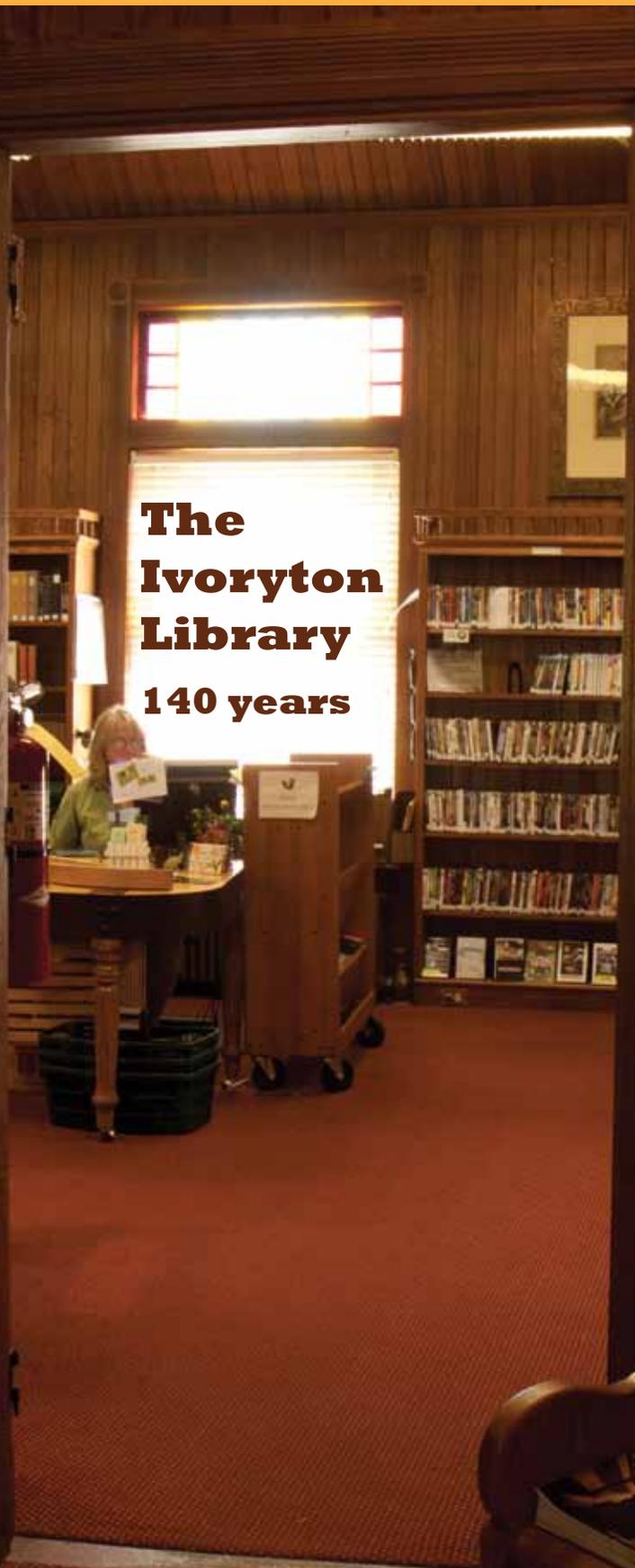




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First Selectman's Corner

Thirty

This issue of *Essex Events* features the one hundred plus years of the Ivoryton Library. With the venerable Essex Library, this complimentary force of community libraries gives us great reading, programming and enrichment.

The cover story is written by our Town Historian, Chris Pagliuco, an Ivoryton resident, teacher, and writer. Our last Historian was the late Don Malcarne, who contributed to the published historic books of the Ivoryton Library Association.

This is my last address to you in this *Essex Events Magazine* as your First Selectman. I want to thank you for having given me the privilege of serving for the last eight years and as third Selectman for four years prior.

You may recall last winter when our State Representative James Spallone accepted the position as Deputy Secretary of State that I won a special election to serve the rest of the term, so for the last eight months, I have served part-time in our legislature while finishing my full time term as your First Selectman, and now I'll serve solely as 36th district State Representative for Essex, Deep River, Chester, and Haddam, and years from now, I'll be the answer to an Essex trivia contest, to what former First Selectman briefly served in the legislature at the same time.

It has been very gratifying to be part of so many efforts and accomplishments for our town. These have helped us to keep our costs manageable and despite a sluggish economy, we have improved our public education system. Essex Elementary School continues to be a very strong program, and John Winthrop Middle School was named the Blue Ribbon school of the year in Connecticut for 2009-2010.



First Selectman Phil Miller

Just this past summer, Valley Regional High School was named as one of the nation's top high schools, and along with our sister Towns of Chester and Deep River, we have been given beautiful plaques commemorating this distinction, and ours proudly adorns the wall upstairs in Town Hall in between the American and Connecticut flags. And as strong as our commercial and industrial base is, as lovely as our homes and neighborhoods are, our greatest product is our young people. Just this October, Valley Regional has again been cited

continued on page 2

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

for excellence, being named along with Daniel Hand High School of Madison for their cumulative athletic program achievement; Valley for recent State and conference championships in multiple men's and women's sports and exemplary sportsmanship displayed throughout.

During my time in office, I have had the opportunity to represent Essex in a number of regional partnerships, including three one-year terms as chair of the seventeen town Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials. These towns have petitioned the State to become a regional planning organization, which will allow us individually and in concert to receive grant opportunities in the future.

I have also served four terms as chair of the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission, and three terms as chair of the thirty town and city Connecticut Area 2 Emergency Management region, which extends from the river towns westward along the shoreline to include New Haven, West Haven, Hamden, and Milford.

Essex is a leader in many efforts, such as the ten town Household Hazardous Waste facility, the nine town Estuary Transit District, also recently cited for national excellence, and the seven town group which works so well from Essex Island Marina to keep the lower Connecticut River and Sound vital.

One of the most helpful developments has been our ability to procure State and Federal grants which we had not

previously attained, aside from the building projects at JWMS and VRHS in '02-'03, and EES in '06-'07.

We have continued to receive grants to conserve and restore natural habitat and open space, especially in the restoration of Connecticut River estuary wetland habitat in partnership with boaters, sailors, paddlers and State conservationists.

We have commissions like the Economic Development Commission and they have successfully researched and developed granted projects of more than two million dollars in streetscape and infrastructure improvements. Our Planning Commission is finishing several grants administrations for various improvements, including one streetscape project scheduled for next summer, replacing and repairing the sidewalk from Ivoryton through Centerbrook.

We have rebuilt a full third of our local roads and sidewalks and several extensions and connections have been completed. We have secured grants to invest nearly a million, four hundred thousand into Essex Court, including recent weather utilization upgrades, similar to the Federal grants which we have used for weatherization improvements to Town Hall.

Thanks

I consider myself very fortunate to have worked with so many outstanding people who continue to help our town be an even better place, including Selectmen Norman Needleman,

continued on page 4

Resort to Relaxing this *Fall...*

And soothe your senses by the sea at Water's Edge Resort & Spa.

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Simply ... Excellence



Essex: Completely remodeled Charming doesn't begin to describe this expanded Cape Cod home. Located on a quaint street right next to an 80 acre town park. Three bedrooms including a new master suite, 2 full baths, cathedral ceilings, new kitchen. Only 30 days to completion.
\$359,900 James O'Rourke owner/agent



Niantic: 22 Spinnaker Lane Carefree living in this immaculate ("55 and over") Ranch. Two bedrooms, (mastr with bay window), two baths. Open, bright thru-out this wonderful open floor plan. Bonus SUNROOM. Office, full basement and 2 car attached garage. Close to village, shopping and beaches. **\$365,000 Nancy Johnson x 27**



Essex: Village Waterfront - Perfect getaway retreat in the Village of Essex. Walk to everything, then escape to your antique colonial on it's own peninsula with stunning views of the Connecticut River as well as water frontage. Offered at **\$865,000 Beth Brewer x 23**



Middle Haddam: CT Riverfront waterfront building lot. Located in an area of substantial properties, this 5 acre building lot with river frontage also owns and has frontage on a pond that is stocked with trout and boy the fish are jumping! Easy commute to Hartford, Middletown and Shoreline.
\$425,000 Maureen Wiltsie 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 O'Grady x 16**



Mystic: Located within walking distance to downtown historic Mystic. This 2280 sq ft home offers plenty of space and open floor plan. New carpets and a new coat of paint are just some of the touches that make this move in ready home a gem. This home features a gourmet kitchen with granite counters, cedar closet, plenty of storage space, and much more. This home is beautifully landscaped and located in a quiet neighborhood. Call today for an appointment... tomorrow is to late! **\$349,900 Jennifer Capano x 26**



Chester: Unique Italianate Revival home set on 1.25 beautifully landscaped acres overlooking the Pattaconk Brook & waterfall. Two incredible fireplaces in the spacious living room & family room! Sunroom is surrounded by windows with lovely views of the waterfall! Custom maple & oak wood floors throughout. Charming eat-in kitchen. Attractive, detached garage has finished room upstairs for recreation, studio or office.
\$399,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



