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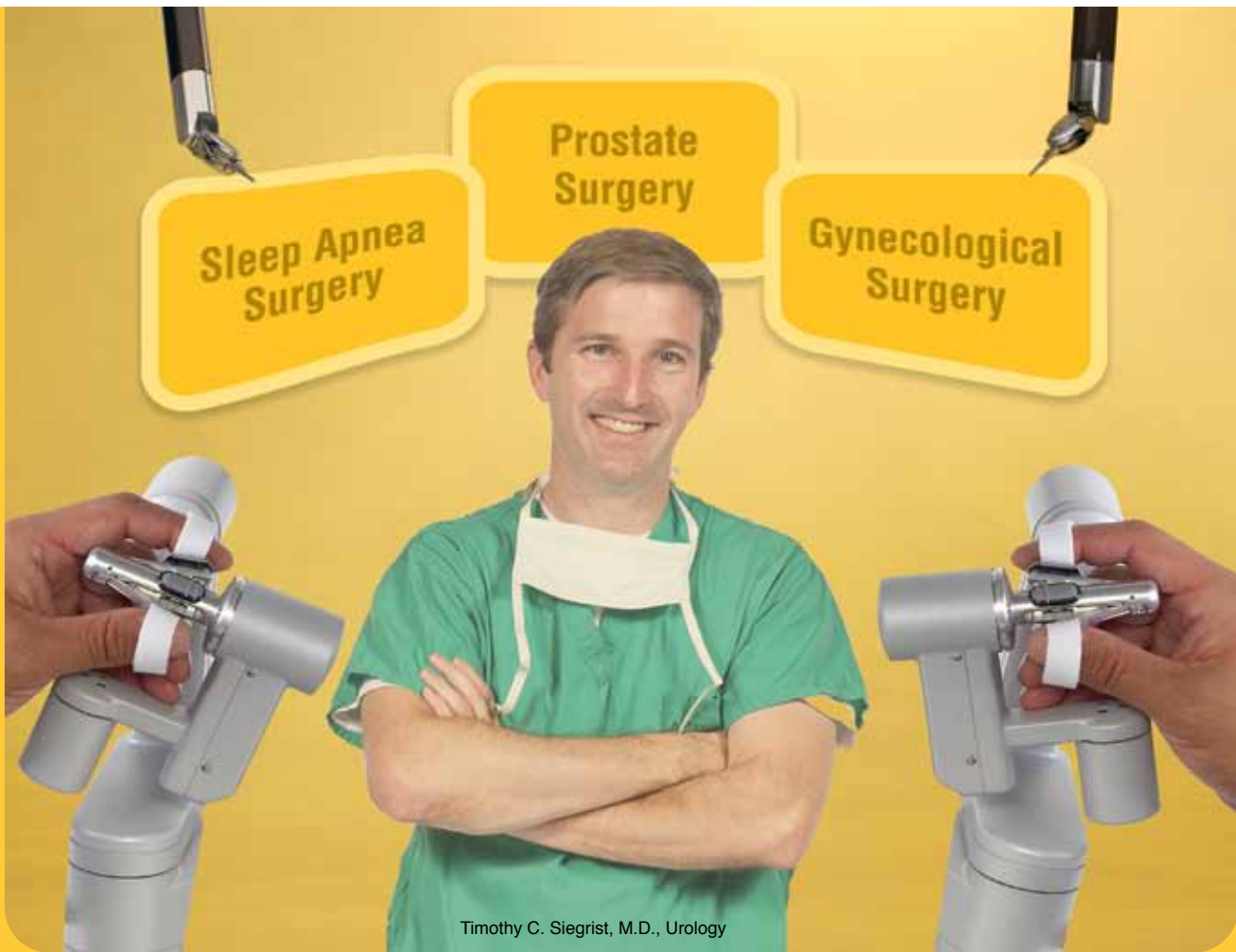
Volume 16 • Quarter 1 • 2012



Connecticut River Eagle Watch

February 3 - March 11, 2012





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First Selectman's Corner

By the time you are reading this, we will be in the depths of Winter, looking forward to the warmth and flowers of Spring. I will have been serving as your new First Selectman for over three months, and your new Board of Selectmen will be well into the process of developing the 2012-2013 Municipal budget. It is my hope that the revised budget process will have attracted more participation on the part of those who had concerns last year.

With the cold of winter, we expect the eagles to be back nesting on the river, and we will be enjoying the programs being presented by the Connecticut River Museum, as well as the many events that our Town has planned for this season, especially the arrival of Essex Ed, whose character is a well-guarded secret until the Ground Hog Day Parade.

In my new role as your First Selectman, I have tried to focus my attention on getting better acquainted with the personnel of the Town to get a better understanding of everyone's job function. Additionally, I have been reaching out to all of our Board and Commission Chairs, whose participation is such a vital part of our town government, and will hopefully have had an opportunity to meet with them individually and as a group, to improve communication between all of them, as well as to better understand how they interact with the employees of the Town as well as with the providers of contracted services that our Town uses.

We have been working on improving our emergency preparedness by implementing some enhancements to facilities and equipment that were identified as deficient after Hurricane Irene.

A committee has been formed to investigate ways to improve our Town website. In addition, we are collecting email addresses because we plan on launching a Town newsletter sometime this spring. Please email us at essexnews@essexct.gov to put your name on this list. We are a better community when we are informed, and it is my job to improve that communication.

As I get deeper into the workings of our Municipal Government, a number of areas of improvement are becoming apparent. One of my long term goals is to move in the direction of having an operation that is a bit more systems-dependent and less person dependent. We need to develop a five year capital plan that gets updated annually. There are many more goals, but I will discuss them at future Selectmen's meetings as well as in future articles.



First Selectman Norm Needleman

continued on page 2

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

On a more personal note, I would like to thank State Representative Phil Miller, who served this Town for four years as Selectman and eight as First Selectman. I also want to thank him for asking me to serve with him on the Board of Selectmen during his four terms leading this Town. I feel confident in saying that Essex is a better place as a result of his efforts and advocacy. We all wish him well as our State Representative and in his future endeavors.

In addition, I want to thank the voters of the town for supporting Stacia Libby and me in our campaign to lead this Town. I thank Bruce MacMillan for "fighting the good fight", and congratulate Joel Marzi on his winning a seat on the board, as well as to thank him for his many years of service to this Town.

I do not take the trust that the citizens of this Town placed in me lightly. It is my desire to keep this Town, ever changing, and ever beautiful, the little piece of heaven that it has always been.

– First Selectman Norman Needleman

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East Haddam: Leave the rat race behind & enjoy a comfortable & inviting lifestyle in this country contemporary. Over sized windows, open floor plan, cooks kitchen, LR with stone fireplace & deck overlooking pond & marsh. Beautifully landscaped 5 acres & 2 car garage.
\$439,000 Deb Pach x 20



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\$419,000 Maureen Wiltzie O'Grady x 16



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. Priced well below replacement cost, make this home yours. Unfinished walk out basement for expansion possibilities. Low maintenance exterior. Newly built in 2005. Great location.
\$599,000 Maureen Wiltzie O'Grady x 16



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\$599,000 Nancy Johnson x 27



Essex: Imagine owning your own piece of paradise in the heart of Essex. Minutes to downtown Essex by foot, car or boat! Enjoy the convenience of docking your boat at the slip at your bulkhead. Relax on the deck and drink in the breathtaking views of Essex, Middle Cove and the Connecticut River. This antique house features 2 bedrooms, two baths on 1/2 an acre.
\$865,000 Beth Brewer X 23



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Events

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Albert & Gail Moncovich, 24 Prospect Street, Essex
William R. Freeman, 23 Heron Pond Road, Essex
Robert & Deborah Buffington, 8 Fairview Street, Ivoryton
Maria D. Battaglia, 92 Mares Hill Road, Ivoryton
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Victor M. & Maria V. Gotay, 85 River Road, Essex
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James B. & Cheryl L. Taylor, 7 Conklin Avenue, Ivoryton
James Pfaff & Donald Hynes, 65 Main Street, Ivoryton
Robert J. & Linda F. Brophy, Jr., 11 Mares Hill Road, Ivoryton
Douglas T. & Lori K. Horn, 37 Falls River Drive, Ivoryton
David Facchini, 8 North Main Street, Essex

Loss of our Residents and Friends

October

Anne C. Willets
Pauline E. Shoneck
Anita D. Baldoni
Dorothy Cross
Felix T. Trommer
Paul J. Karam
Walter N. Miller
Richard O. Gritzmacher, MD
Aletta W. Murphy

November

Virginia Bugbee
Kenneth A. DeLonge
Mary L. Heinold
John Goetcheus, MD
Cecelia H. Wustrack

December

John F. Young
William H. Ingalls

News from Events Magazines

Events Magazines is under new management. With this change comes the opportunity to bring fresh ideas and new features to our advertisers and business partners. We plan to offer new magazine features including special events focus pages, business spotlight pages and merchant/group ad pages. We will add website advertising and client links. You can look forward to the same outstanding service, hard work and strong business relationships we have already developed.

