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First Selectman's Corner

The May 14th Essex Town Meeting resulted in the passage of the 2012-2013 Annual Town Budget. I would like to thank all the citizens of Essex for their support of this budget and the budget process.

The annual budget preparation is always a challenging process requiring input from many sources. This year it was our specific goal to make the process as transparent as possible and to solicit public feedback to formulate the best proposal for the town budget meeting. This allowed those responsible for developing the budget to better understand citizen priorities. It also provided an opportunity for taxpayers to understand the budget process. I believe that the budget that we presented meets our commitment to providing for an excellent education for our students, maintaining our infrastructure, preparing for future capital commitments and delivering necessary town services.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all who were involved in this year's budget development. In particular I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Board of Education, my fellow Selectmen, the Treasurer/Finance Office, and the Board of Finance. Most of all, I want to thank all the citizens who took time to be part of the budget process.

The approved 2012-2013 budget is available on the town website at http://www.essexct.gov/departments/finance/2012_2013_budget_approved.pdf.

— Norm Needleman,
First Selectman



First Selectman Norm Needleman


Stay Informed

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


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Deep River: Simply spectacular 850ft waterfront set on 6.5ac, deepwater dock, bulkhead, davits, swimming pool, tea house, boat house, in-law apt with a separate entrance, 2 ponds, generator, etc. This is an amazing property, with amazing 180 degree views. Very private. Offered at \$4,600,000.



Essex: Waterfront in the heart of Essex Village on Middle Cove. Spectacular views! Main House, Guest House, in-ground pool, fully permitted dock and a separate barn perfect for a studio or office. Offered at \$3,600,000



Clinton: 96 FT water frontage for this elegant 4900 SF home overlooking Long Island Sound. 10' ceilings, 3 story foyer, gourmet kitchen with high end appliances, American cherry wood floors and beautiful landscape are among the many special features of this house. Offered at \$3,200,000.



Old Saybrook: Located just off the green, this 2006 beautiful cedar shingle "Fenwick Cottage" with water views has all modern trouble free conveniences, including geothermal. Unique lifestyle with golf, tennis, swimming and boating Deep water marina nearby. Superb! Offered at \$2,995,000.



Essex: Totally renovated Waterfront Cape in the heart of Essex Village on Middle Cove. Spectacular views! 3BR, 3 baths, new kitchen, wood floors throughout. Large covered deck overlooking the Cove. 2-car garage. Offered at \$1,900,000.



Essex: 1850 Federal Style Colonial on a village street of historic homes with views of the CT River on unusual large lot. Wide pine floors, four fireplaces, first floor Master suite. Pristine condition, updated with sensitivity to period. Offered at \$989,000.



Deep River: Water views of the CT River from this 1790 Cape and Guest House. Beautifully restored keeping the original and incorporating modern conveniences. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Custom eat-in kitchen, Viking, Subzero, AC. 4 fireplaces. Landscaped. Water access across the street. Offered at \$849,000.



Old Lyme: Stunning Matson Ridge traditional 3750 SF home perfectly sited on a large professionally landscaped lot at the end of a cul de sac. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 fireplaces, numerous custom features, meticulously and lovingly maintained. Offered at \$825,000.



Essex: Historic Colonial clapboard house on River Road in Essex, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, wood floors throughout. Path leads to mature private gardens with stone walls. 2 car garage. Very special! About a mile from the village. Offered at \$585,000.



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PRICE REDUCED

Essex: Waterfront home with spectacular views of N. Cove & the CT River. Stroll to the village from the ideal location of this dramatic contemporary colonial, built in 2001. An open floor plan and large great room are part of this custom architect design with expansive wrap-around windows and french doors. The 3600 sq. foot home has a den & 3 bedrooms including a large master suite with fireplace overlooking the water. A new dock was added in 2003 and the 2 car garage has heat & a room above. There are stone walls & wrap around patios and gardens professionally designed. Amazing opportunity. \$1,790,000



Essex: Steps to historic Essex Village, this luxury condo features rich architectural details & quality craftsmanship throughout. There is a custom kitchen, built-in bookcases, cozy fireplace & steam shower. The spacious living room leads to a balcony overlooking a sweeping lawn & North Cove views. \$569,000



Essex: Picture perfect colonial in quiet cul de sac location close to town, highways & shopping. Spacious 2800+ sq.ft. home, almost 3 ac. lot & well appointed features. Formal LR & DR, FR with fireplace leading to beautiful screened porch, 4 bedrms including MBR with cathedral ceiling, fin. bonus room, walk-up attic, & fin. room in walk-out basement. Great value! \$525,000



Holland Team
Donn 860.227.4737
Leslie 860.575.5144
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Essex Waterfront: Expansive, gorgeous views of Essex Village across South Cove and the CT River. The property features a charming 4 bedroom, 3.1 bath home with all rooms focused on the view. Small boat dock for kayak or canoe. \$1,150,000
 Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Essex: Village Waterview. Located in the village on a most sought after street in town this ca 1800s colonial is the perfect project for one who wants to reside in the village but none of the homes are suitable. Wonderful rendering of what could be by architect Christopher Arelt. Large .40 acre yard with barn is the perfect palette to renovate, expand and create the home of your dreams. CT River views. \$649,000
 Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Essex Village: New England Cape Cod, warm and inviting 4 Bdrm. Intimate dining room. New Kitchen with granite counters, tile floor. Remodeled baths. Living room with gas FP. Stone patio, back deck, covered front porch, 2 car garage with Summer Room. MOVE IN READY!
 \$439,500 Joann Stone 860-767-8635 x 24



Essex: NEW PRICE! What a perfect time to be a buyer. Take advantage of this market priced home before housing begins to inch its way back up, plus record low interest rates. This 2900 sq. ft. home offers all you would want for the most important decision you will ever make. Charm, privacy, 3 fireplaces, 3.5 baths, total restoration & much, much more. You must see - don't miss it! \$699,900
 Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Essex Village Waterfront: One of the largest parcels of land within the village, this property features a stunning 1955 house that has undergone an extensive renovation and addition. Unparalleled views from all public rooms. Three bedrooms and 3 full baths. Small boat dock, all new infrastructure of mechanicals, 2-car garage, perennial gardens. \$1,895,000
 Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Essex: Much Admired completely gutted, expanded and improved Cape Cod style home. Gracious, well-proportioned rooms with architectural details throughout. Gourmet kitchen, HUGE dining room seats 24. Double height family room with fireplace and multiple windows leads to a maintenance fee exterior with large deck leading to a patio with a gas fire pit. Storage for 3 cars and double basement. \$725,000
 Joyce DeFord 860-767-8635 x 14



Essex Village: Located on Foxboro Rd this village home is private with exquisite grounds and landscaping. Open concept floor plan with first floor master suite. Three bedrooms with room for more. Generously sized screened in porch and rear deck. Every expected amenity and more. Three car garage, full basement and huge unfinished room over garage. \$975,000
 Maureen Wiltsie O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Essex: Contemporary split located on 2 wooded acres in walking distance to the village. Great room features brick fireplace / gas insert, floor to ceiling windows, vaulted ceiling and plank floor. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, brick floor and top of the line stainless appliances. 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths. \$379,000.
 Beth Brewer 860-767-8635 x 23



Essex - Falls River Farms: Five 2+ acre building lots on private cul-de-sac. Near Mill Pond open space with lake access for canoe or kayak, fishing and ice skating. Also near large nature preserve with hiking trails along the Falls River. Owner-Broker related. From \$79,000.
 Bill Foster 860-767-8635 x 25

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Old Saybrook: Merritt Lane- Gentleman's Farm on 13+ acres. Lovely 4700+ sq.ft reproduction colonial built in 1999 - six bedrooms - possible in-law or nanny's quarters above the garage, beautiful wood floors, crown moldings, four fireplaces & granite kitchen. 3 car garage. Several outbuildings with fenced ring for small pets and animals. A rare offering convenient to town, beaches and I-95. \$619,000.



Deep River/River Rd Area - Dramatically designed traditional contemporary on 5+ acres in private natural setting. Unique floor plan features a state-of-the-art kitchen, elegant living room w/fireplace & built-ins, a spacious master suite, two guestrooms w/ bath and an in-home office. A new barn with completely finished interior is a wonderful addition to the property! \$610,000.