Haddam/Middletown: - NEW PRICE! Is it the mature and luscious landscaping? Is it the CT River view? Is it the uncompromised quality? Rarely is a home of this caliber available at an affordable price. This 12 room American shingle style home has it all including 3 en suite bdrms, gorgeous kitchen, fine millwork and an office suite. Located just 10 minutes from city center with either Hartford or the shore only 25 minutes away.
679,000 Maureen O'Grady x 16



Essex: If you need space and thought you could never afford it, this is the property for you. Built by a master craftsman the details are exquisite as are the materials. Completely custom from 18 to 24 inch wide ash flooring to Honduran cherry trim and cabinetry. Twelve foot tall daylight basement with overhead door & radiant heating. In-law attached apartment as well as a second floor that is completed to the sheetrock and is 1 bedroom, bath and huge media room.
\$597,500 Maureen O'Grady x 16

• *Selectman's Corner continued from page 4* •

Joel Marzi, and Ken Kells, Finance Board members Jim Francis, Keith Crehan, Fred Vollono, Andy Morris, and Campbell Hudson, former First Selectmen Carl Ellison, John Johns, Peter Webster, and Bruce Glowac, who takes great care of our Region 4 facilities. Also school board members Rick Stebbins, Chris Riley, Dr. Jennifer Clark, Terry Stewart, Lon Seidman, Kathleen Maher, Mary Louise Polo, Mark Watson, Whitney Garlinghouse, and Dr. Jeff Burzin. Our school administrators, Dr. Ruth Levy, Dr. Joanne Beekley, and Dr. Deb O'Donnell, the wonderful Region 4 and Essex teachers and paraprofessionals, and especially Tom Fitzgerald of EES.

So many great commissioners, including Lee Thompson, Jay Beveridge, Paul Riggio, Wally Schieferdecker, Stu Ingersoll, Alix Walmsley, Susan Uihlein, Dr. Tom Danyliw, Hope Proctor, Linda Herman, Carla Feroni, Kay Tucker, Carl Kaufmann, Claire Tiernan, Ted Barry, Richard Helmicki, Chuck Courson, Mike Holmes, Jim Rawn, Stacia Libby, Tony Mosa, Doug Senn, Lynn Faulstick, Joe Zaraschi, and Dan Lapman.

Also our elected citizens, including our Town Clerk, Fran Nolin, our Tax Collector, Megan Haskins, Nancy Stadalnick, and our Treasurer, Bob Dixon. Our employees, including Deputy Treasurer Kelly Sterner, Maria Lucarelli, our Assessor, Jessica Sypher, Nancy Berryman, Pat McLean, Dana Novorio, Lynne Skinner, Dean Jacques, Rick Audet, MaryEllen Barnes, Kerry Berardinelli, Mark Hiatt, John Schumacher, and Darcy Roper.

Our Fire Marshal and Building Inspector, Keith Nolin, our Public Works Director, David Caroline, the Public Works crew, Joe Heller, Mike Birner, Scott Hofmann, Bill Armistead, Gary Riggio, Tom MacWhinney, Greg Peterson, Dr. Bill McCann and our Health Director, Lisa Fasulo. Senator Eileen Daily and former State Representative James Spallone and Congressman Joe Courtney, who visits Essex often.

So many people who empower our non-profits and other enterprises, including John Bogaert, John Heiser, Phil Reynolds, Joe Shea, David Winstead, Herb Clark, Sherry Clark, Jacqui Hubbard and the Playhouse crew, Bob Bell, Susan Dee, and the VRR group, Jerry Roberts, Tim Boyd, Bill Yule, Brenda Milkofsky, Susan Daniels and the CRM folks, Geoff Paul, Doug and Joan Paul, Lil Paul, Reverends Folts, Reverend Peterkin, Reverend Reed Brown, Reverend Crane and Father Paul and Father Brad of OLS. Veterans like Peter Muscolino, Bill Young, Sam Riggio, and Bud Lovell. Others, including Dr. Ed Tucker, Barbara Edwards, Chet Arnold, Lois Ely, Carol MacElwee, Louisa Ketron, Bill Grover, Diz Calendar, Bob Nussbaum, Stan Sheppard, Trip Wyeth, Dick Godwin, Andrew Griswold, Keith Chrisman, Frank Hall, Mary Beth Stebbins, Priscilla Munro, Michael Hammond, David Hyde, Peggy Tuttle, Janice Atkeson, Dawn Boulanger, Ted Nelson, Patty Dowling, Mary Ann Pleva, Kate Sandmann, Jennifer diTommaso, Ken Bombaci, Bob Fisher, Mike Sperzel, Dr. Steve Luster, Mark O'Neil, Fred Szhufnarowski, Susie Burke,

continued on page 12



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Old Saybrook - Quintessential 3000 sq ft cedar shingle Fenwick cottage with 6 Bedrooms and 5.5 baths, in ground swimming pool, wrap around porches on 2 levels, AC on 3rd floor. Possibility of 2 extra building lots. Third floor square footage not included. Offered at \$3,400,000.



Essex - 1850 Federal Style Colonial on 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 & incorporating modern conveniences. 3 bedrm, 2.5 baths. Custom eat-in kitchen, Viking, Subzero, AC. 4 fireplaces. Landscaped. Water access across the street. Offered at \$849,000.



Essex - Water views from this delightful, well maintained home with wood floors, fireplace, Master bed with cathedral ceiling, skylight. Large deck overlooking landscaped garden with gazebo and South Cove views. Only minutes to the village. Offered at \$589,000.

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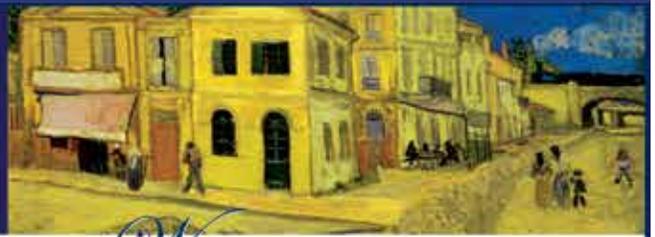
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www.22RackettLane.com

Essex Waterfront "Harbor View" c.2011 on South Cove. Offering the finest in waterfront living. Chef's kitchen, exercise room, elevator, wine cellar, media room, library, pool, granite patio, generator. Fabulous architectural detail and incomparable cove, harbor and CT river views. *Offered at \$3,250,000*



www.49OtterCoveDrive.com

PENDING

Old Saybrook Otter Cove Marvelous c.1762 waterfront estate set on an exquisite 4.35 acre point on the CT river. Main house w/modern master suite addition. Three bay carriage house with guest suite, cottage, pool, generators, dock with lifts. *Offered at \$2,850,000*



www.86JoshuatownRoad.com

Lyme "Weatherly" c.1776 historic colonial reconstructed on thirteen pristine waterfront acres with dramatic views of the Eight Mile river. Chestnut floors, seven fireplaces, barn, gardens. A perfect private family retreat at Hamburg Cove. *Offered at \$1,995,000*



Essex New home at Heron Pond. State-of-the-art energy efficiency. **Award-winning "green" builder.** Coffered and vaulted ceilings. First floor master suite. Adjacent to Essex Land Trust walking trails, pond. *Offered at \$797,500*



Essex Enjoy privacy, one floor living and sweeping valley and river views from this newly remodeled home. Custom craftsmanship throughout. Oak floors, new kitchen w/farmhouse sink, granite breakfast bar and stainless appliances. *Offered at \$795,000*



Essex Village Top to bottom renovated home. Kitchen with soapstone counter tops, Viking oven/range, central air, in-ground pool, deck, detached studio/office. Steps to Main Street shops, marinas, restaurants. *Offered at \$599,000*



PENDING

Old Saybrook Spectacular river and sound views and breezes are yours from this 3400sf contemporary c.2008. Hardwood and tile floors, two-story entry w/winding staircase. Kitchen/great room w/SubZero, granite island, fireplace. First floor bedroom. *Offered at \$599,000*



Ivoryton Lovely sunny home with wonderful floor plan in Falls River Farms. Large family room with vaulted ceiling opens to a newly remodeled kitchen. Expansive deck overlooks a private rear yard. Canoe and kayak nearby. Move-in ready! *Offered at \$399,000*



SOLD

Essex Village Charming Cape in immaculate condition with three first floor bedrooms and one bedroom suite upstairs. Three full baths. Remodeled kitchen, central air. Adjacent to Tiley Pratt Pond Essex Land Trust property. *Offered at \$374,900*



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www.47CoveRoad.com

Lyme Gracious shingle style waterfront home with new dock and mooring on Hamburg Cove! Over 4300sf offering first or second floor master suites, nine-foot ceilings, four fireplaces, open kitchen/great room, spacious stone patio. Superb! *Offered at \$1,995,000*



www.10CollinsLane.com

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



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



www.13HemlockDrive.com

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



Essex Contemporary Walls of glass afford panoramic views from this inviting and unique hilltop contemporary. Vaulted ceilings, open floor plan. New kitchen, master suite with fireplace. Rooftop deck, patio. Landscaping by master gardener. *Offered at \$597,500*



PENDING

Essex Riversedge Condo Cheerful ranch style end unit with a large deck overlooking the pond at Riversedge. Three bedrooms, three full baths, oak floors, fireplace, central air, pool. Finished walkout lower level. *Offered at \$249,900*



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



SOLD

Essex Plains Road Commercial Condominium Class "A" 1240sf office and showroom space with new attached 1800sf garage. Ideal for mechanical service provider. One of only three units in this highly visible building. *Offered at \$450,000*



Essex Village 5,000sf of prime retail space at the top of Main Street. May be subdivided to 2,500sf. Recently renovated former gallery space in a superb location with parking. Become part of "The Best Small Town in America." *Offered at \$4,250 per month net*

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Essex Garden Club Announces New Officers for 2012-2014

The new officers for the Essex Garden Club are Carol Denham, President; Linda Newberg, 1st Vice President; Augie Pampel, 2nd Vice President; Judith Winkler, Recording Secretary; Dianne Sexton, Corresponding Secretary; Nancy Hudson, Treasurer; and Ellie Wetmore, Assistant Treasurer.

