the ensemble is just one of his many duties. He is also involved with launching new programs like the school's Garage Band software class, the Theory and Performance program for advanced students and the soon-to-be launched Kate's Camp for Kids, a comprehensive, summer performing arts program in partnership with the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook. In addition, he is writing a CMS 30th Anniversary composition that will be performed at the faculty concert in November.

Jason Domnarski, a former student of Briggs and original jazz ensemble member who founded and now runs Park Slope Rock School in Brooklyn and Paris, applauds the Community Music School for its vision and collaborative style. Having grown up in Essex, studied music and performed in New York before starting PSRS and moving to Paris, and then returning to the Community Music School last summer to teach a songwriting class, Mr. Domnarski commented via Skype. "It was great fun to be back and part of the Community Music School family again. The use of performance as an educational tool and opportunity for personal growth is instrumental. Recognizing that the approach to learning is different for every student and having the instructional flexibility to accommodate each individual is invaluable."

His mentor summed up the school's role in the community best. "There is a real community spirit that runs through the school. Our board members, staff, teachers, students and partners all share a joy of music and a willingness to try new endeavors, commented Briggs. "We are always looking forward, looking for new ways to strengthen our life skills and experiences through music. I can't think of a better place to be for the next 30 years."



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## Essex Land Trust Events

**Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting.** Monday, April 22, 5:30 pm at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road. All are welcome to attend ELT's annual meeting. There is a charge for the buffet (5:30-6:30), but the business meeting that follows is free. Members automatically receive invitations. Non-members who wish to attend please contact Peggy Tuttle (860-767-7916, peggytuttle@gmail.com). Former ELT president, Chet Arnold, will speak about Low Impact Development. Please carpool if possible.

**Second Annual Arbor Day Celebration.** Saturday, April 27, 9 am – 12 pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Avenue. Join us in planting new trees and shrubs at Cross Lots and other open spaces in town. Learn from demonstrations and family-friendly activities. All ages and abilities are welcome. An Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit event. Refreshments served. Park on West Ave. or at Town Hall. Rain or shine.

**Essex Meadows Trail Walk.** Wednesday, May 15, 2 pm at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road. ELT president Jim Denham will lead an easy one-hour stroll through Essex Meadows' beautiful gardens and wildflower meadows. Enjoy refreshments after the walk. Signs will direct to parking at the facility. Carpool if possible. Bad weather cancels.

**Family Canoe/Kayak on Mill Pond.** Saturday, May 25, 2 pm at Falls River Park, Ivoryton. Spend part of Memorial Day weekend paddling with naturalist Phil Miller. Jean's Island will be a possible stop. Open to paddlers of all ages, but basic experience is required. An Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit event. Park at the canoe/kayak launch on Falls River Dr. Bad weather cancels.

**Family Walk, Picnic and Concert.** Sunday, June 2, 4 - 6 pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Avenue. Join Cross Lots property stewards Al Macgregor and Fred Szufnarowski as they lead groups through the 16-acre preserve in the heart of Essex. Bring a picnic, blanket and chairs and find a spot on the hill. At 5 pm you'll enjoy the Essex Corinthian Jazz Band. The Land Trust will also unveil an updated plaque of major donors. This event is part of CT Trails Day and the Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit. Park on West Ave. or at Town Hall. Bad weather cancels.

**Snakes of Connecticut.** Wednesday, June 26, 5:30 pm at Pettipaug Yacht Club. Kim Hargrave of Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic will present a program on local snakes, their habitats, diet and roles in the shoreline ecosystem. She will have LIVE specimens to see and touch. The event is part of the Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit and is co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon Society. BYO picnic

*continued on page 21*

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Essex Citizens for Clean Energy (ECCE) 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.

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• *Essex Land Trust continued from page 20* •

to enjoy after the talk. PYC is located on the dirt road between #143 and #145 River Road in Essex. Come rain or shine.

**Geocaching 101.** Sunday, July 14, 10 am - 1 pm at Cross Lots, 40 West Avenue. Go treasure hunting with Jim Lockhart and Kathy Katz. Participants navigate to a set of GPS coordinates and try to find the hidden container at that location (at Cross Lots and other spots close to town). Anyone new to geocaching can attend an orientation/demo presented hourly at 10 am, 11 am and 12 noon. Refreshments served. Park at Cross Lots or Town Hall. Come rain or shine.

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## *My Road to Building a Library in Deschapelles*

Haiti has often been described as an impoverished third world country whose people can never get a break and are perhaps “cursed.” Labels like “corrupt, uneducated, untrained and even dangerous” abound. The exotic allure of voodooism adds to the picture of a country mired in something almost pagan. Haitians are perceived as victims who have no control of their destiny and must rely on outsiders to help them solve their problems. I knew nothing of Haiti except what I read in the works of the Haitian writer Edwidge Danticatt and learned in the news of the country under the regimes of Papa Doc and his son Baby Doc as well as the “hapless” Aristide. It was not a country that I particularly wanted to visit. After the earthquake, my perceptions did not improve, but in fact worsened, as I looked at photographs of the devastation and its aftermath, particularly the endless blue tarped tent cities one of which was spear-headed by the Hollywood actor Sean Penn. Haunting images of people suffering from loss and despair were everywhere as were stories of hardship and crime. I was astounded by the amount of aid that seemed to pour in and the number of people who went to help. Now some would argue that the photographs exaggerated the reality, and that aid often complicated the situation by taking valuable resources such as housing and food away from the Haitians. Recently, in fact, the current President of Haiti requested that Haiti needed a break from all the good intentions. And that Haitians were pretty good at taking care of themselves. Still, there were and are many problems. Why then in January of this year was I on my sixth visit to Haiti in less than 2½ years?