Chester: Charming country home on a quiet street close to beautiful Cedar Lake. The house has maintained many of the original architectural features including the crown moldings, built-ins and hardwood floors. Numerous updates including a new furnace. Beautiful grounds with mature plantings, perennial gardens and lovely stone walls. \$295,000.



Chester: Located in the heart of the Village - adorable and affordable ranch style home offers spacious living room, updated kitchen, two bedrooms and a wonderful three seasons porch overlooks private yard. Attached one car garage and wood floors throughout most of the house. Full size basement is great for storage or all of your hobbies. Walk to a variety of restaurants, shops and galleries. \$255,000.



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Mopeds

Last summer we saw a rise in juveniles on mopeds. While it may seem like a toy for kids and maybe a quick means of transportation, please remember that they can be dangerous. We have seen a huge rise in injuries and fatalities due to the increase of improper operation of mopeds, motorcycles, ATVs and motor driven cycles.

Before children are allowed to ride mopeds please remember that the following laws must be followed and will be enforced this year:

- All mopeds, motorcycles (any two wheeled vehicle with an engine) that are 50cc and over MUST be registered if they are going to be operated on a public roadway.

- To ride a moped (regardless of size) on a public roadway, an operator MUST have a valid driver's license.
- Any person under the age of 18 is required to have proper head and eye protection (along with a valid driver's license).
- It is illegal to operator a motor driven cycle on a sidewalk.
- Mini-motorcycles are prohibited from any public property.

If any of the above laws are violated, the consequences are the young adult (16-18 yr old) will be issued a ticket, if the child is under 16 years of age, the parent or guardian will be issued a ticket, and the vehicle will be towed from the scene at the owner's expense.

Most of the above laws can be found in the Connecticut General Statutes in the areas of CGS 14-286 to 14-289.

It came to our attention that some salesmen in the area are misleading parents into believing that it is all right for kids to be driving mopeds around town as if they were bicycles. We just want parents to be informed and give them the tools to help keep their children safe. If you have any questions or concerns that we can help you with, please don't hesitate to call us.

We understand parents want their children to enjoy their summers and have fun, but it is our goal that your children make it home safe at the end of the day.

— TFC Kerry Taylor, Essex Resident Trooper



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Old Saybrook: Magnificent, architecturally-designed Fenwick shingle style 7177 SF residence with both CT River and Long Island Sound waterfront and private sandy beach. Features a stunning chef's kitchen, five/six bedrooms and five baths. Spectacular separately deeded 2,643 SF guest house. \$13,000,000



Old Saybrook: Stunning and secluded 7000 square foot Shingle-style Connecticut River waterfront on five beautifully landscaped acres, incorporating five bedrooms and an incredible first-floor Master Suite with private terrace. Extraordinarily constructed, and a separate Carriage Barn. Magnificent! \$5,600,000



Fenwick: Circa 1990 "Touchstone" Cottage offers spectacular views of Long Island Sound to the Connecticut River, as well as across the golf course to South Cove. Newly finished first floor master suite. Enjoy the Fenwick lifestyle of tennis, boating, and golf. \$1,750,000



Westbrook: Introducing Villas by the Sea at Water's Edge Resort. A luxury lifestyle beyond compare! 20 exquisite, fully furnished 2BR, waterfront condominiums with full service hotel amenities at your fingertips! \$1,200,000



Essex: This beautifully maintained colonial with contemporary flair is sited on a professionally landscaped lot and is conveniently close to Essex Village. A stunning new Chef's kitchen and family room with vaulted ceilings is the heart of this wonderful home! \$795,000



Essex: Never before offered for sale, the historically significant Richard Hayden homestead circa 1806, bequeathed to St. John's Church in 1894, has served as the Rectory since that time. The first brick building in Essex, this property is remarkable in every way! \$795,000



Essex: Custom built in 2004 this charming Colonial features an open and versatile floor plan. Finished lower level with fireplace, wonderful bonus room on the second floor, and a beautiful and functional chef's kitchen adjoining the great room! Fabulous! \$749,000



Essex: Overlooking South Cove out to Essex Harbor, this recently renovated 3906 SF, 5BR home offers an open floor plan, designer kitchen, lovely master suite and fabulous family room. Deeded right of way to South Cove, and idyllic place for small boats activity. \$735,000



Essex: A landmark circa 1806 village residence, the Phillip Tooker II house reflects significant historical distinction and is sited on a lovely .19 acres of beautifully landscaped property, with a bluestone terrace for outside enjoyment. Impeccably maintained! \$760,000

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Essex Land Trust Coming Events

Canoe & Kayak: Around Thatchbed Island. Thursday, August 9, 5 p.m. at Essex Town Park on Main Street. Paddle with Phil Miller and Kathy LaBella around Thatchbed Island, viewing birds and plants and the beauty of Middle and South Coves. Open to paddlers of all ages, but basic experience in paddling is required. This is an Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit event. Launch from Essex Town Park on Main Street. Park behind the Post Office at 12 Main Street, Essex. Bad weather cancels.

Talk: The Quadricentennial of Adriaen Block's Exploration of the Connecticut River & Long Island Sound. Wednesday, September 19, 7 p.m. at Essex Town Hall. Author Tom Andersen will tell the story of Block's journeys of exploration, and the mutinies, burning ships, betrayals and gun battles that accompanied them. Co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon Society and Essex Historical Society. Refreshments served.

'Source to Sea' Annual River Cleanup. Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join us for the 16th annual Source to Sea Cleanup of the rivers, streams and banks that make up the vast Connecticut River system from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound. This annual event, involving over 70 groups and organizations, is coordinated by the Connecticut River Watershed Council. All ages and abilities are welcome. Meet at Essex Town Hall parking lot, 29 West Avenue, Essex, for your assignment. Rain or shine. Refreshments served.

Talk: Preserving Our Trees. Monday, October 1, 2:00 p.m. at Essex Town Hall. Essex Tree Warden, Augie Pampel, and other

leading conservationists will discuss trees in general and Essex trees in particular. Topics covered will include the role and responsibility of the Essex Tree Committee, Essex Tree Warden, Park & Recreation and the Essex Land Trust, town ordinances affecting trees and helpful hints for pest control, tree preservation and tree planting. A question and answer period will follow. Co-sponsored by the Essex Garden Club. Refreshments served.

3rd Annual Run Local/Read Local. Saturday, October 20, 7:30 a.m. Register at Ivoryton Village Green. The Ivoryton 5k Run/Walk benefitting the Ivoryton Library begins near the library and meanders through beautiful Ivoryton and into the Land Trust's Falls River Preserve. This is an Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit event in conjunction with the Essex Park & Recreation Department. Prizes will be awarded in many categories. All runners ages 8 and under will be given medals and pumpkins to paint. Park in designated lots. Rain or shine.

2nd Annual Family Turkey Tromp & Plunge. Saturday, November 17, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Viney Hill Brook Park. Take a guided hike along the trails of the beautiful 92-acre town park starting at 10 a.m. The walk will last approximately 45 minutes. At 11 a.m., be part of or just watch the wacky folks plunge into the pond. Participants in the plunge must sign waivers. This event is the last of the 2012 Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit. The park is accessed off Hillside Drive in Essex. Ample parking is available in the park, near the pond. Rain or shine. Refreshments served.