Sincerely, Bill McMinn

Deadline for the next issue of

ESSEX EVENTS

is March 27, 2012

Eagle Viewing Boat Cruises Schedule and Info for 2012

Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel will again sponsor numerous boat cruises aboard *RiverQuest* from February 11 through March 18, 2012 to search for Bald Eagles wintering along the Connecticut River. Bald Eagles can be found along the lower river, where this wintering ground is host to the largest concentration of eagles in the Northeast. Naturalists will be on board to assist in bird identification and share information about the CT River and its winter inhabitants. *RiverQuest* has a heated cabin, restroom, and two open decks for optimal viewing. Tours are approximately two hours in length and depart Thursdays at 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cruises will depart from Essex in February and relocate to Haddam in March weather pending.

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Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel will sponsor numerous boat cruises aboard RiverQuest from February 11 through March 18, 2012.

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

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Joe Heller	860-767-3219	jheller@essexct.gov
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Nancy Berryman	x123	nberryman@essexct.gov

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Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov

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Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health	x143	lfasulo@essexct.gov
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Mary Ellen Barnes, Rec. Coordinator	x110	mebarnes@essexct.gov

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Dana Novorio	x128	townclerk@essexct.gov

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Left Out in the Cold?

Last December budgets were reduced for the Energy Assistance Program by 25%. This was done in response to the nation's fiscal crisis, but the results of that decision are plain. Staffing was cut, stressing the application process so that appointments cannot be made in a timely fashion, and a number of weeks go by before eligible people are granted.

Benefits were also reduced. Some people used up their allotments before January, leaving them at risk for the longest and coldest part of winter.

Essex Social Services is doing its best to help these people, but they depend upon your donations. We are therefore asking for help from our more fortunate citizens.

Please send your checks to: Town of Essex, Social Services, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426.

I am also sending letters to our State representatives asking for special funding for the Energy Assistance Program. We encourage you to send letters as well – as soon as possible. Here are their addresses:

Representative Philip Miller
Connecticut General Assembly
36th Assembly District, Legislative Office Bldg., Room 4037
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Eileen, M. Daily
Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Office of the Governor, State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

We understand that budgets need to be constrained during troubled times, but our values insist that it should not come at the expense of the most vulnerable among us. Bad economies only make the need that much greater.

– Norman Needleman, First Selectman



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The market certainly has changed over the past few years, and we're pretty sure it will continue to change in the future. We'll keep on top of it, so we understand what is going on out there, and how it will affect all our clients. Our motto for the future is "Keep It Simple". We want to make sure that we understand the needs of each client and that each client understands their options and their transaction fully and simply. We're sure it will be another interesting year, and we hope to see you!



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The Eagles Have Landed

It is winter time at the Connecticut River Museum in Essex and across the river two adult Bald Eagles are sitting shoulder-to-shoulder on a branch above their old nest. They've been breeding here for a dozen years and now they're back, getting ready to repair their nest and begin a new family. This event signals the beginning of another season of the return of the majestic Bald Eagle to the lower Connecticut River.


The eagles across the river on Nott Island are "locals" and for them Essex is a year-round home. Soon they will be joined by 20 to 50 "visiting" eagles that come all the way from northern New England and Canada to spend the winter. Bald Eagles are primarily fish eaters and as the lakes and rivers freeze up north the big birds begin to drift south looking for open water where they can catch fish and survive winter. They follow the "ice line" south until they find just the right place. That place, fortunately for us, is right here in Essex. One of the best places to survive the hardships of a New England winter is Essex and the lower 12 miles of the Connecticut River. The combination of river-flow, tides and proximity to the coast creates a microclimate that keeps the lower river from freezing solid and is perfect for winter fishing.

The celebration of the return of the Bald Eagles isn't only about the wonder and grace of a magnificent bird of prey or a way to honor our national symbol. It's just as much a celebration of the greatest environmental success story of our time.

It's the story of the American Bald Eagle as "The Comeback Kid" and the rebirth of our great river: The Connecticut. It was a mere 50 years ago that the Bald Eagle was nearly extinct and our river was a polluted mess. The eagles had dwindled from a healthy half a million to a mere 500. Between 1959 and 1989 there were no eagles in Connecticut at all and the last holdout for these great birds was concentrated in Alaska and northern Canada. Eagles had been persecuted by hunters, farmers and loss of habitat and then, finally, poisoned by chemical insecticides and pollution. Suddenly they were almost gone. Then we awoke; the alarm was sounded. First by Rachael Carson with her book "Silent Spring" and then by Old Lyme wildlife artist and bird champion Roger Tory Peterson. Once the public took stock of how despoiled the environment had become, new laws were passed including the Clean Water Act and the Bald Eagle was protected by The Endangered Species Act. Gradually our river started to clean up and fish returned. Slowly the eagle and our rivers made a comeback. Little by little the double comeback continued, eagle and river, gradually building strength until almost as if by magic they were back: Strong and healthy. And our river was back too, the mighty Connecticut: Strong and healthy.


It is this amazing story that sets the foundation for the Connecticut River Museum's continued expansion of its annual EagleWatch programming. Through a partnership with Project

continued on page 11



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• *Eagles continued from page 10* •

Oceanology, a Groton-based marine science and environmental education organization, the Museum will once again provide a dynamic on-water experience. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday starting on February 3 and running through March 11, Project Oceanology's *Enviro-lab III*, a 65-foot modern research vessel, will depart from the Museum's docks for an up-close view of winter wildlife, Bald Eagles, and other big birds of prey. Educators from the Museum and Project Oceanology will provide narration while passengers can enjoy viewing from the heated cabin or outside deck area. In addition, there's an opportunity to assist in collecting water samples and compiling data for water-quality monitoring programs that are part of an ongoing environmental study with the Museum. Every boat tour ticket includes free admission to the Museum where the story of the Bald Eagle continues to unfold.

Opening on February 4 and running through March 11, the Eagles of Essex exhibit tells of why so many Bald Eagles winter here and how they went from near-extinction to becoming one of the greatest environmental come-back stories in history. In addition to an interactive eagle nest, exhibitry illustrates how to identify birds of prey and where the best land-viewing spots are located. An eagle sighting scoreboard and a digital photography display is also featured. Amateur photographers are invited to submit their digital shots of eagles or other river raptors for inclusion in the exhibit.

Special programming events round out EagleWatch. On Saturday, February 4, drop-in arts and crafts, eagle nest building



EagleWatch runs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday starting on February 3 and goes through March 11.

activities, birdwatching with binoculars and scopes, and more will be happening from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Eagles of Essex gallery. On Sat., Feb. 11 and Sat., March 10 at 1:30 p.m., international nature photographer Stan Kolber will present an "Introduction to Bird Photography". And on Sun., Feb. 19 at 3:00 p.m. at Essex Town Hall, the Connecticut River Museum, together with the Essex Garden Club and the Potapaug Audubon Society, will host a free Live Birds of Prey Show. For a full listing of event details, go to www.ctrivermuseum.org or call 860-767-8269. The museum is located on the Essex waterfront at 67 Main Street and is open Tuesday – Sundays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Team Assistants: Sara Smedik, Peg Mitchel, Mary Ann Agostini
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Essex Garden Club Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary

It began in 1952. After 13 years of sharing a club with Old Saybrook, the Essex Garden Club established an independent entity and became a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. Initially, a “white glove”, formal group of community-minded women set goals to enhance the villages of Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook and in so doing, created an organization that has over the years become an integral part of our community. Though since 1952 the white gloves and dresses have given way to blue jeans, and men have joined the membership ranks of the club, the fundamental goals remain the same: civic improvement and beautification of our town, development of education and conservation initiatives to benefit both the membership and the broader public, foster programs within the school system to enhance awareness of our natural resources and grant scholarships to those younger people who demonstrate an interest in environmental sciences.

In the early days under the leadership of its first President, Mrs. Robert Carter, the Club initiated its first projects of community enhancement. The Garden Club planted trees on Main Street, Champlin Square, began its first clean up and organized its first Christmas Door Contest. The Club’s first beautification project in 1952 has to this day remained an enduring responsibility for club members. This project is the development and improvement of the Essex Town Park.



1953 Flower Show. From L to R: Mrs. Robert Carter, President; Mrs. Thomas Mulligan, Flower Show Chairman; Mrs. Malcolm Pitt and Mrs. Wright Poindexter, Co-Chariman.

