

# Haddam Events

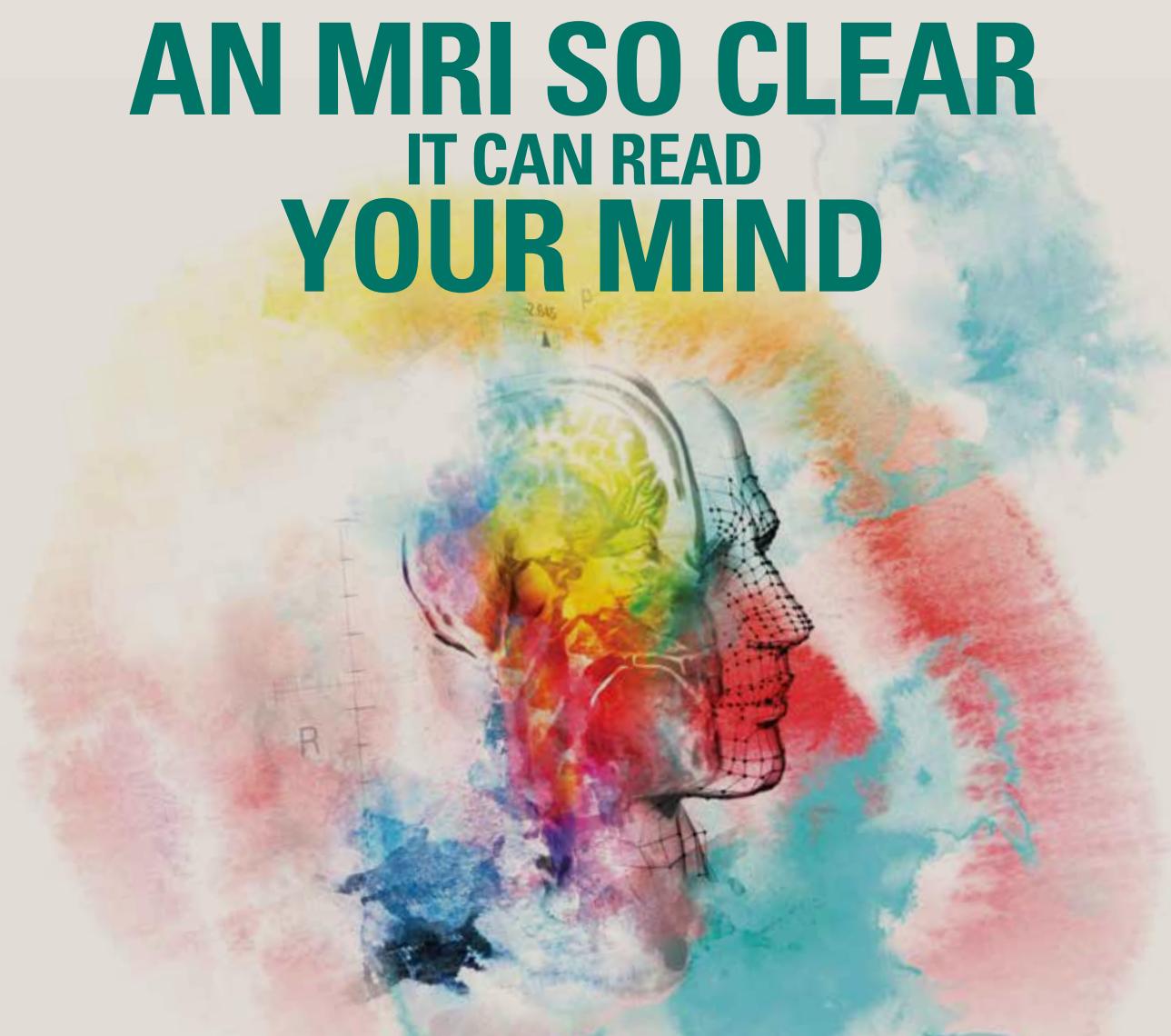
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Volume 7 • Quarter 1 • 2014



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## First Selectman's Corner

First, I'll wish you all a happy New Year and hope your holidays were happy and healthy.

