

Essex

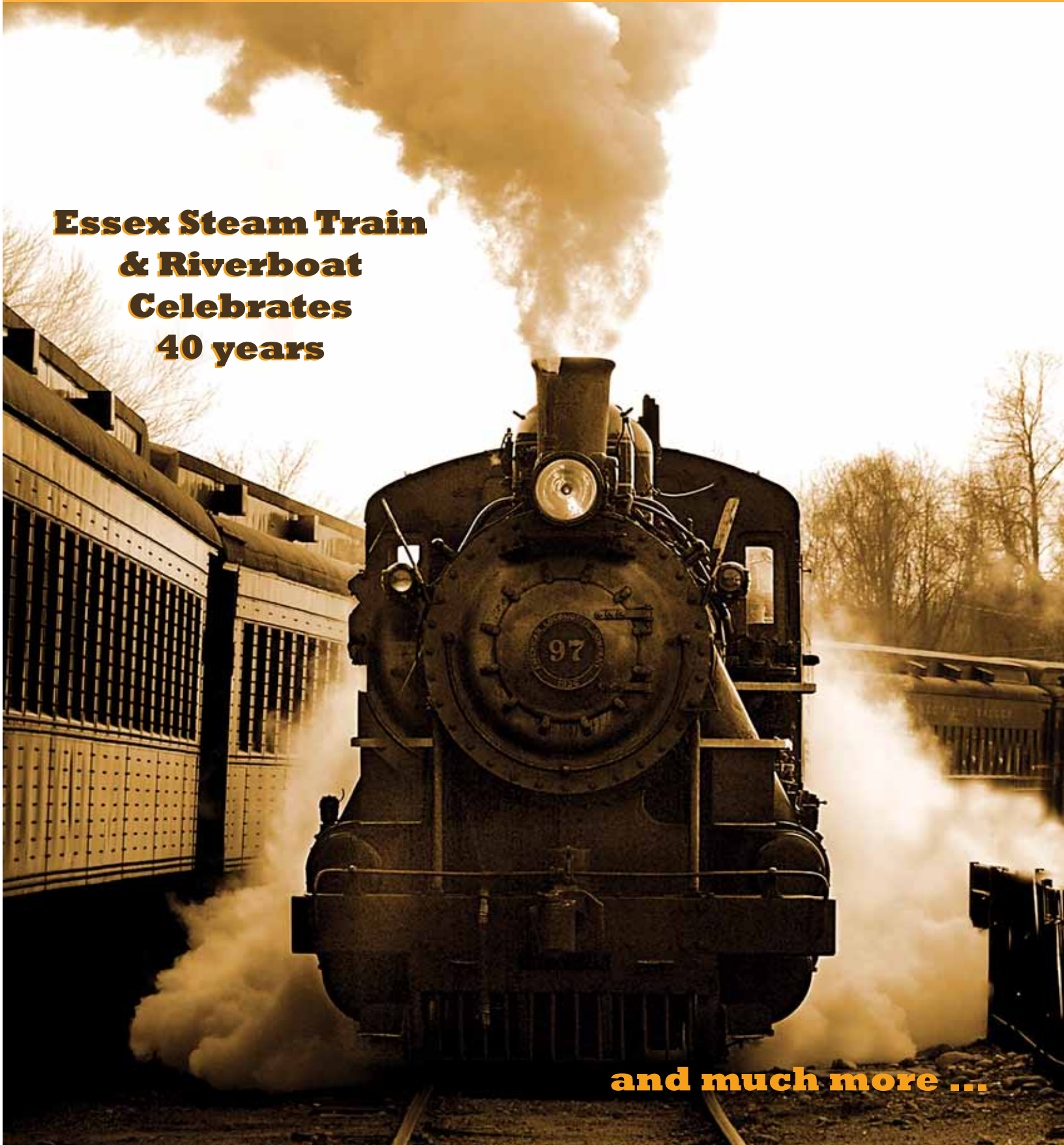


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Volume 15 • Quarter 3 • 2011

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First Selectman's Corner

Summer goes a bit slower than the late spring push. The spring was a whirlwind of activity. We passed a budget in early June to empower our fiscal year from July through next June.

Throughout America, there is an attention being paid to public sector workers who are thought to have compensation packages which go beyond what the private sector provides. In Connecticut, much has been made about the state workers and their response to savings concessions offered to them. Essex is like many of our neighbors. We have a small municipal workforce which includes our public works and town hall personnel in each of our offices. Our biggest workforce component is our teaching corps, a good mix of experienced professionals who utilize the latest in always evolving educational standards and practices. More than two thirds of our taxes go to funding public education. Please know that we have good schools with dedicated and engaged educators, a good mix of veteran and younger teachers, a strong curriculum that includes the basics and arts, history, civics, science, world languages, literature and physical education. Our schools regularly engage parents and community leaders.

A number of our employees are unionized, and I am proud of the men and women who serve the good people of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. Our mill rate is now 17.98, one of the lowest in all of Connecticut and our per household spending is among the most modest anywhere. Our undesignated fund,

also known as a rainy day fund, is flush and has quintupled in the last eight years. Our town has been praised and regionally recognized for our progress in developing working partnerships which have enabled us to achieve our goals for sustainability. One of the longest established regional partnerships is mutual aid. Our volunteers of the Essex Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services have help networks many generations in the making with a number of neighboring towns. These partnerships make quick response possible and these save us a lot of money.

Our finances are posted monthly and we use the same accounting software as our schools do so that we have detailed information available.

Our success in our endeavors and reason for our sustainability is our extensive corps of volunteers. Throughout the three villages there are networks of people who chip in and work side by side to see that many hands make light work. People are always marveling at small changes in town which they just noticed, whether it is



First Selectman Phil Miller

continued on page 2



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

new dugouts at Comstock Field, courtesy of Little League, or more scholarship recipients from the Essex Garden Club, or the fresh paint on the signs at several parks.

Many volunteers switch their commitments, serving on one board for a few years and then move on to other opportunities. These efforts feed on themselves and enrich all of our interests.

This summer, we are committing a half million dollars of a Small Cities grant to do more work at Essex Court. This facility is more than half way to renovations planned by the Housing Authority and we have good local management of this nice place.

We submitted our plans to replace and repair most of the sidewalk between Ivoryton and Centerbrook from a Safe Routes to School grant which our Parent Teacher Organization helped us to secure. The State has delayed this project until next year.

We are finishing work on Novelty Lane downtown to further enhance our public access to South Cove. The Harbor Commission and Economic Development Commission are partnering on this and the Bushnell paddling launch has been upgraded and is a key spot for our paddlers who ply our waters throughout the warm season.

Our Essex Citizens for Clean Energy has helped us to design historically acceptable window replacements for our historic 1892 Town Hall. This will complete our Federal grant from 2009 which was previously used to update heating fixtures and programmable thermostats.

Many people discuss how we evolve through time. Lately, people are noticing that Main Street in downtown has seen fewer retail enterprises and more offices like real estate. Some people feel that we should let the free market determine these things,

and as such, our downtown is still busy, but more so with office business than traditional retail. Others feel that we should mandate retail only on first floor and office activity only on second floors. Our Planning Commission has secured an Environmental Protection Organization Agency Building Blocks grant to help us wade through just these kinds of issues. Another Planning subcommittee is still working on historic stewardship and they have been purposefully very deliberate and extensive in their outreach.

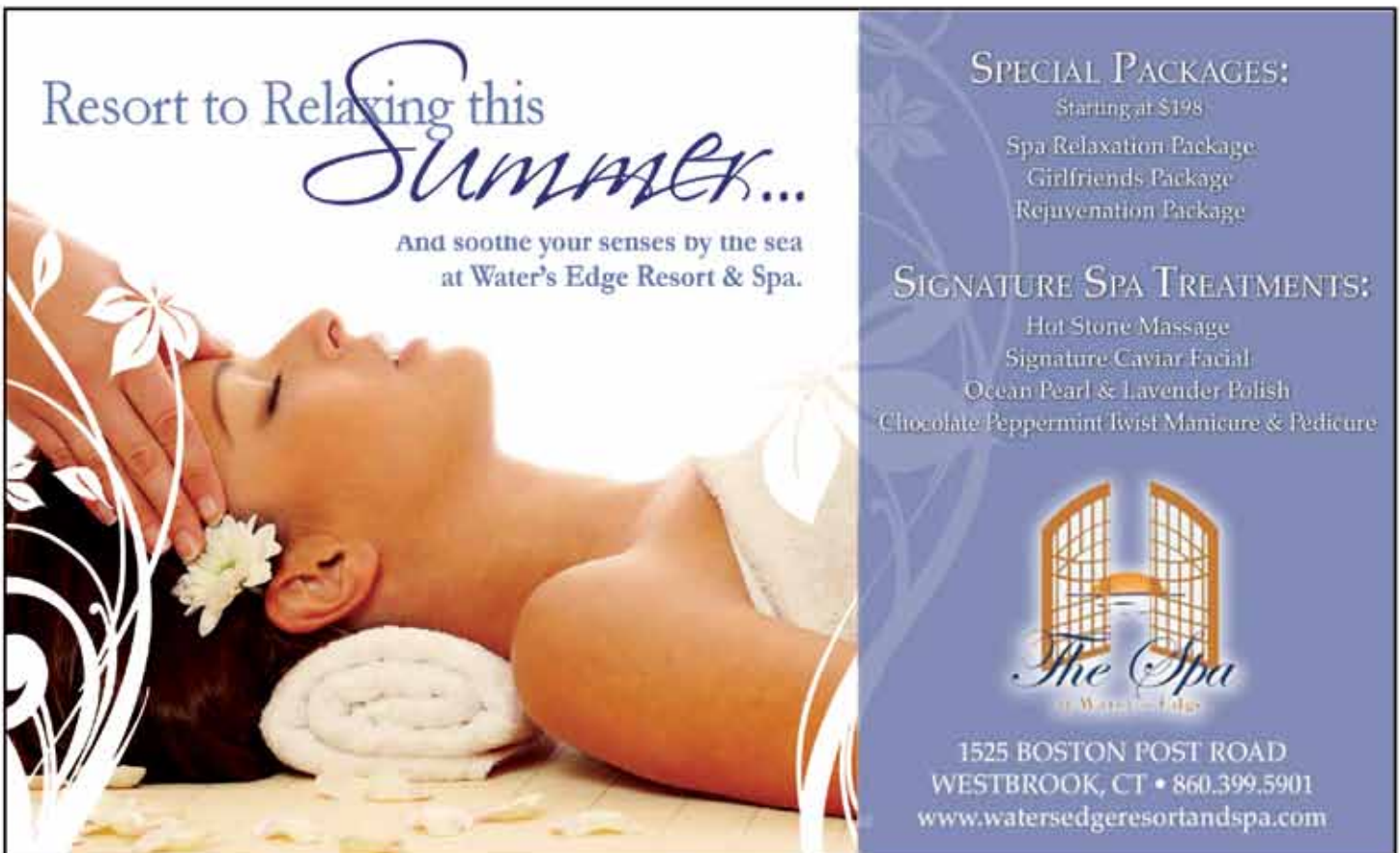
Another challenge we face is that we have an established town where manufacturing from earlier generations have left tainted sites which need remediation. Sites like the former Doane's Lighting were polluted from the early twentieth century. Same with the Ivoryton Piano Factory. While the present owners have shown good faith in cleaning up the site, it has no public water or sewer, and this makes redevelopment daunting to consider.

Throughout town, there are a dozen or more Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, which give us an unwanted LUST designation, and even in places where there has been successful readaptation of former industrial sites, these tanks will eventually need to be dug up and all tainted soil removed and replaced with clean fill. If we don't do this today, our children will be cleaning these things someday.

Please be aware of late summer storms and plan for safety. Please be prepared and look up hurricane and storm preparedness on our website, www.essexct.gov.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve. Keep in Touch!

— *First Selectman Philip Miller*



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- Katharine Hepburn



Fenwick, CT - KATHARINE HEPBURN'S former estate. The spectacular, 8300 sq. ft. waterfront house with three floors, 6 bedrooms, 7.5 baths and 7 fireplaces has been completely renovated while preserving the historical integrity. With a private dock and beach, it sits on 1.47 acres with 680 ft of waterfront on Long Island Sound and two additional lots of 1.32 and 0.66 acres, each with its own beach. A private pond borders the opposite side securing the privacy. Golf, tennis, swimming and boating are at your doorstep. This crown jewel of Fenwick offers stunning views from sunrise to sunset. Just like Howard Hughes did, the owner can land a seaplane directly on the beach. Price Upon Request.