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Essex: An exquisite waterfront oasis discreetly tucked away at the end of a private village lane. Offering the charm and character of a ca.1780 home with all of modern conveniences and amenities that you could hope for. Pool, dock, gardening cottage. Exceptional! M9134658 \$2,950,000
Leslie Sullivan 860.391.3337
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



Essex: A long private drive leads to this Essex waterfront estate complete with pool, dock, barn and a recently restored and remodeled c.1890 home. Secluded tranquil setting with gorgeous Falls River views. Direct CT River access. Just minutes from Main Street!
M9134926 \$2,450,000
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



Essex: Waterfront! Traditional New England Cape on Falls River Cove with amazing views! This home is set on 2.8 private acres and has a new 3 car garage/barn with second floor. House has been beautifully maintained and updated. Don't miss this GEM!
M9134504 \$1,695,000
Mariette Woolfson 860.883.3667



Essex: This fully renovated and expanded Cape offers an exciting open floor plan, perfect for today's living. Superior craftsmanship coupled with the excellent use of stone, wood and glass has created a dramatic home in a traditional façade. A Must See!
M9134488 \$824,000
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



Essex: Ca.1898 village "Queen Anne Colonial" tastefully remodeled. Offers 3BRs, 1.2 baths, large kitchen, elegant DR, formal LR, den, front and rear porch. Finished third floor with views of boat yard and the CT River. Newer mechanics, roof, wood floors, A/C.
M9128034 \$599,000
Leslie Sullivan 860.391.3337



Essex: Ca.1810 Farmhouse offers 3BRs, 2 baths and was totally renovated in 2001. Set on 1.62 acres, this lovely property is a combination of meadow, woodland pasture and spring fed pond. Essex Village is just a mile away.
M9121869 \$590,000
Colette Harron 860.304.2391



Essex: Steps to historic Essex village, this luxury condo features rich architectural details and quality craftsmanship throughout. Custom kitchen, steam shower, bookcases and cozy fireplace. Spacious LR leads to balcony with sweeping lawn and No. Cove views!
M9129088 \$569,000
Donn Holland 860.227.4737



Essex: Picture perfect colonial in beautiful "Southwinds" subdivision. Spacious, immaculate one-owner home with large screened porch, finished room in walkout basement, finished bonus room and walkup attic. Pond access to fish and kayak. Short drive to Routes 95 and 9.
M9134821 \$525,000
Leslie Holland 860.575.5144



Essex: Perfect home in quiet village neighborhood. Meticulously maintained by fastidious owners. Formal LR with fireplace, formal DR with bay window, renovated kitchen, fabulous FR opens to lovely deck/patio. HW floors throughout. Beautiful setting on small pond.
M9135003 \$459,500
Kathy Schellens 860.395.4441

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Publisher

William E. McMinn

CFO / Manager

Suzanne Spires

Editor / Art Director

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

Cover Editor

AC Proctor
860-767-9087

Advertising Sales

Ward Feirer
wfeirer@gmail.com
914-806-5500
Betty Martelle
betty@eventsmagazines.com
860-333-7117

Magazine Layout

Amy Bransfield

Cover photo: Centerbrook Meetinghouse.
Cover design and photo by Clare Cunningham Graphic Design.

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Town Clerk's Office

Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

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Anna S. Tyson, 30 Hemlock Drive, Essex
Jeffrey Gibson & Jonathan Glenney, 27 Gates Road, Essex
Robert & Brenda Osborn, 31 Book Hill Woods Road, Essex
Lovisa Johnsson, 10 Main Street, Ivoryton
Pamela McGraw, 33 Sunset Terrace, Essex
Joshua Briggs & Erica Mangano, 12 Walnut Street, Ivoryton
Peter Kamford & Jolanta Zonca, 14 Little Point Street, Essex
Loretta M. Berry, 9 Spinnaker Lane, Essex
Jeanne McGowan, 6 Primrose Ledge, Essex
Michael Blais, 7 Budney Hill Road, Ivoryton
William & Georgiann Murphy, 22 Racketts Lane, Essex
Jeffrey O'Connell, 7 Grandview Terrace, Essex
Victor & Jill Cartagena, 13 Highland Terrace, Ivoryton
Brian Kelly, 4 Bittersweet Lane, Ivoryton
Joseph Feczko & Leighton Gleicher, 6 Hanna Lane, Essex
Charles Sanislow & Andrea Patalano, 14 River Road Drive, Essex
Douglas J. Thurston, 6 Waterside Lane, Essex
Selma L. McManus, 65 Main Street - #23, Ivoryton
Aurelio & Mary Ann DiPierdomenico, 20 Dennison Road, Essex
Peter Prichard, 5 Fairview Street, Ivoryton

Loss of our Residents and Friends

January

Leslie A. Brooke, Jr.

February

Howard Tingue

March

Preston C. Williams
James V. Lorello

April

Mary Beth Stebbins
Walter J. Waligurski
J. Paul Kennedy
Jane M. James
John A. Stichter

April continued

Mary E. Terhune
Charles R. Williams

May

Martha Kingsley-Uminga
Anita N. Clifford
Mildred B. Wojtan

June

Ann S. Traylor
Sybil Johnson
Hooker Woodward Judson
Robert F. Herbst
Stephen A. Holthausen

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.

CT Clean Energy Options Program-Summer Update

As of February 2012, Essex had 245 Clean Energy points. Currently 6.9 % of the residents are involved in the program. Essex ranks 11th 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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767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

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

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
ASSESSOR		
Jessica Sypher, Assessor	x124	jgraves@essexct.gov
Nancy Berryman	x123	nberryman@essexct.gov
BUILDING DEPARTMENT & FIRE MARSHAL		
Keith Nolin, Building Official/Fire Marshal	x117	knolin@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov
HEALTH DEPARTMENT		
Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health	x143	lfasulo@essexct.gov
LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER		
Mike Birner, Supervisor	860-767-1926	
Bill Armstead		
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION		
Richard Audet, Park & Rec. Director	x148	raudet@essexct.gov
Mary Ellen Barnes, Rec. Coordinator	x110	mebarnes@essexct.gov
PUBLIC WORKS		
David Caroline, Director		dcaroline@essexct.gov
William Angier, Boris Churyk, James Danks, Richard Gallacher		
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS		
Lois Ely	x142	
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ESSEX POLICE		
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Salvatore Bevilacqua, Officer		sbevilacqua@essexct.gov
Paul Kenefick		jkenefick@essexct.gov
SOCIAL SERVICES		
Dean Jacques	x201	djacques@essexct.gov
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Megan Haskins, Tax Collector	x120	mhaskins@essexct.gov
Lynne Skinner	x121	lskinner@essexct.gov
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Frances Nolin, Town Clerk	x129	townclerk@essexct.gov
Dana Novorio	x128	townclerk@essexct.gov
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Mark Hiatt	x136	maintenance@essexct.gov
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The Essex Community Fund: Helping Keep The Villages Vibrant & Strong

If you ask someone who lives in the villages of Essex, Centerbrook or Ivoryton why this is such a wonderful community to live in - you may hear it's because of its beauty, or its rich history, but most likely you will hear it's because of the quality of people who live here. For over 60 years, the Essex Community Fund has embodied the integrity of our community and been a beacon in helping our residents to invest in the services and programs that keep our town healthy and vibrant.

One of the oldest and most unique programs, the Essex Community Fund distributes to over 40 different non-profits, focusing not only on the primary necessities (food, health care, fuel, housing, public safety, support services and education) but also the programs that enhance our life: arts and culture, entertainment and the protection and preservation of our environment. The Fund found its roots in the fall of 1949. Volunteers forming three teams, one for each village, went door to door raising monies to meet their goal. They displayed their progress by showing a gremlin climbing a mountain that was placed at the top of Main Street in Essex. Today we raise our funds through annual appeal letters to residents, our June fundraiser at the Ivoryton Playhouse, stock donations and endowments to the fund as a legacy in perpetuity.

Local organizations submit requests annually to the board, which is made up of nine resident volunteers. The goal is to spend the money in the most strategic way. The decisions are not easy because there are so many worthy organizations, so we focus on the program's impact on residents, the financial need of the organization, and current issues facing the town. The board works diligently to stay abreast of the changing needs in the community by seeking out new community programs as well as nurturing the existing ones that have been mainstay to our vibrant villages. In addition to making grants to organizations, the Fund also fosters communication among the peer organizations and provides community exposure thru participation in their events, our taped annual giving event which runs on local cable television and our new video about the Fund created by VRHS.

Much has changed in 63 years in how the Fund raises its money and does business; however the goal has stayed the same – to help local non-profits provide much needed services and enhance the quality of our community for the residents of the three villages. When you invest in the Essex Community Fund, you are helping create a healthy and vibrant community by contributing to all aspects of our residents' lives. Giving to one gives to all.