It all started in the spring of 2010. I was vaguely cognizant that St. John’s Church in Essex had an active relationship with Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and that a woman named Jenifer Grant was active in encouraging interest in rural Deschapelles where the hospital is located but I knew little more. My neighbor and friend Kathleen Maher asked me to go on a walk so that we might discuss a potential project in which I might be interested. She was part of a newly formed group called Sister Cities Essex Haiti which had been organized in response to the earthquake by a group of concerned citizens including the town’s selectmen. Kathleen knew that I had been very involved in the renovation of the Essex Library serving at one point as the Association President and have a life-long commitment to books and libraries. I believe strongly that libraries play an integral role in the health and well-being of a community and provide a place for life-long learning. She also knew that my life had recently included a few bumps in the road and I was looking to divert my energy into something new.

Her proposal was simple. Join the group to help with their first project – the conversion of a cattle barn into a library in rural Deschapelles, Haiti. The building was structurally sound and only needed a new roof. I would help with the renovation and what I thought was needed based on my experience. We would be working with a group in Deschapelles ODES (Organization pour Development Economique et Social) whose Haitian members had gathered together to work on ways to improve the lives of those who live in and around



*Installing the perimeter wall.*



*Working on the foundation for guard house wall.*

the community. The library was something they thought would really help the community. The reality of the project quickly became complicated but by that time I was committed.

My first trip to Deschapelles was less than six months after the earthquake. Arriving at the airport, I was more than a little anxious heightened by concerns from my family and even the cautionary advice provided by my fellow travelers. I knew Port au Prince would still be suffering the aftershocks of the earthquake but I had no idea that I would be greeted by what I can only describe as overwhelming chaos. At the airport, luggage was piled randomly and people seemed to come from everywhere to “help.” I was grateful that I was with others who knew what they were doing. In the van transporting us, I viewed buildings with no outside walls and floors tipping precariously, streets overcrowded with cars and debris and above all people everywhere. To see the Presidential Palace essentially flattened heightened the sense of unreality. At dinner that night, it was like a molten mass of people had emerged onto the streets, the

*continued on page 23*



• *Building a Library continued from page 22* •

only light coming from outdoor cook tops. The next day on our journey out to Deschapelles, the van seemed to narrowly miss pedestrians who hawked their wares and walked with all sorts of merchandise in metal baskets on their heads. I soon became attuned to the constant blare of horns warning an on-coming truck or a person to move out of the way.

We arrived in Deschapelles in about three hours. Kay Mellon, (Kay is a Kreyol word for house) where I was privileged to stay on my first visit, is the former home of Jenifer's mother and step father, Gwen and Larry Mellon, who had founded the hospital in 1956, I had imagined an exotic Caribbean mansion overlooking the sea but in reality the house was an understated but elegant home and was surrounded by mountains rather than the sea. I soon learned that I was the exotic "blanc" in a country where many people especially children were unaccustomed to seeing a white person. It was startling the first time a child started to cry at the sight of me. But I also soon learned that a "Kouman ou ye?" or "how are you" was greeted by a beautiful smile and that a few words of Kreyol changed everything. I also learned that in Jenifer's 50 years of visiting Haiti she had made many friends who recognized her real love for them and their country. Kathleen, who had already visited Deschapelles many times as part of a micro financing project in which she Jenifer were involved, was also greeted warmly and embraced with true affection. Still, everything took time for me to absorb. There was no central town but numerous stalls lining the main corridor or road to the hospital. The roads were dirt and most definitely not smooth. Cement blockhouses were built behind the main road and the streets leading off it. Some houses were in progress as people earned the money to pay for construction, others were behind high walls and difficult to see, and some were what only can be described as simple shacks. Deschapelles is not a town created by city planners but the evolving needs of its residents. Garbage was a problem at least to me and I was amazed at how indifferently people seemed to regard tossing refuse into the streets. I learned also that my "diet cokes" were not readily available and the food while delicious was not something I always recognized. But as the days went by, I felt increasingly enthralled by the people and a world so different than my world back in the States. Unfortunately, while I also saw that the cattle barn was not quite as bad as I had expected; we learned a few months later that it was not going to work. Thus began the real work on the library project.

The need for a library in Deschapelles is immediately apparent. Deschapelles is a town of about 14,000 people. It is located in the heart of the Artibonite River Valley bordered by mountains to the north and south. From the perspective of an outsider, the majority of the people in Deschapelles live marginal lives relying primarily on subsistence farming. A few are employed by the hospital. Some have successful businesses and are the leaders of the community who are fully aware of where improvements are needed.

Only about 40% of the children in Deschapelles attend school and the schools that they attend are often ill equipped to provide students with a meaningful education. A classroom may have only one book. Lessons are in French based on the



*Guardhouse, pump house, depot.*



*Staking and digging the library foundation wall.*

traditional French rote system of learning and do not take into account that Kreyol is the language spoken by most Haitians. Furthermore, there is no library in or near Deschapelles and no location where children are able to study in a quiet, protected environment. Because few homes in Deschapelles have electricity, students congregate under streetlights around the Hospital to study at night, sitting or standing on the ground, vulnerable to malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Haitians value education and are eager to increase their knowledge. Access to books and the ability to study can provide a path to a better life and a way out of poverty.

A library would provide a place where residents would be able to borrow books in French and Kreyol as well as English both for educational purposes and for pleasure. It would provide a place for students to study in a well-lit screened-in space. There would be a children's section where children could sit with a family member and have stories read to them. Computers would be available to both adults and children for education and research. The building would provide a much-needed place for workshops on educational, environmental, cultural and technical topics. It would have demonstration gardens, a well with access provided to the community and

*continued on page 24*

• *Building a Library continued from page 23* •



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On every subsequent trip to Haiti I would arrive eager with anticipation, but aware that progress needed to be defined with different measurements than those an American might expect. The construction of a library might be deeply desired by the community but in a country where the majority of people simply struggled to survive, it was not always a priority. Furthermore, the Haitian culture and people are different than mine, and I had to learn to be respectful of our differences as well as our commonalities. I felt privileged to be working with people who understand that working with our Haitian friends and neighbors on what they wanted and how they wanted to do it, albeit with our input and support, was a far better path to success than working high in the treetops with some grandiose plan formulated by outsiders.