Essex - Elegant Historic Estate set on 11 acres of undeveloped private waterfront property in Essex Village. One of a kind setting. Open topography, rare opportunity to subdivide w/infinite possibilities. 3300 sqft main house. 4 bay barn garage. Ingrd swimming pool. Offered at \$6,900,000.



Old Saybrook - Quintessential 3000 sq ft cedar shingle Fenwick cottage with 6 Bedrooms and 5.5 baths, in ground swimming pool, wrap around porches on 2 levels, AC on 3rd floor. Possibility of 2 extra building lots. Third floor square footage not included. Offered at \$3,975,000.



Westbrook - Contemporary Marvel on the Sound with private beach. Situated perfectly to maximize Sound views from every room. 4 BD- 4 bath home meticulously renovated throughout with open floor plan. Fabulous indoor pool w/sauna & full bath. State of the art kitchen. Offered at \$2,460,000.



Lyme - 1775 home masterfully restored in 1992 adding modern amenities to the orig. farmhouse. New eat-in kitchen w/exposed beams & high end appliances. 5 bed, 5 1/2 bath. Elegant dining rm w/ FP. Ingrd pool, stone patio, exquisite gardens w/ Monet-like pond. Offered at \$1,750,000.

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Old Saybrook: Trendy waterfront home in Indiantown, spectacular views from almost every room, great entertaining with large open spaces inside and out, paver patio area for BBQ's plus sandy white beach at your doorstep, serene private setting tucked away on the point! \$1,300,000 Realty 3 Carroll & Agostini, Mary Jean Agostini (860) 995-9665

Essex



Essex: Beautifully remodeled Colonial with open floor plan, spacious rooms, cathedral ceilings and two fireplaces. Private master suite with remodeled bath. Gunite pool with spa, level yard bordered by stone walls. \$369,000 Call Peg or Bill (860) 767-2621 x114/x115

Ivoryton



Ivoryton: 1985 Colonial in desirable Falls River Farms. Privately sited on wooded hillside with southern exposure and views. First floor den easily converted primary of secondary master suite. Three bedrooms upstairs. \$319,000 Call Bill or Peg (860) 767-2621 x115/x114

Stonington



Stonington: "Outstanding opportunity to enjoy Borough living at its finest! Immaculate waterfront condo in 2-unit, owner managed property just around the corner from restaurants, shops and more! Offers 2 large bedrooms with private baths, a large living area opening to private deck and the water, as well as laundry area and ample storage area in basement for boating/sports gear. Ample parking and the perfect retreat! Offered for \$1,100,000. Realty 3 Village & Shoreline, Melanie Tary (860) 235-6607

Old Saybrook



Old Saybrook: Gentleman's Farm tucked away on 15+ private acres yet minutes to 95, repro Gambrel built in 1999, entertaining floor plan, possible in-law or nanny quarters above garage, home based business, artist studio, fenced ring for ponies, goats, llamas, several out-buildings. \$999,900 Realty 3 Carroll & Agostini, Mary Jean Agostini (860) 995-9665

Stonington



Stonington: Impeccable contemp. 3 BRs, 2.1 baths, central air, master suite w/private balcony overlooking water. Dramatic 2-story foyer entry, light-filled living area with lustrous HW flrs, cut granite FP & panoramic views of lush grounds & water. Waterfront terrace w/retractable awning & hot tub. Stroll down to the dock for a sunset cruise, enjoy the stone fire pit...it doesn't get any better than this! Offered at \$1,250,000 Realty 3 Village & Shoreline, Melanie Tary (860) 235-6607. Please visit www.37Wampassuc.com for further details!



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Essex Garden Club's Small Standard Flower Show

"A Feast for the Senses", September 23, 24, and 25. Sight! Color! Glamour! Taste! Nonsense! These are the design inspirations for the floral arrangements at the Essex Garden Club's Small Standard Flower show. This show takes place at the Essex Art Association at 10 North Main Street, Essex. The show will include floral floor designs complementing paintings, functional table settings featuring arrangements of edible and fresh plant material, and creative designs focusing on glamorous eras. Traditional floral arrangements as well as creations made with a healthy dollop of whimsy will be displayed as well. Open and free to the public, the show will also feature horticulture, children's displays, and container-grown plants.



Mark Pratt and Mary Ann Pleva at the Essex Garden Party.

The location for this flower show, the Essex Art Association, is an Essex gem in its own right. Started in 1946 in a two-room schoolhouse as a nonprofit organization for artists to display their work, the Art Association now proudly exhibits paintings, drawings, and other media in its excellent exhibition space steps from the heart of Essex for easy access to restaurants and shopping. The Essex Art Association's art displayed during the flower show will reflect "A Feast For the Senses" in a Juried Art Show.

SAVE THE DATES: Opening reception: Friday, September 23, 6-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, September 24-25, 1-5 p.m. Free and open to the public.



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Ivoryton Library Receives Award

The Ivoryton Library won the first EHS Preservation Award presented at the EHS 2011 Annual Meeting on June 27.

"The Essex Historical Society has done so much to collect, maintain and preserve the whole history of Essex and we have been so fortunate to have been able to use some of their resources for our history projects. The mission of EHS of preservation and education has rooted this community in time and place. To be awarded this prize, for us, is extraordinary," said Robbi Storms, Director of the Ivoryton Library.

EHS introduced its new Preservation Award Contest to recognize efforts that preserve and protect our town's historic character. All residents were invited to nominate the re-stored and/or preserved building they felt most deserved this honor.



The Ivoryton Library—then and now.

"One of the many things I love about the Ivoryton Library is how well it has been cared for and preserved over the many years of its existence," said Loretta McCluskey, President of the Ivoryton Library Association. "It is so wonderful that the EHS and the citizens of our community recognize its unique qualities and have chosen to honor the library with this award."

According to the Ivoryton Library's website, Michael J. Crosbie of Essex, an architect with Centerbrook Architects and author of architecture articles for the Hartford Courant, described the Ivoryton Library as "a doll house of a building found next to...the Ivoryton Store...decorated with ginger-bread ornamentation, such as carved railings and columns on the front porch, and rafter tails at the edge of the roof, all painted in various shades of mauve. The interior reminds one of a cozy house, with oak paneling, brass chandeliers and a fireplace in every room."

According to the website, it is unclear whether architect David Russell Brown or carpenter Charles Newton designed the building. The cost of building the library was \$3205.25. Funds were contributed by: the Ladies' Sewing Society (\$2,000.00), The Comstock, Cheney & Co. (\$1,000.00), Elizabeth A. Northrop (\$200.00), and the Baseball Club (\$5.25). Harriet Comstock, the first president of the Ivoryton Library Association, donated the land on which the building sits.

continued on page 9

Town Clerk's Office

Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

David Gundersen, 177 Westbrook Road, Essex
Jane Capellini, 11 Riverview Street, Essex
Alicia & Ronald E. Sullivan, Jr., 29 Hillside Drive, Essex
Eric Fudge & Sarah Albert, 47 Westbrook Road, Centerbrook
Sally A. Menzel, 20 Comstock Avenue, Ivoryton
Douglas & Aileen Deutermann, 30 Prospect Street, Essex
Theresa Lak, 29 Partridge Lane, Essex
Peter J. Sarner, 10 Heron Pond Road, Essex
J. Peter Zerio & Susan M. Lefkin, 2 Abby Lane, Essex
Mark Ellis & Barbara Boyd, 43 North Main Street, Essex
David R. Pfander, Cedar Grove Terrace, Essex
Deborah L. House, 14 Nutmeg Lane, Essex

Loss of our Residents and Friends

March

Robert S. Mooz
 Jean Harvey
 Edith L. Kessell
 Louise V. Preyer
 Joseph Bozzi
 Gilbert Plumb

April continued

Doris H. Sharkey
 Eleanor H. Stickney
 Virginia Tillson
 Thomas J. Welglarz, Sr.

May

Barbara Speers
 Rose Weisse
 Thomas E. Haney, Sr.
 Harriet Sangster

April

Helen P. Borchert
 Jacqueline M. Cooney
 Helen Gawronski
 Margaret L. Hilton
 Margareta Johansson
 Susan M. Levinsky
 Theodore J. Makowicki

June

Sally Bowles
 Russell K. Williams

• Ivoryton Library continued from page 8 •

When the Ivoryton Library building was completed in 1891, the collection included 553 volumes. In 1925 the library became public.

The EHS Preservation Award will be back again next spring. Watch for the opportunity to nominate your favorite building for this honor in 2012!

EHS Preservation Award Criteria

Any building in Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton with the following characteristics may be nominated:

- The building must have been built in 1935 or earlier
- The historic character of the original structure must have been preserved with any restoration done in keeping with the original building and period
- The building may be commercial or residential.

The Preservation Award is given to the building with the greatest number of nominations. Nominations were accepted by mail, email and by paper ballot at the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries from May 1– May 31, 2011.

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767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

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

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

The Essex Park and Recreation Department hopes that you are enjoying a safe and fun summer in Essex and wherever your travels may take you. Enjoying our parks is one of the best ways to spend your summer days. We all want ourselves and our families to be happy, healthy, and active; take advantage of our open spaces, state parks, local parks, and recreation programs as some of the best ways to achieve this goal. As always, we appreciate the support of our community and the organizations we work with throughout the year as we continually strive to improve our services to Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton.

Website & Facebook. Essex Park and Recreation continues to redesign and enhance our webpage; we have a lot of great information and features on our site. Additionally, most programs allow for online registration. Go to the Town of Essex website www.essexct.gov and click on the "Park & Recreation" link at the right side of the page. You are now on the Park and Recreation site – save it to your favorites.

We are also on Facebook. We will use Facebook more and more to put out information and pictures and all the good Park and Recreation "stuff." Make sure you "friend" us!

Impact of Essex Park and Recreation

- Over 500 Essex youth participate in Park and Recreation Department programs annually.

- We offer multiple after-school programs throughout the year to ensure children are safe and enriched during the after-school times.
- Over 400 Essex families participated in our programming in the past year.
- Thousands of Essex and nearby town residents visit us annually at our special events.
- Park and Recreation recently donated \$1,500 towards the purchase of AED units for Essex Elementary School.
- Park and Recreation coordinates and disburses over fifty weeks of summer camp scholarships for Essex families in need of financial assistance
- We offer 13 part-time, seasonal employment positions.

Spotlight on the Parks. Grove Street Park sits just behind our Town Hall on Grove Street in Essex. The park features two lighted tennis courts, a walking/jogging path, a large playscape and swings for children, picnic tables, benches, seasonal restroom, and a large open green area. An assortment of trees provides great shade for this park as well. Grove Street Park is one of our most popular and well-used parks and is often bustling with activity.

Keep Your Eyes on the Parks! The responsibility for our parks is shared among all residents of Essex. What happens in

continued on page 11

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 10* •

the community is a reflection of how much you care for the place you live. If you see a concern in any park please call us right away.

Essex Basketball Center. The Essex Basketball Center (EBC), to be located in the rear of the former Park & Ride Lot adjacent to the Essex Fire Station, is a new planned facility the Park and Recreation Commission has been working on for several years. The plan includes the basketball court as well as a complete makeover of the parking lot and gateway intersection of Rt 154 & West Ave. We are very excited about the project and are particularly excited about the development of a facility the young people in Essex can use and gather in a safe and constructive environment. This will also be actively used by families, adult groups and the Essex Fire Engine Company.

The EBC Committee is a team of three partners: Essex Park and Recreation Commission, Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1, and Essex Rotary Club. The town has asked the committee to raise all the funds toward the completion of the project. In doing so, the committee will be coming to the community shortly to seek their support and assistance. If you have any questions about the project or wish to assist in helping complete it, please contact the Essex Park & Recreation Department.

Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit. The Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit is a cooperative effort between the Land Trust and Park and Recreation Department. Our mission is to bring the

families of Essex together through positive and healthy outdoor endeavors while increasing the presence and awareness of our local parks, open spaces, and preserves. For more information, please visit the Park and Recreation website.