What a busy first month it was! Walking into town hall my first day was a truly amazing experience and I want to thank all those who made it possible.

The job of a public servant is never easy and I would like to thank Paul DeStefano for the work he has done for our town over the past four years. Although he was not available to sit down with me for a transition before he left office, the town hall staff was professional and helpful getting me up to speed quickly with the everyday town operations and I appreciate them every day.

I started my first day with a laundry list of items I wanted to tackle but I quickly realized this list will be growing exponentially over the next two years.

I will try to update everyone with a column each month so you can follow along with the progress. The budget is my first priority over the next few months, and you'll soon see that I have requested a little more information from all town departments this year. I plan to distribute the town budget to all residents in May with the hope that the voters will be more informed about the budget process.

I am currently scouring our expenses and finding new ways to readjust contracts and agreements to save us money now and in the future.

I have reached out to Ann Faust, a long time Haddam resident and grant writer extraordinaire, to help us find new ways to acquire funding.

In December, we appointed a new town attorney, Michael Wells. I would like to thank Bruno Morasutti for all his years of service to Haddam as our previous town council.

Thanks to a great staff, the Town Office Building will now be open all day, including lunchtime. If you've noticed, we have some construction going on at town hall and the new front door project is nearing completion and will be operational soon.

Our website is now current with upcoming board and committee meetings throughout the year and I have created a first selectman Facebook page "Melissa J. Schlag" to alert you of meetings and other important events on a weekly basis.

I have set up a Budget Task Force to benchmark other municipal budgets in detail. We will research specific areas where we can save money and regionalize expenses while still providing the best services.

*continued on page 2*

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Resident Mae Gaudio with her son Bud, and wife Marge.

### This winter, we have peace of mind knowing Mom has the comfort and care she deserves.

Mom is enjoying her new home at The Saybrook at Haddam, the region's premier assisted living and retirement community. Mom's days are filled with social activities, cultural events, and great meals, which she enjoys with friends and family.

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*First Selectman's Corner ... continued from page 1*

I will also be putting together an Energy Task Force to audit our buildings for inefficiencies and ways to reduce our energy consumption. I also plan to create a Transfer Station Task Force who will look at our current system and find new ways to reduce the cost of operations and increase recycling, helping our environment and our budget at the same time. If you are interested to serve on either of these committees, please contact me for more details.

As I said during my campaign, my door is always open and some of you have already come in to give advice or talk about ideas and others just for a visit. Contact me anytime. 30 Field Park Drive, Haddam, CT 06438. 860-345-8531 x205 / [mschlag@haddam.org](mailto:mschlag@haddam.org). I look forward to an exciting two years!

*Melissa J. Schlag  
First Selectman, Haddam*

**Happy New Year!**

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## Cover Photo Contest Winner

Peter Smith was the winner of the Haddam Events 4th quarter cover contest. The photo was taken in Haddam Meadows at the lower entrance.

## Brainerd Library

### JANUARY DISPLAY AT THE LIBRARY

During the month of January the library will have on display a cross stitching of the Ralph Ely Sawmill. This cross stitched piece was designed and created by Kathleen Ely of Haddam. She has shown it in many local Fairs and has won blue ribbons and Best in Show. Along with this piece of local history she will have photos of the sawmill with a writeup. Also included in the display will be brochures and old business cards. The display will be in the display case located at the main entrance to the library.

### HEALTHY EXCHANGE BOOK CLUB

January Book Selection January 8 at 6:30.

*Toxic Free: How to Protect Your Health and Home from the Chemicals that Make You Sick* by Debra Lynn Dadd. This book club meets the first Wednesday of every month. In *Toxic Free*, Debra Lynn Dadd, hailed by The New York Times as the "Queen of Green," discusses the hidden toxic chemicals already present in our homes, their varying degrees of danger, and precise, proven methods for eliminating them from our lives in a cost-effective, environmentally friendly way.

Are you suffering from unexplained headaches, fatigue, or depression? Are you worried about the link between chemicals in the home and the rising rate of cancer? Or are you just looking to save money (and the planet in the process)?