Finding a new location for the library took many months and more than a few disappointments as land for sale is not readily available and existing buildings were problematic. We were fortunate that a Haitian-American with a deep commitment to his birthplace was willing to lease a well-situated piece of land to us. We were also fortunate that Hope Proctor, a local Essex resident and architect, came forward with a commitment to design the building. Travelling to Haiti, working with ODES members particularly the ODES Library Committee and speaking frequently with Haitian architects and builders, as well as researching alternative building structures including container buildings, Hope designed a building to reflect Haitian architectural styles and incorporate traditional Haitian construction methods. The building has been engineered to withstand earthquakes and hurricanes. It is designed to maximize the use of locally available materials using concrete blocks and design elements, which include "fer forger," a form of traditional wrought iron. It is a simple but elegant, building, which meets the needs of the community and only minimally impacts the environment. It will incorporate solar power and other green technology. It is also being built by local residents and thus contributing to the financial well-being of the community.

We selected an experienced local Haitian builder, Luquece Belizaire, with whom we have a long-term relationship to build the library. We also hired John Chew, an American, who had helped manage the construction of the Partners in Health Hospital in Mirbalais and who has access to wholesale materials to oversee the project and act as our engineering link. And we had his wife Anny Frederique, a Haitian American who bridged the gap between our group in the United States and ODES. She coordinates our efforts in Haiti and understands the nuances necessary to get the project done. She is also working with grant organizations in Haiti along side ODES. Finally, we have Besly Belizaire, who makes sure that we receive all the information we need including financial reports and photographs of the library under construction.

As of today, the foundation for a security wall has been built, a well has been dug and a pump house and guard house are under construction. We have raised over \$75,000 for the project but are aware that at a cost of \$150,000, we need to raise additional funds. We are looking into grants and are in the process of seeking additional support. We are grateful to our local Tri-town International Rotary, which provided us with a grant for a 1000 books, and our local schools, which also raised funds for the project. Local resident Brenda Floyd and her son Logan have produced a wonderful film "Welcome to Deschappelles, Our Sister City" to introduce people to the community. We are working with Haitian organizations such as FOKAL (Fondasyon konesans ak Libète or Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty) whose library division is the equivalent of our American Library Association, to ensure that our staff is well trained and the library has a good set of administrative and organizational guidelines.

*continued on page 25*

• *Building a Library continued from page 23* •



Perspective looking Southeast  
**COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
 Deschapelles, Haiti  
 Proctor Design Group, LLC ©

Arriving in Port au Prince in January I was impressed about how much progress had been made in the city although much more needs to be done. And while I arrived in Haiti with my usual tempered hope, I was amazed at how everything came together and how much we have accomplished. In contrast to many of the recent articles criticizing foreigners efforts in Haiti especially those of large government entities and NGOs (non-government organizations), we are and will be successful. While waiting for construction of the library to begin, we developed a music program, a tennis program and an early teacher education program all of which show our commitment to the community. As a result of the commitment of the people in our organization and the collaboration between SCEH and ODES , we are well on our way to building what may be a model library.

We have work to do but the community will soon have a library. And in my journey down the road, I have met many wonderful, sophisticated and educated Haitians who desire nothing more than the best for their country and whose friendship and insight I truly value. I have travelled with an exceptional group of people who have become like family. And I have gained confidence that sometimes taking small steps down the road allows one to accomplish more than one could have imagined. I am grateful that I am part of the effort to make this world a better place.

For more information, please go to SisterCitiesEssexHaiti.org. The Town of Essex, the Essex Library and Sister Cities Essex Haiti are sponsoring a viewing of the film "Welcome to Deschapelles: Our Sister City" on May 10 at 7 pm at the Essex Library. We encourage you to come and learn about Haiti and what our town is doing in the community of Deschapelles. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to the Essex Library 860-767-1560.

— Elizabeth Terry P. Smith,  
 SCEH Library Chairman and Board Member

Terry may be contacted at 860-767-7119 or ETPSmith@hotmail.com

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# Estuary Council

**ESTUARY COUNCIL OF SENIORS, INC.** has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 38 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org) for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

**PAINTED CHAIR AUCTION: THE SECOND SEATING! APRIL 27th, 3-6:00 pm.** Join us for our "Second Seating" Chair Auction. This unique event will offer hand painted and decorated chairs as well as wooden collectibles. The Second Seating will feature fabulous hors oeuvres, wine and a large array of beautiful pieces to bid on. Proceeds will benefit the Meals on Wheels Program and other vital Estuary programs in our nine-town Estuary region. Tickets are \$25 and limited to the first 150 people. Tickets are available, beginning April 1st at the Estuary, 220 Main Street, Old Saybrook. Call Rhonda at 860-876-7340 with any questions.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** – hot meals delivered to your home. Call Diane at 860-388-1611. A \$3.00 donation request for those aged 60+. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

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**ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP:** Open 10 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday; 9 am - 1 pm on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available. Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

**THE MARSHVIEW GALLERY AT THE ESTUARY:** Open daily 8 am - 4 pm, and from 9 am - 1 pm Saturdays. The art on exhibit changes monthly and highlights the talents of local artists from along the shoreline. The artists donate a portion of their art sales to the Estuary Council of Seniors. An artist's reception is held the second Friday of each month from 5 - 7 p.m. Refreshments are served, and a door prize is drawn each month. All ages are welcome. Call 860-388-1611 for information.

**DONATE YOUR CAR OR BOAT TO THE ESTUARY COUNCIL** - Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide for seniors in the nine-town Estuary Region.

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## Middlesex Habitat for Humanity

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is gearing up for a build in downtown Middletown, enabling one more partner family to become a homeowner in Middlesex County.

**The property.** A vacant wood frame house was recently purchased by Middlesex Habitat for Humanity. After extensive evaluation, the house was determined to be beyond repair and the decision was made to demolish the existing structure and to build a new home. The new home will feature an accessible first floor and bedroom and will be energy star certified. Construction on the new Habitat home to be located at the intersection of Prospect Street and Liberty Street in Middletown, is expected to begin in the spring, 2013.