Upcoming programs (for complete information visit the Park and Recreation website): **Family Canoe/Kayak on Mill Pond**, Falls River Drive, Ivoryton, Sunday, October 2, 1 p.m., **Ivoryton 5k Run/Walk/Road and Trail Race and Pumpkin Run**, Ivoryton Green, Saturday, October 22, 8:45 a.m., **Family Turkey Tromp and Plunge**, Viney Hill Brook Park, Saturday, November 26, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Summer Concerts Series presented by Ivoryton Playhouse & Towers Labs. Our concerts are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. through August 17. This is a great way to spend a relaxing evening in our park listening to live music; bring a blanket and refreshments! Thank you to Presenting Sponsors Ivoryton Playhouse and Tower Labs, Concert Sponsor Essex Savings Bank, and Friends of the Concert Series -- The Spa of Essex and Richard Riggio & Sons, Inc. Check our website for concert location and weather related announcements.

Viney Hill Brook Park Swimming and Beach Party. Viney Hill Brook Park has a lot to offer this summer. Our beach and swimming area has lifeguards on duty daily from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. through August 28. We installed a new swing set this year for kids to enjoy right near our picnic area and grills.

Please join us on August 27 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. for the

continued on page 12

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 11* •

Viney Hill Beach Party. The Park and Recreation Commission sponsors this event as a thank you to the residents and community groups of Essex. Our party features swimming, a guided hike, sand castle building contest, bounce house, live music, refreshments, and more! See you there!

Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival. Mark your calendar for one of our signature events, the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival. This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 29. A ton of fun activities are offered. Volunteers are needed. Let's make this a record-breaking year for the pumpkin display!

Upcoming Programs. The 2011 Fall Brochure with full program and department information will be available online the week of August 29.

Adult Yoga. Relax and renew with this gentle-paced introduction to the ancient practice of yoga. Yoga poses and breathing techniques increase strength and flexibility, develop the mind, and build vitality. Students are encouraged to practice at their own pace and level. A session will be held on Tuesdays from 6-7:00 p.m. August 30-September 27 at the Town Hall Auditorium.

Essex Park & Rec Summer Camp. Our full-day camp consists of group games, field trips, and tons of other fun activities. It's led by our experienced, caring staff and open to children ages 6-12 and entering 1st to 7th grade in the fall. Camp will be held at Essex Elementary School and run for 8 sessions:

June 27-August 19. All camp forms and information are available on our website under the Summer Camp tab.

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

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

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

Beach Volleyball. Skyhawks Volleyball takes the energy and excitement of this great team sport and puts it together into one fun-filled camp. All aspects of the game are taught through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting, and serving. For ages 11-15, held August 8-11, 9 a.m.-noon at Hubbard Field.

continued on page 14

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Essex: Handsome village waterfront home c.1837 with dock on Middle Cove. Spacious kitchen/great room. Wonderful flow for family living & entertaining. Separate studio with full bath over garage. Wrap-a-round covered porch and balconies. Spectacular views!
M9128141 \$2,100,000
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



Essex: Village home in superb condition. Charming 1890's colonial combines old world charm with new world comfort. Large cheerful kitchen with FP, island, skylight, many windows. Large master suite w/ study. Lovely private gardens. Water access at end of lane. M9128112 \$939,000
Sydney Anderson 860.510.3449



Essex: Never before offered for sale, the historically significant Richard Hayden Homestead c1806, bequeathed to St. John's Church in 1894, has served as the rectory since that time. The first brick building in Essex, this property is remarkable in every way!
M9128606 \$849,000
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



Essex: Historic Salas Post Homestead c.1796. Located on one of Essex most desirable streets. Gracious home, many renovations, loaded w/charm & antique character. Flexible floor plan, 1st fl. master. Private yard w/patio and dining pergola. Quintessential Essex!
M9128908 \$695,000
Kathy Schellens 860.395.4441



Essex: Circa 1898 village "Queen Anne Colonial" tastefully remodeled. 3BRs, 1.5.5 baths. Large kitchen, elegant DR, formal LR, den, front & rear porch. Finished 3rd floor w/views of boat yard and & CT River. Newer mechanics, roof, wood floors, A/C.
M9128034 \$675,000
Leslie Sullivan 860.391.3337



Essex: Renovated 3 /4 bedroom ranch with 3 baths ! Newly painted & carpeted and offering 702 additional square feet in the basement with office, laundry room and full bath all on an acre. Small storage barn included.
M9128852 \$279,900
Donn Holland 860.227.4737



Essex: Tranquil 2 bedroom 2 bath with wood floors and crown moldings throughout. A private quiet rear lot with a lovely bluestone patio and a professional mature landscape, a fabulous alternative to a condo.
M9118915 \$355,000
Colette Harron 860.304.2391



Essex: White picket fence Cape with Old World charm & character but today's conveniences. Great kitchen redo, beautiful yr-rd sunrm opens to stone patio and level yard. Additional fin. room in bsmt with tile floor, separate office/studio. 3-car garage.
M9125368 \$319,000
Leslie Holland 860.575.5144



Essex: Private updated end unit with views of water & pool area. Eat-in kitchen has new cabinets, granite counters & high end appliances. Renovated 1/2 bath and laundry area on first floor. Living room with FP & sliders to patio. Balcony off MBR with views.
M9122970 \$279,000
Marianne Woolfson 860.883.3667

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 12* •

Stay Tuned for Our Fall Programs...

- Youth Basketball
- EES After Hours
- Karate Kids
- Lacrosse Clinics
- Tennis Clinics
- Running Rams
- Tiger Tale Theatre Workshop
- American Red Cross – When I'm in Charge
- Adult Pick-Up Basketball
- ... and more!

Contact Us! As always, we welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements and program information, and join us on Facebook as a way to hear about our department and interact with us.

Please call or email Program Coordinator MaryEllen Barnes at 860-767-4340 ext. 110, mbarnes@essexct.gov, or Park and Recreation Director Rick Audet at 860-767-4340 ext.148, raudet@essexct.gov.

For town updates & information:

www.essexct.com

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Second Annual 5k Run Benefiting the Ivoryton Library

The Second Annual Run Local/Read Local 5k Road and Trail Walk/Run benefiting the Ivoryton Library and sponsored in part by Tower Laboratories, Ltd, will take place on Saturday, October 22. The race will start near the Library at 9:15 a.m. and meander through parts of historic Ivoryton, into Falls River Farms and the Falls River Preserve before returning to the Library. This event is part of the Essex Great Outdoor Pursuit in conjunction with the Essex Park and Recreation Department and the Essex Land Trust.

The 2010 race was a great success, fun for families and competitors alike. Participants came from all parts of New England and included many residents from Ivoryton, Centerbrook, and Essex Village. This year we are looking forward to even more competitors of all ages. And more costumes!

There will also be a "Pumpkin Run" in Ivoryton Park at 8:45 a.m. for children 8 years & under. All Pumpkin Runners will receive ribbons and be given pumpkins that can be painted after their race.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. for all walkers and runners. Awards will be given to the top male and female 5k runners, the top male and female 5K walkers, top 3 male & female runners in 10 year age groups (no duplicates), and the best Halloween costume, male, female, and group.

ENTRY FEE: \$23 if postmarked by Oct. 15. \$25 after Oct. 15. Pumpkin Run: \$5 per child.

The first 400 entrants for the 5k will be given tee-shirts. Parking for the participants will be available at designated locations as you enter town.

Please join us rain or shine in creating another successful and memorable event for this community and for the Ivoryton Library.

Any questions or to volunteer, contact Cathy Bishop at 860-767-0354 or cbishop56@sbcglobal.net. Applications are available on the Ivoryton Library website (www.ivoryton.com) or at the Library. Register on line @ <http://register.www.fasttracktiming.com>. Please make checks or money orders payable to the Ivoryton Library.



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Essex Land Trust Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, August 17, 5 p.m. at Bushy Hill Preserve. Family Hike at Bushy Hill & Platt Preserves. Platt Preserve Steward Ron Nelson will lead a ninety-minute walk through Bushy Hill Preserve (maintained by the Essex Conservation Commission) and the adjacent Platt Preserve (belonging to the Essex Land Trust). Totalling more than 130 acres, the terrain is somewhat hilly with a network of streams and rock outcroppings. Park at the lot on Bushy Hill Road. Bad weather cancels.

Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m. at Platt Preserve. Mushroom/Nature Photography Walk. Jeff Sims, award-winning amateur nature photographer, will lead a special walk at Bushy Hill & Platt Preserves, looking for mushrooms and other intriguing natural flora and fauna to photograph. If possible, bring a macro lens and a tripod capable of opening up flat. Property steward Ron Nelson will also help guide us through the preserves. Park at the East Pond Meadow entrance in Ivoryton. Bad weather cancels.

Wednesday, September 14, 7:30 p.m. at Essex Town Hall. Cross Lots Memories: A Walk Back in Time. Eve Potts, longtime Essex resident and noted writer, will present a slide show and talk about the history of Cross Lots, Essex's sixteen-acre "downtown open space." She will be joined in a panel discussion by Jean Leuchtenberg and others who were instrumental in the acquisition of this Essex Land Trust gem. Co-sponsored by the Essex Historical Society.

Tuesday, September 20, 5 p.m., Departure from Essex Yacht

Club. Swallow Cruise. Watch the amazing sunset ritual of thousands of swallows from the deck of the *Riverquest*. The cost is \$40 per person, payable at the dock. Reserve your spot by calling Goody LeLash at 860-767-9763 by September 15. Bring your own favorite beverage. Cosponsored by Potapaug Audubon Society. Park in the Essex Yacht Club back lot. The boat will leave promptly at 5 p.m., rain or shine. Strong winds cancel.

Sunday, October 2, 1 p.m. Falls River Drive in Ivoryton. Family Canoe/Kayak on Mill Pond. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors that can be seen on this paddle, led by naturalist Phil Miller, along with a possible walk on Jean's Island. Open to paddlers of all ages, but basic experience in paddling is required. This is an Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit* event, cosponsored by the Park and Recreation Department. Park at the canoe/kayak landing on Falls River Drive in Ivoryton. Bad weather cancels.

Volunteers Needed: The Land Trust continues to rely on our membership and the community to support our efforts with their most valuable asset, their time. We have many tasks, both short and long-range and which vary from helping plan events, sitting on committees, hospitality and greeting at events, trail maintenance, office assistance, and mailings. Please contact Nancy Rambeau at 860-767-1523 or email nmccram@comcast.net if you would like to become a more active part of our team. Thanks so much.

Roses for Autism

Roses for Autism is the first business endeavor for Growing Possibilities - a nonprofit social enterprise founded by Ability Beyond Disability that is dedicated to growing independence in the business world for individuals with autism and other disabilities.

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.

Our Mission: To grow independence in the business world.

How We Grow: In 50,000 square feet of heated glass greenhouse, our premium roses and lilies are cut and packaged daily. Working with young adults on the autism spectrum we strive to:

- Build transferable job skills
- Build social independence
- Build generalization of learning

Call us today to plan for your next recognition event. We will customize...so call us with whatever you can dream up! We personally deliver to CT, NY, NJ, MA and we ship ANYWHERE in the United States!

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Employ people with autism. We grow amazing fragrant roses with amazing people! Order online at: www.rosesforautism.com or www.rosesforautism.com. Call (203) 453-2186.

We are a local farm planting the seeds of possibilities for the autism community. Your rose purchase supports the development of inclusive work place opportunities for adults on the autism spectrum. Thank You!

Pinchbeck's Rose Farm
929 Boston Post Rd., Guilford, CT 06437, (203) 453-2186

CT Clean Energy Options

As of February 2011, Essex had 233 Clean Energy points. Currently 6.4 percent of the residents are involved in the program. Essex ranks twelfth in the state with regard to the household penetration rate. Due to a recent change in the program, every 200 points entitles the town to a free 2 kWh solar array including installation provided by the CT Clean Energy Fund. With another 67 points, the CT Clean Energy Fund will give Essex a 2 kWh solar array for installation on a public building.

Essex Citizens for Clean Energy (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.

- Each household can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 7400 pounds annually.
- You can help increase our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign fossil fuels and increasing the diversity of our energy resources.
- Program participants are patriotic and strengthen our economy by investing in it.
- You can reduce pollution from coal-, natural gas-, and oil-fired power plants.
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DO YOU WANT TO LOWER YOUR ENERGY COSTS?

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

Smart Growth Workshop

In early June, the US EPA sponsored a workshop that featured a discussion of essential smart growth fixes appropriate for the Town of Essex. The workshop focus was on key areas such as designation of town growth areas and the promotion of quality development, the protection of sensitive natural areas, the provision of housing choices, and energy conservation. ECCE is planning to conduct a Sustainability Assessment of the town. If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Frank Hall at fhall02@yahoo.com.