To learn more about the Fund, please visit our website at: www.EssexCommunityFund.com. There you will find the complete list of the organizations we support, a grant request form, links to the videos mentioned above, and of course information on how to make a tax deductible donation.



Progress of the Fund's annual appeal is charted on boards posted in the three Villages. The signs were constructed by the Boy Scouts and are installed by them each year.



Board of Directors: From left to right - Lauren Caiazzo, Richard Stebbins, Christine Rodriguez, Stacia Libby, Mark Bombaci, Jean Schneider, Mary Ann Pleva, Darwyn Azzinaro and Jacqueline Doane.



June 8, 2012: An Evening at the Ivoryton Playhouse - The Fund's annual fundraiser held each year on opening night of the third show of the season.

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Arbor Day: A Community Celebration

Arbor Day came to Essex with springtime sun and an autumn wind. And the town had a celebration that would have made old Birdsey Northrup proud; it had all the elements the founder of the state's holiday wanted; a fun, festive atmosphere, plenty of new trees and kids helping to put them in the ground. When all was said and done, seven young trees had been planted on properties in Essex and Ivoryton (including Essex Elementary School), and there were three new Pussy Willow bushes, planted by a local Brownie troop, growing in town, too.

Land Trust president Bob Nussbaum greeted the participants at Cross Lots, where the first plantings took place. Four Scarlet Oak trees (*Quercus coccinea*) went into the ground on the upper reaches, as part of a plan to maintain the downtown Essex parkland. Explained the Land Trust's Peggy Tuttle, "There are a lot of older, mature trees here, and one of our goals is to increase the number of younger trees on this property." It's called "succession planting," and the benefits are many. When new trees eventually replace the current, older ones, it enhances the beauty of the land and provides wildlife habitat, both in terms of food and viable territory. In fact, two of the new Scarlet Oaks at Cross Lots are replacements for trees that have been lost recently to old age and storm damage.

As the first of the trees went into the ground, Essex Tree Warden Augie Pampel explained to the crowd the techniques involved in a successful planting, from how to prepare the tree and roots and how big the hole should be to final mulching and watering advice.

There was succession planting in Ivoryton, too, as the Department of Parks and Recreation put in a replacement tree next to the Ivoryton Playhouse, which saw its enormous evergreen toppled last year. Kathy Bishop, Bob Russo and his son, Daniel planted a *Stewartia ovata*, a white-blossomed tree also called the Summer Dogwood, with the tree warden's assistance.

Members of the Essex Garden Club, including Mark Pratt of the club's Tree Committee, gathered with Pampel at the south end of South Main Street to plant a Little-leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*) as a memorial for two club members who had passed away.



Arbor Day celebrations resulted in seven young trees and three new Pussy willow bushes being planted on properties in Essex and Ivoryton by numerous volunteers.

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Judy DeLeeuw Receives Doctorate from Central



Town resident Judy DeLeeuw recently completed the requirements for a Doctor of Education degree from Central Connecticut State University. The degree was conferred May 16th at a ceremony in New Britain. Dr. DeLeeuw also holds two sixth year certificates as well as a masters degree from the University of Connecticut. She is currently principal of East

Lyme Middle School which the Connecticut Association of Schools has just named Connecticut Middle School of the year for 2012-13. Dr. DeLeeuw has also been principal at schools in East Haddam and Durham. She lives on Harbor View North with her husband David.

• *Arbor Day continued from page 16* •

Essex Brownie Troop 62029, supervised by Jennifer Soper planted American Pussy Willow bushes (*Salix discolor*). Daughter Mia Soper, with fellow Brownies Maddie McCuin and Annie Brenneman, was there working towards her Wonders of Water badge. American Pussy Willows were chosen because they are native to the region, and suited to the damp soil in which they were planted. As Mia Soper shoveled dirt in around her plant, she talked about how she “liked to plant things, and then watch them grow.” As for her willow bush, she plans to “come back later, and see how it’s doing.”

A host of local businesses contributed to the day’s success. Bartlett Tree Experts donated and planted an oak tree, Landscape Specialties donated the digging and planting of three trees and Bombaci Tree Experts provided much-needed tree mulch. Fred Weber and Associates planted the Garden Club’s memorial Linden tree and Riggio’s Garden Center donated a Lilac plant as a raffle prize. Abraham Monahan of Bartlett’s might have been speaking for all donors when he said, “Doing this, it’s a no-brainer. We like to give back to the community, and this is a great way to do it. And, you know, we feel like it’s appreciated, too.”

The town is not alone in celebrating Northrup’s love of trees. According to the Arbor Day Foundation’s 2012 Connecticut state report, volunteers helped plant more than 70,000 trees statewide last year. “It’s not often that you get to do something that is great outdoor fun in the here-and-now that has an effect that lasts for generations,” said Nussbaum, afterwards. “Planting a tree does it.”

— Steve Knauth

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

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

Hubbard Park Basketball Court Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The Essex Park and Recreation Commission proudly announced the opening of the Essex Basketball Center at Hubbard Park. Since opening for play on May 12, the courts have quickly become a very popular recreational facility for young people and families in Essex.

The Basketball Subcommittee asks that the community save the date of Friday, September 7, 5:30-6:00 pm, as all Essex residents are invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony. At this event, we will also show our sincere appreciation to our project donors as we unveil the court's Donor Board.

The Basketball Subcommittee is tremendously grateful to all the families, businesses, local agencies, and individuals who generously donated during our fundraising campaign. We thank Essex Little League and the neighbors of Hubbard Park for their understanding and cooperation in our bringing this facility to the park. Lastly, the support we received from all the various Town agencies and commissions was invaluable to us as well.

Fourth of July Parade Thank You. Park and Recreation recently hosted the 7th Annual Ivoryton Village Fourth of July Parade. A very sincere thank you to Susie Beckman and the many volunteers who helped coordinate this year's event and did all of the work and planning for it. Thank you also to all the community groups and Essex residents who participated in the

parade and patriotic ceremony.

Summer Concerts. Spend your Wednesday evenings with Essex Park and Recreation enjoying the sounds of great music which makes for a beautiful summer evening in our parks. Our venue changes each week letting everyone enjoy our town greens in Ivoryton and Essex. The remaining schedule is as follows:

- **July 25,** Gold Rush, Essex Main Street
- **August 1,** Shiny Lapel Trio, Ivoryton Green
- **August 8,** Blues on the Rocks, Essex Main Street
- **August 15,** Brad & Brian, Viney Hill Brook Park

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 passport and join us!

- **August 9:** Canoe & Kayak Around Thatchbed Island
- **August 25:** Mountain Bike Trail Ride - Cockaponset State Forest (Chester)
- **October 20:** Ivoryton 5k Run/Walk/Road and Trail Race and Pumpkin Run
- **November 17:** Turkey Tromp and Plunge

Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival. October 27, on the Ivoryton Green from 5-8 pm. The first Pumpkin Festival was held at the Ivoryton Village Green in 2000. The festival was declared a success and has been held the "Saturday before Halloween" every year since.

The festival organizers would like to challenge every family that attends to bring a carved pumpkin. Please visit our website for complete event information. Activities include a pumpkin carving station, jack-o-lanterns display, Ivoryton Library Scary Story Hour, face painting, live music, free refreshments (while they last) and more!

Parks Happenings. Our parks are ready for your use and enjoyment. We have completed a number of improvement projects in the past year that make our parks even safer and more appealing. We look forward to seeing you in our parks this summer, here are some community events for you to enjoy:

- **August 4,** Lions Club Lobster Bake, Main Street Park
- **August 18,** First Baptist Church Arts & Crafts Fair, Main Street Park
- **October 6,** Essex Board of Trade Fall Scarecrow Festival, Main Street Park
- **Be sure to check out our Paw Park at Viney Hill Brook Park.** It's a great place to bring man's best friend to run off leash and meet other dogs.
- **Swimming at Viney Hill Brook Park...** take a dip into our swimming hole and enjoy the clean, refreshing water at Viney Hill Brook. Lifeguards are on duty from 11 am - 3 pm daily through August 26 this summer! A great spot for a family picnic as well.