Habitat is very fortunate to have received a \$50,000 challenge grant from The Peach Pit Foundation, a Middlesex County Family Foundation committed to helping individuals and families with a step up. For information on how to partner with Middlesex Habitat to help fund the Liberty Street house project, please contact Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT., Inc. at 860-343-9179 or visit website at [www.habitat-middlesex.org](http://www.habitat-middlesex.org).

**Home ownership.** Families interested in applying for home ownership should attend an informational meeting on Monday, February 4th at the Habitat Office, 34 Shunpike Rd. Cromwell, CT. For additional information, please call Joyce Yarrow at the Habitat office (860-343-9179). Eligibility requirements can be found on the Middlesex Habitat website [www.habitatmiddlesex.org](http://www.habitatmiddlesex.org).

**Volunteers needed.** Construction is expected to begin in March of 2013. Team build requests are now being accepted for full build days. Companies and individuals interested in participating in the build project should contact Manny Cunard [mcunard@habitatmiddlesex.org](mailto:mcunard@habitatmiddlesex.org) (860-316-8827). Construction will take place every Saturday from 8:30 to 3:30 and on occasional weekdays.

**About Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT., Inc.** Founded in 1996, Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT, n Ic. is an independently operated affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit 501(c)3, Christian, ecumenical housing ministry. Our sole mission is to build or renovate simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with eligible families. Our objective is to eliminate substandard housing in Middlesex County, CT, one house at a time. We seek to make decent housing a matter of conscience and action.

**Deadline for the next issue of  
ESSEX EVENTS  
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## Essex Park & Recreation Department

*Mission Statement: Creating the Essex Community through People, Parks, and Programs!*

**Essex go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival.** A green-clad, cheerful crowd bundled up for March 16th Parade and lined the streets of Essex Village to celebrate the 3rd Annual Essex go Bragh Irish Parade and Festival.

Grand Marshal Cissy Brown led the parade in a carriage drawn by a team of horses from Allegra Farms. Marchers included Girl Scout Troops, the VRHS State Champion Boys Basketball Team, The Essex Elementary School Green Team, The Essex Community Fund, The Essex Lions Club, several local business and many other community groups. Music was provided by the Deep River Ancient Fife and Drum Corp. There also were tractors, antique vehicles, including a 1941 fire truck, the Essex ambulance and Irish Step Dancers.

Floats were presented by three area groups: The Ivoryton Playhouse, Essex Meadows, which was celebrating its 25th Anniversary and The Community Music School, all of which included a carriage full of people.

The Festival that followed included Horse & Carriage rides, Woodcarving by the Essex Woodcarver, Face Decorating & Irish Fiddling by the Community Music School, at Village Provisions the Mulkernin School of Irish Step Dancing performed and "The Gris" hosted the Corby's and a Guinness Pour. It was just wonderful to see everyone out there enjoying the parade and festivities. Save the date, in 2014 the Parade will be on Saturday March 15th.

**Fourth of July Parade.** The 8th annual Ivoryton Village Fourth of July Parade will take place on Thursday July 4th (rain date, July 5). Stepping off at 10 am, 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 @ 860-767-9755.

**Summer Concerts.** Spend your summer evenings with Essex Park and Recreation enjoying the sounds of great music. Country, jazz, classic rock, acoustic blues, and more, with your friends and neighbors make for a beautiful summer evening in our Park. Our venue changes each week letting everyone enjoy our town greens in Ivoryton and Essex. Please check our website for any weather related information. All Concerts are 6:30-8 pm.

Wednesday, July 3, Beatles Forever, Essex Main Street.

Tuesday, July 9, Shiny Lapel Trio, Ivoryton Green.

Wednesday, July 17, Blues on the Rocks, Essex Main Street.

Tuesday, July 23, Long Island Sound, Ivoryton Green.

Wednesday, July 31, Middletown Symphonic Band.

Tuesday, August 6, The Side Doors, Ivoryton Green.

**Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit.** The Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit is a cooperative effort between the Essex Land Trust and Park and Recreation Department. Our goal is to bring the families of Essex together through positive and healthy



*A 1941 fire truck at the recent Essex go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival.*

outdoor endeavors, while increasing the presence and awareness of our local parks, open spaces, and preserves. Visit our website for full program details.

Youth Fishing Clinic, April 12 & 13. Second Annual Arbor Day Celebration, April 27. Family Canoe/Kayak on Mill Pond, May 25. Family Walk, Picnic & Concert, June 2. Snakes of Connecticut, June 26. Beach Volleyball Tournament, August 26. Ivoryton 5k Run/Walk/Road and Trail Race and Pumpkin Run, October 19.

**Parks Happenings...**Our parks are open and ready for your use and enjoyment. We have completed a number of improvement projects in the past year that make our parks even safer and more appealing. We look forward to seeing you in our parks this summer!

**Essex Summer Camp...**Join us for tons of summer fun at our Exciting, Engaging Summer Camp! Sports & games, arts & crafts, field trips, fun weekly themes. For children grades K-7 (in Fall 2013), Monday- Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm (extended care available), June 26 through August 16 - choose any 1 or all 8 weeks. Essex Elementary School. \$115 per child per week (except weeks 1, 2).

**Spring & Summer Programs.** For full information please see our brochure available on our website.

Spring Youth Programs:

Cartwheels, Etc.

Come Clay with M

next session in Fall

April 30

*continued on page 29*

• *Park & Recreation continued from page 28* •

Garden Wizards	April 29
Passport to Maps	April 30
Karate Kids	April 29
Jedi Master Engineering with Legos	May 1
Group Guitar Workshop	April 29
Skyhawks Multi- Sports	May 9
Spring Tennis-Session 1	April 27
Spring Tennis-Session 2	April 27
Running Rams Track & Field	April 24
SNAG Golf	June 17
Summer Youth Programs	
Sports Squirts	August 12
Running Rams Track & Field Camp	June 24
Slamma Jamma Basketball Camp	July 8 & July 29
Summer Tennis Clinics	July 1
Baseball Camp	July 15
Beach Volleyball Camp	July 15
Shoreline Girls Lacrosse Camp	August 5
Gymnastics Camp	August 19

Adult Programs	
Adult Zumba Aerobics	April 22

Park and Recreation Commission  
 Welcome to our newest Commission member John Bauman. The Park and Recreation Commission welcome the opportunity to help you with issues involving the Department and our Community. The public is invited to attend our meetings, held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

**Department Staff**

Director: Rick Audet, CPRP  
 860-767-4340 x148 / raudet@essexct.gov  
 Program Manager: Mary Ellen Barnes  
 860-767-4340 x110 / mbarnes@essexct.gov

**Contact Us!** We welcome hearing from you. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements, program information, online registration and to view our brochure: go to the Town website [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov), click "Departments" click "Park and Recreation." Friend us on Facebook!