After officially taking the EGC gavel on September 12, 2011, Carol Denham spoke of the Garden Club's important legacy over the past sixty years. The Garden Club undertook its first project in 1952 to clean up a plot of land, strewn with rubbish and used for parking, effectively blocking the view of Middle Cove. This land has since become the Town Park, "a jewel that provides a beautiful outdoor space for all to enjoy." The park continues to be a central focus for the Garden Club members, who maintain and add to the grounds annually.

The new president described the club's major fundraiser, "May Market," as a principal funding source for the other significant contributions the club makes to the town of Essex. These include civic beautification of the town, scholarships to young people, and educational and conservation initiatives. The club's production of garlic salt continues to be a "recipe for success."

Carol emphasized the consistency of purpose with which the club has maintained its focus over the past sixty years. "As we celebrate ourselves and those who came before, let



Left to right, Nancy Hudson, Treasurer; Judith Winkler, Recording Secretary; Carol Denham, President; Linda Newberg, 1st Vice President; Dianne Sexton, Corresponding Secretary. Missing: Augie Pampel, 2nd Vice President and Ellie Wetmore, Assistant Treasurer.

us remember that what we do has had a huge impact on the quality of life in our community. Our hard work does make a difference; we have a good thing going, so let's keep it up... Who knows what we will accomplish next!"



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Essex: Magnificent newly built dream home on South Cove offering the finest in waterfront living. Chef's kitchen, elevator, wine cellar, library, media room, resistance pool. Fantastic architectural detail and incomparable cove, harbor, Essex Village and river views!

M9129507 \$3,250,000
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



Essex: Stunning waterfront Contemporary in the village. Dramatic use of windows, high ceilings and sleek lines make this 3BR home as amazing as its panoramic views of North Cove and the CT River. Built in 2001, new dock, 3 fpls, large master bedroom suite, stone walls.

M9129429 \$2,175,000
Leslie Holland 860.575.5144



Essex: Stunning circa 1818 village residence thoughtfully renovated and updated. Magnificent private rear yard with glorious gardens and a separate barn, perfect for office or studio. Spectacular master suite, chef's kitchen and lovely public rooms.

M9123135 \$1,290,000
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



Essex: Circa 1898 village "Queen Anne Colonial" tastefully remodeled. 3BRs, large kitchen, elegant dining room, formal living room, den, front and rear porch. Finished 3rd floor with views of boat yard and CT River. Newer mechanics, roof, wood floors, air conditioning.

M9128034 \$625,000
Leslie Sullivan 860.391.3337



Essex: Water views from this delightful, well maintained home with wood floors, fpl, master bedroom with cathedral ceiling, skylight, large deck overlooking landscaped garden with gazebo and South Cove views. Minute to the village.

M9130388 \$589,000
Colette Harron 860.304.2391



Essex: Exceptional and private in town Colonial! Beautiful living room with columns, built-ins and fpl. Spacious kitchen with granite and stainless. Formal dining room, study, 4BRs, bonus/FR. 500 SF lower level finished area with half bath. Property in the heart of Essex!

M9128712 \$580,000
Kathy Schellens 860.395.4441



Essex: Steps to historic Essex village, this luxury condo features rich architectural details and quality craftsmanship throughout with a custom kitchen, steam shower, bookcases and cozy fireplace. Spacious living room leads to balcony with sweeping lawn and No. Cove views!

M9129088 \$569,000
Donn Holland 860.227.4737



Essex: Like new 4 bedroom, 2 and one half bath Colonial in private enclave with water rights to Pratt Pond. Large eat-in kitchen with granite and island. Large family room with fireplace. Formal living and dining rooms. Walking distance to the village.

M9129379 \$435,000
Joe Kelly 860.287.1222



Essex: Beautifully landscaped home along brook with a country feel. Freshly painted and well kept, this 3 bedroom/2 bath Colonial is a great buy. A 3-season porch, wooden deck and flat yard make this a nature lovers paradise. Close to town, library and park.

M9129947 \$389,000
Lisa Tiezzi 860.526.9235

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• *Selectman's Corner continued from page 4* •

Suellen Kozey McCuin, Bridget Quinn Carey, Richard Conroy, Stephanie Degan Monroe, Margo Valentine, the Pennimans, Marty Bell, Marilyn Buel, Ralph Monaco, John McGirr, Paul Brucker, Anthony Chirico, Lorin Liesenfeldt, Dawn Schieferdecker, Alan MacGregor, Harvey Hoberman, Kathy LaBella, Goody Lelash, Paul Greenberg, Dana Hill, Barbara Sarrantonio, Sara Keaney, Paddy Hurley, the Comstock family, Robbi Storms, Deanna Pinette, Aggie Waterman, Chiefs Judi Reynolds Steven Olson and Paul Fazzino, Sr., David and Ann Bates, CSP Troopers Kerry Taylor, Mark Testoni, David Malek, Jeff Couto, Richard Mulhall, Scott Wisner, and Paul Lussier, Sergeants James Gilman and Sal Calvo, CSP, and officers of the Essex police. And the fifteen Eagle Scouts and their leaders of this new century.

I know that I have left out many others.

I'd like to also mention some noteworthy people who have passed away who meant so much to our town and our people: some of our Greatest Generation of warriors, including Ernie Cook, Bud Lyon, former First Selectman Dick Riggio, Walter Lynn, Justus Paul, Bunny Stannard and Jerome Cutone. Also Joe Bombaci, Paul Karam, Bob Potts, John Moran, Burt Churchill, Hank Towers, Shavaun Towers, Alice Powers, Ed Lepore, Eric Hines, Dr. Ray James, Doug Jones, Fred Hall, Sheldon Kutnick, Bruce Yenawine, Josephine Bombaci, Harriet Gualazzi, little Patrick Bowers, Sally Bowles, Jim MacGregor, Paula McManus, Martine Price, George Brown, Katherine Jacaruso, and many more who we think of often.

Thanks again and good luck!

— *First Selectman Philip Miller*

Congratulations on Your 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Joseph and Irene Heller

66 Woodland Drive, Centerbrook

Married September 9, 1961 in Old Saybrook, CT

Children: Michelle Heller, Lisette Korcak, Monique Heller.

Grandchildren: Zachary, Maxwell, and Emily Bennett. Megan, Mackenzie, and Ryan Korcak. Giovanna and Mattea Parnoff.



Town Clerk's Office

Marriages

Kenneth J. Bombaci II & Martha E. Rojas

Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

Mark Ellis & Barbara Boyd, 43 North Main Street, Essex
David Pfander, Cedar Grove Terrace, Essex
Deborah House, 14 Nutmeg Lane, Essex
Shawn & Alyssa Atkinson, 6 Fife Court, Ivoryton
Richard & Patricia Mather, 24 Stanford Hill Road, Essex
Gene & Ellen Schiavone, 7 Turnstone Road, Essex
Austin Jeffers & Eliza DeBarry Lyon, 6 Parker Lane, Essex
Peter M. Etzel, 85 River Road – J-2, Essex
Matthew & Kimberly Raymond, 1 West Hills Road, Ivoryton
Phillip & Cassandra Watson, 43 Maple Avenue, Essex
Irwin B. Frantz, Jr., 32 Saybrook Road, Essex
Barbara E. Burgess, 50 Grove Street, Essex
Kenneth & Darcy Chmielewski, 18 Fairview Street, Ivoryton
Lorraine Levitan, 36 Highland Terrace, Ivoryton
Michael A. D'Occhio, Main Street, Ivoryton
Cathleen & Mark Edwards, 5 Gates Road, Essex
William Robinson, 25 Grove Street, Essex
Kenneth & Mary F. Barre, 6 Captains Walk, Essex
Kennard & Brenda Gregory, 17 Laurel Road, Essex
Geoffrey Furtney, 32 Sunset Terrace, Essex
Loncharich Gaskell LLC, 5 West Hills Road, Ivoryton
Robert & Janet Johnson, 27 South Main Street #16, Essex
Albert & Gail Moncovich, 24 Prospect Street, Essex

Loss of our Residents and Friends

June	Marshall J. Schofield
Edwin P. Arthur	Suzanne C. Treadway
Sarah Bowles	
Maureen Dunleavy	September
Manuel M. Machado	Marjorie B. Chafee
Harriet Sangster	Wallace B. Edgerton
Russell K. Williams	James Lindsay Latham
	Martine Price
July	Mary Lee Robertson
Frits Zernike	Robert Sipes
	Lynette D. Tulloch
August	October
Carla M. Atherton	Anita D. Baldoni
Ann C. Boyd	Dorothy Cross
Margaret M. Calamari	Felix T. Trommer
Ruth C. Ford	

Deadline for the next issue of

ESSEX EVENTS

is December 27, 2011.