The land we know as the town park was initially owned by Captain Isaiah Pratt whose home was located where the U.S. Post Office is today. The land was acquired by the Town of Essex in 1925 to be used as “open space.” However, only the front area was maintained. The Mary Pratt property adjacent to the Post office was eventually deeded to the town in 1934.

Beginning in 1952/53, under the leadership of Mrs. Kenneth Cunningham, the Civic Improvement Chair, the Garden Club brought in plants and trees from local farms owned by Merritt Comstock. Other landscape materials including bushes, shrubs, picnic tables and benches were brought to the park. Club members removed trash, choking weeds and poison ivy.

The Club continued to provide native plants and trees. Planting in the town park became a community activity for Club members and their families. Townspeople offered plants from their own gardens. A Norway spruce was planted in memory of the First Selectman, Earl Hudson. A witch hazel tree was transplanted from the Dickinson Witch Hazel Co.

In 1971 the back portion of the property was finally cleared by town crews to expose the wonderful view of Middle Cove. Landscaping design and planting ensued and in 1973, the Essex Garden Club won the Cook Landscape Design Award offered by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, for its plan and development of the town park.

With the success of developing the Town Park, the Essex Garden Club took on other civic improvement projects, adopting other parks: Dickinson Park, the traffic islands at Grove Street, So. Main Street, Centerbrook and the foot of Main Street. Today the Club donates plants to the Ancient Order of Essex Weeders who maintain the islands where Rts. 153 and 154 intersect.

In 1962, in partnership with the Rotary Club and the Essex Women’s Club, the Garden Club helped administer the plan to clear and beautify the property surrounding Sunset Pond. In 1976 the Club won the Civic Concern Award for its roadside

continued on page 13

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• Garden Club continued from page 12 •

landscape plan, beautifying exits off of Route 9. Projects in the 1980s included the landscaping of the new Essex Library site and the restoration of the Pratt House herb gardens. In the 1990s, projects involved the re-landscaping of Essex Town Hall and the Essex Landfill.

In 2010 an irrigation system was installed in some of the planting beds of the Town Park. In 2011, the Club became one of the partners in developing landscape design for the grounds of the Essex Basketball Center and Gateway Project.

Since the first clean up in 1952, civic improvement and beautification has remained at the core of the Essex Garden Club. Members maintain, improve or replace plantings at the parks and traffic islands. From spring to fall they weed, prune, transplant, divide, water and mulch.

During the holidays the Club members decorate Main Street and the Silent Policeman. In the spring and summer members provide flowers for Town Hall, the Essex Fire Department, Essex Ambulance and Essex Court. Every week, through its Library Committee, the Club members display floral arrangements or interesting potted plants as well as donate books and dvds pertaining to gardening, landscape design and conservation.

In May 1953, the first Essex Garden Club Flower Show was held at Tooker House on Main Street in conjunction with the



Essex Garden Club Members 1954

Essex House Tour. This event brought 600 visitors to town, 427 of whom visited the Flower Show. Since then, standard flower shows are held every 5-6 years, the last being October 2011

continued on page 14

Pequot/Sherwood Day Camp

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Running in one week sessions for boys and girls ages 6 to 13, local families can enjoy a day program very similar to our overnight camps. Every day, campers choose from a range of activities, spend two full hours at the waterfront and get American Red Cross swimming and boating lessons. Lunch is provided and transportation is available.

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www.pequotsherwood.org

• Garden Club continued from page 13 •

at the Essex Art Association, organized by Wendy Madsen, former Club President, 2009-2011.

Ongoing educational programs for Club membership and the public occur throughout each year, addressing gardening, landscaping, tree preservation, propagation, transplanting, seed planting, flower arranging, wreath making, conservation and horticulture techniques. As in the past, some programs are co-sponsored with other local organizations, such as the Essex Land Trust and the Connecticut River Museum. "Wind over Wings" and "Stone Walls" were two such programs in 2010. "Saving Central Park" will occur on March 5, 2012, co-sponsored with the Essex Land Trust.

From the early years of the Club, educational projects for children at the Essex Elementary School were designed to develop greater awareness of our natural resources and conservation. These programs continue to focus on recycling, gardening concepts, hands on landscaping on the school grounds, spring and fall clean ups as well as tree identification and labeling, bird monitoring, flower and corsage arrangements and field trips to nature/garden centers.

To enhance the children's experience, special projects were developed. In 1961, a bird/wildlife sanctuary was set aside in the back of the elementary school. In 1979 greenhouses were established so that the children could plant seeds and monitor plant development. In 1996, a composting program was coordinated by Gay Thorn, Junior Activities Chair, with the school

staff to encourage the children's understanding of and use of recycled materials in gardening and landscaping.

In the last few years, Junior Activities has been expanded by Susan Senning to the Middle School, where a greenhouse and two raised beds were built by Eagle Scouts. The students seeded the beds, and the mature vegetables were harvested for use in the school cafeteria. This coming year Girl Scouts will be seeding tomatoes and monitoring the plants in the greenhouse. The young tomato plants will be sold at May Market 2012 for planting in our Essex gardens.

The Club's annual scholarships to college students and camperships to school age children have grown over the years from individual awards of \$50 to awards totaling \$8695 this past year.

These and many other accomplishments could only be realized with the generous support of the Essex residents and community organizations. Whether through grants from foundations, donations from local garden centers or resident's purchases at the Club's main fundraiser, May Market, the support has been unwavering and essential to our contribution to the Villages of Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook. The Essex Garden Club looks forward in 2012 to building on the success of the past 60 years, and to working with the community for the benefit of our town.

– Judith Saunders, Publicity



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Online Essex News – *Coming Soon!*

Parades? Events? Important Town Meetings? Special information that needs to get out?

If the Information Age teaches us anything, it is the value of proper communication to our quality of life. The more we know, the more we can get involved. With so much going on in Essex, this is especially true.

The Essex Town Hall is taking steps to make interested citizens better informed. Come springtime, the Selectman's Office will be sending email newsletters to those who sign up. We call it *Essex News*. You can easily sign-up by contacting us at essexnews@essexct.gov and requesting to be added to our mailing list. (Your email address will not be used for anything else.)

You can also find a link on the right side column of our home page, at www.essexct.gov.

Event administrators and non-profit groups are encouraged to contact Dean Jacques at djacques@essexct.gov to submit short event notices for publication.

We expect to launch the first newsletter sometime in the spring, but you can sign up now. Why wait?

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The Essex Winter Series

The Essex Winter Series mission is to bring the finest music, in live performance, to the Connecticut River Valley and Shoreline Region during the winter months and to cultivate its appreciation to the widest audience. In addition to the regular programming of four or five concerts each year, the Essex Winter Series is involved in the local community in a number of ways.

As an exciting new dimension to the Series, Artistic Director Mihae Lee, will present the second annual Emerging Artists Community Outreach Program on April 2, 2012, with three exciting young artists, flutist Kelli Kathman, oboist Carl Oswald and bassoonist Adrian Morejon of the prize-winning Sospiro Winds. In addition to performing at the “Fenton

Brown Emerging Artists Concert” on April 1 with distinguished artists, clarinetist David Shifrin and French hornist William Purvis, the next day these young musicians will give two 45-minute concerts with an open forum at Old Saybrook Goodwin Elementary School; a 30-minute concert at Essex Meadows Retirement Community; and a two-hour wind master class at the Community Music School.

The other three concerts this year are January 29 with Jon Kimura Parker, pianist; February 19 with the Boston Chamber Music Society; and March 4 with Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks...the annual jazz concert.

For ticket and additional information, please visit the Essex Winter Series website: www.essexwinterseries.com.

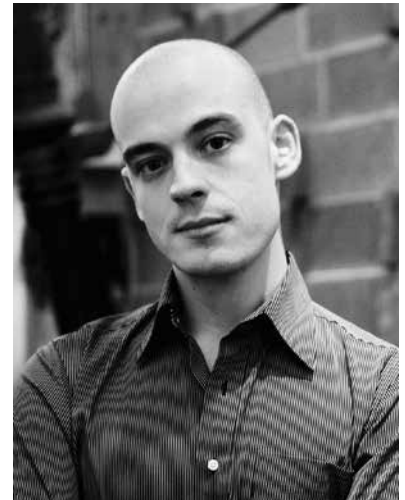
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Essex Tree Committee

The Essex Tree Committee was established in 1990 to regulate and control planting of public trees and shrubs. In 1994, the Town of Essex passed a Tree Ordinance, outlining the responsibilities of the Tree Warden and the Tree Committee. In addition to planting street trees, the committee is to maintain an inventory of all street trees and educate the public about the care and value of street trees.