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries provides food and fellowship to those in need. Serving the towns of Essex, Chester, Clinton, Madison, Old Saybrook, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Killingworth, Westbrook and Deep River.

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## The EHS Archival Angels are Everywhere

A small group of inquiring history lovers gathers every Tuesday morning at Hills Academy in the Essex Historical Society's Don Malcarne, Archives Room. We call ourselves the Archival Angels. We have been meeting weekly for over 10 years recording the details of our large collection of historical objects in a museum computer program. Just about anything pertaining to the history of Essex and its residents is of interest to us. We can decipher antique documents which may pertain to a Hayden will or a Pratt land record. We sort photographs and postcards and accept donated items from people far and wide. We collect items which have been manufactured in Essex, drawings by Essex artists, items found in Essex attics and signs from former businesses. We have a large collection of news articles about people and events from long ago and present day.

The Archival Angels sharpen our sleuthing skills by answering a myriad of questions which come to us from many parts of

the world including Australia, England, and the US. Examples of some of these questions are: Do we know the marriage date of a certain Pratt in 1820? Why were there so many Swedes in Essex in 1900? Can you identify the people in this picture? Where was the trolley route? Tell me about the house I just purchased. Thanks to our years of collecting and access to the many forms of research done by local residents such as Donald Malcarne, we have a growing familiarity with our history and we are usually able to be of assistance.

If you have a particular interest, want to learn more about the Archival Angels or you want to arrange for a visit to Hills Academy, please call us on Tuesday mornings at 860-767-0681 or send an email to [ehs@essexhistory.net](mailto:ehs@essexhistory.net). And, if you are interested in learning more about EHS and becoming a member, please visit our website at [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org).

— Celia Francis, Curator for EHS.

## Essex Historical Society – Save the Dates

- April 25, 7:00 pm** History of Essex Yacht Clubs – Take 2. Essex Corinthian Yacht Club
- May 19, 4:00 pm** New Member Party. Pratt House, Essex, CT
- June 7 & 8** EHS invites you to join in A Celebration of Barns! The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation will present a two day national barn conference – and introduce a Connecticut Barn Trail – at The Bushnell Farm, Old Saybrook CT. Visit [www.connecticutbarns.org](http://www.connecticutbarns.org) for more information.
- June 23, 1:00 pm** School's Out Strawberry Social. Pratt House, Essex, CT

**Check out our website: [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org)**



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# Fondue Season is Still Upon Us



It really doesn't need to be winter with a huge snow storm to enjoy fondue, but that's usually the time when people think about it the most. A picture is conjured up of a warm fireplace, a bubbling pot of fondue, a great glass of wine or your favorite beer, and friends and family to enjoy it all. It's fun, fresh, and elegant to serve. Fondue is the party, at least in my home. When's the last time you had real Swiss fondue?

The name fondue actually comes from the French verb "fonder" which means to melt. Like so many great meals today it began as a simple, peasant food. It was a great way to use up day old bread, opened wine, and leftover, dry cheese. Once heated and mixed together, a great feast was created.

Although there are many variations of fondues available today, I still like the classic Swiss recipe which you can find on our website. It's tried and true and I've been using it for over 40 years. Many will disagree as to the best combinations of Swiss cheeses that should be used but most agree to start with a good, aged Gruyere. Emmenthaler, Appenzeller, Challerhocker, and Vacherin Fribourgeois are readily available and should be considered as additions to the mix. These are all very flavorful cheeses from Switzerland which are also great eating cheeses. If you can, try them before you buy and see which ones suit your palate.

The fact that most of the meal is prepared in advance allows you to actually enjoy your own party; you can sit and relax with your guests. The only reason to get up from the table would be to retrieve another bottle of wine. I hear many ask, "Oh, fondue is back?" My answer, "it never left."

— Paul Partica, *The Cheese Shop Of Centerbrook*

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

Again this year...thank you to all the respondents who took the time to answer the surveys and phone calls involved in the research. We really appreciate it and will continue to provide the best service to our clients old and new and to look for ways to improve and do more for each every one of them. Your confidence inspires us.

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## *A Brief Look at Alzheimer's Disease*

More than 5.4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of memory illness known as dementia. This means millions of spouses, adult children, friends and other family members are suffering alongside the Alzheimer's patient as they progress through the different stages of the disease. It also means no one travels through dementia alone, and family and friends are needed now more than ever.

Spouses or other relatives may be the first to notice warning signs of memory loss beyond what is considered normal, such as a change in someone's ability to concentrate or work with numbers, taking much longer to do things than before, confusion of time and place, or even complications having a conversation. (Visit the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) for more information on early signs and symptoms of memory loss that may help determine if there should be concern).

These signs may not necessarily mean someone has dementia. There can be medical reasons for them, such as depression, or the result of an infection, or even dehydration. If there ever is any doubt about changes in memory, all families are encouraged to seek a proper diagnosis from a qualified geriatrician or physician with specific geriatric experience.

If the diagnosis is indeed a memory illness, you can work together as a team to prepare a care plan that works for everyone. It is ideal for those suffering from memory-related illnesses to be in a safe environment that also offers stimulation and engagement throughout the day. Sometimes that can be done in a home setting if they don't wander, or at an adult day care center, or at an assisted living community with a memory care specialty.