From tips and do-it-yourself formulas to world-class research and in-depth exploration and explanation, this book provides:

- a basic understanding of how toxic chemicals in consumer products affect your health;
- all the tools you need to remove these toxins from your home and body-starting today;
- helpful guides on how to immediately save money on home-care products, as well as on the rapidly rising cost of your health care.

### OVERDRIVE CLASSES

Accessing OverDrive E-Books on Kindle E-Readers

Saturday, January 25 - 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to download OverDrive library e-books for free to your Kindle. The session will be presented by Sarah Eiseman, a University of Illinois MS in Library and Information science student.

*Continued on page 5*

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Feb 4, 9-11

Feb 11, 9-11

Feb 21, 9-11

# Events

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## Board of Assessment Appeals

After the crush of the holiday season, it's a good time for all homeowners to review the assessment of their property. If you disagree with the town's assessment, you will have an opportunity to challenge it before the Board of Assessment Appeals. Here's what you need to know:

### WHEN YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY

Applications will be available at the Assessor's Office beginning in mid-January. Completed applications must be returned to the Assessor's Office no later than the February 20, 2014 deadline .

### WHEN THE HEARINGS WILL BE HELD

The Board of Assessment Appeals normally holds its hearings in March of each year . You will be notified of the date and time of your appointment via letter. If the appointment is inconvenient, the Board will try its best to accommodate your schedule .

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO BRING TO THE HEARING

You should bring any evidence that supports your position i.e. a recent appraisal, invoices, contracts, photographs, maps, letters, etc. In addition, the Board may need to schedule a site visit to see the property first hand.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

An Action Letter with the Board's decision will be sent to you within 2 weeks of your hearing .

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**Brainerd Library ... continued from page 3**

Sarah lives in Meriden, CT and regularly teaches adults how to use technology in their everyday lives in libraries around the state. This class will cover the basic search, hold, wish-list, and check-out functions, as well as Amazon account management. Please bring your Brainerd Library card and Kindle device to the session. Attendees should already know how to use their Kindle. Please register online for this program by going to our website [www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org](http://www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org) or calling the library at 860-345-2204.

#### **ACCESSING OVERDRIVE EPUB E-BOOKS ON NON-KINDLE E-READERS**

Saturday, January 25 – 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Learn how to download OverDrive library EPub e-books for free to your non-Kindle e-reader. The session will be presented by Sarah Eiseman, a University of Illinois MS in Library and Information science student. Sarah lives in Meriden, CT and regularly teaches adults how to use technology in their everyday lives in libraries around the state. This session will focus on OverDrive Media Console users/ EPub e-readers. These are basically all non Kindle e-readers. This session will focus on using the media console and managing accounts on a dedicated computer using the specific software OverDrive provides. This class will cover the basic search, hold, wish-list, and check-out functions. Please bring your Brainerd Library card and non-Kindle device to the session. Attendees should already know how to use their non-Kindle e-reader. Please register online for this program by going to our website [www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org](http://www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org) or calling the library at 860-345-2204.

#### **CALL FOR EXHIBITORS FOR BRAINERD LIBRARY**

Do you have a special collection or hobby you would like to display at the library? If so, we have openings for our display case in 2014 starting in March. The display case is located at the library's front entrance and is enjoyed by the many patrons visiting the library. Please call Beverly Radziwon at 860-345-2204 if you would like to do a display.

#### **NEW! BRAINERD LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**

Join us on January 23, 2014 for the Brainerd Library Book Club. Open to all who love to read and talk. To register, please call 860-345-2204 or register online at [www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org](http://www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org).

#### **THE FRIENDS' BOOK NOOK IS OPEN**

The Friends' Book Nook in the Community Room of Brainerd Memorial Library is open at last. Come to the library during regular hours and see the new, easily accessible space that is dedicated to the sale of used materials. There are fiction and nonfiction, hardcover and paperback books for adults and children, and a large selection of young adult books, large print books, and military books as well as DVDs and CDs. Prices range from \$.25 - \$2.00.