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continued on page 19

• *Park & Recreation continued from page 18* •

Essex Summer Camp...Tons of Summer FUN! There is still time to join us for our most Exciting, Engaging Summer Camp ever. Sports and games, arts & crafts, field trips, and fun weekly themes. For children Grades K-7 (in Fall 2012). Monday- Friday, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm (extended care available). Program runs through August 17. Essex Elementary School. \$115 per child per week (except weeks 2, 8).

Upcoming Fall Recreation Programs (For full information please see our Fall Brochure available on our website).

Fall Youth Programs

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Music Together® | Boys Lacrosse |
| Slamma Jamma Basketball | Red Cross – “When I’m in Charge” |
| Zumba | Girls Lacrosse |
| Tennis | Group Guitar Workshop |
| Creative Art | Kindergarten Basketball |
| Cartwheels, Etc. | Children’s Music |
| Karate Kids | Youth Basketball League |
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Fall Adult Programs

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Tennis Lessons | Zumba |
| Drop-In Basketball | Cross-Fit |
| Yoga | |

Park and Recreation Commission. The Park and Recreation Commission welcomes 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 pm 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” and... “Like” us on Facebook!



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Sister Cities Essex Haiti

In August 2011, Organization pour Development Economique et Social (ODES) and the Sister Cities Essex Haiti (SCEHO Executive Committee approved an application from three directors of schools in Deschapelles serving young children for an Early Education Teacher Training Project (EETT). The mission of the EETT Project is to enhance existing curricula, introduce hands-on manipulative educational materials which are important to cognitive development in very young children, to provide the necessary materials, and to learn from one another regarding the teaching of young children.

The newly formed committee is comprised of several American educators with past teaching experience in Haiti. These teachers are from southeastern Connecticut and speak either French or Kreyol. They all well-versed in the use of manipulative hands-on child centered materials. Materials introduced in the program will all be culturally appropriate. The Project will consist of a week of workshops. Participants included the three directors who wrote the proposal, all their teachers who instruct children from ages 3-6, and the SCEH teacher trainers. Once the Haitian teacher participants have had enough time to familiarize themselves with the new skills in their own classrooms, they, in turn, will hold workshops with other interested schools in the area, supported by some of the same US teacher trainers.

Schools in Haiti, especially in the rural areas, are spare. The quality of the school varies widely. Learning is traditionally by rote. Papers and pencils are scarce, The younger school children often have child-sized tables and chairs, older students have wooden bench/desk arrangements which often hold one more child than you think would be possible. Each classroom for older children has a blackboard. They have few materials, lacking even books for reading pleasure. Their school yards are often just hard dirt if there is any space at all. Rarely is there any playground equipment.

Sister Cities Essex Haiti's along with ODES's Early Education Teacher Training Program is an initial step to address some of these issues in collaboration with educators in the Deschapelles area introducing cognitive-based teaching methods and materials.

This program has been embraced by Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Regional School District 4, and the administrators of Essex, Deep River and Chester Elementary Schools, John Winthrop Junior High School, and Valley Regional High School.

Early Education Teacher Training Project Update-April 15, 2012

By: Jenifer Grant

From April 9-13, 2012, we held the first session of the Early Education Teacher Training Project with directors and teachers of three schools in the area of Deschapelles who teach 3-6 year old children. Myself (Jenifer Grant), Vera Dowell, Jenny Miller and Janine Fraser, all of whom have close ties to Hôpital Albert Schweitzer. All have graduate degrees in early childhood education, and speak both French and Kreyol.

We chose to work directly with the directors and teachers to familiarize them with the materials and concepts which we brought to augment their curriculum. The Deschapelles teachers then, rather than outsiders, would return to their classes as the source of the knowledge for the students.

We spent a week introducing hands-on manipulatives such as puzzles, unifix cubes, small 1 blocks, geometric stacking "toys" and also included "found" materials such as bottle caps and small stones for numbers exercises. We incorporated some of the wonderful ways that the Haitian teachers use to advance learning in their own schools, such as story telling, learning numbers and the days of the week through song, etc.

We also brought story books, many in Kreyol, some familiar to children in the United States as: *Brown Bear Brown Bear*, *Elmer the Elephant*, *Tap Tap* and *Three Little Pigs* which we either translated or came in a French version. We modeled a variety of ways to extend the concept of "story-telling" from discussion to felt board to dramatic re-enactments.

It was a wonderful week, and on the last day we divided the materials between the three schools to be shared in rotation. The teachers will get together in their own schools to discuss what they find "works", what they found to be challenging, as well as to remind each other of specific aspects of the workshop. The EETT participants will also meet once a month to share information pertaining to what was working and what they were finding challenging. During these meetings they would also rotate the materials.

Once the directors and teachers in the three schools become familiar and comfortable using the materials appropriately for their culture, we will offer a second workshop with other interested schools in the area. The "graduates" of this first EETT teacher training workshop will become the next leaders, with assistance from those of us who led the first session and others who might be interested in assisting. One of the goals of Sister Cities Essex Haiti's collaboration with the people of Deschapelles is to establish meaningful relationships, and that we did!



Deschapelles teacher "trainees"

Region 4 School District Initiative

The schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 are raising money for the Sister Cities Essex Haiti Early Education

continued on page 23

• *Sister Cities continued from page 22* •

Teacher Training project.

Deep River Elementary School students decorated over 100 Pringles cans and filled them with school supplies: paper, scissors, crayons, colored pencils, pipe cleaners, erasers, stickers and many other items that will be put to great use by the teachers who have participated in Sister Cities Essex Haiti's Early Education Teacher Training Project. Since school supplies are scarce in Deschapelles and beyond the means of many families, these supplies will be received with great joy and put to good use. Deep River Elementary School also sponsored a "Tip-a-Teacher" fundraiser at Oliver's Tavern in Essex on Wednesday, June 13th. Families, community members and others were able to enjoy a delicious meal at Oliver's served by a staff member from Deep River Elementary School. All tips collected will be donated to Sister Cities Essex Haiti.

Essex Elementary School students are raising money by doing services for family, friends and neighbors. These can include but are not limited to: raking leaves, weeding a garden, taking care of a pet, walking a dog, washing windows, being a mother's helper or any extra house chores. When students offer a service, they asked the person who is benefiting from the service for a donation toward the Haiti Education Fund. In addition, parents, family and community members offered a helping hand to Essex youth for this initiative by encouraging and supporting their efforts by making a pledge for each service a child performs. All money collected will be used to purchase and ship materials to schools in Deschapelles, Haiti. For every \$5 a student raises they were given a hand to put their name on. The hands are posted in the main entrance of the school.

The Helping Hands fundraiser began on April 2 and ended on May 2nd. At the Spring Concert on May 2nd at Essex Elementary School, hands were available for a \$5 donation and have been posted in the main entrance of the school.

Chester Elementary School held a Service Learning Project in March and April 2012 entitled "From Our Village to Theirs - Helping to Rebuild the Schools in Deschapelles, Haiti" that raised \$446.10 for school supplies in Deschapelles. As part of the Project, Chester Elementary School teachers introduced Haiti to the students, discussed the reasons for the initiative, showed them the SCEH website and explained why this initiative will be so important to the children of Deschapelles.

John Winthrop Middle School and **Valley Regional High School** held a bake sale on May 12, 2012 that raised \$552 to support the Early Education Teacher Training Project. In addition, John Winthrop Middle School students held a talent show in Spring 2012 that raised \$400 for books for Deschapelles children.

THANK YOU to the students and staff of all Region 4 Schools for their continued support!

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Land Trust Acquires Increased Acreage on Great Meadow

As part of its ongoing efforts to preserve vital open space, the Land Trust has recently acquired 25 acres on Great Meadow. Located along the Connecticut River, Great Meadow is a “pendant bar” that forms a natural levee of sediment. Behind the levee is the usual marsh and cove associated with the pendant bar. Lying at the river’s transition zone between fresh- and brackish water, Great Meadow is a wildlife habitat of ecological importance. The uniqueness of this un-interrupted landscape cannot be overstated –Great Meadow is a highly productive system which supports an entire food chain. In the long term, these unspoiled areas will be critical to the maintenance of species diversity and healthy ecosystems.