Regardless of where a person with dementia lives, it is very beneficial for them to have interaction with those who know and love them. For family and /or friends who may be



*Oversized murals help engage patients with Alzheimer's disease.*

uncomfortable around people with Alzheimer's, it is important to realize that although these memory-impaired folks don't recall your name or relationship, they often sense that you are a significant person to them. By talking about people and places from their past, you not only act as their memory, you validate their sense of self.

Life with dementia is a challenging one, but does not have to mean the end of a relationship with your loved one. Families dealing with this illness are encouraged to seek out educational events as well as educational reading material, to join a support group, and to view your relatives as your care partners during this journey. You may be surprised by how many special moments you will continue to enjoy and treasure with your loved one.

— Kathy Ryan, Executive Director,  
*The Saybrook at Haddam*

## *Middlesex Hospital Now Offers 3T MRI*

The Radiology Department at Middlesex Hospital has a strong tradition of keeping current with the latest, most advanced technology. The 3-Tesla (3T) MRI is just the latest example of how the Hospital is staying ahead of the curve in the level of technology it provides to patients. This diagnostic marvel provides the most up-to-date technology currently available for MRI imaging. The strength of the MRI magnet itself (measured in "teslas" and 3 teslas being the most powerful magnet currently available on the market) allows the machine to provide sharp, detailed pictures of the entire body. It is especially useful for getting unparalleled image clarity, leading to definitive diagnoses, of the breasts, prostate, head and small joints such as the knees, ankles, shoulder, elbows, wrists, hands and feet.

This super-powerful, wide-open bore, high-field MRI also offers a new dimension in patient comfort. It combines a much



*The 3-Tesla (3T) MRI.*

*continued on page 33*

• *Middlesex Hospital continued from page 32* •

larger bore (circular opening) size and a much shorter “tunnel” (length). The new MRI looks just like a CT scanner, only a foot longer. The new wide-open bore design accommodates patients of all sizes, eliminating anxiety and claustrophobia. For many exams, both the feet and head remain outside the machine. The newer technology combines an open feel with the ability to capture high-field quality diagnostic images. In addition, the new MRI is quieter and may require less time to capture the necessary images.

When using the new, 3T MRI at Middlesex Hospital, patients can be sure that their doctors will get the highest quality medical imaging possible. They will also be comfortable, experience less noise and likely spend less time in the machine. In other words, patients can now make a smarter choice at Middlesex Hospital if they need to have an MRI!

## What is 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut’s free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

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## Roses for Autism

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**Our Roots:** Jim Lyman's dream was to improve the quality of life for his son Eli, through meaningful work and continued opportunities to grow as an individual. Jim's search brought him together with Pinchbeck's Rose Farm, Connecticut Autism Spectrum Resource Center, and then to Ability Beyond Disability. Collectively, they planted the seed that would bloom into Growing Possibilities.

**Did you know?** Adults on the Autism Spectrum hold many talents...yet today only 12% of adults with ASD are employed.

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# Ivoryton Playhouse

Most people come to the Ivoryton Playhouse for the classic comedies and dramas and musicals that they know and love. But since I came here 23 years ago, it has always been part of my mission to be able to include a new work in our season. Every season, I pore over new scripts, hoping to find something that our audience will embrace, but up till now I have been unwilling to take the risk. Until I read "I'm Connecticut", that is. As soon as I read Mike Reiss's quirky, hilarious script I knew this was the perfect new play to produce in Ivoryton.

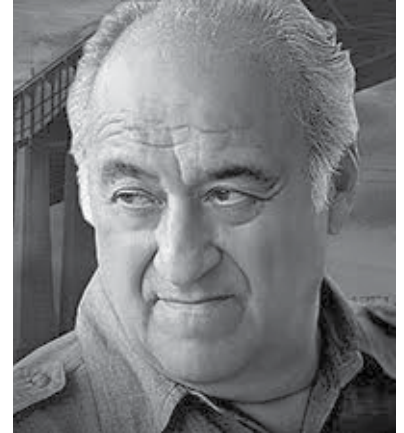
Our June production of *I'm Connecticut* will only be the second time this play has been produced. The first was at the Connecticut Repertory Theatre, part of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Connecticut, in 2011. *I'm Connecticut* became the biggest selling non-musical ever produced in CRT's Main Stage Series. It won a Special Recognition award from the Connecticut Critics Circle and was named one of the top 10 shows of 2011 by the Hartford Courant. *I'm Connecticut* is a wacky, fast-paced, sweet romantic comedy about Marc, a Connecticut native who struggles with relationships and feelings of inadequacy – why? Because he comes from Connecticut – the land of steady habits!

This play is perfect for us. It's a subject near and dear to our hearts – living, loving and laughing in the great state of Connecticut.

Working with Emmy Award winning writer Mike Reiss is very exciting. Mike and I both share the quirky sense of humor that *I'm Connecticut* has – one that gently pokes fun at the essence of human nature. *I'm Connecticut* allows the audience to smile as we easily recognize ourselves in the characters that Mike has created.



Mike Reiss, author of *I'm Connecticut*.



Connecticut native, Jerry Adler performs in *I'm Connecticut*.

*I'm Connecticut* is Mike's first play but certainly not his first experience writing. Born in Bristol, CT, he has been a writer and producer for *The Simpsons* from its beginning and is currently working on season 24. He received a Peabody Award in 2006 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Animation Writers Caucus. Other TV credits include *It's Garry Shandling's Show*, *ALF*, and *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*. He also co-wrote *The Simpsons Movie*, *The Lorax*, *Horton Hears A Who!* and *Ice Age, Dawn of the Dinosaurs*. He has published 17 children's books, including seven Christmas tales. It is a great privilege for the Ivoryton Playhouse to support this exciting, new and extremely funny playwright.