*Continued on page 6*



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# *Eight CAT Swimmers Honored as Connecticut's Top 16*



*Cougar Aquatic Team Top 16 Swimmers who attended the Connecticut Swimming Awards Banquet held at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on November 3, 2013 (l-r) Back row: Cassie Garrelds, Lauren D'Amico, and Caitlyn VonFeldt; Front row: Drew Donlan, Christopher Garrelds, and Kyle Mazziotti.*

Eight swimmers from the Cougar Aquatic Team (CAT) were honored at the annual Connecticut Swimming Awards Banquet held at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on November 3, 2013. These CAT swimmers were recognized for their outstanding performance during the 2012-2013 season and for achieving the top 16 fastest times in Connecticut. The Connecticut top times were compiled from all US swim meets during the 2012-2013 short and long course seasons.

CAT swimmers who achieved the Top 16 fastest times in Connecticut were 10/U Boys Christopher Garrelds (Killingworth) for the 200 yard and 500 yard Freestyle, and Kyle Mazziotti (Killingworth) for the 400 meter Freestyle, 50 meter Backstroke, and 100 meter Backstroke; Lauren D'Amico (Killingworth) for the 400 meter Freestyle, and the 100 meter Breaststroke for 10/U Girls; Drew Donlan (Haddam) for the 500 yard Freestyle and the 200 Y Butterfly for 11/12 Boys; Cassie Garrelds (Killingworth) for the 1,650 yard Freestyle for 11/12 Girls;

Caitlyn VonFeldt (Killingworth) for the 100 meter Backstroke for 13/14 Girls; and Cameron Garrelds (Killingworth) for 100



*Cougar Aquatic Team swimmer Isaac Waide (East Haddam, CT) achieved a Top 16 Open Water Mile time. He placed 4th overall in USA Swimming 15-16 age group, placed 5th overall male out of the water and 7th place for the entire race.*

yard and 200 yard Breaststroke, 200 IM and 400 IM for the 13/14 Boys, and 200 yard Breaststroke for the 15/16 Boys age group. Isaac Waide (East Haddam) achieved a Top 16 Open Water Mile time. He placed 4th overall in USA Swimming 15/16 age group, 5th overall male out of the water, and 7th for the entire race.

The Cougar Aquatic Team (CAT), founded in 1985, is a recognized USA swim team that practices at the Haddam-Killingworth High School pool.

CAT competes at several locations and colleges around Connecticut and New England. Under the sponsorship of the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Department, CAT provides competitive training programs where individual needs and goals are given careful consideration. Swimmers are grouped based on ability, age, and objectives. Practices are available six days a week. CAT is open to swimmers with the desire and determination to succeed in a sport strongly dominated by outstanding student athletes. For more information go to [www.catswim.com](http://www.catswim.com).

## *Brainerd Library ... continued from page 5*

Proceeds benefit library programming and collection development. Brainerd Library is located at 920 Saybrook Rd, Haddam, CT, 06438. 860-345-2204.

### **ADOPT-AN-AUTHOR**

The Books You Want, Before You Know You Want Them! We are pleased to announce a new program at Brainerd Library, Adopt-an-Author. Select an author(s) whose work you want to read from our Suggested Authors list. Agree to purchase any book your author(s) writes and donate the book to Brainerd Library. (You may cancel at any time.) If you don't see your

favorite author, call Cindy Muhlbach at 860-345-2204 to see if your favorite author is available for this program.

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# Haddam Historical Society

## Wishing all of our Supporters a Happy and Healthy 2014

We have accomplished many things in 2013 including successfully completing the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) sponsored by Connecticut Humanities, the Connecticut League of History Organizations and American Association for State and Local History. The intensive two year programs focused on six critical areas and offered us the opportunity to benchmark our work against nationally recognized standards. We achieved silver certificates in Audience, Mission, Vision & Governance and Management. We are currently working on achieving silver certificates in Interpretation, Stewardship of Collections and Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes. We have updated our strategic plan, improved way-finding signage and updated policies and procedures. Participation in the program has been extremely beneficial to the society by educating staff, volunteers and governing body of museum standards, increasing HHS credibility, and providing clear direction for future improvement and long-term sustainability.