ESSEX TOWN HALL

767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

THE ESSEX TOWN HALL is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday
THE 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

Philip Miller, First Selectman	x114	pmiller@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli	x112	mlucarelli@essexct.gov

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

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

Jessica Sypher, Assessor	x124	jsypher@essexct.gov
Nancy Berryman	x123	nberryman@essexct.gov

BUILDING DEPARTMENT & FIRE MARSHAL

Keith Nolin, Building Official/Fire Marshal	x117	knolin@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Cheryl Haase	x143	chaase@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	mbarnes@essexct.gov

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William Angier, Boris Churyk, James Danks, Richard Gallacher		

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

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John Heiser	x142

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

ESSEX POLICE	860-767-1054
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Marc Pisciotto, Corporal	mpisciotto@essexct.gov
Russell Gingras, Corporal	rgingras@essexct.gov
Salvatore Bevilacqua, Officer	sbevilacqua@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

TOWN CLERK

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

TOWN HALL OPERATIONS

Mark Hiatt	x136	maintenance@essexct.gov
John Schumacher		

TREASURER

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

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Joe Budrow, Enforcement Agent	x115	jbudrow@essexct.gov
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www.essexct.gov

The Women of the Ivoryton Library

From its original collection of only fifteen books back in 1871 to the purchase of the newest e-books in 2011, the 140-year history of the Ivoryton Library has been spearheaded, almost entirely, by strong and dedicated women.

Their prominent role in the creation of the Ivoryton Library in the mid and late nineteenth century sheds light on the many ways women contributed to their communities in a time when they were largely excluded from public life. The library was founded in 1872 by women who understood its importance to the development and growth of the community and those who lived here. For its first eighteen years, it was known as the Centerbrook Circulating Library; Ivoryton was not yet a distinct section of the town. The library's eighteen books fit on a single shelf of the Boarding House (today the Ivoryton Inn), a building that provided housing for many immigrants who had recently arrived to work in the factories. After only a year, the collection was expanded and moved to the house of Sarah L. Cheney, who served as librarian for the next seventeen years. In 1888, the Ivoryton Library Association (ILA) was created, its mission: To build a new structure to house the library's growing collection, which by now had amassed over 500 volumes. The original ILA consisted of five members, with Harriett Comstock serving a central role. Hattie, as she was called, donated the land for the building. Of the \$3205.25 raised for the building's construction, the biggest contributor was the Ladies Sewing Society, who not only gave the lion's share of the money, \$2000, but also devoted time and effort to making the vision a reality.

The result of their efforts is the beautiful Ivoryton Library we enjoy today, a quintessential and pristine example of Victorian architecture. The building still looks almost exactly as it did when completed in 1889, with the exception of a cupola missing from the roof, lost to damage from the Hurricane of 1938. Of its fireplaces, stained glass, tall roofs, and ornate décor, Architectural Historian Michael Crosbie states, "The library, through its design, might reflect the imaginary realm of a child lost in a book."

Hattie Comstock served as the ILA's first president and, upon her death, was succeeded by her sister Elizabeth in 1891. The earliest years of the library's existence were characterized by many of the inconveniences associated with life in the nineteenth century. Initially, heating was provided by the five fire places (all still present) and lighting by oil lamps. During these years, the library operated on a limited basis, open on Wednesday nights and only to those members who paid a yearly fee of \$1.00 (about twenty-five dollars today) to borrow books. In time, under the leadership of Elizabeth and later her daughter Bessie, the building was modernized and its services were expanded. In 1901, books of educational value were made available free of charge for all patrons, and in 1906, a "free room" was created. From the onset, the library was dedicated to the moral and educational growth of the factory's laborers and their families. A newspaper article (see library archives) written early in the twentieth century reveals



The Ivoryton Library celebrates 140 years.

the sentiments of some supporters of the library ("the large quantity of trashy fiction which seems to delight a certain class more than better reading does") and was limiting library membership. The library became fully free to the public in 1925, and by its fiftieth anniversary in 1939, its collection had grown to over approximately 4,500 books. The celebration for that anniversary was sponsored by members of the Ladies Sewing Society, a testimony to the enduring support provided by that organization for over fifty years.

It was not until the late 1970s that the library gained many of the features commonly associated with libraries today. During the previous decade, circulation was in significant decline, lower than it had been twenty years earlier. Under the stewardship of president Dee Grover, the board of trustees was revamped, which resulted in immediate noteworthy changes. The more than 7,000 books had never been catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal System; patrons relied on the librarians to simply know where each book was. The collection also needed to be rounded out. With the enlargement of the children's and reference sections, residents began to return to the library, increasing circulation by thirty percent.

From its original collection of only fifteen books back in 1871 to the purchase of the newest ebooks in 2011, the 140-year history of the Ivoryton Library has been spearheaded, almost entirely, by strong and dedicated women.

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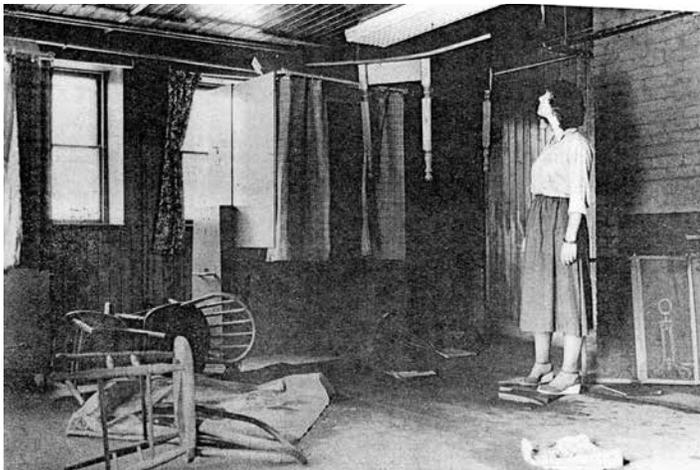
• *Ivoryton Library continued from page 14* •

Inn), a building that provided housing for many immigrants who had recently arrived to work in the factories. After only a year, the collection was expanded and moved to the house of Sarah L. Cheney, who served as librarian for the next seventeen years. In 1888, the Ivoryton Library Association (ILA) was created, its mission: To build a new structure to house the library's growing collection, which by now had amassed over 500 volumes. The original ILA consisted of five members, with Harriett Comstock serving a central role. Hattie, as she was called, donated the land for the building. Of the \$3205.25 raised for the building's construction, the biggest contributor was the Ladies Sewing Society, who not only gave the lion's share of the money, \$2000, but also devoted time and effort to making the vision a reality.



The Ladies Sewing Society.

Of course, the library building was approaching one hundred years old and in increasing need of restoration. During the great flood of 1982, over six feet of water filled the basement, nearly reaching the ground floor, leaving behind a thick layer of mud on the floor. Librarian Lorraine Brigockas (now Lorraine Donovan) was instrumental in bringing about



Librarian Lorraine Bragockas surveying damage to the Ivoryton Library after the flood of 1982.



There is an expanded children's reading section at the Ivoryton Library.

many physical updates to the building, upgrading the basement, restoring the antique lighting fixtures, and painting the exterior in appropriate Victorian colors. By the one-hundredth anniversary, the library was filled to capacity, and every time a new book was added, another had to be removed. "We don't want to alter the building by expanding or renovating. The books are the most important thing, but the building itself is a most intriguing structure," Brigockas explained. In 2011, the Ivoryton Library received the Essex Historical Society's preservation award. This would not have been possible without Brigockas's commitment to maintaining the historic integrity of the building in the 1980s.

When Brigockas left the library in 1994, Robbi Storms, the current executive director, was hired. Most notably, Storms has overseen the creation of the expanded children's reading section, which now occupies the entire basement. She also established the Don Malcarne Archives room. This important repository houses many of the late Town Historian Don Malcarne's papers, as well as hundreds of important artifacts and documents graciously donated by the Comstock family over the last few years. Ivoryton's unique history is increasingly being recognized in academic circles as well as the public at large. The archives room regularly assists researchers from all over the world. A highlight of Storms' career took place in 2004 when the new Essex Library on West Avenue was being expanded and renovated. "It meant a lot to us to help the Essex Library out during a difficult time for them. We were excited to be able to provide library resources to the public during a time when they otherwise would not be available." Storms, now in her seventeenth year, is beginning to envision a time when the limiting confines of the library building may be less inhibiting. "It is interesting that, with the advent of ebooks, on-line data bases, and journal and video streaming, we may be able to expand our offerings beyond what anyone ever thought possible. The seemingly endless amount of time I have needed to dedicate toward space allocation in our wonderful building may actually be coming to an end. I would never have thought that would be the case when I started."

continued on page 16

• *Ivoryton Library continued from page 15* •

Storms also has worked closely with ILA president Loretta McCluskey to expand fundraising and the library's presence in the larger community. The Run Local/Read Local 5K has brought people into town from all over the state and is an enhancement to the activities of the Pumpkin Festival weekend. In 2011, for the first time, the library hosted "The Big Quiz Thing," a team trivia night hosted by New York quizmaster Noah Tarnow. Another popular event is the Ivoryton Garden Tour, featuring the lovely gardens and private homes of Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents. McCluskey states, "Many people don't realize that 30% of the Ivoryton Library's budget is raised through fundraisers each year. We don't necessarily view this as a negative. Our

fundraising events provide us with the opportunity to engage the community in new ways and enhance the culture of the village. It is fun to see what we'll think of next."