*continued on page 37*

## Essex - Community Listings

### CHURCHES

- First Baptist Church . . . . . (860) 767-8623
- ST. John's Episcopal Church. . . . . (860) 767-8095
- First Congregational Church . . . . . (860) 767-8097
- Our Lady of Sorrows Church . . . . . (860) 767-1284
- Ivoryton Congregational Church . . . . . (860) 767-1004
- All Saints Episcopal Church . . . . . (860) 767-1698
- Trinity Lutheran Church . . . . . (860) 767-0228

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Essex Cub Scouts of America . . . . . (860) 790-0681
- Essex Land Trust . . . . . (860) 767-7355
- Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau . . . . . (860) 526-3600
- Essex Garden Club. . . . . (860) 767-2860
- Essex Boy Scouts of America . . . . . (860) 767-3904
- Essex Community Fund. . . . . (860) 304-2751
- Essex Historical Society . . . . . (860) 767-0681
- Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers . . . . . (860) 767-2237

### Clubs and Organizations Continued

- The Shoreline Soup Kitchens . . . . . (860) 388-1988
- SCORE. . . . . (860) 388-9508
- Essex Board of Trade . . . . . (860) 767-3904
- Democratic Town Committee. . . . . (860) 767-7665
- Republican Town Committee . . . . . (860) 767-3388
- Essex Little League . . . . . [www.essexlittleleague.org](http://www.essexlittleleague.org)
- Ancient Order of Essex Weeders. . . . . (860) 767-7628
- 9 Town Transit . . . . . (860) 510-0429
- Lower Valley Visiting Nurses . . . . . (860) 767-0186

### SCHOOLS

- Essex Elementary School. . . . . (860) 767-8215
- John Winthrop Middle School. . . . . (860) 526-9546
- Valley Regional High School. . . . . (860) 526-5328
- Superintendent. . . . . (860) 526-2417
- Beanstalk Preschool & Childcare . . . . . (860) 767-3308

# CT Cookie Platoon

**Mission:** Our mission is to get America baking homemade cookies once a month for our troops, veterans, or recovering soldiers.

**Next Platoon Event: May 11.** Our shipment/packing party will be at the Whelen Engineering, located at 51 Winthrop Road in Chester. Cookies may be dropped off beginning at 9:00 am. We'll start packing at 9:30 am. Finished cookies must be 2 inches in diameter. They must be homemade, not store-bought. Please put your cookies in large Ziplok Bags before giving them to us for shipping. You can stay at the site for our packing party. We'd love to meet you, and we'll be happy to have your help. If you can't get to the packing site, we can pick up your cookies. Please call Debbie Schaefer at 860-526-2789 to make arrangements or e-mail [info@cookieplatoon.com](mailto:info@cookieplatoon.com) for more information.

• *Ivoryton Playhouse continued from page 36* •

We are also grateful to have two actors joining us who appeared in the original cast, Harris Doran and Jerry Adler. Harris is a talented young actor who, just last year, won the Best Supporting Actor award at the Long Island International Film Expo for his work in the feature film Junction (written and directed by Tony Glazer). He will also be appearing this April in an episode of Person of Interest that will air on CBS. Jerry Adler, a Connecticut resident, is a well known character actor

who has appeared on *The Sopranos*, *Rescue Me* and, most recently, on *The Good Wife*. This will be his second visit to the Ivoryton Playhouse – some of you might remember when he directed Joan Fontaine here in the late 1950's. So come on down to the Playhouse in June – you won't want to miss this one. Where else will you be able to see the Constitution State take center stage?



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**Essex Riverfront** Exceptional views from this 3400sf home set on 1.7 acres with a gently sloping lawn leading to sandy beach and dock on the CT River!  
**Offered at \$1,895,000**



**Essex Village** c.1732 Former Osage Inn. Bursting with charm and rich architectural detail! 4,227sf on .62 acre at the head of Main Street. 5 bdrms, 3.1 bths, 6 fireplaces. **Offered at \$1,395,000**



**Essex** A masterpiece of artful renovation with first floor bedroom suite set on a lush .59 ac landscaped lot. 3 bdrms, 2.1 bths, 2 flplcs, attached garage. Exquisite!  
**Offered at \$749,000**



**Essex Village** Enjoy village living in this surprising craftsman-style colonial. First floor bedroom suite w/deck, open floor plan, spacious family room, garage.  
**Offered at \$725,000**



**Essex Village** A bright open interior graces this recently remodeled home with chic contemporary flair. Great storage, water views, attached 2-car garage. Steps from Main Street.  
**Offered at \$675,000**



**Essex Village Waterviews** Steps from Middle Cove access and Main Street. Charming 3 bdrm Cape w/first floor master suite, exposed beams, fireplace, sunroom, 2-car garage, generous landscaped lot with water views! **Offered at \$535,000**



**Essex** An immaculate remodeled 3 bdrm waterfront Heritage Cove condo. Understated elegance enhanced by built-ins, fireplace & open kitchen. New wood flooring, baths, central air, garage.  
**Offered at \$349,900**

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**CHESTER - NEW**

**Chester:** Waterfront on CT River with soaring ceilings & walls of glass, 2 story LR/DR with stone FP, dock and waterside deck. Newer home, 3 BRs, 2.5 baths, custom features, short drive to charming Chester Village. \$997,000



**ESSEX - PRICE REDUCED**

**Essex:** Spacious 4-5BR Ranch with finished LL on 5 private acres is prime for in-law use with 2 kitchens and FR's w/fpls. Recent heating, AC, painting, carpeting and septic. Close to village & waterfront. Possible additional bldg lot. \$497,500



**ESSEX - RECENTLY SOLD**

**Essex:** C.2001 waterfront home with dock in Essex Village. Stunning home shows like new, open flr plan, lg great room, vaulted ceilings, 3 FPs, lg master suite, prof. designed patios & gardens surround home, stone walls. \$1,790,000

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# Rachel Thomas



## 860.767.8635

5 Essex Square, Essex, CT 06426

See these 9 homes and a whole lot more at

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

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

### Simply ... Excellence



**Essex Waterfront:** GREAT PRICE! Expansive, gorgeous views of Essex Village across South Cove and the CT River. The property features a charming 4 bedroom, 3.1 bath home with all rooms focused on the view. DOCK. \$895,000  
Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