We had a successful 40th Annual Connecticut Spring Antiques Show with a triumphant return to the Hartford Armory after an 11 year absence. The society continued to host annual events including Winter Woolies, Janteenth Night, volunteer thank you party, and Founders' Day Dinner. Programs included a talk on G. Fox in the 1950s, boat trip on the CT River to celebrate the Swing Bridge's 100th Anniversary, and our first Arm Chair Chat with long-time residents. HHS worked with other local organizations to host walks at Higganum Cove and the Haddam Neck Quarries.

The Staff prepared a traveling exhibit on the 100th Anniversary of the Swing Bridge which will make its final appearance at the Library in January 2014. We had a companion exhibit at the museum with additional historic photographs and items from the collection.

Events for 2013 included a fundraising Lobster Bake and our Spirits of Higganum Historic House Tour. We participated in the State's Open House Day and Connecticut's Historic Gardens Day. In the fall the scholarship committee hosted an antiques appraisal fair. HHS continues community outreach at such events as the Higganum Farmers Market, Town Wide Tag Sale and the Haddam Neck Fair.

Sarah Neal, our Education Coordinator continues our strong school programs with the 5th and 3rd grades. She has also developed a number of homeschool and scout programs which have earned high praise. The summer camp program celebrated its 8th year and continues to be filled to capacity. Unfortunately due to transportation issues RSD #17 no longer participates in the award winning 2nd and 4th grade programs which is a real loss for our community students. In June we awarded our first high school scholarship to graduation senior Gabriela Narowska.

HHS has participated in a number of workshops and discussions about Venture Smith Homestead and Tourism Place-making. Director, Elizabeth Malloy conducted an adult education class in Middletown on Haddam History. The society continued the "Get Lost" campaign for the second year and remains active in area history consortiums. Recently we hosted a wonderful holiday open house.

We could not do any of this without YOU! Our supporters and volunteers are what keeps the organization going and we deeply appreciate all the assistance we receive.

*Haddam Historical Society*  
14 Hayden Hill Road  
P.O. Box 97, Haddam, CT 06438  
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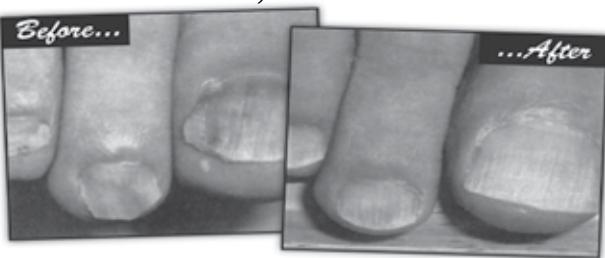
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## 9 Town Transit to Offer Service in East Haddam

East Haddam residents will soon have greater mobility with new access to a regional transit system. Beginning January 15th, the town of East Haddam will begin a contract with 9 Town Transit to provide general public Dial-A-Ride service throughout the town.

9 Town Transit, operated by the Estuary Transit District, currently provides Dial-A-Ride service throughout Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. Any location within East Haddam and Moodus will now also be included in the new expanded service area.

To reserve a trip, customers will call 9 Town Transit at up to two weeks but no less than one day in advance. The fare will be \$3.00 each way, with seniors age 60 and over eligible to ride at a suggested donation of \$1.50. The hours of service are 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. The service is open to the general public with no age restrictions. All vehicles are fully accessible with wheelchair lifts and service is available for any trip purpose.

Additional information, route maps and schedules are available online at [www.9towntransit.com](http://www.9towntransit.com) or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-554-0551.

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## Essex Savings Bank Rated Five Stars Eighteen Consecutive Years

Essex Savings Bank has once again earned the highest 5-Star rating for strength and stability from Bauer Financial, Inc. of Coral Gables, Florida, the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm. Bauer Financial has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of U.S. banks since 1983. No institution can pay BauerFinancial to rate it, nor can an institution choose to be excluded. Essex Savings Bank has proven its commitment to superiority by earning this top rating for 71 consecutive quarters. Fewer than 10% of the nation's banks can claim this distinction. In order to do so, the Bank has excelled in areas of capital adequacy, delinquent loan levels and profitability to name just a few. Consistently earning BauerFinancial's highest rating assures customers and the community that Essex Savings Bank is a strong financial institution that will be able to fulfill their banking needs for years to come. Essex Savings Bank is a FDIC insured, state chartered, mutual savings bank established in 1851.