Of its 174 acres, the Essex Land Trust now owns 79 acres; efforts will continue to acquire further tracts in order to preserve this pristine natural wonder. Empty now, Great Meadows was once a beehive of activity. Cattle grazed there, salt hay was harvested and duck hunting blinds once lined the shore. The bar was also a base for the local shad fishing industry and, within the cove, local shipbuilding.

Cattails and reeds top great Meadows while wild rice and bulrush grow at the water’s edge. Rare plants include horned



Photo credit: Al Braden.

pondweed and tidewater arrowhead. A well-known eagle habitat, the meadow also attracts ospreys, hawks, blackbirds, swallows and many other bird species.

Exciting Whites for Summer

Summer is here and it is time to plan on enjoying great times with friends and family. Whether it be picnics, the beach, barbecues or just relaxing on the deck at home there are always exciting summer wines to enjoy with your festivities. Although Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio are very popular, there are other very interesting and tasty whites worth experimenting with.

One of the lightest whites is from Portugal and is called Vinho Verde, meaning “Green Wine,” and is meant to be drunk young. It is a very light and refreshing wine with a small amount of effervescence. This type of wine is low in alcohol and fairly inexpensive.

Austria produces a popular white called Gruner Veltliner which is grown in over one third of their vineyards. This wine is medium-bodied with a dry finish and can also take on some spicy qualities. Over time it will develop into a fuller wine, much like a White Burgundy from France.

Up and coming is the varietal Chenin Blanc, a grape that has been around for a long time. Chenin Blanc has been growing in popularity in California and is known as Vouvray in France, which is the appellation where it is grown and produced. Chenin Blanc from these regions are soft and fruity. If you try a Chenin Blanc from South Africa however, you will be presented with a crisper, dryer finish with a small complexity of fruit. This grape is typically used for blending but is becoming more common on its own.

All of these wines are perfect to pair with seafood dishes, salads, cheeses and lighter meals, or just as a refreshing treat on a hot summer day. The next time you are looking for a white wine try something new, you just may be surprised at what you find!

— Art LiPuma, manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits

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Got Veggies?

Garden Surplus Initiative

Do you have surplus homegrown vegetables from your backyard garden? If so, the Initiative will gratefully receive your donations at Essex Town Hall between noon and 3 p.m. on Thursdays from July 14 until October 4, and deliver them to the Common Good Gardens (CGG) formerly known as Shoreline Soup Kitchen Garden. Drivers for the Gardens will deliver your vegetables to distribution points for needy families in our area. Last summer, between the Common Good Garden's produce, generous donations from area farmstands, and the Essex Town Hall Initiative over 19,000 pounds of fresh vegetables were donated to our neighbors in need. No amount is too humble; whether it's a bunch of radishes or a sack of squash, it all adds up.

Gardeners from Old Saybrook/Westbrook and the Lyme area are welcome to donate their surplus to Common Good Gardens directly by 3 p.m. Thursday afternoons. The Gardens are located just behind Grace Episcopal Church on Main Street, Old Saybrook.

Parents might enjoy planting a row of vegetables with their children. Gardening is a healthy, hands-on family activity, and there is no better experience than tasting your harvest fresh from the garden unless it's the experience of sharing that bounty with a less fortunate family.

The Common Good Garden and the Initiative would like to thank Dean Jacques of Essex Town Hall, Joe and George Ann



Bardenheier and Ellie Wetmore of Essex who were instrumental in the success of last year's Essex effort. CGG is especially appreciative of generous donations of fresh produce from the Scott's Farmstands in Essex, Old Saybrook, and Niantic as well as Maynard's and Viggiano's of Old Saybrook, and Smith's Acres and White Gate Farm of Niantic.

For more information call Essex Town Hall, 860-767-4340 ext. 201. To volunteer to drive food from the Essex area to the Common Good Gardens call 860-767-8441.



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- Music Project
- Early Education Teacher Training Project
- Sports Projects-Tennis
- Second Annual Have a Heart for Haiti Fundraiser
- Continued Support for Hospital Albert Schweitzer
- Region 4 Schools Fundraising Projects

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The Joys and Benefits of Staying Active

We humans are social creatures. This means we have the natural desire to interact and be with other people during every stage of our lives – including our senior years. However, some seniors, through a variety of reasons, find themselves living alone with limited interaction or engagement with friends or family.

This is unfortunate since social involvement is a major component of the overall well-being and good health of any senior. Consider the 2008 study by the Harvard School of Public Health, which found evidence that elderly people in the U.S. who have an active social life may have a slower rate of memory decline. Or “The Nun Study,” which detailed how positive emotions and thoughts in life (often a result of being active and involved) are linked to less disease and lower mortality rates, and can help develop a natural immunization against Alzheimer’s disease.

These and other research illustrates that when seniors maintain an active social life, and each day is filled with purpose and friendship, seniors have a greater opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life during their retirement years. Social activity also greatly reduces or even eliminates loneliness or depression, something that affects more secluded people.

Being social is achievable through purposeful planning. Individuals can create opportunities to be with other people and be involved in groups by:

- Contacting local senior centers, church groups or other organizations that offer a schedule of daily activities
- Signing up for art, music, or physical fitness classes through the local community college or parks and recreation department
- Volunteering or mentoring at a local school, library, or museum
- Joining a local club (such as gardening, writing, reading, chess, knitting)
- Taking part in travel programs designed specifically for senior citizens
- Attending lectures at a local university or other organization

One time of day when socialization is most important is meal time – which most people share with others at least once a day. Senior citizens are encouraged to attend community meals at a senior center, church, or other organization, or to invite friends and family to dinner at a favorite restaurant, or at their home or retirement community. Additionally, seniors should try to accept invitations to join others at mealtime as often as possible.

Competitive sports are becoming more conducive to active seniors, with the growing popularity of organizations such as the Olympic-style “Connecticut Senior Games” for those over age 50. These events include badminton, table tennis, racquetball, golf, basketball, track and field, tennis, volleyball, bowling, cycling, shooting, softball, and swimming – and athletes up to age 89 take part. Additionally, seniors can be on the



Research illustrates that when seniors maintain an active social life, and each day is filled with purpose and friendship, seniors have a greater opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life during their retirement years.

lookout for competitions in art, music, gardening and more at local fairs and other regional events.

As seniors age, they may consider moving into a retirement community, assisted living residence or a continuous care retirement community (CCRC), all of which typically have suitable social and cultural programs available daily, under one roof. These communities often include some type of van or transportation service – which helps those who no longer drive maintain a level of independence. These communities also have scheduled mealtimes, so gathering with friends and family for lunch or dinner is easily accommodated (and strongly encouraged).

If there is a senior in your life – or if you are planning for your own retirement – be sure to include as much social, physical and cultural activity as you can manage. You will be impressed by the benefits, and will enjoy a higher quality of senior living!

— 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 at 1556 Saybrook Road in Haddam (860-345-3779). The community provides independent retirement living services as well as assisted living services provided by its state-licensed Agency, and a special memory care unit.

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**

Habitat ReStore Keeps 319 Tons out of Landfills

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity ReStore is located at 34 Shunpike Road in Cromwell. The ReStore accepts donations of gently used or new construction materials and household furnishings to sell in the ReStore with the proceeds going to support Habitat for Humanity building and home repair projects.

There are over 825 Habitat for Humanity operated ReStores located throughout the United States. "Habitat ReStores calculate that for every \$1.00 of sales, 1.3 pounds of items are kept from local landfills," said Hector Aguilar, ReStore Manager. "For our ReStore that is 319 tons of items in just the first 18 months of sales to the public! The ReStore is truly a green operation," continued Aguilar.

"This is a perfect time for the ReStore with people looking to donate items after spring or summer cleaning but not sure what to do with excess but those good condition furniture, appliances, cabinets or even doors and windows," said Manny Cunard, Associate Executive Director. "We even pick up large items with pickups scheduled three days each week! The ReStore Truck has been seen picking up items in all the towns of Middlesex County plus surrounding towns and in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. More information

is available on the Middlesex Habitat website www.habitat-middlesex.org for more information or what's available for purchase right now," continued Cunard.