**Portland:** Historic Augustin Overton House. Perfect spaces for a large family, retirees with lots of visitors, or even an upscale B&B. Close to Wesleyan, Trinity, and all Middletown and Hartford theater, restaurants, and shopping. Easy commute to New Haven, Fairfield County and NYC. This charming residence is in move-in condition and a must-see for all antique house lovers! \$450,000  
Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



**Middletown:** Spectacular historic homestead, first time offered in 56 years. Large gracious rooms with high ceilings. 5 bedroom, 3.1 baths, over 8 acres of Stunning gardens published in THE PASSION FOR GARDENING. Preserved antiquity with modern convenience. \$600,000  
Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



**Essex:** Charming Garrison Saltbox Colonial with two acres on quiet cul-de-sac near Village. Remodeled kitchen with granite and stainless. Large living and family rooms with fireplaces. Chair rails, crown moldings built-ins and raised paneling. Five bedrooms, 2.1 baths. Private in ground pool. \$389,000  
Maureen O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



**Essex:** Bright and airy open concept cape with high ceilings and an abundance of windows. 2006 expansion resulted in a masterful blend of traditional with modern enhancements. New mechanicals & beautiful hardwood floors throughout. Impressive gourmet kitchen with Omega cabinets, 9' granite island, GE Profile appliances & walk-in pantry. Dramatic family room with vaulted ceiling, private vaulted ceiling master bedroom ensuite. 46' Brazilian hardwood deck, large patio and propane fire pit. \$650,000  
Joyce DeFord 860-767-8635 x 14



**Deep River:** Come home to the "Landing Neighborhood in Deep River! Well cared for 1,700 SF 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch nestled into a gentle South facing slope on quiet lane that ends at Brewer's Marina. 2 Fireplaces, one in sunlit living-room and 2nd in huge family-room with new carpet and full bath. Whether you are a boating enthusiast, or simply appreciate the close proximity to Town Center with shops and restaurant, this may be the place you call "HOME". \$303,000  
Call Nancy Johnson 860-767-8635 x 27



**Essex:** Pristine custom constructed colonial farmhouse with an abundance of natural light located in lovely sought after neighborhood. Level corner lot, beautiful gardens, and close to the Village. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, partially finished basement, 3-car garage plus custom outbuilding. Oil heat with central air conditioning. \$519,000  
Call Joyce DeFord 860-767-8635 x 14



**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 1/2 acre. \$825,000.  
Beth Brewer X 23



**East Lyme:** Cul De Sac Living - located in one of East Lyme's most desirable neighborhoods this 4 bedroom, 2.1 bath reproduction colonial has the traditional exterior be-lying the modern interior floor plan. Graciously appointed and generously sized, each space flows from one to the other. Level 2 acres with mature gardens, and stone terrace are accessed from multiple French doors. \$465,000  
Randi Bradbury Childress 860-767-8635 x 13

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**Deep River \$659,000**  
Beautiful custom home w/amazingly detailed in-law. Total of 3BRs, 3FBAs & 2HBAs. MBR ste w/FP. KT w/granite, stainless, cherry & pantry. Sunken FR w/stone floors & DR w/FP. Located on 1.4 acs.  
860-306-2812 LaurelPeters.net



**Deep River \$599,000**  
Under construction & being offered 'As Is'... beautiful natural shingle exterior, overhangs, spacious patios. Sweeping distant views to West. Land is in Deep River, mailing address is Essex.  
860-227-9798 PeterBonanno.com



**Essex \$2,470,000**  
Spectacular North Cove waterfront estate with unspoiled CT River views offers over 4700SF of well appointed living space, gourmet kitchen, 1st floor bedroom suite, private dock, lovely gardens, stunning pool & pool house.  
203-605-4770 AndreaWoolston.com



**Essex \$1,697,000**  
c.1837 serene waterfront home privately located on Middle Cove. Remodeled kitchen, 2 fireplaces, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. 2 suites w/private entrance for au pair or office.  
860-581-3066 Joanne-Ryan.com



**Essex \$1,595,000**  
Stunning views from this charming riverfront estate. Beautiful gourmet KT. 1st floor master suite w/marvelous water views. New post & beam barn/gar. Private, tranquil setting, yet minutes to town. Beautiful property. Private dock.  
203-605-4770 AndreaWoolston.com



**Essex \$1,200,000**  
Charming Victorian overlooking boatyard & river. Old World details yet completely updated w/open floor plan & gourmet kitchen. A wonderful blend of old & new. Three bay garage. Walk to village shops, restaurants.  
860-559-0742 ConstanceO'Brien.net



**Essex \$925,000**  
Captain Ambrose Post House, built c.1826 is a rare stone federal style home w/3BRs, 2.5BAs, wood floors, period details, spacious rooms, 4FPs, gardens & an extra building lot. This historic village home is in mint condition.  
RogerParkman.com 203-676-1061  
DianeGregory.com 860-395-8433



**Essex \$749,000**  
Gorgeous Contemporary, landscaped setting. Completely renovated, gourmet KT w/granite tops, FPs in Formal LR, DR & MBR; library, den, C/A, large private deck w/river views & outdoor KT for entertaining, 3 car gar with 2BR apt.  
860-227-5975 JamesLeo.com



**Essex \$695,000**  
Gracious, renovated, 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial, circular drive, stone walls, formal LR w/FP & wet bar, formal DR, new KT cabinets, appliances & granite counters, library w/FP, MBR Suite inc walk-in closet, office.  
860-227-5975 JamesLeo.com



**Essex \$509,000**  
Spacious Sapia built Cape on approx 2 wooded acres w/charming stone walls. Interior features inc open floor plan, French doors, wide moldings, 3 fireplaces & 3 full baths. Easy walk to hiking trails.  
BillRyan.com 860-510-6866  
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**Essex \$399,000**  
Gracious 3BR Colonial w/farmhouse front porch. Dramatic great room w/cathedral ceiling, skylights, fireplace, balcony. Eat-in kitchen w/granite & stainless appliances. All in mint condition. Move right in.  
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**Old Saybrook \$998,500**  
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