**Deadline for the next issue of
ESSEX EVENTS
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Johnny Cash: The Man... The Myth... The Music

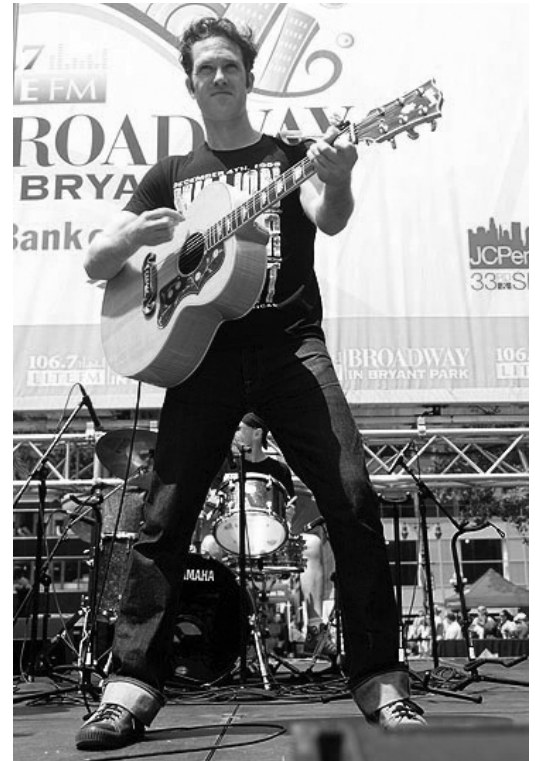
Johnny Cash was one of the most imposing and influential figures in post-World War II country music. With his deep, resonant baritone and spare, percussive guitar, he had a basic, distinctive sound. Cash didn't sound like Nashville, nor did he sound like honky-tonk or rock & roll. He created his own subgenre, falling halfway between the blunt emotional honesty of folk, the rebelliousness of rock & roll, and the world-weariness of country. Cash's career coincided with the birth of rock & roll, and his rebellious attitude and simple, direct musical attack shared a lot of similarities with rock. However, there was a deep sense of history – as he would later illustrate with his series of historical albums – that kept him forever tied with country.

This summer, the historic Ivoryton Playhouse will be presenting a tribute to the legendary *Man in Black Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical*. Growing up dirt-poor, wrestling with family tragedy, striking out on his own, emerging as a songwriter, finding the love of his life, June Carter – it's all here in this on-stage celebration of country icon Johnny Cash.

The show features some of his greatest songs including "Folsom Prison Blues", "I Walk the Line", "Boy Named Sue", "Country Boy", "Five Feet High and Rising", "Daddy Sang Bass", "Ring of Fire" and "I Walk the Line" performed by amazing musicians from Broadway, Texas and Louisiana.

Ring of Fire opens on August 10th and runs through September 4th. Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at 860-767-7318 or online at www.ivorytonplayhouse.org.

Sponsored by Essex Savings Bank and Essex Printing.



Cast member Erik Hayden as Carl Perkins in "Million Dollar Quartet" on Broadway.

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The Essex Library

All through the summer and into fall, the Essex Library is bringing you more; more programs, more special events, more authors, more learning opportunities. Call us at 860-767-1560 to sign up for any of the events listed here, and please, "friend" us on Facebook for daily updates on our programs and services.

Programs for Adults

Now through August, win valuable prizes (including a new eReader!) with the inaugural Adult Summer Reading program, Novel Destinations, at the Essex Library. Just pick up a book log at the Circ Desk, or download it from our website (www.essexlib.org). Read any six books, fill out your book log, and hand it in. Earn bonus points by submitting a digital photo of yourself holding a book at a "novel destination", and send them to staff.essexlib@gmail.com.

Join us for a special Novel Destinations author appearance: Carlos Eire, National Book Award winning author of *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, and of *Learning to Die in Miami*, will speak about his life straddling two cultures, and the memoirs in which he tells the story of his remarkable childhood; airlifted out of Cuba and transplanted into middle America. Friday, October 7th at 7 PM.

Our Thursday evenings, our movie series, *Cool Films for Hot Nights*, continues July 21st at 7 with TRUE GRIT. Other films in the series include:

July 28th at 7: *Nowhere Boy*: A moving, insightful drama about the young John Lennon, and the broken relationship that both haunted and defined him as an artist.

August 4th at 7: *Waiting for Superman*: an eye-opening documentary about the failure of the American education system, from the director of *An Inconvenient Truth*.

August 11th : HOWL: The story of the youthful poet Allan Ginsberg, the poem that challenged obscenity laws, and the cultural clash that forced America to rethink the limits free speech.

Friday, August 12th at 3, Dance @ the Library presents Martha Graham; A documentary and two short ballets, *Appalachian Spring* and *Night Journey*.

Thursday August 18th at 7: Illustrator Linda Woolcott talks about her new book, *Marianna's Letters*, written by Marianna de Saint Phalle.

Friday, Sept. 9th at 3, Dance @ the Library presents Mikhail Baryshnikov and Cynthia Harvey in *Don Quixote*.

Coming this fall; Unnatural Disasters. Sinkholes. Asteroids. Tsunamis. The end of the world! Some of the horrors that Nature dishes out are so devastating, so terrifying, so mind-boggling in scale that they seem downright unnatural. Explore the mayhem wrought by these events at this fascinating lecture series featuring university professors, all experts in their fields.

Thursday, Sept. 15th at 7: Exploding the 2012 Hoax, with Dr. Michael Weinstein, professor of astronomy at Connecticut College. Will a catastrophic planetary alignment bring the world to an end in 2012? What's the basis in astronomical science for this widely-circulated prediction?


Thursday Sept. 22nd at 7: Preserving Your Photographs, with graphic designer Barbara Haines. Got a family album or a shoebox-full of fading memories you'd love to save? Come to this free workshop, and learn how to restore and digitize those precious photos.

Thursday, Sept. 29th: Geologic Hazards, with Connecticut College Professor Douglas Thompson. Earthquakes, sinkholes, volcanoes; just a few of the nasty surprises Mother Earth can dish out. (And what in the heck IS a sinkhole, anyhow?) Check out this chapter in our amazing Unnatural Disasters series, and watch where you step!

Celebrate Columbus Day week with A Musical Journey Across Italy, Thursday Oct. 13th at 7. CCSU Prof. Enzo Boscarino, a native of Italy and a talented singer and storyteller, presents a musical introduction to the rich history and culture of Italy.

Dance @ the Library, Friday Oct. 14th at 3, presents *Dancing for Mr. B.*, a remarkable documentary about five of Balanchine's ballerinas; Maria Tallchief, Mary Ellen Moylan, Melissa Hayden, Allegra Kent, Merrill Ashley, and Darci Kistler. Includes a feast of excerpts from Balanchine ballets.

continued on page 20



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• *Essex Library continued from page 19* •

Duck - the asteroids are coming! Unnatural Disasters presents Connecticut State University Astronomer Kris Larsen, talking about these very real "space invaders", the impact they've had on life on earth, and what havoc they might wreak in the future. Thursday, Oct. 20th at 7.

Return of the Ghostbusters: The Connecticut Paranormal Society guys are back, with more stories, pictures, and film of hauntings, poltergeists, and restless spirits they've investigated, Friday October 28th at 7.

Coming up in Winter/Spring: Civil War lectures, Art History classes, Wine Tasting, Italian for Beginners, and the return of

our True Crime series. Watch for more Essex Library news on our website and our Facebook Page.

Programs for Kids and Young Adults

Sign up for summer reading with us this year! Blast the boredom and the heat of summer with great stories and programs here at the Essex Library. We've got reading logs, prizes and ice cream. Stop in anytime to ask a librarian about how to get involved! Summer Reading begins on June 23rd.

Unless noted as a "drop in" program, please call to register for any of the following events at 860-767-1560 or email Jessica at jbranciforte@essexlib.org

Sleepy Time Stories @ The River Museum: Join us by the water as the sun goes down with a few picture books on the River Museum lawn in Essex. Pajamas and cozy blankets are welcome! Odd Tuesday evenings throughout the summer. 6:30 – 7pm.

Family Films: Come in and cool down! We'll be showing a film every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm. Please remember that all children under the age of twelve must be accompanied by an adult.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 7/20 Gnomeo & Juliet | 8/17 Rango |
| 7/27 Rio | 8/24 Tron |
| 8/3 Yogi Bear | 8/31 Megamind |
| 8/10 Mars Needs Moms | |

Drop In Story Time Monday Mornings, 11:00 am. Join Miss Jessica at the Essex Library every Monday as she shares some of her favorite new picture books. All ages welcome.

Reading Buddies: The Jr. Friends of the Essex Library are a group of 5th-7th graders who read to younger children who may need to work on literacy skills, or are in need of an older mentor or friend. Children going into Kindergarten-Grade 3 may be registered to meet up with a buddy every Monday afternoon at 3pm. We'll even have a special visit from Rocky the Rock Cat!

Viney Hill Brook Park: Thursday Mornings at 10 am Join Miss Jessica or Miss Shawn & Miss Elizabeth of the Ivoryton Library at this wonderful summer location for stories and a craft in the park. We've got directions here at the library!

Special Summer Programs at the Essex Library

Unless noted as a "drop in" program, please call to register for any of the following events at 860-767-1560 or email Jessica at jbranciforte@essexlib.org.

Our Aquarium tank is back! Starting in July, visit the library to check out local horseshoe crabs, starfish and more. You never know what we'll have in the tank, and you may even get to take part in the occasional and wild feeding process.

Mad Scientist Society – Design a crazy roller coaster ride for a marble – but make sure it doesn't fly off the track! Hands on science and engineering experiments for students aged 7-12. August 11th @ 3pm.

Fish Pool Exploration – The Maritime Education Network visits with a giant pool filled with local critters from the sound.

continued on page 25



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ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS

Connecticut's Premier Family Attraction



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since 1969, the Valley Railroad Company has embraced its role as custodian and steward of the Valley Railroad State Park, while operating a vintage, rail excursion through the scenic Connecticut River Valley—one of the “last great places on earth” as designated by the Nature Conservancy.

Today, thanks to our passengers, community members and employees, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat attracts over 140,000 visitors a year and continues to flourish as a Connecticut icon.

As Essex Steam Train & Riverboat celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2011, we look forward to sharing many more years of our unique train and boat access to the Connecticut River Valley's abundant nature—the islands, tidelands, marshes, and wildlife—that the recreating public might otherwise never have an opportunity to experience.

The Valley Railroad also looks forward to continuing to work together with various Connecticut agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the Connecticut Department of Culture and Tourism, as well as local community agencies, officials, businesses and residents.

All aboard!

— Robert Bell, President, The Valley Railroad Company



Essex Steam Train & Riverboat

...the only steam train and riverboat connection in the United States!

Family Attraction. For forty years, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat has been binding generations of families and creating cherished memories. The thrill of steam, the adventure of a sightseeing journey, and a host of family-fun events are even more enticing today as families seek authentic experiences to break away from busy schedules, reconnect with loved ones, and make new traditions.

Museum in Motion. The Valley Railroad Company is proud to share the scenic beauty of the pristine Connecticut River Valley with families and friends while recognizing its distinctive position as a “traveling museum.” When Essex Steam Train & Riverboat passengers journey by vintage train and riverboat, they participate in the story of transportation dating back 140 years. Tour goers actually travel through time, recreating history during what is an ultimate interactive experience.

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat's roster of vintage rolling stock includes steam locomotives, diesel engines, coaches, dining cars, cabooses, a parlor car, an open car, and a freight

car display. The mechanical crew takes great pride in maintaining and rebuilding this rolling stock, necessitated by natural “wear and tear” that comes with age, weather, and hauling over 140,000 passengers a year. In fact, the machinists not only manufacture parts for this vintage equipment, they even build their own tools to make the parts.

At the height of the steam locomotive era, there were roughly 180,000 steam engines in operation. Today, the Valley Railroad proudly maintains and operates two of the less than 200 operable steam locomotives in the country.

Nature Excursion. Essex Steam Train & Riverboat's two-and-a-half-hour journey begins at the historic 1892 Essex Station for a twelve-mile, narrated round trip into the heart of the unspoiled Connecticut River Valley. The steam locomotive pulls vintage coaches at 20 mph through the quintessential New England towns of Deep River and Chester. The picturesque countryside includes pristine meadows, a quaint farm, a millpond with waterfall, and trestles and bridges over rivers and creeks. A natural highlight is the undeveloped Selden Neck State Park, accessible only by boat.