During the past century and a half, the role of women in American society has changed time and time again. But Sarah Cheney and Hattie Comstock would surely be proud of the dedication and commitment of Robbi Storms, Loretta McCluskey, and all of their predecessors, who have overseen so successfully the evolution of their fifteen-volume Ivoryton Library.

— Christopher A. Pagliuco,
Essex Town Historian, Ivoryton Library Trustee



The Run Local/Read Local 5K helps raise funds for the Ivoryton Library.



In 2011 the library hosted "The Big Quiz Thing," a team trivia night hosted by New York quizmaster Noah Tarnow.

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Recently, we have all been informed that our forces in Afghanistan and elsewhere are being redeployed back to the United States. We are grateful that they will no longer be in harms way. However, they will face another daunting challenge. Finding gainful employment in their hometown, with their former employer or in a field in which they have been trained while with the military.

They are returning to an economically challenged United States. Many businesses have closed, most have down-scaled and others have eliminated the positions one held by the returning men and women. What can we do as citizens and as business owners?

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Make room for them. Find a position. Create an opportunity. Do something rather than nothing.

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Ask around your neighborhood to find a returning soldier. Call them and offer them a position. Don't wait for them to call you. Be proactive.

HIRE A RETURNING SOLDIER!

— David V. Winstead, Ph.D., Publisher

So Here's The Story...

(of why we started our new business Choice Modular Homes.)

For the past several years we have been searching for a great modular home manufacturer to represent and when we found the right one, we started our company Choice Modular Homes. In July we completed our first "build" and now our new company is fully underway.



Check out a few photos from our first build in Old Saybrook. www.ChoiceModularHomes.com

So how does Choice Modular Homes fit in with TeamJermaine Real Estate Services you ask? It's simple. As Realtors we have always worked to help you find an existing home that is just right for you.

Now as modular home builders, if we can't find it – we can help you build it. Seems like a good idea to us. We love to help all our clients whether buying, building or selling!

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Leslie Jermaine, ePRO
Realtor
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phone 860.388.9628 fax 860.388.9636
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Essex Community Fund Expands Mission with Help of Generous Donation

The Essex Community Fund has been part of the charitable giving landscape of Essex for over six decades. Year after year its volunteer board members have raised money and then awarded it to organizations that provide services to the residents of the three villages of Essex. Many of these organizations serve our most needy residents and often help them meet their most basic needs – food, shelter, clothing, and physical and mental health care.

This spring as the board was planning their goals for 2011 they received a letter from Campbell Hudson, a local attorney. In the letter, Hudson informed the board that a local couple, Marian and Albert Dock, had left a substantial part of their estate to a number of organizations, including the Essex Community Fund. “The Fund is delighted and honored to think that the Docks thought enough of us to entrust this money with us,” stated Darwyn Azzinaro, President of the Essex Community Fund.

The gift, the equivalent of approximately two years of the fund’s current giving level, could have simply been distributed to the organizations they contribute to, but the board thought further about how this gift could be best put to use. In fact,



Seated Left to Right: Jean Schneider, Darwyn Azzinaro, and Stacia Libby
Standing Left to Right: Mark Bombaci, Christine Rodriguez, Richard Stebbins and Jacqueline Doane.

according to Hudson, the Dock’s overall gifting philosophy was to help organizations continue their work into the future.

continued on page 19

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Silkworm of Essex

Silkworm of Essex Village has been in existence since 1981. As the new owner, I am absolutely thrilled about assuming ownership of such a beautiful store with such a strong reputation. The community has been so welcoming and supportive. My name is Raeann Groves and I graduated from Philadelphia University with a Bachelor's Degree in Fashion Industry Management. As a young store owner, my main focus is on providing the highest quality and fashionable apparel to the ladies of the Connecticut Valley as well as those who are just visiting the area. I strive to meet and exceed the needs of my clientele while satisfying their wants. My store carries many sought after brands including Gerard Darel, Sita Murt, Theory and Diane Von Furstenbrg. I firmly stand by these brands for their quality and style and have received glowing feedback from my current customers on how beautiful the clothing in the store is. I am so excited for the upcoming Holiday season and hope to see you all soon!



• *Essex Community Fund continued from page 18* •

Thus the board knew immediately that this was an opportunity to expand its vision and mission.

After much discussion, the board of directors decided to utilize the majority of the gift to set up an endowment (to be managed by Essex Financial Services) to help develop the fund's long-term sustainability. This endowment's purposes include: 1) to supplement the monies awarded when annual donations may be less than projected; 2) to support unexpected needs that arise, like their donation to the Essex Housing Authority during Hurricane Irene; 3) to generate interest income that can

help raise giving levels; and 4) to be the place where similar future donations could be directed. When told of the board's plan for the money, Ken Conforto, Trustee of the Dock Estate, stated, "I am sure the Docks would be very pleased to see the Fund using their gift for long-term planning. Their desire had always been to help worthy organizations continue to do the good work they do."

To learn more about the Fund, please visit their website at EssexCommunityFund.com or call Mark Bombaci at 860-767-1633.

Gracie's Corner

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CT Clean Energy Options Program – Fall 2011 Update

As of July 2011, Essex had 245 Clean Energy points. Currently 6.9 percent of the residents are involved in the program. Essex ranks twelfth in the state with regard to the household penetration rate. With another 55 points, the CT Clean Energy Fund will give Essex a 2 kWh solar array for installation on a public building.

Essex Citizens for Clean Energy (ECCE) want to thank the town officials and employees and all of the residents, businesses, and organizations that have chosen to participate in this program. You have made a choice for a cleaner environment and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. We will all benefit by reducing the impacts of climate change.

To those people who have not yet enrolled, please consider joining the program.

- Each household can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 7,400 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.

- You can 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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Go to www.ctenergyinfo.com to select a less expensive supplier of your electricity.

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

Smart Growth Workshop

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

For town updates & information:

www.essexct.com

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WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing For Needy Children

The need is great this year. In the Valley Shore, needy children will go cold this winter without your help. The Warm the Children Fund is neighbor helping neighbor. *Events Magazines* and the Old Saybrook Rotary Foundation are asking readers to donate to the fund, and all proceeds will be used to buy new winter clothing for needy area children. This is the 19th Warm the Children campaign. Children who benefit from the program live in Essex, Chester, Deep River, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. Social service agencies in each town will work with coordinators Walt Osborne and Jason Smith, assisted by John Donnelly, Ken Roche, Bret Taylor, Bill O'Shaughnessy and Stephen Brinkmann. The coordinators will make arrangements with Wal-Mart in Old Saybrook and assign Volunteer Shoppers to take the families shopping for their winter clothing. Shoppers are local residents who want to help out by donating their time for this worthwhile cause.

As donations are received, volunteer shoppers are asked to call a family to set up a shopping trip to Wal-Mart. Shoppers then meet the family at the store and assist in picking out approximately \$90 worth of clothing per child. All \$90 is spent on clothing whether it be coats, hats, gloves, mittens, boots or winter clothing. There are no administrative costs of any kind.

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Dreading winter's doldrums? Don't! The Essex Library's books, movies, services, and programs will keep you entertained, educated, and informed. Let it snow!

If the holidays bring you a new EReading device, including the Kindle or a Nook, did you know that you can download free books from our website (www.essexlib.org) using the OverDrive icon you'll find there? Click on it and see the full selection of materials available to you. All you need is your library card to access best sellers, classics, fiction, and nonfiction. The directions are easy to follow, and we're happy to help you if you need it. We'll also have EReaders for you to check out.

Budding genealogists, researchers, history buffs, and students: Starting in January, your Essex Library card will get you access to one of the Web's most comprehensive genealogical databases, the Ancestry Library Edition. This collection contains thousands of databases, with content from the 13th century to the 21st, and billions of indexed names. It includes key collections, such as the U.S. Federal Census images and indexes from 1790 to 1930; Social Security Death Index (updated monthly); the *American Genealogical Biographical Index*; *Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage*; *Federal Slave Narratives*; *The Great Migration Begins*; *Immigrants to New England, 1620-1630*; and much, much more.

This year's lineup for our annual Veteran's Day "Witnesses To History" program at Essex Town Hall includes Ben Cooper,

a WWII Combat Medic who was one of the liberators of Dachau Concentration Camp. Speaking along with him will be his friend Ms. Henny Simon, a Holocaust survivor who lived through Nazi ghettos and concentration camp internment; "living history" that you won't want to miss.

Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30, join us for a fun and educational tasting/cooking class on "Italian Cheese." Our guide is Andrea Isaacs, of Cloud Nine Catering and the Lace Factory, and along with our sampling tour of regional cheeses, she'll teach us to make fresh ricotta.

Our fourth season of the beloved Centerbrook Architects Lecture Series will feature, among others, Tom Howorth, a partner of Sam Mockbee and nationally recognized for his vernacular work. Carol Bentel of Bentel & Bentel will talk about her restaurant designs, which include The Modern (at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC). Professor Chuck Benson will talk about the history and development of our National Parks' hotels. Louis Raymond, landscape designer and self-described "plant geek," will return to discuss blending architecture into the landscape. And Joe Moore, of Joe Moore & Partners Architects and Yale University, will also speak.

Civil War buff John Proctor will do a five-lecture series that covers pivotal events in the War Between the States, Thursday evenings at 6:30, from Jan. 19 through Feb. 9. Topics to be covered include "Lincoln's Election, and the Problems of

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• *Essex Library continued from page 22* •

Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens"; "Jefferson Davis/ The Roles of Women and Slave"; "The Battle of Antietam"; "The Battle of Gettysburg"; and "The Assassination of Lincoln, and the Pursuit of John Wilkes Booth."

Jerome Wilson was the political editor of New York City's CBS 6 o'clock news from 1967 through 1975—but the year that sticks in his mind is 1968, the year when, as he says, "America was nearly torn apart." He'll give an illustrated talk on his experiences in those trying times, on Thursday, March 1 at 7 p.m.

Genius architectural model-maker/ fabricator Patrick McCauley will do two illustrated talks for us, the first one on the amazing flying car he created for Valley Regional's production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, on Thursday, March 15 at 6:30, and the second about his painstakingly handcrafted six-foot-long replica of the yacht *Aphrodite*, a gift from the Centerbrook Architects firm to the Ocean House, on April 19.

Still in the planning stage: an 8-week Beginning Italian class, Tuesday nights starting mid-January. We're also planning a special visit by singer-songwriter Suzzy Roche of the famous Roches, who will visit us in February to talk about her new novel, and to sing some songs.

Ahead for spring—the return of our very popular True Crime series. This year, we'll host FBI Agent Art Meister with another fascinating insider's view of an FBI case history; a psychologist will reveal "The Making of a Serial Killer"; Chris Morano, former Connecticut Chief State's Attorney, will talk about the Martha Moxley murder case; and more are still being scheduled.

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES: The Essex Library Association Children's Department has regular registered Preschool Story Hours on Mondays from 1-2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. Also available is a weekly drop-in story hour for ones and twos on Fridays at 10:30 am. Our Fall/Winter story hours end the third week of December and will begin again at the beginning of March.



Junior Friend McLaine Rutan reads to younger kids as part of the Essex Library's Reading Buddies program.

Join us for Breakfast with Santa on December 3 at 10 a.m. at the Essex Town Hall Auditorium. Older participants will work

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Middlesex United Way Announces Funding for Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Other Local Programs

Middlesex United Way Board of Directors recently approved fund distributions in the amount of \$964,304 for fiscal year 2011-12. This amount is \$45,000 more than was allocated in 2010-11.

This funding includes support to 49 programs in Middlesex County, the installation of multiple Born Learning Trails on Day of Caring on September 7, two future requests for proposal in Education and Housing, and \$30,000 for new opportunities this fall that will help United Way reach its Five Year Goals for the Common Good.

The breakdown of fund distributions by focus area is: \$148,156 for education; \$141,350 for income; \$498,080 for health; and \$130,433 for housing.

Programs in Deep River & Essex supported by Middlesex United Way are:

- Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau – School Readiness Initiative
- Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau – Healthy Communities Healthy Youth
- The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries
- Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut

One of United Way's partners in the School Readiness & Healthy Communities – Healthy Youth initiatives is Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau. Gail Onofrio of Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau, says "Middlesex United Way funding has been instrumental in helping our youngest learners on many fronts. The funding has enabled us to provide preschool teachers with current professional development, access to best practices in the field, and increased understanding of state educational benchmarks. The social-emotional curriculum utilized in our classrooms has inspired activities throughout the year that builds communication and relationships."

In addition to these distributions and included in the overall amount, United Way 2-1-1 was allocated \$16,285. 2-1-1 is a 24-hour information and referral helpline that is available free of charge to anyone in Connecticut. 2-1-1 is a partnership between Connecticut United Ways and the State of Connecticut.

Leading the program review and fund distribution each year are Community Impact volunteers who bring experience and expertise in health and human services. Four volunteer teams, based on the four focus areas meet regularly throughout the

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• *Middlesex United Way continued from page 24* •

year, evaluate program performance and financial health, and analyze program results. United Way's Community Impact Council then makes funding recommendations to the full board of directors for final approval.

Kevin Wilhelm, Middlesex United Way Executive Director, notes "This hard work is done by dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to make important decisions. They have a passion for giving back and strengthening our community."

If you are interested in becoming a Community Impact volunteer, please contact Middlesex United Way at (860) 346-8695 or visit www.middlesexunitedway.org and click on 'Volunteer.'

Middlesex United Way advances 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 who 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.

Middlesex United Way serves the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook.

• *Essex Library continued from page 23* •

on writing letters to Santa and Library Jr. Friends will attend as workshop elves. Please register for this program by calling the library at 860-767-1560.

In January, we'll have family films scheduled for Wednesdays. Please call the library for a list of titles, times, and ratings.

Please watch our website for more American Girl and Mad Scientist Society events. You can get information or register for these programs by calling the Essex Library at 860-767-1560. You can also register for them online at our website, or on our Face Book page. (Please friend us!) Schedules are subject to change, so please do call ahead.

Holiday Show

Home for the Holidays

Ivoryton Playhouse, December 8 - 18th.

Show times: Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Matinees at 2:00 p.m. on Sat. & Sunday.

Take an unexpected blizzard, add a sprinkling of the Nutcracker, a pinch of Dickens' Christmas Carol, stir in a little romance and festive song, top it all off with holiday magic and you get a new family tradition called *Home for the Holidays* premiering at the Ivoryton Playhouse.

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

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

Essex Park and Recreation had a successful 2011, and we are very excited for the opportunities that await us in 2012. We have a number of new programs and special events planned for the community and we hope to continue our mission of providing recreational facilities and programs for the growth and enhancement of Essex.

Thank You to our 2011 Special Events Sponsors

2011 Summer Concert Series Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors: Ivoryton Playhouse, Tower Laboratories, Inc. *Concert Sponsor:* Essex Savings Bank, Friends of the Concert Series, The Spa of Essex, Richard Riggio & Sons, Inc.

2011 Essex go Bragh Sponsors

Emerald Sponsors: Ivoryton Playhouse, Tower Labs. *Shamrock Sponsors:* Bogaert Construction, Clark Group, Community Music School, Essex Savings Bank, J. Alden Clothiers, Toys Ahoy!

2011 Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit

The Rockfall Foundation

Upcoming Events

Breakfast with Santa. Essex Park and Recreation and the Essex Library are co-hosting a holiday-themed special event. We will offer light refreshments, activities for the children, and

a visit by a very special guest ... Limit of 50 may attend, pre-registrations is required. Visit Park and Recreation or Essex Library website for more information. Held Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-12noon, at the Essex Town Hall Auditorium.

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 by 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. Event sponsorships are available; please contact the office for more information.

Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit. The Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit is a cooperative effort between the Land Trust and Park and Recreation Department. Our mission is to bring the families of Essex together through positive and healthy outdoor endeavors while increasing the presence and awareness of our local parks, open spaces, and preserves. For more information, please visit the Park and Recreation website.

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• Parks & Recreation continued from page 26 •

Here is a brief listing of each program; all program information is tentative and subject to change, for complete information visit the Park and Recreation or Land Trust website:

Winter Walk at Falls River Preserve and Jean's Island, February 4; Arbor Day Event, April 28; Spring Migratory Birds Seminar, May 5; Fishing Clinic, May 18, 19; Great Meadows Walk & Turtle Presentation, June 27; Mountain Bike Trail Ride, August 25; Ivoryton Library 5K 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 new planned facility the Park and Recreation Commission has been working on for several years. The plan includes the basketball court as well as a complete makeover of the parking lot and gateway intersection of Rt 154 & West Ave. We are very excited about the project and are particularly excited about the development of a facility the young people in Essex can use to recreate in a safe and constructive environment. We need the community's help on this Community Project. If you have any questions about the project or wish to assist in helping complete it, please contact the Essex Park & Recreation Department.

Upcoming Programs... Tiny Tumblers, Music Together, Kindergarten Basketball, Junior Warriors Boys Lacrosse Clinic, Shoreline Girls Lacrosse Clinic, EES After-Hours (includes art, music, science, karate, and dance), Red Cross Babysitting, Adult Yoga Program, Adult Zumba Program, Adult Drop-In Basketball, and more.

The complete Winter-Spring 2012 Brochure will be available online. Check it out as we are always updating our program listings. www.essexct.gov click "Departments" click "Park and Recreation."