# 9 TOWN TRANSIT



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9 Town Transit is Operated by the  
Estuary Transit District

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Dr. Leroy Holdmeyer  
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*Office Hours by Appointment*

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[www.higganumvetclinic.com](http://www.higganumvetclinic.com)

## Q: How do I know if orthotics in my shoes will work for me??

Custom Made Orthotics & Diabetic Shoes

Dr. Gary N. Grippo  
\*Board Certified Foot Surgeon  
Bone & Joint Specialist

Dr. Sean Lazarus  
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Many times just a look at the bottom of your shoes tells a story. If you have wear on the outside of your shoe, this might be an indication that orthoses would be an appropriate recommendation for you. Orthoses control movement, like a cradle and reduce strain on the joints eliminating many types of foot pain.

Custom made orthotics are very different from over the counter devices as they are molded to your foot by the making of a plaster impression. This allows us as your podiatrist to add modifications needed to correct your particular foot condition. We as podiatrists are educated in biomechanics and trained to determine how your specific foot functions.

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## Essex Printing & Events Magazines Supports goPink Project & Middlesex Hospital



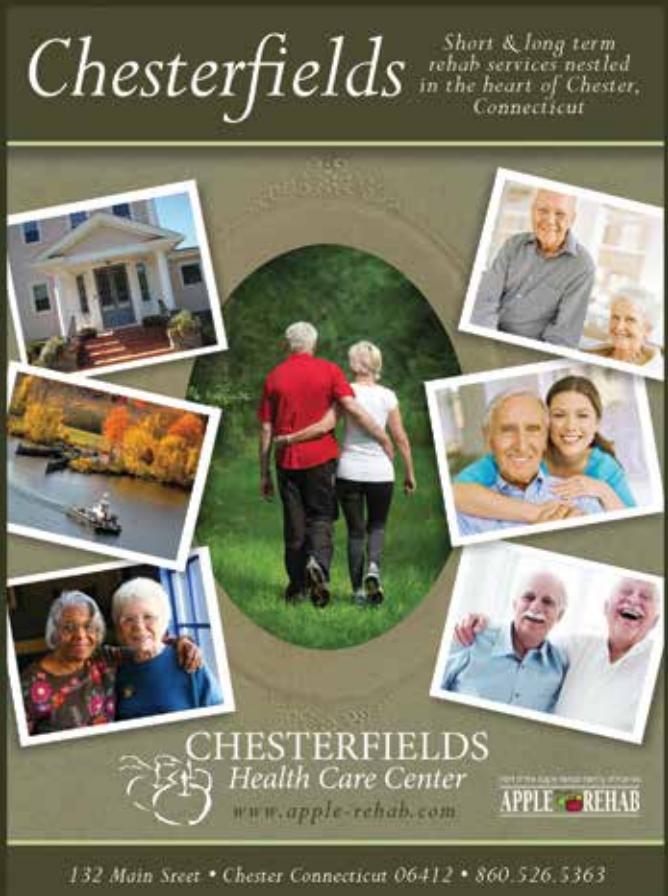
Left to Right: Suzanne Spires, Director of Advertising & Operations, Events Magazines; Kathleen Russo, Community Relations Middlesex Hospital; Sarah Moore, Director of Development, Middlesex Hospital; Fred Holloran, Vice President Marketing & Business Development, Essex Printing;

Georgi Marion, EG Salon, Middletown; Ellie Gagnon EG Salon, Middletown.

During the month of October you saw a lot of pink. Pink shirts, pink hair, pink flowers, pink ribbons; all promoting breast cancer awareness and treatment. Essex Printing and Events Magazines teamed up with the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center and goPINK Project, a local collaboration among area beauty salons and other local businesses to increase awareness about breast cancer and to support patients in our community.

For every advertisement sold in Events Magazines during the month of October a donation was made to the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center. Essex Printing and Events Magazines are proud to have made a \$900 donation to fight breast cancer. Over \$26,600 was raised by the thirty-three participating companies this year and \$63,393 since the goPINK project's inception in 2010.

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