Essex Steam Train offers unique access to several coves and preserves, immersing passengers in an onboard eco-excursion.

continued on page 22

• *Essex Steam Train continued from page 21* •

The train meanders near the tidal wetlands of Pratt Cove and Chester Creek—bountiful, natural habitats for birds. Among those typically spotted are cormorants, ducks, swans, Greenland geese, blue herons, egrets, and red-winged black-birds. In February, the majestic bald eagle is the star of the show, when it migrates south to the Connecticut River Valley from Canada and Maine.

At Deep River Landing, passengers are escorted onto the Becky Thatcher riverboat for a one-and-a-quarter-hour cruise along the Connecticut River. The visual serenity of the river valley is on full display from Becky's multiple decks. The deep water, coves, inlets, marshes, wildlife, and rocky shoreline are all at once, simply breathtaking! Just as impressive are the historic sights including Gillette Castle, Goodspeed Opera House, and the Haddam Swing Bridge. Upon Becky's return to Deep River Landing, the steam train welcomes passengers for the return trip back to Essex Station.



Valley Railroad President, Oliver Jensen, greeted conductor, John Sheldon, as the inaugural train of the Valley Railroad prepared to depart Essex. The reopening of the Line resulted from years of work by scores of volunteers.

PHOTO: Andrew Pavlucik.

HISTORY OF THE VALLEY RAILROAD

The Valley Railroad Company history in freight and passenger service dates back to the mid 1800s, when steam engines and railroads were changing America.

July 17, 1868. A group of businessmen, headed by James C. Walkeley, the president of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company, obtained a state charter for the new Connecticut Valley Railroad, from Hartford down to the village of Saybrook on Long Island Sound.

July 29, 1871. First ceremonial train of the Connecticut Valley Railroad ran from Saybrook Point to Hartford. Official passenger and freight service began in August.

July 1, 1880. After the Connecticut Valley Railroad fell on hard times, the Hartford & Connecticut Valley Railroad took over the property, and in 1882 the New Haven Railroad bought control.



In 1971 Deep River was the end of the operating line and a crowd was on hand to welcome the first train of The Valley Railroad Company. Today, the area to the left of the tracks is transformed with a large platform and dock for the riverboat Becky Thatcher.

PHOTO: Andrew Pavlucik.

1933. With the advent of the automobile, the last regular passenger train ran on the Valley Line from Middletown to Hartford.

March 1968. Once the New Haven fell into bankruptcy and trucks took to the roads, the last freight train ran from Old Saybrook to Middletown.

Fortunately, at precisely this same time, a group of individuals comprising historians, railroad preservationists, and navigation enthusiasts had a dream of building a railroad museum and tourist excursion along the Connecticut Valley Line. Connecticut's Agricultural and Natural Resources Commissioner, Joseph Gill, was attracted to the group's mission and the opportunity to match it with the state's purchase of a valuable strip of real estate along an undeveloped stretch of riverbank—permitting careful control of commercial development in a scenic and unspoiled natural area.

1969. The Valley Railroad Company was chartered and granted operating rights by the State Legislature.

June 1, 1970. The Connecticut Park and Forest Department (now part of the Department of Environmental Protection) issued the formal lease to the Valley Railroad Company for the operation of passenger and freight service over the 22.67 miles of track from Old Saybrook to Maromas, below the city of Middletown.

July 29, 1971. Opening Day! On the 100th anniversary of the first train over its route, and after three years of hard work and labor by over 100 volunteers, the Valley Railroad Company celebrated its inaugural run of Essex Steam Train from Essex to Deep River.

ECONOMIC IMPACT IS LEGENDARY

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat attracts over 140,000 visitors a year—a substantial economic contribution to Connecticut's \$14.06 billion Culture and Tourism industry, supporting

continued on page 23

• *Essex Steam Train continued from page 22* •

171,023 jobs and generating \$1.7 billion in state and local tax revenues.

“Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is the only steam train and riverboat connection in the United States. We are extremely proud of this Connecticut icon and world class attraction.”

— *M. Jodi Rell, Former Governor, State of Connecticut*

“People and Jobs...that’s the best way to sum up what The Valley Railroad Company provides for Middlesex County. Visitors to the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat support our local economy, and both employers and employees are attracted to Middlesex County because of the recreational appeal as well as history and cultural opportunities that the Valley Railroad offers in the scenic Connecticut River Valley.”

— *Larry McHugh, President, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce*

“Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is the essence of River Valley/Connecticut’s tourism region—culture, entertainment, history and natural beauty. This attraction is the heart of the Connecticut River Valley, stretching from the Connecticut shoreline to the capital city of Hartford.”

— *Anne Lee, Executive Director, Central Regional Tourism District*

“Essex Steam Train & Riverboat brings significant \$\$\$s into Essex and its neighboring towns. Shopkeepers, restaurants and other area attractions are all beneficiaries of the visitor traffic and visibility that Essex Steam Train & Riverboat generates.”

— *Jim D’Alessio, President, Essex Board of Trade and Owner, J. Alden Clothiers*

“Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is a great draw for The Griswold Inn. We have many, many guests at the Inn and restaurant who have taken advantage of what the Essex Steam Train has to offer, which only enriches their visit to the Connecticut River Valley. Many of Essex Steam Train & Riverboat’s customers come to stay or dine with us, so we often package our properties to draw even more visitors to the Inn and Restaurant.”

— *Joan Paul, Owner/Operator, The Griswold Inn*

“Essex Steam Train & Riverboat contributes 12% to 14% to Oliver’s bottom line. This contribution is significant, considering a 5% decline in revenue would mean Oliver’s would have to close its doors.”

— *John Sousa, Owner/Operator, Oliver’s Restaurant & Tavern*

PRODUCTS & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat offers numerous products and special events throughout the year. In other words, “this is your grandfather’s steam locomotive...plus so much more!”



PRODUCTS

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat. Gather family and friends for the adventure of a two-and-a-half-hour, narrated sightseeing journey aboard the only steam train and riverboat connection in the United States!

Gillette Castle Connection. Calling all Hikers! Enjoy a train ride to the Hadlyme flagstop, detrain for a short hike to Chester Hadlyme Ferry, ride across the Connecticut River to the base of Gillette Castle State Park, and hike up a hill to one of Connecticut’s most famous destinations.

River Valley Junction. Play, history, entertainment, and relaxation intersect in River Valley Junction, an interactive museum in the historic Witch Hazel Bottling Plant, adjacent to Essex Station. Go “sightdoing” through the Connecticut River Valley via hands-on exhibits presented by local museums and attractions, including Ivoryton Playhouse, Connecticut River Museum, Florence Griswold Museum, and XPlore Productions.

Essex Clipper Dinner Train. Make any occasion special aboard the elegant Essex Clipper Dinner Train. Relax and reconnect while our two-and-a-half-hour scenic journey transports you away from everyday life and our attentive staff provides the impeccable service you deserve.

Becky Thatcher Riverboat. Breathtaking views from the Becky Thatcher riverboat set the stage for a memorable party, wedding, rehearsal dinner, family reunion, or corporate event. A three-deck, Mississippi-style riverboat, Becky offers ample space for dining, dancing, and mingling under the stars.

Murder Mystery. Round up the gang for Murder Mystery and “Friday Night Lite”—lite dinner, lite price, but a whole lot of fun on Fridays in July and August aboard the Meriden dining car! This show is produced by Riverway Studios.

Your Hand on the Throttle. The Valley Railroad Company is proud of Your Hand on the Throttle, a once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity to learn about and actually operate a full-size steam locomotive.

School Trips. The ultimate learning adventure, School Trip interactive narrations include “How a Steam Locomotive Works,” “The History and Future of Railroad and Steamboat Transportation,” and “Nature and Wildlife on the Connecticut River.”

continued on page 24

• *Essex Steam Train continued from page 23* •

Oliver Jensen Gallery. Located in River Valley Junction, the Oliver Jensen Gallery is the perfect combination of gallery and event space. Featured art shows further the vision of one of the Valley Railroad's founding fathers, Oliver Jensen: to preserve the heritage of the American Steam Locomotive.

Caboose Birthday Party. Your little engineer's dream come true! Celebrate a birthday in the "Ralph Gibson" caboose, complete with a "Caboose Fun Host" to narrate the one-hour long ride. A balloon and goodie bag for each party friend.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Eagle Flyer. In honor of the American bald eagle's winter migration south from Maine and Canada to the Connecticut River Valley, the Eagle Flyer embarks on a two-and-a-half-hour round-trip journey along the banks of the Connecticut River to Eagle Landing State Park, Haddam. Volunteers from the Bald Eagle Study Group and Master Wildlife Conservationists travel on board to help passengers sight Connecticut River Valley wildlife.

Neighbor Appreciation Weekend. As an annual kick-off to each season, community members ride FREE as a special thanks for their support of the Valley Railroad's efforts to share this historic and scenic treasure.

Day Out With Thomas™. A full day of fun with everyone's favorite #1 steam engine! At Essex Steam Train, your family will have the unique opportunity to visit Thomas in an authentic rail yard and ride a vintage train led by Thomas the Tank Engine™.

The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show! The ringmaster welcomes you aboard a real circus train ride from off-site parking to the event grounds at Essex Steam Train. The event includes an acrobat show in the "Big Top Tent," "Punch & Judy" puppet show, amusement rides, clowns, a petting zoo, circus food...and so much more!



Fall Foliage. The greatest show on earth includes panoramic views bursting with color, sweeping history, and iconic sights.

Fright Train. Get creeped out! It's a mystical foggy evening and you're traveling aboard the Fright Train with ghosts from a forbidden love story and the train wreck of 1925. Suggested for tweens and adults...join us if you dare!

Santa Special. Bring your camera for that special Christmas Card Photo. Santa promises to visit each child to review his or her Christmas list during this festive daytime journey. Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, Pablo the Penguin, and Santa's elves will be on board to spread holiday cheer.

North Pole Express. Board our locomotive-powered sleigh for a magical nighttime journey to the North Pole. Every coach

becomes a stage for a live, musical performance of "The Night Before Christmas." Celebrate the spirit of the season with Santa and Mrs. Claus, sing-a-longs, hot chocolate, and sugar cookies.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Essex Steam Train & Riverboat engages in collaborative business relationships that stimulate the tourism economy on a local, regional, and state level.

Product Partnerships:

On the Move!: Located in River Valley Junction, this new and engaging, hands-on exhibit recreates the story of The Valley Railroad Company. Interpreted by guest curator Brenda Milkofsky, *On the Move!* highlights Essex Steam Train's historic role in establishing business and entertainment connections that led to cultural change in the lower Connecticut River Valley. These connections continue to thrive today, attracting a vibrant tourist community to the region, and include Gillette Castle, Hadlyme, CT; Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT; Connecticut River Museum, Essex, CT; Ivoryton Playhouse, Ivoryton, CT; and the Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT.

Essex Clipper Dinner Train: Olde Tymes Catering, Norwich, CT

Gillette Castle Hiking Connection: Gillette Castle State Park; Chester-Hadlyme Ferry

Becky Thatcher Riverboat Charters: Cloud Nine, Old Saybrook, CT; Seaflour, Centerbrook, CT

Special Event Partnerships:

Eagle Flyer: Connecticut Bald Eagle Study Group & Master Wildlife Conservationists; East Haddam Merchants Association

Day Out with Thomas: Imperial Productions, Old Saybrook, CT; Essex Lions Club, Essex, CT; CPTV, Hartford, CT

Murder Mystery and The Fright Train: Riverway Studio, East Haddam, CT

North Pole Express: Riverway Studio, East Haddam; XPlore Productions, Old Lyme, CT; Bevin Bell Company, East Hampton, CT

The Valley Railroad Circus Train & Big Top Show: Imperial Productions, Old Saybrook, CT

Group Tour Packages:

Oliver's Tavern, Olive Oyl's, and The Griswold Inn, Essex, CT

Meeting Site:

Rockfall Foundation
Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Local Chapter Mtgs.
Friends of Connecticut State Parks
Essex Library Annual Fundraiser

The Valley Railroad Company
1 Railroad Avenue, Essex, CT 06426
800-377-3987
www.ESSEXSTEAMTRAIN.com

• *Essex Library continued from page 20* •

Stop on by to learn about their characteristics and habitats. Tuesday, July 26 3:30 pm.