Contact Us! As always, we welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements and program information, go to the Town website www.essexct.gov, click "Departments" click "Park and Recreation." We offer online registrations and many people are taking advantage of this convenience. Join us on Facebook as a way to hear about our department and interact with our friends. Please call Program Coordinator MaryEllen Barnes at 860-767-4340 x110 or Park and Recreation Director Rick Audet at 860-767-4340 x148 anytime.

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Essex Winter Series 2012 Concert Season

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. For our 2012 season, five outstanding concerts are scheduled.

January 8 - Frederica von Stade, mezzo-soprano, with pianist Laurana Mitchelmore. Recognized as one of today's most beloved musical figures, Frederica von Stade has enriched the world of classical music for three decades with appearances in opera, concert and recital, and on PBS specials and *Live from Lincoln Center* telecasts. Her achievements include over 60 recordings, six Grammy nominations, two Grand Prix du Disc awards, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Italy's Premio della Critica Discografica, "Best of Year" citations by *Stereo Review* and *Opera News*, appointment to France's L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and an award from the White House and President Reagan for her significant contribution to the arts. World-class pianist and long-time collaborator Laurana Mitchelmore will accompany Miss von Stade, who has described this not-to-miss concert as a "musical autobiography."

January 29 - Jon Kimura Parker, pianist. Internationally acclaimed virtuoso pianist John Kimura Parker's career has taken him from Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House to the Canadian Arctic and war-torn Sarajevo. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian honor,

and a Gold Medal Laureate of the Leeds International Piano Competition. He has collaborated with such artists as Joshua Bell, Bobby McFerrin and Pinchas Zukerman. Command performances have been given for Queen Elizabeth II, the US Supreme Court and the prime ministers of Canada and Japan. Mr. Parker will perform an extraordinary program, titled *Postcards from Russia*, featuring Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*.

February 19 - Boston Chamber Music Society. Hailed by *Boston Globe* as "...vivid, compelling and first rate," the Boston Chamber Music Society, BCMS, is New England's pre-eminent chamber music society, providing audiences with exceptional, impassioned performances of music from the Baroque era to the present day. BCMS is an ensemble of superb musicians who come together in different combinations to perform chamber music, expanding the artistic possibilities and allowing individual expression without one personality dominating. The effect is one of the miracles of music — sheer aesthetic beauty. For this concert, our "miracle" showcases violinist Harumi Rhodes, violist Marcus Thompson, cellist Ronald Thomas and pianist Mihae Lee — our artistic director — performing a Mozart duo, a Shostakovich trio and a Brahms quartet.

March 4 - Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks. Vince Giordano has delighted jazz enthusiasts from our stage many times. This time, his world-renowned band, the Nighthawks, joins him, heating up the stage with early jazz tunes, often performed as originally arranged. You have heard — and sometimes seen — these talented musicians on Minnesota Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*, in the scores of numerous Woody Allen films, in films such as *The Cotton Club*, *Finding Forrester*, *The Aviator*, *The Good Shepherd*, *Revolutionary Road* and *Public Enemies*, and in HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*, *Grey Gardens* and *Mildred Pierce*. Come and tap your feet to what many have enjoyed at jazz festivals around the world and at New York's Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Waldorf Astoria and the Rainbow Room.

April 1 - Windfest. Closing the 34th season of Essex Winter Series is a special event titled Windfest, the second annual Fenton Brown Emerging Artists Concert that brings young talent together with distinguished, world-renowned artists. This year's concert features celebrated clarinetist David Shifrin and French horn soloist William Purvis performing with three emerging artists, flutist Kelli Kathman, oboist Carl Oswald and bassoonist Adrian Morejon of the prize-winning Sospiro Winds. The program includes exciting works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Françaix and Nielsen. This unique gathering of talents onstage will be a wonderful finale for a stellar season.

All concerts are held on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. at Valley Regional High School located at 256 Kelsey Hill Road, Deep River, CT. Individual ticket prices for each concert are \$30 for Adults; \$25 for Senior Citizens; \$12 for Children/Students. Subscriptions for all concerts are also available at a cost of \$110 for Adults and \$90 for Senior Citizens.

For more information, please visit essexwinterseries.com or call 860-391-5578.



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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.

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Essex Land Trust Events – Mark Your Calendar!

Family Turkey Tromp and Plunge. Saturday, November 26 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Viney Hill Brook Park. Join Essex Conservation Commission members who will lead groups through the trails of this beautiful 92-acre town park, a hidden gem. The walk will last approximately 45 minutes. At 11 a.m., join or just watch the wacky folks plunge into the pond. Participants in the plunge must sign waivers and be over age 18. This event is the last of 2011's Essex Great Outdoor Pursuit. The park is accessed off Hillside Drive in Essex. Ample parking is available in the park, near the pond. Rain or shine.

Industrial History of the Falls River. Sunday, January 22, 2012 2 p.m. at Ivoryton Library. Bill Grover, longtime town resident, partner emeritus of Centerbrook Architects and former ELT President, will present an illustrated talk on the history of the Falls River as it passes through town. Co-sponsored by the Ivoryton Library. Parking available on nearby streets.

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Approximately 14 million people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Symptoms may include, diminished energy, excessive sleepiness, and a loss of interest in activities. This often occurs after Labor Day when the days get shorter.

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3. Use of a specially designed light box

When these remedies don't provide relief it may be time to seek professional help. As a psychotherapist and Advanced practice Registered Nurse with prescriptive authority I'm happy to help. I can be reached at (860) 767-7576 or Dianne@dhmtherapy.com.

Fall and Winter are beautiful seasons. Much too beautiful to be SAD.

— Dianne Hunt-Mason



Approximately 14 million people suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder.



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Kitchen Table Conservation: How to Start Saving the World

Editor's Note: The following article is an abridged version of an Essex Land Trust sponsored chat given at the Essex Library on May 25, 2011. The full text version is available on the Essex Land Trust Website.

Several years ago I was asked to write the chapter on Connecticut in a book whose title is *Twentieth-Century New England Land Conservation*. Its editor and contributor, Charles J. W. Foster, is a former dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. After he had considered the offerings of the six writers from each of the New England states, Dr. Foster chose a subtitle, *A History of Civic Engagement*, because that common quality was shared by the efforts over the years of all land conservation in the region.

For my Connecticut chapter I chose the title, "A Story of Land-Saving Actions." You Essex land savers have an honored place in that story. Today I delivered a copy of the book to your library as a gift from the Cabot foundation. The book, which was published by Harvard Forest, is available from the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

When I saw your truly smashing website it got me thinking of all the things we didn't have or that didn't even exist back in 1968 and how wonderful it is, for the most part, that we have them now. So many changes!

Among the things we didn't have back in 1968, when the Essex Land Trust was founded, were almost any land trusts like this one. You are one of the first half dozen community-based, community-organized, community-funded, volunteer-operated land trusts in this state and that means anywhere. Of course, large, long-established and successful land-saving charitable organizations existed at that time. One thinks of the Nature Conservancy and the Trustees of Reservations in Massachusetts right away. But all of these had special interests and missions. Small parcels that are important to their community but not significant otherwise are of no interest to these large, well-heeled and professionally staffed organizations. What of communities that wanted to save a bit of a river, a natural area, or a beautiful vista that were significance only to the people who lived there?

To fit that need, Connecticut invented the land trust that takes its place along all the other things we Nutmeggers have thought up, like the cotton gin, the can opener, and the sewing machine. So, you in Essex can take your place in the company of other distinguished inventors! And the whole country can thank you for it. A few years ago there were something like 1,500 land trusts in the U.S. and eight percent of them are in Connecticut.

Kitchen table conservation has always led the way toward sane use of our resources and fixing things up. The first example that comes to mind is a meeting in Simsbury in 1895 at the home of a local minister. A small group of citizens was concerned about what was happening to Connecticut's forests, which were being destroyed by fires and mindless harvesting. They set in motion actions that not only saved the forest but created the park and forest system that we enjoy today. They founded the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, which probably was the first organization of its kind in the U.S. -- another Connecticut kitchen table invention.

I got involved personally with a kitchen table in Lyme. A small group of men met literally around Pat Jewett's kitchen table to try to do something about the coastal wetlands. At that time, in 1968, Connecticut had lost through draining, filling, or channeling roughly half of the tidal wetlands that had existed at the turn of the century. Many of the projects were quite small but collectively their consequences were catastrophic. Someone said it was like being nibbled to death by ducks. There was little understanding of the vital role such wetlands play in protecting uplands and providing a myriad of what we call today "ecological services." Claimed rights of upland owners reigned supreme. These guys around the kitchen table called themselves the Save the Wetlands Committee. When they asked me to undertake a study of the legal aspects of wetland protection, I remember thinking of that Margaret Mead quotation; she is supposed to have said that we should never doubt that a small group of thoughtful people could change the world, adding, "It's the only thing that ever had." Whether she actually said that or didn't, the truth of that statement has

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ESSEX NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Welcome to Essex!

On behalf of *Events Magazine*, 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 Magazine* and Essex Printing support local businesses.