We ask for your support. Your generosity provides the majority of funds needed to plant your street trees. Your donated funds are kept in a dedicated Town of Essex account and overseen by the town treasurer. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to The Essex Tree Committee, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426.

If you have questions or wish to arrange for a Memorial Tree, please contact members of the tree committee: Adrienne Brochu, Nancy Hudson, John Malloy, Augie Pampel, Ann Penniman, or Mark Pratt.

– Adrienne Brochu, Chairperson, Essex Tree Committee

Main Street Magic?

Come each December, Main Street in Essex Village becomes transformed by the quaint magic of the winter holidays. This year, garlands glimmering with Christmas lights adorned Victorian-styled lampposts along the sidewalks. Together with tastefully decorated houses, evening presented us with a fusion of Christmas past and present. Nostalgia invited us to partake in the quiet simplicity. (Was that Bob Cratchit leaving the Griswold inn?)

While the scene exuded the magic of the season, magic really had nothing to do with it. A number of volunteers made it all possible, and we wish to publicly thank them. They include Margaret Serus, Jim Palagonia, Bruce Thurrott, Colin Bernier, Patty Dailey, Mr. and Mrs. John Senning, and Robert Leary.

We also acknowledge the following individuals whose donations made it possible to purchase the lights: Rick Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. John Senning, Phillip Miller, Cacilda Amaral, Bill Beccaro, Mr. and Mrs. John Proctor, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Harpin, Charles Britton, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Kaplan, Jackie Wolf, Edward Brennan, Dr. and Mrs. Steve Sinatra, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Littler, Mr. and Mrs. John Ackerman, Lil Paul, Geof Paul, John Voegel, the Ryan family, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Nichols, Nancy Arnold, Frank Telo, and last but not least, local businesses Silkworm and Scensibles, the Board of Trade, and the Connecticut River Museum.

With such a fantastic start, here's hoping that the New Year continues to make Essex shine. Kind regards,

– Jean Delia

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

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

We have a wide variety of exciting programs and special events planned for the community in our winter 2012 brochure. We hope to continue our mission of providing recreational facilities and programs for the growth and enhancement of Essex. As always, we appreciate the support of the Essex residents and many community groups and organizations that make our operations a success!

Essex go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival. Park and Recreation is planning the second annual Essex Go Bragh (translated as Essex Forever) Irish Parade & Festival, to be held March 17, 2012 (rain Date March 18). The event will feature an Irish-themed parade down Main Street into the heart of Essex Village followed by the Festival. The Festival will include an Irish Stew Cook-Off among our local restaurants and community groups, a live music performance, activities for kids, and more! All Essex residents and community organizations are encouraged to get involved. You are welcome to walk in the parade ... and if you are not Irish, then be Irish for a day! Full event information will be posted on our website.

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

outdoor endeavors, while increasing the presence and awareness of our local parks, open spaces, and preserves. Grab your passports and join our family events for a chance to win the grand prize in December!

- Winter Walk at Falls River Preserve and Jean's Island, February 4
- Arbor Day Event, April 28
- Birding Seminar/Spring Migrants, May 5
- Fishing Clinic, May 11&12
- Great Meadows Hike & Tremendous Turtle Program, June 27
- Kayaking Program, August 9
- Mountain Bike Ride, August 25
- Ivoryton 5k Run/Walk/Road and Trail Race and Pumpkin Run, October 20
- Turkey Tromp and Plunge, November 17

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 facility the Park and Recreation Commission has been planning 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. This is a Community Project for our young people and families to be able to play basketball and recreate in a safe facility, to have a presentable and safe parking area for multiple users, and to clean-up the Gateway into Essex Village. For drawings of the Project and a full donor package go to www.essexct.gov, click "Departments" click "Park & Recreation" click "Essex Basketball Center."

Please show your support and make a donation in any amount. You may donate online at <http://www.middlesex-countycf.org>, click the yellow "Make a Donation" tab at the top of the page; or donate by mail, check made payable to: "Town of Essex – Basketball Center & Gateway Project," to: Essex Park & Recreation Department, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426.

We sincerely thank our project partner the Essex Rotary Club, and the many people, Town Commissions, and Selectmen who have all worked together to help us create this opportunity for the Community. Only through your support can we make it HAPPEN! If you have any questions about the project or wish to assist in helping complete it, please contact the Essex Park & Recreation Department.

Parks Update & Highlights...

- Fall clean-up has been performed at all parks, we look forward to a great 2012 in our parks!
- A new irrigation system and batting cage have been installed at Hubbard Field.
- The Ivoryton Green enjoyed the Ivoryton Illuminations decorations for the holidays thanks to the Ivoryton Business Alliance. Our Main Street Park gazebo was also decorated for holidays, as well as holiday greens around



Mihae Lee, Artistic Director

Save These Sunday Dates!

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January 8, 2012:	Frederica von Stade, world-renowned mezzo-soprano
January 29, 2012:	Jon Kimura Parker, internationally acclaimed virtuoso pianist
February 19, 2012:	The Boston Chamber Music Society, a distinguished ensemble celebrating its 30th anniversary
March 4, 2012:	Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks, a world-class jazz band
April 1, 2012:	Fenton Brown Emerging Artists Concert

All concerts are held at Valley Regional High School in Deep River.

Sponsors: The Clark Group, Community Music School, Edgar & Geraldine Feder Foundation, Essex Printing, Essex Savings Bank, Guilford Savings Bank, Landscape Specialties and Tower Laboratories.

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• *Park & Recreation continued from page 19* •

town, through the efforts of the Boys Scouts and Essex Garden Club.

- A turf liming application has been completed at Ivoryton Green.
- New tennis backboard netting has been installed, tennis backboard holes patched and lights repair at Grove Street Park.
- An organic fertilizer program has been completed at Viney Hill Brook Park.
- A new gazebo cupola has been installed at the Comstock Park gazebo.
- The Phragmites remediation project Phase I has been performed at Viney Hill Brook Park.

A snapshot of our Winter Programs... (for full information please see our brochure online.)

Music Together®. Music Together is an innovative, thoroughly researched approach to early childhood music and movement for ages infant to 5 years old. The playful activities stimulate growing minds and bodies and enhance all learning. Begins January 23.

Creative Art. Explore a world of artistic creativity! Children will create a variety of different projects from wood, to crafts, to paper art, to pottery. Use your imagination to make wonderful treasures. Begins March 1.

Karate Kids. Meet friends and build self-esteem while learning the meaning of respect, self discipline, concentration and self control. Students will earn the basics of Kempo Karate with Kim Kleiman, a third degree black belt. Begins March 5.

Mad Science Session II: Gross Me Out: We spark imaginative learning when school is out! Children engage in exciting hands-on activities, watch spectacular demonstrations, participate in inquiry-based discussions and take home cool stuff that they have made themselves. This series of classes examines the slimy, yet fascinating, underbelly of science. Begins March 5.

Group Guitar Workshop. This rewarding and fun workshop is for the beginner to slightly experienced guitar player. The group learning environment is perfect for those who enjoy playing and learning music with others without the pressure of being one-on-one with a private instructor. Begins March 5.

Group Violin Workshop. This fun and inspirational group class is offered to children in a relaxed environment providing a chance to discover their inner musical talent. Throughout the session, students will learn to develop the art of listening, playing together, and understand the basic language of music. Begins March 5.

American Red Cross: "When I'm in Charge". Our program teaches children how to be responsible or "In-charge" at home alone. Topics include gun safety, internet safety, family communications, sibling care basic emergency care & confidence building. Begins March 13.

Cartwheels, Etc. Our program is designed to teach gymnastics skills to all levels of students. Instruction revolves around the needs of each individual child. Gymnastics is beneficial to

continued on page 20

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• Parks & Recreation continued from page 19 •

the physical and psychological development of every student at all skill levels. Begins March 6.

High School Boys Lacrosse Clinic. Our program is for high school lacrosse players who wish to develop and build their lacrosse skills in the offseason and be ready for the spring. A variety of drills and games will be held to improve all facets of your game. Begins January 19.

High School Girls Lacrosse Clinic. Our program is for high school lacrosse players who wish to develop and build their lacrosse skills in the offseason and be ready for the spring. A variety of drills and games will be held to improve all facets of your game. Begins January 23.

Adult Basketball. Our Adult Basketball program is a great place to run some hoops and get exercise. Pick-up games are formed each night; games are based on fun and good sportsmanship, rather than competition. Held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Yoga. Relax and renew with this gentle-paced introduction to the ancient practice of yoga. In this class, we will explore basic yoga philosophy, yoga poses, and breathing techniques to increase strength and flexibility, develop mindfulness, and build vitality. Begins March 6.

Zumba Aerobics. Zumba! A Latin inspired aerobic dance class that incorporates Latin and International music and dance. Zumba is exercise in disguise that is fun, different, easy and effective. This popular workout will provide full body toning while having a lot of fun! Begins January 23.