Children's Author Jim Dongweck, creator of *The Uncrossable Canyon* and *The Dragon Can't* visits to discuss what it's like to be an author. He'll have time to do some readings from his new book and will even sign copies for participants. He spends much of his time in schools and libraries and loves questions. August 2nd at 3:30.

End of Summer Reading Party. Tuesday, August 16th from 3-5pm. Music! Food! Games! Crafts! Prizes! Come celebrate all the reading you've accomplished this summer. We're planning to have local band Binky help us celebrate at one of the local parks and will be raffling off great door prizes.

Guy Zone. September-November. Guy Zone is a self esteem and development program series for boys aged 12-15. It will be facilitated by a supervisor who will oversee weekly meetings as the group gathers with various presenters to discuss topics such as health, leadership, cyber bullying, peer pressure, altruism and more. Weekly presenters include local business owners, education counselors, chefs, coaches, and paramedics among others. Participants will meet on Monday evenings from September 12th–November 14th from 6-7:30pm. Registration is required. This program will be made possible by the generous grant given to us by the Middlesex County Community Foundation. Please contact the library for more information about session topics and presenters. (860)767-1560.

Care 4 Kids

Care 4 Kids helps low to moderate income families in Connecticut pay for child care costs. This program is sponsored by the State of Connecticut's Department of Social Services (also called DSS).

To learn more about Care 4 Kids, take a look at www.ctcare4kids.com. It has information for both parents and child care providers. You can look at the site to find out how the program works, who is eligible, and more. You can also print the forms you need to apply for the program; go to the forms page.

For more information, call 1-888-214-KIDS (5437)
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– CT Department of Social Services



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Estuary Council

Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. has been Serving Seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 35 years. Call us to receive our *Gazette Newsletter* or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more.

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

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

Wine on the Water: Thursday, July 28 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Proceeds Benefit the Stan Greimann - Estuary Medical Outpatient Transportation Service, EMOTS, the shoreline's only affordable medical transportation program for regional seniors. The service provides transportation for ongoing life-supporting treatments such as dialysis and chemotherapy as well as routine medical appointments - at no set cost, just a donation



Left to Right: Camille Blok holding the second-prize quilt "I Love Life" and Mike Neville with first-prize Autumn quilt by Diana Britt. Tickets are only \$1 each!

request. Sponsored by Seaside Wine & Spirits. Live music, hors d'oeuvres, raffles. Connoisseurs make learning how to taste and purchase fine wines an enjoyable event. Call Sandy for tickets at 860-388-1611. \$25 per person.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL! - Be the first to know what is happening by getting our newsletter emailed to you! No more postal delays, winter address changes, or trying to find the newsletter to confirm a date for the great free class or seminar. Go to www.ecsenior.org and click on the newsletter icon to follow the link and sign up! Then email us to remove you from the mailing list!

Estuary Quilt Raffle Tickets Available. Diana Britt, formerly of Westbrook, and Camille Blok of Old Saybrook have each donated original quilts they created just for the Estuary. The first prize autumn theme quilt is being displayed by Mike Neville. The "I Love Life" quilt by Camille will be the second prize in the raffle. Tickets are available at local fairs, our board of director members, and the Welcome Desk for \$1

continued on page 27



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www.estuarytransit.org

Nine Town Transit is Operated by the
Estuary Transit District

What every family should know about at-sea burial options.



Fulfilling a loved one's last wish to have their ashes scattered at sea is not always an easy task. SeaCeremony offers a dignified and convenient way to bid farewell at sea.

Operating out of Saybrook Point Marina in Old Saybrook, SeaCeremony offers any number of burial-at-sea options, including a special service for veterans.

For more information, please log on to www.seaceremony.com.
Or call 860-598-9090.

SeaCeremony

• *Estuary Council continued from page 26* •

each. Drawing will be at the Autumn on the Dock Auction on September 18th. Winner need not be present to win.

INTERESTED IN SCRABBLE? – Call Deb at 860-388-1611.

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

MASSAGETHERAPY AT THE ESTUARY: Weds. from 10 a.m. to noon. Massage is one of the oldest forms of healing. Soothe anxiety and depression, increase joint mobility, and help with chronic pain, to name just a few of the benefits. Call Sarah at 860-710-1330 with questions or for an appointment. Sarah has been busy, so don't wait to make your appointment.

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

MEALS ON WHEELS – hot meals delivered to your home. Call Diane at 388-1611. A \$2.50 donation request for those aged 60+ ; otherwise cost is \$6.25. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

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

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES: Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Tai Chi, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Dominoes, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more.

ESTUARY THRIFT SHOP: Hours are from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mon. – Fri. and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available! Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed.

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.

Learn how you can help at:

www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org

reliable re•li•a•ble adj. Consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted

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Rolls-Royce Naval Marine, Inc. of Essex Receives Honors at United Way Campaign Awards

On Tuesday, May 3, 2011 hundreds gathered at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell to honor more than eighty companies and organizations, their employees, and community leaders who contributed \$1,925,723 to the 2010-11 Middlesex United Way 75th Anniversary Campaign. This amount is about 3% over the campaign goal of \$1,875,000.

"Every year around the world, thousands of coordinators and volunteers are mobilized to raise resources on behalf of United Way," said Gary Simonsen of PrimePay, President of the Middlesex United Way Board of Directors. "That cumulative effort results in a total of four billion dollars raised across the globe. You are part of this worldwide movement to advance the common good for all.

"Your efforts are changing lives and moving the needle on community conditions," Mr. Simonsen continued. "And it's working...we are getting results and creating real, lasting change in the areas of education, income, health and housing."

Middlesex United Way's Executive Director, Kevin Wilhelm, presented Rolls-Royce Naval Marine, Inc. with a First Step Award. The First Step category honors businesses and organizations that have taken the first step towards Living United. It could be a cause-marketing program, running a first time campaign, or even hosting an event to benefit the United Way.

Other local awards included: Bronze Sponsor Award, presented to Essex Savings Bank. Other First Step Awards were



Rolls-Royce Naval Marine, Inc. employees Jen Kollmer and Donna LaBranche accepting the First Step award from Middlesex United Way Director of Development, Andy Heuer.

presented to Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries and Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau. Chester's First Niagara Bank was presented with an award 5+ years campaign growth, as well as an award for topping \$10,000 in total giving.

The event brought to a close Middlesex United Way's 75th Anniversary Campaign, and the three co-chairs who oversaw the fundraising effort were acknowledged for their outstanding leadership and advocacy on behalf of United Way. The co-chairs were: **Chandler Howard**, President and CEO of Liberty Bank; **Larry McHugh**, President of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce; and **Michael Roth**, President of Wesleyan University.

McHugh introduced the co-chairs of the 2011-12 Middlesex United Way Campaign who will be Harry Eben Burr of McCutcheon Burr & Sons and Arthur "Buddy" McDowell of Middlesex Hospital.

Middlesex United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income, health and housing – the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way recruits people and organizations that bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You are invited to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. That's what it means to Live United.

In the town of Essex, Middlesex United Way is working with Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau as a Site of Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth prevention initiative aimed at reducing school age substance abuse, as well as Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries which Provides food to people in need through grocery distribution sites and family-oriented community meal sites. Also educates the community about hunger and poverty.

Middlesex United Way is a locally-based organization serving the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook.

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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– David V. Winstead Ph.D,
Publisher, Events Magazines

ESSEX NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Welcome to Essex!

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

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Connecting to Conservation

The State Department of Environmental Protection has taken the trouble to quantify what many of us already know from experience.

Connecticut has a “remarkably diverse” range of landscapes and waterscapes for being the third-smallest state. From forested mountains in the northwest to coastal plains and salt marshes along Long Island Sound, it’s home to 84 species of mammals (from black bears to bats), 424 recorded species of birds (from eagles and falcons to the endangered piping plover), and 49 reptile and amphibian species (12 salamanders, 10 frogs, 14 snakes, and 4 species of sea turtle).

Its 168 species of fish include salt-water and diadromous (salt/freshwater) fish as well as the fresh-water game fish populating the state’s 2,300 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

But, with Connecticut also being the third-most densely populated state in the nation, the open land faces problems, everything from development to habitat degradation, fragmentation and loss, affecting not only our resident species but migratory species, which are losing the habitat needed to sustain them through their lengthy travels. “Overall diversity is in decline,” the DEP warns. “There are simply less kinds of animals around than there were, not so many years ago.”

In this light, the Land Trust’s fifteen properties, totaling over 400 acres, represent an important resource for conservation. They’re remarkably diverse, too, running from wooded uplands to tidal marshes and supporting all kinds of animals: deer, coyote, beaver, fox, raccoon, squirrel, rabbit, a wide variety of woodland birds; the eagles and osprey of the river and tidal marsh, and the meadow songbirds. Its wetlands and vernal pools, small streams, and ponds are vital habitat for reptile and amphibian species.

The Land Trust takes a proactive role in conservation in a variety of ways, many focusing on long-term land management and habitat preservation and enhancement. The recent plantings at Cross Lots are a good example, says ELT president Bob Nussbaum. In 2008, a hundred volunteers gathered to plant purple coneflowers, creeping red fescue, little bluestems, Indian grass, partridge peas, big leaf lupines, Canada wild rye, New England asters, Virginia wild rye, common milkweed, and black-eyed Susans at the Preserve in the center of Essex. The idea is to re-establish the former meadow habitat using native warm season grasses and perennials, which will provide food and cover for wildlife, the president says. The message here? You can’t just focus on dealing with the invasive, such as bittersweet, for example. You have to look at what you want, too. And what you do want won’t just come back by itself; it needs to be restored.

The acquisition of land contiguous with Heron Pond Preserve, adding four acres to the twenty-five-acre property, is another example of long-term conservation. The Land Trust’s acquisition strategy focuses on extending existing properties whenever possible, creating “corridors” that can be used by wildlife. A thorough habitat assessment is part of every acquisition project, which is also used as part of the grant application process.



Vernal pools are vital habitat for amphibian species

Heron Pond will be the “test case” for another ambitious ELT project, the creation of a property management project with the guidance of Dr. Juliana Barrett, of UCONN’s Sea Grant Program and the Center for Land Use Education and Research. Dr. Barrett will assist in writing a habitat-based management plan for Heron Pond Preserve to guide our management of the property for the next twenty years and serve as a model for other land stewards along Connecticut’s coast. Heron Pond has been selected because it is an example of a rapidly dwindling habitat known as coastal forest. Another example of coastal forest habitat is the Preserve, located primarily in Old Saybrook and the largest remaining coastal forest of its kind in Connecticut.



Heron Pond’s watershed is fed by several streams

Nussbaum and ELT members Al Macgregor and Chet Arnold recently attended UCONN’s seminar on habitat-based management plans. It focused on how to develop the plan, on how to go about the preservation and enhancement of native plant and animal communities, serving as a prologue to the

continued on page 31

Homelessness in Essex

People lose their homes for many reasons: floods, fires, divorce, illness, job loss, death of a spouse, accidents, financial problems, and chemical addictions. In our present recession, foreclosures seem epidemic.

About a third of our homeless are just ordinary people who have fallen on hard times. Another third suffer from mental illnesses and live in the community due to funding cuts. The rest suffer from chemical addiction, usually alcohol.

Many of the homeless are families with children struggling to survive. A quarter of these families have employment income that is too low to afford decent housing. Forty percent of family adults claim that abuse or the threat of violence contributed to their being homeless, and 88 percent are headed by single females.

In 2010, Connecticut shelters served 11,700 people, including 1,500 children and 1,300 homeless youths between the ages of 18 and 24. These figures, bad as they are, only reflect the number of people that our shelters could accommodate – not those living on the streets or in abandoned buildings. It is estimated that an astonishing 40,000 people are not technically homeless because they *double up*, staying with friends or families.

One might think that these numbers would provoke a strong social response. Unfortunately, the occasional exposé on homelessness is overshadowed by the media's fascination with celebrities and scandal. Partisan bickering does more to sustain the problems than fix them. Less noticeable are lobbyists who work behind the scenes to distract us from thoughtful compassion.

Some religious and nonprofit groups do well in providing services to the poor and homeless. Local and state agencies also supply aid. Nevertheless, the root cause of these problems is not easily approached. It is engrained in our culture. No program is going to repair it. We have to do so ourselves.