The ReStore is staffed by Middlesex Habitat volunteers. "We have a wonderful group of dedicated, responsible and very cordial volunteers working at the ReStore! Some of them commit hours a month refinishing furniture or fixing appliances before they go on the floor for sale. We could not operate such a highly successful ReStore without the help of the Habitat volunteers," commented Joyce Hatton Yarrow, Middlesex Habitat for Humanity Executive Director.

Middlesex habitat for Humanity of CT. Inc. was founded in 1996 to provide simple, decent affordable housing for eligible families. Today, MHFH services 15 communities, including Cromwell, Portland, Middletown, East Hampton, Middlefield, Durham, Haddam, East Haddam, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Clinton, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook.

The ReStore is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. People interested in donating items, volunteering at the ReStore or curious about what is available for sale can visit the Habitat website at www.habitatmiddlesex.org or they can call the ReStore directly at 860-788-6483.




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There are many factors that contribute to the dwelling valuation for insurance purposes. Location, square footage and type of construction play key factors in this, as well as custom features or recent additions. Keep in mind that most are not total losses. In these cases, many times the contractor will have to work around the undamaged structure to rebuild the damaged area with items which may not have been available when the home was originally built. Increased costs in materials and changes in building codes often result in higher construction costs. Other expenses involve demolition costs and debris removal. With proper coverage in place for your dwelling, you can be assured that your policy will protect you. It is critical that you discuss these details with your agent or you may reach me directly for a comprehensive review by calling 860-767-8219. I am happy to assist you.

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Julia Balfour, LLC & High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. are pleased to announce that the invitations designed for the High Hopes 2012 Symphony Fundraiser have been honored with a Connecticut Art Directors Club Award. The invitations were designed by Julia Balfour, LLC, a full service creative agency. Both organizations are proud of the work that was created, and are thrilled that it was acknowledged by the professional design community.

The Julia Balfour, LLC team created the work through their pro-bono partnership with High Hopes Therapeutic Riding. Hand drawn illustrations and watercolors were utilized to create an invitation that spoke to the elegance of this biennial event. 2,500 invitations were wrapped and packaged by hand, speaking to the dedication of volunteers from both organizations. Essex Printing in Centerbrook, CT also generously donated their expertise and services in printing the invitations.

This year's Symphony fundraiser took place on June 9th, at the High Hopes Center in Old Lyme, CT. The event, which included a silent auction and a performance by the New England Orchestra, was a huge success. Ticket sales were up 10% from previous years. The evening raised over \$200,000 in donations. The funds will all be used to support the operations of the High Hopes programs, as well as their scholarship program.

The Connecticut Art Directors Club hosts an annual award show to honor exemplary design work from around the state. The High Hopes Symphony Invitations were showcased on June 15th, 2012, along with the other award recipients. The Julia Balfour, LLC team netted 16 total awards that evening.

Julia Balfour, LLC is located in Lyme, CT. As fellow horse lovers, they have been overjoyed to work with High Hopes; citing their incredible work with those who have cognitive, physical, and emotional disabilities as a constant source of inspiration.

To learn more about the High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Program, visit them online at: <http://www.highhopestr.org/>.

Find more information about Julia Balfour, LLC online at: www.juliabalfour.com or www.facebook.com/juliabalfourllc.

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Ivoryton Playhouse Executive Director Receives Award

On Sunday, June 24 at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, members of the Connecticut Critics Circle convened to honor excellence in Connecticut theatre including presenting Jacqueline Hubbard, Executive / Artistic Director of the Ivoryton Playhouse, with the 2012 Tom Killen Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Theater.

The Connecticut Critics Circle (CCC), founded in 1990, was instituted to honor the actors, directors, designers and others who help make professional Connecticut theatre so outstanding. The CCC is a statewide organization of reviewers, feature writers, columnists, and broadcasters. Members of the Connecticut Critics Circle not only represent newspapers, but newspaper chains, magazines, radio programs, web-sites, and other media outlets, reaching millions throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.

The establishment of the Tom Killen Memorial Award coincided with the birth of the Connecticut Critics Circle Awards. It was a tangible way to honor the memory of a fine young critic who died suddenly at the age of 33 in August 1989. The Tom Killen Memorial Award is the Critics Circle most prestigious and is bestowed upon those who have made extraordinary contributions to Connecticut's Equity professional theater.

The first recipient of the Killen Award, 22 years ago, was Lloyd Richards, then Director of the Yale School of Drama and Artistic Director of the Yale Rep. Since then, the award has honored Lucille Lortel of the White Barn; Goodspeed's Michael Price; philanthropists Cory and Bob Donnalley; the Eugene O'Neill's founder George White and The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center; Hartford Theatre Works; children's theater maestro Bert Bernardi; and the Music Theatre of Connecticut amongst others.



Jacqui Hubbard, Executive and Artistic Director of the Ivoryton Playhouse – the 2012 recipient of the Tom Killen Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre given by the Connecticut Critics Circle.

Jacqueline Hubbard, Executive and Artistic Director of the historic one hundred year old Ivoryton Playhouse, now joins this illustrious group. Jacqui has been writing, producing and directing shows at the Playhouse since 1990. With courage and persistence she moved from board member to board president to executive director, working to honor the theatre's mission: to enrich, enlighten, educate and entertain.

In her acceptance speech, Jacqui remarked, "Most of you know that the Ivoryton Playhouse has been around for over 100 years – more than 80 of them as a producing theatre. I have been lucky enough to spend the last 22 years there and have played an integral part in its many changes – from its renovation and refurbishing in 2000 to its reinvention in 2005 from a summer stock theatre to a year round professional producing house. I am so proud of what we have accomplished and I'm thrilled that the Connecticut Critics Circle has seen fit to recognize those accomplishments.

"In this economic climate, most people thought we were mad, throwing all of our time and money, passion and energy into an old theatre that many people had forgotten even existed...but sometimes you've got to be a little crazy to succeed. We are still here. We celebrated our 100th birthday last year. Our audiences have been growing for the past 5 years. We have developed a strong subscription base, a fine internship program and a terrific relationship with our local community. We have a grand illustrious past but our focus is on the future and building future theatre-going audiences."

Jacqui Hubbard is currently directing *Hairspray – the Broadway Musical* that opens in Ivoryton on July 4th and runs through July 29th. Performance times are Wednesday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Evening performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$35 for seniors, \$20 for students and \$15 for children and are available by calling the Playhouse box office at 860-767-7318 or by visiting our website at www.ivorytonplayhouse.org.

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New Administrative Director for Visiting Nurses

The Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, the region's premier VNA, is excited to announce the hiring of its new Administrative Director – Susan Maxwell, RN, MSN, CDE.



Susan Maxwell, RN, MSN, CDE.

Ms. Maxwell has extensive background in administration and teaching as well as experience in both visiting nurse and home health care management. She is an RN with a Masters degree in nursing education and a certified diabetes care educator. As Chief Administrator, she will manage all nursing duties and will also be involved with the Lower Valley Care Advocates, the home health aide organization that is a sister group to the VNLV.

Of her new duties, she says, "The reputation of the VNLV is second to none, and I intend to continue the excellent care that the residents of Chester, Deep River, Essex and surrounding towns have come to expect. I am very pleased to have been chosen to lead this organization."

A frequent visitor to the towns along the shoreline as a vacationer, she says that this area is "one of the most beautiful areas anywhere. I look forward to getting to know the residents and discovering how best to meet the needs of our patients."

The Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is located at 61 Main Street in Centerbrook. The organization has been providing nursing services to the area for decades. For additional information, call (860) 767-0186 or website www.visitingnurses.org.

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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.

CAFÉ MEAL SITES - Chester, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, Clinton, and Westbrook (Thursdays). Reservations required by calling 860-388-1611 by 11 am, 24 hours in advance.

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

STAN GREIMANN ESTUARY MEDICAL OUTPATIENT TRANSPORTATION For medical appointments, to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at 860-388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35.