Boating Certification Course. The US Power Squadron's America's Boating Course. Successful completion of the examination at the end of the course meets the requirements for the Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate and Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation which will be issued by the CT DEEP. Begins January 17.

Upcoming Spring Programs... Running Rams Track & Field, Youth Tennis Clinics, Golf, Flag Football, Karate and more! Save the Date: Annual Egg Hunt is Friday April 6.

Park and Recreation Commission Members: Mike Holmes, Chair, Tony Mosa, Jim Rawn, Jack Spangler, Doug Senn, Bob Russo, Jack Lima, Ed Bureson, Cathy Bishop.

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

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

Contact Us! We welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements, program information, online registration and to view our brochure: go to the Town website www.essexct.gov, click "Departments" click "Park and Recreation."

Join us on Facebook as a way to hear about our department and interact with our friends.



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Kathie DeVeu has joined our Team!

The Cushing Group Real Estate Services is pleased to announce that Kathie DeVeu has joined their team of Realtors. Kathie has been a resident of E. Haddam for 20+ years. She provides her knowledge and expertise of Lake and Shore properties. She continually strives to educate herself and her clients in Real Estate, and finds ways to provide her clients with excellent customer service so as to create a smooth transition when purchasing or selling their property. Her focus also extends to first time home-buyers, Stepping up to a larger home or Downsizing for Seniors. The Cushing Group is located at 56 Plains Road, Essex, CT 06426, Kathie DeVeu can easily be reached at 860-305-6719.





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CT Clean Energy Options Program-Winter 2012 Update

As of July 2011, Essex had 245 Clean Energy points. Currently 6.9 % of the residents are involved in the program. Essex ranks 12th in the state with regard to the household penetration rate. With another 55 points, the CT Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority 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.
- Be patriotic and strengthen our economy by investing in it.
- You can reduce pollution from coal, natural gas and oil fired power plants.
- You can help to insure a clean, sustainable, and cost-efficient energy future.

Enroll online at www.essexct.gov.

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Also, check out Home Energy Solutions at www.cl-p.com or call 1-877-WISE-USE for more information.

Essex Citizens for Clean Energy is in the process of developing sustainability goals for the Town of Essex. If you are interested in participating in the process, please contact Frank Hall at the email address: fhall55@gmail.com.



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Essex Land Trust Events

Winter Walk: Falls River Preserve and Jean's Island - Saturday, February 4 10am at Falls River Preserve. Naturalist Phil Miller and Chet Arnold, former president of the Essex Land Trust, will lead groups through the spectacular Falls River Preserve. Walk to Jean's Island if the ice is thick. Cocoa and donuts served before the hike. This walk is the year's kick off for the Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit, co-sponsored with the Essex Land Trust and the Essex Park & Recreation Department. Park at the end of Falls River Drive in Ivoryton. Only really bad weather (blizzard or torrential rain) cancels.

Talk: Saving Central Park - Monday, March 5 2pm at Essex Town Hall. Sara Cedar Miller, the official historian and photographer of the Central Park Conservancy, will discuss the various scientific practices and technological innovations to maintain and restore Central Park, a manmade landscape. Topics will also include the Soil, Water and Ecology Lab's role in maintaining the Park's water bodies for its wildlife (mainly birds and fish) and its soil for the plantings and trees. Co-sponsored by the Essex Garden Club. Refreshments served. Parking behind Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex.

Essex Land Trust Property Spruce-up - Saturday, March 31 9 am-12 pm at Essex Town Hall. Help the Land Trust restore our preserves after the winter by picking up brush and debris, raking and clearing trails and streams. All are welcome, including local groups and organizations. Make this a family event. Meet at Essex Town Hall parking lot, 29 West Avenue, Essex,

for your assignment. Rain or shine. Refreshments served.

Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting- Tuesday, April 17 5:30 pm at Essex Meadows. Members and non-members of the Essex Land Trust are invited to attend its Annual Meeting. There is a charge for the buffet (5:30-6:30pm) but there is no charge for attending the business meeting that follows. Members automatically receive invitations. Non-members who wish to attend should contact Peggy Tuttle, 860-767-7916. Parking spaces are limited; please carpool if possible. Essex Meadows is located at 30 Bokum Road in Essex.

Arbor Day Celebration - Saturday, April 28 9am-12pm at Essex Town Hall. Join us in planting a next generation of trees at Cross Lots and other ELT properties in celebration of Arbor Day. Learn from demonstrations of techniques for successful tree planting. This event will also include family friendly activities. All ages and abilities are welcome. This is an Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit event. Rain or shine. Park at Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue, Essex. Refreshments served.

Walk & Talk: Spring Bird Migrants - Saturday, May 5 8 am-10 am at Viney Hill Brook Park. Join Essex resident and birding enthusiast, Jim Denham, in exploring Viney Hill Brook Park in search of arriving bird migrants. Early May is an ideal time to watch the arrival and passage of forest dwelling birds as they set up nesting territories or bulk-up on their migration northward. Learn how to spot warblers, woodpeckers, sparrows and other avian denizens in one of our town's unique parks. Bring binoculars and wear good walking shoes. Meet at the parking lot next to the pond. This is an Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit event. The park is accessed off Hillside Drive in Essex. Rain or shine. Ample parking is available near the pond. Refreshments served.



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Playhouse Shows

Always...Patsy Cline

March 14 - April 1

Based on a true story about Cline's friendship with a fan who befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk in 1961, and continued a correspondence with Cline until her death. The musical play includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as Crazy, I Fall to Pieces, Sweet Dreams and Walking After Midnight.

The Graduate

April 18 - May 6

California in the 60s. Benjamin's got excellent grades, very proud parents and, since he helped Mrs Robinson with her zipper, a fine future behind him... A cult novel, a classic film, a quintessential hit of the 60s.

ESSEX NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Welcome to Essex!

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

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

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Ivoryton Illuminations

The holiday season definitely shone brighter in Ivoryton this year starting from December 3 when Santa arrived on the patio of the Ivoryton Playhouse in spectacular style in front of an audience of thousands! Continuing throughout the month of December, shops, restaurants and the Ivoryton Playhouse

were decorated with 150,000 lights including the largest living Christmas tree in Connecticut. To add to the festivities, lights on the Playhouse, Firehouse, Ivoryton Tavern and the Gazebo were synced to dance to music on FM1 101.5. There was even a House Decorating Contest open to all residents living in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton with top prizes awarded for creativity and number of lights used. Presented by the Ivoryton Village Alliance with sponsorship support from Citizens Bank, First Niagara, Essex Meadows and the Valley Courier, the Ivoryton Illuminations is an annual event organized entirely by volunteers from throughout the community.



Santa flew into Ivoryton on December 3rd to switch on the Ivoryton Illuminations.



Essex First Selectman Norman Needleman welcomes Santa to the Ivoryton Playhouse.

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Ivoryton Playhouse Executive/Artistic Director Jacqui Hubbard with special guests Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Photos courtesy of Anne Hudson

Time for Reflection

Now that the winter holidays are over, most of us can finally take a moment to slow down. The arrival of cold weather affords us some quiet time, which can be used for personal reflection. For some of us, this is kicked-off by resolutions we make on New Year's Day that are meant to change us for the better. Unfortunately, such resolutions rarely last more than a week or two. (Or in my case, scarcely a day.)

Prior to the New Year, Christmas carols and holiday giving remind us of the virtues of generosity and good will toward others. We tend to smile more. Pleasant greetings and thoughtful gestures become more spontaneous. We find ourselves focusing on friends and family with feelings of nostalgia. On television, the past comes to life with morality tales, renditions first penned by Charles Dickens. All in all, warm feelings defy the growing chill outdoors.

Over the years, however, some of our responses tend to become routine, especially when caught up in the bustle of commercialized distractions.

With that in mind, I want to remind people of the importance of personal reflection. With every passing year, more and more hand-held technology demands more and more of our attention. Ads and commercials dominate the holidays to the point of oppression. Many of us get trapped in the flow, unmindful of the consequences.

The truth is, our time for reflection is being whittled away like never before – and we have no idea how that affects our well-being. After all, the awareness of our own thoughts and feelings and motivations, which we refer to as personal reflection, is what makes us human. If we sacrifice a significant amount of that, what do we become?

A good, belated New Year's resolution might be to take time to escape media technology on a regular basis – quiet moments to just sit and think, or experience the simplicity of nature, or go to a restaurant with friends or family while leaving the cell phone in the car. Play a game that is not computer related. When you are with people, appreciate them with your undivided attention.