We don't see homeless people living on the streets or under

bridges in Essex. We assume that others are doing well as long as we are doing well. When we hear noise about the recession and long-term unemployment, it seems distant unless we experience it firsthand. From our limited perspective, it might appear that there is no local poverty at all.

This is an illusion. People are people, each one bearing his or her own set of problems. By the time such people come to social services for help, they are usually deep in trouble.

Some of the people I work with are sliding closer to homelessness every day. A number of them are talented and educated and have worked all their lives. Some are selling their possessions to pay their rents or mortgages. Some use credit cards. Many are in denial, waiting for a miracle.

It used to be that such people would eventually find a job. That's not happening so readily today. The necessary job openings are simply not there. Some of my clients in their mid- to late-50s have valuable experience. Without knowing the latest technologies, however, the job market has little use for them. To make things worse, some were self-employed and never contributed to Social Security or made other provisions for retirement. Those who did contribute to Social Security now find their projected benefits shrinking with every year that they are underemployed.

continued on page 34

• Conservation continued from page 30 •

Heron Pond project, which involves doing a specific plan for a specific property.

Long-term conservation requires a simple shift in perspective. For day-to-day stewardship activities, the focus is on which trails need to be cleared, where leaves need to be picked up, fields mown. "For habitat-based planning," says Nussbaum, "the question is - what do we want this to look like a 100 years from now, for our children's children? And, what do we have to do now for that to happen?"

In summary, land trusts will continue having a critical role in preserving open space but increasingly will need to be actively involved in planning and overseeing habitat management. For further information on this subject, log onto the UCONN's Nemo website: <http://www.nemo.uconn.edu/>.

— Steve Knauth

BNI

BNI is an international referral organization with local chapters that meet every week. The primary focus is to refer business to the members of your local chapter and to have the members refer business back to you. Each member has their own specific category, such as, plumber, electrician, roofer, litigation attorney, printer, etc. BNI is not a service organization which typically raises funds for a variety of causes. BNI is strictly an opportunity for you to improve the number of contacts whose referrals will contribute to the expansion of your business. A weekly success story!

"I referred a client to Todd Hart (BNI member) at Fenwick Mortgage who had been unable to obtain a mortgage on her seasonal cottage. Within 48 hours, Todd had the mortgage placed and I had a very pleased client.

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Jennifer D'Angelo (BNI member) Heartland Payment Systems

"I received a new referral on my first day of membership in BNI"

Lou Delorso (new BNI member) New England Auto Detailing, Centerbrook

The above are but a few of the ongoing comments made by BNI members each week. If you are interested in becoming a member, join us any Tuesday morning from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the lower level of the Essex Town Hall. No commitment needed, but you will walk out saying "I'm going to become a member of the Riverside BNI Chapter."

David V. Winstead, Ph.D.

(BNI member) Essex Printing Co., www.essexprinting.com 860-767-9087

Our Endangered Bats

Do you know how important bats are to our planet and how endangered they are? Ask any fourth-grade Essex student and he or she can tell you. After recently concluding a bat education series, our students are armed with bat facts. For example, they learned that bats are the only mammals that can fly, that there are nearly 1,000 different species around the world, and what “echolocation” means. They understand why bats are needed here in Essex to keep our outdoor environment enjoyable since they learned that bats eat thousands of mosquitoes an hour.

The series started March 9, when Jenny Dickson, a supervising wildlife biologist at the Department of Environmental Protection, kicked off the program with a slide show and discussion. The students’ questions were thoughtful and showed a keen interest in the subject. On March 16, Linda Reamer, a



Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration and Development at the White Memorial Conservation Center, and her pet bat, Theo.

recently retired second-grade teacher, read a story about bats and distributed books for individual reading. She followed up two weeks later to talk about what had been learned. How gratifying it was to hear so many bat facts!

Finally, on April 5, Gerri Griswold, Director of Administration and Development at the White Memorial Conservation Center, and her pet bat, Theo, concluded our series with a lively discussion. The students were able to actually hear Theo’s sounds. Because of her love of bats, Gerri was an excellent advocate for their protection, especially in light of the White Nose Syndrome that is decimating bat populations.

At the conclusion of the program, all participants were given a Bat bookmark and a Bat Factsheet, both of which are available from the Essex Land Trust. If you or your child would like to know more about bats, we suggest the Bat Conservation International website at www.batcon.org. The White Memorial Conservation Center near Litchfield, CT, has special events and a museum that is open to the public. Their website is www.whitememorialcc.org.

— Linda Levene

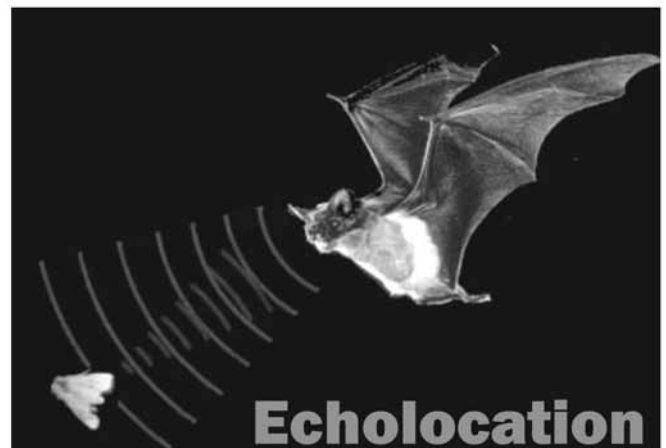
Connecticut Bats

Big Brown Bat

Little Brown Myotis

Hoary Bat

Indiana Myotis
Essex Land Trust



Most bats communicate and navigate with high-frequency sounds. They hunt insects and avoid collisions at night by sending out “echolocation” beeps and analyzing the echoes that come bouncing back.

Bats – Facts & Figures

Bats are essential to the health of our natural world. They help control pests and are vital pollinators and seed-dispersers for countless plants. Yet these wonderfully diverse and beneficial creatures are among the least studied and most misunderstood of animals.

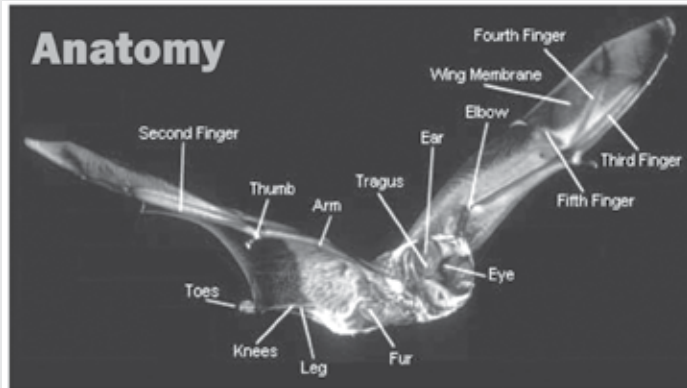
- Bats, like humans, are mammals – the only ones that can fly
- Bats are nocturnal – active at night, resting during the day
- There are more than 1,100 species of bats – ranging from the

world's smallest mammal, the tiny bumblebee bat that weighs less than a penny to giant flying foxes with six-foot wingspans.

- A single little brown bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquito-sized insects in a single hour
- Bats pollinate countless plants, ensuring the production of fruits that support local economies, as well as diverse animal populations. Fruit-eating bats in the tropics disperse seeds that are critical to restoring cleared or damaged rainforests

Most bats communicate and navigate with high-frequency sounds. They hunt insects and avoid collisions at night by sending out "echolocation" beeps and analyzing the echoes that come bouncing back. Using sound alone, bats can see everything but color, and in total darkness they can detect obstacles as fine as a human hair.

The bones present in a bat's wing are the same as those of the human arm and hand.



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• *Homelessness continued from page 31* •

Waiting for the market to turn things around is no longer realistic. We may be facing a new wave of homelessness for which we are not prepared.

We need more shelters, supportive housing units, and affordable rents. On top of that, however, we need a new paradigm of prevention. We can blame partisanship for not taking problems more seriously, or businesses for not hiring, and for sending jobs overseas – but these are symptoms of a less visible fault-line deeply engrained in our society. The only way to fix things is for people, all of us, to make more responsible decisions in our private, public, and professional lives. Until we do that, social progress will remain fundamentally insufficient.

The way we start is by re-establishing priorities of conscience. Conscience is where the appeal for social justice

comes from, as well as the philanthropic urge to champion those in need. It should come as no surprise that when we respond to our moral obligations toward others, we also find ourselves most satisfyingly human.

Some might disregard this as unrealistic. The call for public conscience can never be as tangible as a bricks and mortar program with a serious budget.

When we consider what a permeating lack of conscience produces, however, the value becomes clear. We get inadequate social policies that do more to sustain poverty rather than alleviate it. Thanks to political or bureaucratic decisions, good programs are cut, underfunded, and understaffed. A lack of conscience contributes to homelessness in more direct ways also. Domestic abuse and economically depressing employment practices are major causes that lead to a host of other problems.

As individuals, how do we encourage priorities of conscience? We start by being more conscious of the needs of others, and how our everyday words and actions either contribute to the solution or the problem. We can speak out more from the heart and less from calculations of profit. We can take the ethical lessons we learn from our faith traditions more seriously and stop thinking only of ourselves. We can refuse to partake in values that are questionable or contradictory. We can take the heroic path and help those in need when possible.

The answers are based on a simple concept: If enough people care enough to do enough, the world automatically becomes a better place to live.

– Dean Jacques, Social Services

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Be Prepared for the 2011 Hurricane Season

June 1 marks the official start of the 2011 North Atlantic hurricane season, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been working closely with its federal, state, local, and tribal partners, the private sector, voluntary organizations, and the entire emergency management team to ensure we are ready for the upcoming season. As part of those efforts, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, along with other partners, briefed President Obama on the federal government's preparations for the upcoming season.

"Recent events including the deadly tornadoes in the central U.S. and southeast, flooding along the Mississippi and other emergencies serve as a reminder that we should be prepared to address all hazards, including hurricanes," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "Everyone needs to be prepared, not just those in hurricane prone states, but also areas well inland. This means having an emergency plan, storing an emergency kit and staying informed of alerts or messages from local emergency officials."

In the past few months, FEMA has been coordinating with all of the coastal states as they prepare for the season. All of this planning and coordination has been built around the agency's approach that we are just one part of the nation's emergency management team, and we have to work with the entire team to

plan for the needs of the entire community when disasters strike. This larger team includes our federal partners, state, local and tribal leaders, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, faith-based and community organizations, and, most importantly, the general public. It will take every member of the team working together for us to be fully prepared for this hurricane season.

To help demonstrate how the team can work together to prepare for and respond to hurricanes, President Obama invited other members of the team to join Napolitano and Fugate for that briefing, including North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue and members of her emergency management team, American Red Cross President Gail McGovern, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) Chair Mickey Caison, and Verizon Wireless CEO Dan Mead.

To see a video message from Administrator Fugate about this hurricane season, visit TBP.

Background on Preparing for Hurricanes

When preparing for hurricane season and potential emergencies, the needs of all members of a household should be considered. If a household includes a young child, senior citizen, or person with a disability or severe illness, special steps to assist them may be necessary and should be incorporated into all emergency planning. Pets require special handling. Pet

continued on page 38

Busy...Busy...Busy!

It's hard to believe we're already half way through the year. So how has 2011 been treating you? Us? We've been busy, busy, busy. Helping both sellers and buyers in their real estate transactions.

Hey - it's what we do.

And here's what they have said...

"Honestly, we have bought and sold houses before our current one and doing business with you was the best experience of any."
P.W. & D.W., Old Saybrook, CT

"You guys are the best!" S.W. & M.W., Old Saybrook, CT

"You were ALWAYS available, you went above and beyond! Thank you." C.B., Old Saybrook, CT

"I feel your service and follow-up were fantastic! I have already recommended you to others."
D.S. & K.S., Clinton, CT



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Ask the Jeweler

GOOD AS GOLD??????

If you really have gold...that's good. But maybe you have something like gold...that's not so good.

How do you know?

First thing, examine the piece of jewelry you are about to buy or sell. Look at it carefully! On the inside of a ring, on the back of a disc, or on the clasp of a chain it is required that a manufacturer's identifying mark and a karat weight rating mark are stamped on each piece. Many times you will find them. There are exceptions. Very old jewelry and jewelry originally sold in a foreign country may not be marked.

Assuming that you find the markings, be sure to read all of what is stamped. If, for example, the "14K" is followed by "GE," you are probably looking at a base metal with a "G" for gold and "E" for electroplated piece. "HGE" stands for "heavy gold electroplating."