SATURDAY FAMILY BREAKFAST at the Old Saybrook Café, 8 am - Noon. Join us on Saturdays for made to order breakfast - just \$5 per person! Menu choices include the Estuary Omelet, Pancakes, Oatmeal, or Eggs-any style. All served with home fries and bacon or sausage, juice or fruit, coffee and milk.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES: Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's

Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more! Check the Gazette for all of our programs.

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.

WINE ON THE WATER – August 9th. Proceeds benefit the Stan Greimann Estuary Medical Outpatient Transportation Service (EMOTS). Call 860-388-1611 for more information.

Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council. Turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling 1-800-716-5868. 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. Visit our website at www.ecsenior.org and click on the Newsletter icon to follow the link and sign up! Please let us know to remove you from the mailing list once you've decided to go paperless.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Call Judy at 860-388-1611.

SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Autumn on the Dock Auction - September 30th.



Summer Fair Schedule



Shoreline Wine Festival (Bishop's Orchard, Guilford)	August 11-12
Hamburg Fair	August 17-19
Chester Fair	August 24-26
Haddam Neck Fair	August 31 - Sept. 3
Guilford Fair	September 21-23
Durham Fair	September 27-30
Berlin Fair	October 5-7
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Third Annual Run Scheduled

The Third Annual Run Local/Read Local 5k Road and Trail Run/Walk Race benefiting the Ivoryton Library is scheduled for Saturday, October 20. This race will begin at 9:15 a.m. near the Library and meander through historic Ivoryton, continuing into Falls River Farms and the Falls River Preserve and ending back at the Library.



This event is part of the Essex Great Outdoor Pursuit in conjunction with the Essex Park and Recreation Department and the Essex Land Trust, and will be fun for families, runners and walkers alike.

A "Pumpkin Run" in Ivoryton Park at 8:45 a.m. is scheduled for children 8 years & under. All Pumpkin Runners will receive a metal and a pumpkin that can be painted after their race.

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

Entry fee for 5K Run/Walk: \$20 until August 31, \$23 from September 1 through October 18, \$25 on race day. **Pumpkin**



Run: \$5 per child. The first 300 entrants for the 5k will be given tee-shirts. Parking for the participants will be designated as you enter town.

Please join us in creating a successful and memorable event for this community so that we can continue to look forward a fall run in Ivoryton next year.

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

Register online at [raceit: http://www.raceit.com/search/event.aspx?id=12367](http://www.raceit.com/search/event.aspx?id=12367).

**Deadline for the next issue of
ESSEX EVENTS
is September 25th.**

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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Want to be listed on the Newcomers' page?
 Call Ward Feirer at (914) 806-5500

A Brush With Kindness – New Habitat for Humanity Program

Middlesex Habitat for Humanity announces the A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) program to serve a much larger group of families and individuals in need. "The new ABWK program partners with families who own their home, but because of circumstances, need assistance in resolving repair and accessibility issues," commented Manny Cunard, Associate Executive Director. Cunard continued, "The A Brush with Kindness program focuses on assisting families who would otherwise be living in substandard conditions or who would face excessive barriers in performing daily routine tasks." Middlesex Habitat Humanity is accepting applications from families living in Middlesex County. To qualify, families must meet the following criteria: Only homeowners can apply and complete the Homeowner Application form. Family income must be between 25 - 50% of the Greater Middlesex County Area Median Income. The home identified in the application must be owner-occupied and located in Middlesex County. The scope of work must match Habitat's program resources.

Projects that fall within the A Brush with Kindness criteria include a wide variety of interior and exterior repairs that may include: Minor home repairs including plumbing, interior doors, wall repairs, and minor electrical, and exterior painting; Accessibility modifications including bathroom rails, ramps, wide doors, and lowered switches; Critical repairs including leaking roofs, bathroom fixture replacement, window and exterior door replacement; and/or Weatherization projects including attic insulation, weatherproofing doors and windows, and window and door replacement.

Families chosen are expected, if able, to pay back the cost of the materials for all home repairs. The projects will be completed by trained Habitat for Humanity volunteers under the supervision of Habitat's Construction Manager, Curtis Weybright. "The ABWK Crew Leaders and volunteers are enjoying the opportunity to work on shorter projects throughout the County and help Habitat provide more affordable housing opportunities for more families", said Weybright.

Barbara Miller was the second A Brush With Kindness project completed by Middlesex Habitat. Volunteers replaced front and back doors to her house and several windows added much needed weatherization to her older home. Barbara was so thankful she not only cooked the volunteers a wonderful chicken dinner but she took the time to write a thank you note the President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, Jonathan T. M. Reckford in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Reckford sent Barbara a return thank you note saying, "The repairs made on your home are a wonderful example of how Habitat for Humanity does so much more than build new homes. A Brush With Kindness was created by our Habitat affiliate in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1999. Since then, affiliates across the nation have adopted the program and thousands of families have benefitted from repairs like yours that have made their homes, safer, healthier and more comfortable. When we hear from partner families about the difference HFHI makes in their

lives, we are inspired to work even harder to reach more families and more communities Habitat's message of hope."

Three A Brush With Kindness projects have been completed in Middlesex County with four more ready to go. All interested homeowners in need of Habitat assistance or individuals wanted to donate time or money for the projects are asked to call the Middlesex Habitat for Humanity office at 860/343-9179 and ask for Manny Cunard. More information is also available on eligibility and how to apply on the Habitat website at www.habitatmiddlesex.org.

With the generous assistance and support of funders, donors, businesses and volunteers from throughout Middlesex County, Middlesex Habitat for Humanity can play a leading role in helping area eligible homeowners continue ownership of safe, dry and well maintained homes. The ABWK program will allow Middlesex Habitat for Humanity to serve many more families throughout Middlesex County. Local businesses or faith organizations wanting to sponsor a build or sign up for a group build, please contact the Habitat office.

Middlesex habitat for Humanity of CT. Inc. was founded in 1996 to provide simple, decent affordable housing for eligible families. Today, MHFH services 15 communities, including Cromwell, Portland, Middletown, East Hampton, Middlefield, Durham, Haddam, East Haddam, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Clinton, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook. For more information on how to apply for the A Brush With Kindness program please call Manny Cunard at Habitat office 860-343-9179 or go to the website www.habitatmiddlesex.org.

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Planning for the Future... A Look at Senior Living

Seniors who have an independent lifestyle and want to keep it should take a look at senior living communities. Gone are the days of your grandmother's rest home. Modern communities no longer even call themselves "retirement communities" because it gives the image of a "retiring lifestyle." Therefore, we have Senior Living Communities where the emphasis is on life.

Senior living communities provide opportunities to look ahead and enjoy an engaging lifestyle. The burdens of home maintenance disappear allowing time to pursue other interests. Residents live in attractive houses, or apartments. Amenities include dining, housekeeping, fitness center, swimming pool, comfortable community space, and scheduled transportation for those who need it. There is an array of educational opportunities both on and off site. On-site health care is available.

Residents who live in a Life Care Services, LLC senior living communities cite the following four basic benefits:

Friendly Social Fabric: A supportive atmosphere promotes friendships with other residents

Reduced Responsibilities: Time to explore new interests

Enhanced Health and Well-being: Easy access to social and educational opportunities, fitness programs and health care.

Worry-Free Future: Living in a safe and protective environment, a welcome relief for residents and their families.

— Marian Bairstow,

Marketing Director, Chester Village West

Ivoryton Playhouse Shows

Oliver! Bringing vividly to life Dickens' timeless characters with its ever-popular story of the boy who asked for more, Lionel Bart's sensational score includes *Food Glorious Food*, *Consider Yourself*, *You've Got to Pick-a-Pocket or Two*, *I'd Do Anything*, *Oom Pah Pah*, *As Long As He Needs Me* and many more. **August 8th – September 2nd.**

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: featuring the songs of Neil Sedaka. Neil Sedka, Erik Jackson, Ben H. Winters, Howard Greenfield, Philip Cody, Tom Kitt. 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. The score showcases 18 Neil Sedaka classics, including "Where the Boys Are", "Sweet Sixteen", "Calendar Girl", and, of course, the chart-topping title song. **September 26th – October 14th.**

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