You might also want to take a moment to meditate on the meaning of holidays, apart from their commercialized exploitations. Special days on the calendar were meant to have more meaning than just a day off from work, or blow-out sales. Presidents Day and Martin Luther King Day, for two examples, were meant to remind us of extraordinary individuals whose stories can inspire the best in us all. Memorial Day and Veterans Day remind us of those who served our country, both dead and alive. The Fourth of July commemorates the formation of a government based on extraordinary ideals that we would do well to recognize before lighting the grill. There are cultural meanings attached to all our holidays, worthy of reflection.

Progress is a good thing. Never doubt that. If we do not move forward, we fall behind. In the midst of progress, however, it is important to preserve what is meaningful and healthy to us all.

– Dean Jacques, Essex Social Services



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The Essex Historical Society

The Essex Historical Society will open the winter season with a visit to the waterfront. On the evening of February 8, Commodore-elect Terry Stewart will entertain both members and guests with a history of the evolution of yacht clubs in Essex.

On March 14, Mary-Lawrence Bickford will introduce new members at a festive reception at the Pratt House.

Spring will be devoted to the Prohibition era. Brenda Milkofsky will introduce us to The Roar of the Rum Runners in the Sound with an illustrated lecture at the Essex Town Hall on April 11. On May 10 we will enjoy the age ourselves with a party at Camp Incarnation. The entire list of events is available on the newly redesigned EHS website that can be found at essexhistory.org. Members of the Society have received the calendar of events for the coming year by mail.

The Essex Historical Society is in the midst of a number of changes that affect the internal operation of the organization. The fiscal year has been changed to coincide with the calendar year. The current officers: President: Mark Pratt; Vice President: Debbie Kilton; Treasurer: Fred Hall; Recording Secretary: Ginny Bliss; Corresponding Secretary: Sherry Clark – took office in June of 2011 and will remain in office until December 2012. During that time, the Board of Directors will be reorganized.

At the December meeting, the board adopted a new Mission Statement that declares that: The Essex Historical Society seeks to promote awareness and understanding of the people, places, and events that have shaped the history of Essex.

The Society collects and interprets artifacts and archival material, and provides educational programs and exhibits to bring those interpretations to the community.

To house this collection and to provide a window into earlier Essex life, the Society maintains two historic structures: Pratt House and Hill's Academy.

Recognizing the importance of the past to our understanding of the present and our planning for the future, The Essex Historical Society advocates the preservation of significant structures and sites that reveal the history of Essex.

The new document does not change the policy or objectives. It does state them more concisely. The previous statement read:

"The Essex Historical Society was founded in 1954. It operates from two buildings, Hill's Academy on Prospect Street and the Pratt House on West Avenue. From these buildings a group of dedicated volunteers work to achieve four main objectives;

a. To promote an interest in history generally and particularly in the history of the Town of Essex through educational programs, collections of artifacts and exhibits; and to bring to the community a remembrance of the past, a knowledge of and pride in our heritage and preservation of records, documents and objects still in existence;

b. To maintain the character of the Town of Essex through efforts to preserve historic structures and spaces;

c. To establish and maintain a museum or museums where books, documents, photographs, paintings, furniture, tools,



Mary-Lawrence Bickford will host a New Member Reception for the Essex Historical Society at the Pratt House, 19 West Avenue, Essex, beginning at 7:30 p.m. on February 8, 2012.

implements, records and articles associated with the Town's history may be preserved and displayed;

d. To acquire, maintain, preserve and display objects and historical artifacts of significant places, and events that have shaped the history of Essex.

The Society collects and interprets artifacts and archival material, and provides educational programs and exhibits to bring those interpretations to the community.

To house this collection and to provide a window into earlier Essex life, the Society maintains two historic structures: Pratt House and Hill's Academy.

Recognizing the importance of the past to our understanding of the present and our planning for the future, The Essex Historical Society advocates the preservation of significant structures and sites that reveal the history of Essex."

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.

Winston Churchill

During the past two years an organization has been growing in Essex to perpetuate the memory of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill, celebrating his great contributions to liberty - and to the political philosophy, culture and literature of the Great Democracies and the English-Speaking Peoples. The intent is to further awareness of his unique career and to teach new generations about his timeless relevance.

A Connecticut Chapter of The Churchill Centre and Museum at the Cabinet War Rooms, London, with offices and affiliates in the U.S.A., Canada, the U.K. and Australia, has been established under the name Churchill Society of Connecticut.

There have been four speaker events so far, held at the Essex Town Hall and Essex Meadows, with attendance of about one hundred each. Topics have ranged from "Churchill in America, seen through the Boston visits," "Churchill, Roosevelt and the outbreak of



the Pacific war," "Winning the War and the Peace: Churchill, Roosevelt, and the Second World War" to "Churchill - a celebration of his life and his accomplishments."

The Churchill Centre holds annual International Churchill Conferences, most recently at Charleston, SC, London and next year in Toronto. It publishes a high quality quarterly magazine: *Finest Hour* and a monthly newsletter: the *Chartwell Bulletin*.

It is anticipated that the Churchill Society of Connecticut will hold three or so events per year. For further information please write to:

Churchill Society of Connecticut
12 Plains Road, PMB 313,
Essex, CT 06426

Or email: khouchin@sbcglobal.net

Or phone: Roger Deakin, 860-767-2817.

— Roger Deakin, President CSOC

A Fresh Start at the Bumpy Warner Youth House

Scouts and their parents and a host of community helpers have been hard at work at the Bumpy Warner Youth House on Bushnell Street, home to Essex Boy Scout Troop 12. It is thanks to the continuing generosity of the Gifford Warner family, the cooperation of Scout leaders and assistance from The Essex Foundation, caretakers of the Youth House, that the Bumpy Warner Youth House has made a fresh start.

Tucked away on a lane in downtown Essex, the Youth House has been used for over thirty years for scout troop meetings and activities. Maintenance work on the building was slowed down because a plan was being formulated by The Essex Foundation and the Bumpy Warner Youth House Committee with the approval of the Selectmen and neighbors, to relocate scouting and youth activities to a new building on property adjacent to Viney Brook Park. However, the plans for the new building were stalled earlier in the year.

Although the Youth House building is carefully monitored, last winter the furnace shut down, pipes froze and the basement was flooded. As a result, the back wall of the building deteriorated badly. The scouting community, spearheaded by David Hyde, President of The Essex Foundation and a life-long, hands-on community activist, immediately went to work to repair the damage. Up to that point, the spacious two-story building had been comfortably furnished with over-stuffed sofas and chairs, tables and desks and memorabilia from local homes, attics and basements. After the building's flooding problems were assessed it was deemed necessary to do some important maintenance work. The group arranged to empty



Bumpy Warner Youth House

out all the furniture, restore the damaged walls and floors, and repair the roof. Thanks to the assistance of Tower Labs, the carpets were cleaned and, with the incredible generosity of time and talent by people like David Hyde, Herb Clark, Jason Wlochowski and John McGirr, many tasks were quickly completed. Among those who donated their time and services were Jim Daly of Lighthouse Oil, who donated the alarm and cleaned the furnace, Tim Hall, who brought in stone to

continued on page 29

Theatre 101

When Milton Stiefel opened his first summer season at the Ivoryton Playhouse in 1930, he could never have imagined that, eight decades later, the Playhouse is still producing some of the best theatre in America. Join the Ivoryton Playhouse in its 101st year for a season that is positive, upbeat, tasty, toe-tapping and even a little risqué.

Beginning March 14th – April 1st, the Playhouse will feature some down home country humor and true emotion with *Always...Patsy Cline*. Based on a true story about Cline's friendship with a fan who befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk in 1961, and continued a correspondence with her until her death, this production will include many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as *Crazy*, *I Fall to Pieces* and *Walking After Midnight*. Who can forget the steamy story of Mrs. Robinson and young Benjamin Braddock in *The Graduate*? From April 18th - May 6th you can see this exciting new stage production in Ivoryton. On June 6th – June 24th, the Playhouse will welcome R. Bruce Connelly back to Ivoryton to star in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* - a classic from the world's most successful playwright, Neil Simon.

Our three big summer musicals are sure to delight audiences of all ages. Starting on July 4th, the Playhouse will bring Broadway to Ivoryton with *Hairspray* – a musical comedy hit that won 8 Tony Awards including Best Musical. *Hairspray* will run through July 29th. Dickens' timeless characters will be brought to life from August 8th – September 2nd in *Oliver!* The ever-popular story of the boy who asked for more features some of theatre's most beloved songs including *Food Glorious Food*, *Consider Yourself*, *I'd Do Anything* and many more. *Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*, featuring a score that includes 18 Neil Sedaka classics, opens September 26th and runs until October 14th. Set at a Catskills resort in 1960, this is the sweetly comic story of Lois and Marge, two friends from Brooklyn in search of good times and romance over one wild Labor Day weekend.