Beware of folk-lore, surefire tests. For instance, it is possible for a genuine gold ring to leave a mark on your finger. Some people react differently to (possibly) the other metals in the alloy of the gold that they are wearing. Remember that "24K" or 24 karat is the designation for pure gold. The designation "10K" means that 10 of the 24 parts are pure gold and 14 parts are something else.

There are definitive tests for checking the content of gold. Tests typically compare the reaction shown by the piece being tested to a known standard when tested with acids. Many jewelers routinely perform this and other test procedures.

Unfortunately, I must mention that there are many pieces showing incorrect markings. One can only surmise

that someone was trying to make something out of nothing. There is always the possibility that someone has made an honest mistake. Get professional help if there is any question.

The service could be worth its weight...in gold.

Neil Gottfried is the owner of Marc Jewelers in Old Lyme. Trained by the Gemological Institute of America, he has 25 years experience as a retail jeweler with a focus on diamonds, colored stones, pearls and appraising.

[Have a question about jewelry? Ask the Jeweler! Mr. Gottfried would be happy to answer your question in an upcoming issue. Email your question to dbrown@eventsmagazines.com.]

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Upcoming Events

Family Maritime Festival. August 13 from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Connecticut River Museum. Head down to Steamboat Dock for a fun-filled afternoon of maritime history, games, and music at the Connecticut River Museum's annual festival and concert. Free admission. Bring a picnic supper and blanket for the concert that begins at 5:00 p.m.

Playhouse Shows

The Ivoryton Playhouse will be featuring the following:

Man in Black Ring Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical, Aug 10-Sept 4.
The Marvelous Wonderettes, September 28 – October 16th.
The Woman in Black, November 2 – November 20th.

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• *Hurricane Season continued from page 36* •

owners should research pet boarding facilities now within a certain radius of where they may evacuate, since animals may not be welcome in all shelters or hotels.

Equally important, businesses should be prepared with emergency plans in place to stay afloat. Putting a disaster plan in motion will improve the likelihood that your company may recover from a disaster. Ready Business (www.ready.gov/business) outlines measures business owners and managers can take now to start getting ready.

The start of hurricane season is also the time to consider flood insurance coverage - most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Not only are homes and businesses in hurricane-prone states at risk for flooding, but inland flooding is common in nearby states. To assess flood risk for a home or find a local agent selling national flood insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call toll-free at 1-888-379-9531.

As the season kicks off, knowing the four terms that meteorologists use when forecasting tropical weather may also help you navigate to safety.

- A hurricane watch is an announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

- A hurricane warning is an announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

- A tropical storm watch is an announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified coastal area within 48 hours.

- A tropical storm warning is an announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area within 36 hours.

With the ongoing recovery efforts from the tornadoes and response to areas with flooding, we are reminded that everyone should be prepared to address all hazards, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and inland flooding.

For more preparedness information, please visit www.fema.gov and www.Ready.gov. For the latest information on weather, <http://www.noaa.gov/themes/tropical.php>

Follow FEMA online at <http://blog.fema.gov>, www.twitter.com/fema, www.facebook.com/fema, and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema and the Ready Campaign at www.twitter.com/readidotgov.

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You can't Go Wrong with a Rosé

Rosés are wines that are basically “pink” in color, which is attributed to the grape varieties used and how long the skins stay in contact during the wine making process. The biggest misconception about Rosés is that they are sweet, due to the previous popularity of White Zinfandel. White Zin is made to be sweet by cutting the fermentation process early which results in higher residual sugar and less alcohol.

Rosés are typically a blend of more than one red varietal, and occasionally white grapes are used. The taste is very pleasing and refreshing with accents of fresh berries such as strawberry, raspberry and cassis. Rosés are a delicious alternative to white or red wine for summer. They are great for picnics and barbecues which normally provide a varied selection of foods including chicken,

beef and seafood. These wines are produced all over the world, so each country's unique blend of grapes varies. France produces Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault blends which are full and clean. California does a beautiful job producing Pinot Noir Rosés which are soft and refreshing. South Africa blends a white, Viognier, into their Rosés which gives a pleasant floral quality to their wines.

Whether you typically drink white or red wine, you can not go wrong with a Rosé. During the hot summer months when you just want something refreshing, try a great bottle of Rosé, it is guaranteed to please the palate. Enjoy your summer and these mouth-watering wines!

— Arthur LiPuma, Manager, Spirits of Madison/
MadisonSeaside Wine and Spirits / Old Saybrook



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Simply ... Excellence



Essex: Reproduction Gambrel Colonial built by local craftsman in 1955. This 3 bedroom 1.1 bath home is 1 mile from Essex Village. Hardwood floors, beautiful trim work, fireplace and an enclosed porch are just a few of the amenities. The .85 acre grounds feature mature plantings, fruit trees and grape vines. \$392,000 James O'Rourke x 28



Chester: The perfect location. Less than 2 miles to Village Center and 1 mile to Route 9 makes for easy living. Located off a country lane encompassing 3.97 acres, your privacy is assured. Built in 1991 the infrastructure is solidly built above and beyond the standard. Huge rear deck is ideal for entertaining and private for sunning. A screen porch extends outdoor living. Three bedrooms, with Master on first floor. Remodeled kitchen is sure to please. \$395,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



Clinton: OPPORTUNITY AWAITS! Quaint Cottage just a short stroll to Beach across the street. Master bedroom on 1st floor with Full bath and 3 additional bedrooms on the second floor. Open floor plan and large deck to enjoy quiet evenings overlooking the estuary. \$279,000. Nancy Johnson x 27.



Old Saybrook: Location matters. Newly remodeled from the studs out this 2 floor condo is the perfect pied-a-terre. Encompassing the 2nd and 3rd floors of a ca.1880 home. Very low association fees, 1 garage bay, fully applianced new kitchen. Sweet location just a short walk to village center and Saybrook Point. Partial water views and a carefree lifestyle is waiting for you at only \$249,000. Randi Bradburry Childress x 13



Chester: Stunning Italianate Revival home on 1.25 beautifully landscaped acres overlooking the Pattaconk Brook & waterfall. Two incredible, ornate fireplaces in the spacious LR & family room! Sun room is surrounded by windows with lovely views of the waterfall! Custom maple & oak wood floors throughout. Charming eat-in kitchen. Attractive, detached garage has finished room upstairs for recreation, studio or office. A minute to Chester Center for fine dining, art galleries, unique shops and more! This home is filled with old world style, character, love & warmth & is a 'must see'!... \$449,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



Niantic: "Sweet Pea"—Earth-friendly, economical "green" construction from the studs out by a Master Carpenter transformed this cedar shake Cape into a Nantucket Modern showcase. A tranquil loft w/skylights overlooks the cathedral ceiling LR of the open plan. State of the art kitchen and bath. 2 bedroom. 1382 sf. Cottage for 2, down-sized comfort, single's retreat. Natural wonders on site & at nearby State Park and Boardwalk. \$319,000 Katherine Catalano x17



Niantic: Over 55 detached condo. Easy living in this sunny immaculate home. Open and spacious floor plan. Fantastic Sunroom leads to deck overlooking nature. Large family-room with fireplace. Master bedroom suite with bay window. Office/den. 2 car attached garage. Close to quaint village, beach and boating. \$ 374,500. Nancy Johnson, x27



East Haddam: Million Dollar Views Come home to breathtaking views of the Connecticut River as you lounge on the 50 ft deck. Large and numerous windows allow for views from every room. Four bedrooms, 3.1 baths. Unfinished walk out basement for expansion possibilities. Low maintenance exterior. Newly built in 2005. Great location. \$599,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



Essex: Walk to the village from this expansive country home filled with every amenity. Built in 1986 to the highest specifications the home has been updated and expanded upon. Mature landscaping surrounds the outdoor entertaining area. Large rooms opening to each other, custom kitchen, brick wine storage, three fps, Three bedrooms with baths including a first floor master. \$850,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



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www.22RackettLane.com **NEW**

Essex Waterfront Newly built dream home just completed on South Cove offering the finest in waterfront living. Chef's kitchen, elevator, wine cellar, media room, library, resistance pool. Fabulous architectural detail and incomparable cove, harbor and CT River views. *Offered at \$3,250,000*



www.49OtterCoveDrive.com **NEW**

Old Saybrook Otter Cove Marvelous c.1762 waterfront estate set on an exquisite 4.35 acre point on the CT River. Main house offers master suite addition. 3 bay carriage house with guest suite plus caretakers cottage, pool, dock with lift. *Offered at \$2,850,000*



www.151RiverRoad.com

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



SOLD

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



www.13HemlockDrive.com

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



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



SOLD

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



NEW

Ivoryton Spacious sunny home with fabulous floor plan in Falls River Farms. Large family room with vaulted ceiling adjacent to a newly remodeled kitchen. Expansive deck overlooks a private rear yard. Canoe and kayak nearby. Move-in ready! *Offered at \$419,000*



SOLD

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



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Lyme "Cedarmere" a modern classic shingle-style home offering casual elegance, privacy & a dock on Hamburg Cove. Spacious chef's kitchen/great room with fireplace, master suite, guest wing. Office, media & billiard rooms. Spectacular! *Offered at \$1,950,000*



www.10CollinsLane.com

NEW

Essex Village Waterfront Outstanding 4500sf Middle Cove waterfront Federal c.1837 with dock. Recently remodeled kitchen and baths. Wrap-around porch, balcony. Four bedrooms, 4.1 baths. Suite above garage. Walk to stores, restaurants. Views! *Offered at \$1,895,000*



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



SOLD

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



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



NEW

Essex Plains Road Commercial Condominium Class "A" 2600sf professional office or medical space in move-in condition. Reception, waiting room, conference room, four offices plus file and break areas. One of only three units in this highly visible building. *Offered at \$500,000*



PENDING

Essex Plains Road Commercial Condominium Class "A" 1240sf office and showroom space with new attached 1800sf garage. Ideal for mechanical service provider. One of only three units in this highly visible building. *Offered at \$429,000*



Essex Village Charming Cape in immaculate condition with three first floor bedrooms and one bedroom suite upstairs. Remodeled kitchen, central air. Private setting adjacent to Essex Land Trust property. *Offered at \$374,900*



SOLD

Essex Heritage Cove Condo Move-in 3 bdrm townhouse with Falls River and North Cove views. Open kitchen with corian countertops and custom cabinetry. New wood flooring in living room. Enjoy Heritage Cove pool, waterfront and dock! *Offered at \$279,900*

Essex-Centerbrook-Ivoryton Garden Surplus Initiative

Are you expecting surplus homegrown vegetables from your backyard garden? If so, the Initiative will gladly pick up your donations at Essex Town Hall between noon and 3 p.m. on Thursdays from July 7 until October 6, 2011, and deliver them to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen Garden. Drivers for the Soup Kitchen then deliver your vegetables to destination points for needy families in our area. Last summer, between the Soup Kitchen's produce, generous donations from area farm stands, and the Essex Town Hall Initiative, over 37,000 pounds of fresh vegetables were donated to the hungry. This year, there will be a book at Town Hall for those of you who would like to log-in your donations.

The Soup Kitchen Garden and the Initiative would like to thank Dean Jacques of the Essex Town Hall and Ellie Wetmore of Essex, who were instrumental in the success of last year's effort.

For more information, call the Essex Town Hall at 860-767-4340 Ext 201. To volunteer to drive food from Essex to Saybrook Soup Kitchen Garden, call 860-767-8441.



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Essex: Waterfront and village location!!! This dramatic contemporary colonial, built in 2001, is filled with light and has sweeping views of North Cove and the Connecticut River. The design of the home, with an amazing use of windows, high ceilings and sleek lines embraces the remarkable location. The 3600 sq. foot home has 3 bedrooms, including a large master suite overlooking the water. Recent permitted dock and a 2 car heated garage. \$2,175,000



Essex: Steps to historic Essex Village, this luxury condo features rich architectural details & quality craftsmanship throughout. There is a custom kitchen, built-in bookcases, cozy fireplace & steam shower. The spacious living room leads to a balcony overlooking a sweeping lawn & with North Cove views. \$599,000




Old Saybrook: Nantucket shingle style home with dramatic hilltop setting and distant views of the Connecticut River. This beautifully landscaped home has a great floor plan with 4700 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, & 3 1/2 baths. There is a 3 car garage with a new studio/office above & a large stone patio surrounds a heated pool. \$897,000.



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