R. Bruce Connelly, seen here in the 2010 Playhouse production of Finian's Rainbow, will star in the 2012 production of Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. Photo courtesy of Anne Hudson.

The Kitchen Witches, running from October 31st–November 18th, ends the 2012 Season. In this 2003 comedy, Dolly Biddle and Isabelle Lomax – archrivals in life and love – are tricked into appearing on a cooking show together on their local public access channel. Look out as spoons fly and family secrets are aired - it's Martha Stewart meets Jerry Springer!

Don't miss some of the most exciting and entertaining theatre on the shoreline! Subscriptions are on sale now. Single tickets go on sale February 13, 2012. Visit www.ivorytonplayhouse.org or call (860) 767 7318 for the latest ticket information.

All Nonprofit Organizations Invited to Post Volunteer Opportunities to Free Online Matching System

Middlesex United Way is inviting local nonprofit organizations to post volunteer opportunities through its free online matching system; Volunteer Solutions. Volunteer Solutions can help local nonprofit organizations meet the increased demand for services by matching more than 500 registered users to opportunities that align with their interests, skills, and time availability. Visitors to the site will find the perfect organization and cause to donate their time to and truly make a difference.

"Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is proud to be a partner with Middlesex United Way Volunteer Solutions" said Jack

Doyle, Volunteer Coordinator, Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity. "We get many referrals which turn into great volunteers for both ReStore and at construction sites. The system is easy to work with and provides great results."

Nonprofit organizations looking for volunteers can use Volunteer Solutions to create one-time or ongoing opportunities, manage referrals, and record volunteer hours. Volunteers can also register and search the site by keyword, agency, or length of volunteer commitment.

Some examples of the opportunities that are currently available include:

continued on page 29

• *Nonprofit continued from page 28* •

- American Red Cross, seeking Blood Drive volunteers.
- Estuary Council of Seniors in Old Saybrook, seeking volunteers to sit on their board of directors.
- Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, searching for individual & group volunteers for build projects.
- St. Luke's Eldercare Services in Middletown, looking for volunteers to assist their clients with weekly grocery shopping.

To register, visit www.middlesexunitedway.org and click the "VOLUNTEER" link. For information, call Matt at 860.346.8695 or email matt.plourde@middlesexunitedway.org.

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.

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.



United Way volunteers take action to create lasting change in their communities.

• *Youth House continued from page 27* •

repair the road and who made dump runs, Don Mei, who did electrical work and hooked up the alarm and Kenny Miller, who worked on electrical needs. Also contributing time and energy were: Tim Braiden, who redid the sills, Larry Lombardi of Ivoryton Plumbing, and Steve Olsen of Shoreline Heating as well as neighbor Mary Coolidge who cooperated by helping with the installation of the alarm system. Clark Development and Essex Hardware were always available to help where needed. With so many willing hands, the building has been stabilized, old furniture carted away, the grounds cleared, and driveway repaired.

The upper meeting room is now getting a much-needed fresh coat of interior paint under the supervision of David Hyde. The ceiling has been refurbished, and the windows have new frames and moldings. The scouts are looking for simple, sturdy "school-type" furniture to refurbish the rooms to accommodate meeting, scouting and youth activity needs. Willing hands are still needed to complete the painting. Anyone who would like to help should contact Scout Master John McGirr at 860-767-9740.

The Bumpy Warner Youth House was the gift of the Gifford Warner family who donated the property to provide a safe place for Scout meetings and activities. It is named for Malcolm "Bumpy" Warner, the son of Enid and Gifford Warner, who died of leukemia. Many of Essex's former Scouts have fond memories of their scouting days and the activities in which they participated in the building.

Giff, a yachtsman and community leader grew up in Nantucket and began sailing when he was six years old.

He first came to Essex in 1937, found work at Pratt Reed in Ivoryton and was instrumental in helping the company convert from making pianos to making gliders. He was involved in a number of river-related businesses—a fishing cooperative, a salvage operation and finally in 1960, an excursion boat business that allowed him to take visitors and area residents on cruises on the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound so they could see the natural beauty of the river and at the same time observe the serious pollution problems that were destroying the river. Long before it became recognized as a national problem, he was rallying support for the need to clean up the river. Frequently, Giff donated both his boat and his services to another group—the patients confined to local homes for the chronically ill and the elderly.

For more information about the mission and history of The Essex Foundation, caretakers of the Bumpy Warner Youth House, please log on to theessexfoundation.org.

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**

New Year's Resolutions: Toning Your Financial Health

It's that time of year when many people set goals in the hope of changing their lives in the year to come. Some may set their sights on losing a significant amount of weight or training for a marathon, while others may want to spend more time with family or other loved ones. Whatever your plans, you may want to add a few small financial changes to your resolution list to help you turn 2012 into an even better year.

Pay down debt. Having debt is normal, but having too much debt—particularly as your credit card statements start flowing in after the holidays—can quickly become overwhelming. As you start the year, make a plan to pay off debts with the highest interest rates first. Also, it's always wise to pay more than the minimum payment, so if you're financially able to pay a bit more than the monthly amount due on your mortgage, car loan, or other debt, do so. You'll pay off your debt faster and save more on interest in the long run.

Increase your savings. Now that we're exiting the season of "spend, spend, spend," it's time to focus on saving. Perhaps you'd like to save for a dream vacation, a down payment for a new home, or an emergency fund to cover the unexpected. By setting a goal, establishing a timeline for accomplishing the goal, and outlining a strategy for reaching it, you'll find the results easier to achieve.

Develop a budget. Budgeting isn't exactly glamorous, but even the world's Warren Buffetts need to incorporate a budget into their financial plans. When developing your new "budget," it may help you to think of it as a spending plan instead. How much will you spend on food, entertainment, and education during the year? By planning out your expenditures, you'll have a better understanding of where you're allocating your income and how much is available to spend on each activity in a given week, month, or year—whichever timeline best suits your planning style.

Review your credit report. Your credit report is a critical component of your financial health. Therefore, it's important to check it annually so you can monitor where you stand, as well as keep an eye out for potential credit fraud. You are entitled to one free report a year from each of the three major credit-reporting agencies—Equifax, Transunion, and Experian. Use a website such as annualcreditreport.com to request your reports at the beginning of the year (or request one at a time throughout the year). This way, you can file disputes regarding any erroneous information, as well as evaluate how you might increase your overall credit health during the year.

Protect your identity. Thanks to the wonders of technology, it is easier than ever bank, shop, and even find long-lost friends and family members online. At the same time, it's also easier to inadvertently expose our personal information to those looking to exploit it. Protecting your identity can be as simple as monitoring your accounts—including online bank accounts, social media profiles, and your personal e-mail.

Here are a few tips:

- Review your monthly statements for any suspicious activity.

- Avoid using your social security number whenever possible.
- Be sure that you are on a secure website—the URL will begin with https—before you submit personal information online.
- Be wary of opening suspicious e-mails—and don't click on any attachments. Err on the side of caution and contact the company directly if you receive any suspicious e-mails, letters, or phone calls regarding any of your accounts.

Start a college fund. Education expenses have continued to increase exponentially, so the sooner you can begin putting money away, the better off you'll be. Whether you are saving for a child's or grandchild's—or your own—education, there are multiple investment tools that can help you develop an effective college savings plan. Work with your financial advisor to evaluate your unique situation and the best option for pursuing your goals.

Assess life changes. As our lives change from year to year, we may not be aware of how these changes can affect our financial health. Embarking on new career, welcoming a new baby to the family, purchasing a new property, or even just getting one year closer to retirement may all require you to revisit your financial plan and long-term goals. It's a good idea to review your insurance coverage, retirement plan, will, and estate plan annually to assure that all aspects of your life are incorporated.

Further your financial knowledge. One can never have too much knowledge. There are a number of websites, TV shows, and books available that can offer insight into this industry and its ever-changing nature. Be sure to reach out to your financial advisor if you find a topic you would like to learn more about. This will not only provide you with a deeper understanding of your investments and other financial matters, but it also will allow you and your financial advisor to improve your financial goals through communication on topics that interest you.

These are just a few resolutions that can help improve your overall financial health, toning up those areas that may need extra attention. What's our resolution for 2012? Continuing to help individuals and families pursue their financial goals well into the future. If you're interested in learning how we can help you, resolve to contact us today. Best wishes and Happy New Year!

– Matthew J Sullivan

Matthew Sullivan is a Financial Advisor practicing at 10 Springbrook Road, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. He offers securities and advisory services as an investment adviser representative of Commonwealth Financial Network®, a member firm of FINRA/SIPC (and a Registered Investment Adviser). He can be reached at 860-388-9628 or at matt@sullivanfinancialgrp.com.

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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.

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.

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.

MASSAGE THERAPY 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.

Cookie Platoon

The Cookie Platoon is a group of volunteers from various towns, including Chester, Deep River and Essex, dedicated to the proposition that soldiers presently serving, those who are recovering, and military veterans need never be without reminders of home and the people who love them and respect the job they do. What better way to show our appreciation and provide a few moments of familiar comfort than to send fresh-baked cookies?

We meet every other month or so to pack cookies for our troops. It also gives us a chance to make friends and to share the fulfillment that comes from knowing we're helping to make the tough work of our soldiers just a little bit easier.

The next event will be **March 10, 2012**. Our shipment/packing party will be at the Whelen Engineering, located at 51 Winthrop Road in Chester. Cookies may be dropped off beginning at 9:00 a.m. For more information go to www.cookieplatoon.com.



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Class of 1961 Gives Back to Valley Regional

Over thirty members of the Valley Regional Class of 1961 toured their alma mater as part of their 50th high school reunion activities in September. "We were delighted to see the fine condition, the expansion and the many improvements made to Valley's interior and grounds. Many of us wanted to come back and take advantage of the new programs and classes offered," said Patti Anne Vassia, a member of the class. "We took up a collection at our Reunion Celebration and several others sent checks to help support our idea of giving back to the school. We are happy to support the good works of the Region 4 Education Foundation with this \$719.61 unrestricted gift."



The VRHS Class of 1961 donated \$719.61 to the Region 4 Education Foundation as a result of touring their alma mater as part of their 50th reunion activities.

Long Term Care Services and Supports

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Most people will need assistance with activities of daily living at some point in their lives, whether due to aging, injury, illness or disability. Knowing what kind of help is needed and available and how to obtain it is not an easy task. Whether you need help now or are exploring future options for yourself or a loved one, this web site can assist you.

The goal of this web site is to provide you easy access to comprehensive information on private and public long-term care (LTC) services and supports in Connecticut, including: Home Care, Community Care, Housing, and Residential or Nursing Home Care. Helpful information is also available for

those who provide care and for people interested in the options for planning for their own future needs.

It's important to know you are not alone. There are many resources and organizations to assist you. Go to www.ct.gov. Click on Living, then Long Term Care. If you can't find the information you need on this website:

- Call Infoline by dialing 2-1-1
- Call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, if you are 60 years of age or older, or want to acquire information on services and programs for individuals 60 and over

www.ct.gov

Parent Guidelines for Choosing a Child Day Care Program

The Child Day Care Licensing Program of the Community Based Regulation (CBR) Section is responsible for the licensing of child day care programs, and offers these tips on what to look for in a program for your child.

• **Is the program licensed?** You may visit the Department of Public Health's (DPH) web site at www.dph.state.ct.us to verify if a program is licensed. You may also call the DPH at (800) 282-6063 to inquire about substantiated complaints or to file a complaint.

• **Visit the program when children are present prior to enrolling your child; after enrollment, pay an unannounced visit at a time different from your regular schedule.**

• **Are the staff members friendly and qualified?** Do they appear to enjoy their job? How long have they worked at the program? Are they actively engaged with the children? Do they speak and work with children gently and appropriately for their ages, levels of development and special needs?

• **Is there adequate staff to provide careful supervision?** No children should be left unsupervised.

• **Is the program clean and safe indoors and outdoors?** Are the toys, equipment and furniture clean, safe and appropriate for your child's age and development?

• **Ask the program for parent references.**

• **Is there a planned program of activities that is appropriate for the children at the facility?**

• **Are the children having fun at the program?** Do they look forward to going to the program?

• **Use the Child Care Checklist for Parents to conduct your own inspection of the program.** The Regulations that outline minimum requirements for licensed child day care programs can be found at the web site below.

Child Day Care Licensing Help Desk, (860) 509-8045; (800) 282-6063; (800) 439-0437, www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Day_Care/day_care.

Tax Information

Q. What is the due date for filing my income tax return?

A. Tuesday, April 17, 2012, will be considered timely filed.

Q. Where can I get forms and instructions?

A. Connecticut income tax forms may be downloaded from our website and are also available at Connecticut libraries, post offices and town halls. Residents who filed a Connecticut income tax return last year using a Connecticut address are eligible to file using the TSC-IND (our free Internet filing system - formerly WebFile) or Telefile, using their touchtone phone. You may use the TSC-IND or Telefile to file your return up until midnight on the due date and still meet the filing deadline.

Q. I don't have all the information I need to file my return by the due date. What should I do?

A. If you cannot file on time because you do not have all the necessary information to file a return, use the TSC-IND to file Form CT-1040EXT, Application For Extension of Time to File Connecticut Income Tax Return For Individuals or use the paper Form CT-1040EXT. You are required to pay all that you expect to owe with the extension request. Any tax that is not

paid on or before the due date, will be subject to penalty and interest. The extension of time to file will allow you 6 months to file the final return.

Payments with the extension request may be made by direct payment from a checking or savings account on the WebFile system or may be mailed in separately by check or money order. Extensions and payments made using WebFile will be timely as long as they are completed before midnight on the due date. Payments that are mailed to DRS must be timely filed following the guidelines for timely filing of a return.

Form CT-1040EXT may also be downloaded from our website and mailed to DRS on or before the due date, along with any payment of tax due. The paper form is also contained in the CT-1040 and CT-1040NR/PY Booklets.

www.ct.gov

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New Safe Harbor Memory Care Neighborhood Opens

After months of planning, designing, preparation and construction, The Saybrook at Haddam assisted living retirement community is thrilled to open our new Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood. This warm and inviting neighborhood “village” is located in a one-story wing of The Saybrook at Haddam, and was created specifically for individuals suffering from Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other memory-related disorders.

We designed the Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood to be a beautiful, open and engaging environment – taking advantage of the building’s existing high ceilings, oversized windows, wonderful lighting, and open floor plan. Our common-area living room is very home-like with comfortable chairs and couches, a large television, games, and books. Residents enjoy family-style meals each day in our large, open dining area which always has room for “one more.” Both of these rooms are available for use anytime throughout the day for visits with family and friends, for conversation, or enjoying our many social activities designed specifically for individuals with memory disorders. These areas are bright and airy, and overlook our new outdoor walking garden and patio.

Each private or shared studio apartment is also light and open, and some featuring seating areas, a small kitchenette, and a spacious bathroom. This space is perfect for quiet time or private visits with family and friends. Residents are encouraged to decorate their apartments with their own personal items, photos, and artwork to truly make Safe Harbor their home.

Entering Safe Harbor is like walking down the main street of a little village. As you stroll along the path, you pass a park and “café” setting with table, chairs and striped awnings, where you can stop for conversation or rest. You then pass a “neighbor’s house” (which is a large, engaging mural of a lovely yellow house), and finally make your way to the beach and boardwalk (another oversized mural). The doorways are decorated with wreaths and many other home-like details. Additionally, our secure entries and exits blend into the surroundings, and do not take away from the neighborhood setting.

The philosophy at Safe Harbor is that life is made up of many little touches, events, and small happenings every day, and it is our job to use these little opportunities to create happy moments. Everyone at Safe Harbor works in a kind, respectful and caring way towards each resident to bring out the essence of who they are as individuals – so they can live with dignity and as much independence as possible. Our team works closely with doctors and families to provide a personalized memory care plan for each resident so they can be their best at every moment of the day.

It is exciting to see this vision come to life, and be able to bring this valuable living option to our region. We were able to show off Safe Harbor during a “preview” open house in December, when we invited professionals and the community to tour this newly completed specialized memory care neighborhood. Many guests told us the open spaces, inviting layout, and warm environment was ideal for anyone living with a memory-related disorder. Families and individuals are welcome to schedule their own private tour of Safe Harbor (or to request an application for residence) anytime by calling 860-345-3779.

We know many families struggle to care for a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other memory-loss disorder, which can take a toll on everyone. We hope our Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood provides an exceptional solution for them.

— Kathy Ryan, Executive Director,
The Saybrook at Haddam

Kathy Ryan is executive director of The Saybrook at Haddam, (www.thesaybrookathaddam.com), a 74-apartment assisted living retirement community located in the heart of the Connecticut River Valley region. The community provides independent retirement living services as well as assisted living services (provided by its state-licensed Agency).

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www.thesaybrookathaddam.com

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! Let us help you recognize your staff! Flowers for every occasion: *anniversaries, birthdays, special accomplishments, employee recognition events.*

Fragrant roses are available in 16 varieties! We offer 3 varieties of lilies too! Say "thank you" or "great job" with:

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We grow amazing fragrant roses with amazing people! Order online at: www.rosesforautism.com or www.rosesforautism.com. (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.

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

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