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

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- *Elleeb's Tidal Conservation continued from page 30* -

been proved over and over again in the conservation movement. In any event, this particular "small group" ultimately succeeded in protecting the remaining tidal wetlands of our state forever when they got the tidal wetlands act passed by the legislature in 1969.

And so it is with your land trust. I was astonished when I opened your website and discovered how many significant preserves you had acquired. My recollection of the earliest days is that right after you were organized nobody knew exactly what you would be doing. There was thought of some kind of education activity in the schools. I had the distinct feeling that you thought it would be a good idea to have a trust because this seemed to be the thing to do but had no real notion of where to go from there. But you thought that opportunities might come. The important thing was to be ready - as ready you were...and ariel it gives me a lift to see my friend Earl Canfield's name on one of your largest preserves. You certainly are doing all the right things.

This conversation would be incomplete if we did not spend some time sharing whatever concerns we have going forward. I would like to start by sharing some of mine.

Environmental protection in Connecticut is under siege in Hartford right now on two fronts, the budget and proposed changes in the laws and regulations that have protected us for generations. We should be very sympathetic toward a governor and lawmakers who are wrestling with a deficit that was

not of their making. However, we must be adamant in insisting that environmental agencies not bear a disproportionate share of cutbacks. We should remind our lawmakers that we are not talking about just numbers but about programs.

Equally seriously, we should absolutely insist that our legislators hold the line on keeping in place the laws and regulations that have cleaned up our rivers and air, protected our wetlands, and prevented destructive public projects for decades. A juggernaut of lobbying is making the environment the scapegoat for a stalled economy and the loss of jobs. Get rid of these laws, legislators are being told, and the economy would grow again. If they do not hear other voices right now, these laws are very much at risk. While she sometimes disappoints us, you are very fortunate to have Eileen Daily in the Senate and Philip Miller in the House but they need allies and help as they strive to convince their cohorts that a sustainable environment actually is the cornerstone of a sound and growing economy.

We all are fortunate in Governor Malloy's new commissioner of the newly reorganized Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. In Dan Esty he could not have chosen a better person to develop comprehensive strategies to integrate for the first time energy, environment, and economic well being. Get to know him, and you will be pleased. So one "tree" we all can plant is to make sure we elect the right people, let them know where we stand, and give them the support that they need.

My other concerns are more general. One is making sure that we pass on to succeeding generations the traditions of generosity and volunteerism and "civic engagement" that have characterized prior generations of Americans. We seem to have become incredibly busy at the same time that we also have become more focused on our personal well being than on the well being of our communities. As you land-trust people know, organizations like this do not run themselves or prosper on their own. As I work more generally with nonprofits I wonder about how we find the resources and people to keep them thriving.

I am concerned about the war between the artificial world of screens and the real world outside and whether for many young people one is winning out over the other. As we become culturally disconnected from the natural world we become indifferent to what is happening to it. As Earl Canfield would be pleased to hear me say, the opportunities you land-trust people and others have created are out there to be enjoyed, to support our health, and to provide opportunities for family recreation away from the isolating screens. You might want to look at a wonderful website called WalkCT for ideas and become acquainted with the No Child Left Inside Initiative of DEEP.

As your founders showed us years ago, saving the world starts close at hand in our own communities, with generous, hopeful acts of stewardship.

— Russell Ehrenstein



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Students Experience Local History

The EHS Educational History Program brought Essex Elementary School's fourth graders to the Essex Historical Society's Pratt House, barn, and Hills Academy this past June. The students learned about home life, farming, and education in Essex during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries and the role children played in their homes and communities. The visit concluded with a hands-on visit to the EHS archives. Support for this program came from a \$1,000 grant from the Middlesex County Community Foundation (MCCF) and numerous EHS volunteers.

EHS began its Educational History Program in 2006 because the organization's board felt it was essential to teach our young people about their local history. Bringing students to these historic sites shows better than any words how people lived in our early history.

The tour takes students to the Pratt House, which features a kitchen filled with utensils from the colonial period such as a large fireplace with huge kettles, grilling toasters, peels, tongs, etc. Also in the room are tin candleholders, red ware, early dishware, churns, and spinning wheels. We even have an out-house that teaches some of the hardships of early colonial life. The barn behind the house holds an antique wooden loom, where our volunteers demonstrate how cloth was made.



It's hands-on history for Essex Elementary School students at the EHS Pratt House Museum.

The tour continues at Hills Academy, an old school house, where a schoolmarm volunteer holds a demonstration class. The upper floor of Hills Academy houses our archives, where students see many unusual (often mysterious) objects. This hands-on part of the day finds them guessing the purpose of many antique objects.

Many thanks to the EHS volunteer docents who kept the Pratt House Friday – Sunday, June – September. Special arrangements can also be made for visits throughout the year by calling 860-767-0681 and leaving a message.



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Sister Cities Essex Haiti – One Year Later

Sister Cities Essex Haiti was created by a group of residents from Essex and environs, most of whom had traveled to Haiti, after the January 2010 earthquake. Encouraged by the Essex Selectmen, they chose to create a local Sister Cities organization.

The mission of Sister Cities Essex-Haiti ("SCEH") is to build a mutual long-term sustainable relationship between the people of Essex, Connecticut, USA and the people of Deschapelles, Haiti, their extended communities, and Hospital Albert Schweitzer located in Deschapelles.

SCEH raises funds for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS), located in Deschapelles and founded by local resident Jennifer Grant's parents, Gwen and Larry Mellon, and partners with Organization Pour Développement Economique et Social (ODES) in Deschapelles to identify and realize projects that benefit the community of Deschapelles.



Interior of the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS), located in Deschapelles.

The Library Project. Working with ODES and the community of Deschapelles, we will create a local community library. The only libraries are more than a two-hour walk away and are not always open. Haitians value education, and a library will enhance the lives of both children and adults. It will provide a safe, well-lit place for children to study at night. It will enable people to borrow books in French and Kreyol, and it will have an active children's section where children and a family member can have stories read to them and experience educational materials, so important in early cognitive development. It will provide a meeting place for workshops on educational, environmental, and technical subjects. The first site that was identified is sadly, not available for a variety of reasons, and ODES and SCEH are working to identify a site. The Soros-funded library in Port-au-Prince, FOKAL, have invited three residents of Deschapelles to participate in their free librarian training programs. Two people attended the librarian assistant training program in October and the third who qualified for a distance learning librarian program will do his program later in the year. Since identifying the Deschapelles Library,

several of us have traveled to Haiti and worked alongside the ODES organization, establishing and strengthening mutual relationships.

In June 2011, six musicians from the Essex area traveled to Deschapelles at the invitation of the local Deschapelles Fanfare Band to play music together for the week leading to the HAS birthday celebration. The Fanfare Band is made up of very talented musicians who usually play for funeral processions or other events. They play mostly by ear, and in one key. They invited us to come with music, music stands, technique books, and needed instruments to practice every day in preparation for a concert on Saturday celebrating the HAS birthday. How were we able to enhance their musical skills? We provided the experience of playing music from a score, following the tempos of the "Maestro" Patricia Hurley of the Community Music School, how to follow a musical road map with repeats and first and second endings, and how to play in two other keys as they always play in one key, concert B flat. With this trip we established wonderful and durable relationships with all the musicians as we played together. We became fully aware of the skills of the musicians, and we look forward to accepting their invitation to return to continue the collaboration. (More details about this program can be found in a second article on page 38.) We were able to bring down musical instruments because of the generosity of donors of instruments here in the Essex area, including Essex resident Stuart Ingeol, who made many instruments available; the support from the International Musical Fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota, which has designated funds for music in Haiti; and Deep River's Face Arts Music, which made it possible for us to purchase music technique books, music stands, and two drums.

The Early Education Teacher Training Project. Responding to a proposal from three directors of schools with young children, we will initiate an Early Education Teacher Training Project. The program will augment the existing curriculum in the schools and begin with the youngest children.

Educators, several with experience in teaching in Haiti and who speak either French or Kreyol, will be joined by teachers from this area, all well versed in the use of manipulative hands-on, child-centered materials, which are critical to cognitive development.

Schools in Haiti, especially in the rural areas, are sparse. Learning is traditionally by rote. Papers and pencils are scarce. The younger school children often have child-sized tables and chairs, but the older ones have wooden bench/desk arrangements which will hold often one more child than you thought would be possible. Each classroom for older children has a blackboard. They have few materials, including books for reading pleasure. Their school yards, if there is any space at all, are often just hard dirt and only rarely is there playground equipment.

This program will consist of a week of workshops with the three directors who wrote the proposal, all their teachers who instruct children from ages 3-6, and the SCEH teacher trainers.

continued on page 39

- Sister Cities continued from page 34 -

After the teachers have had enough time to use the new skills in their classrooms and they are comfortable with their knowledge, they will hold workshops with other interested schools in the area, supported by some of the same teacher trainers.

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

Support from Essex area. None of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement of the community of Essex.

Original efforts began as "Here a Heart for Haiti" awareness and fund-raising for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer through publicity and support such as the dedication of the February 14, 2010 Essex Winter Series Valentine's Day Concert to HAS.

In September 2010, SCEH was invited to establish a designated fund account with Middlesex County Community Foundation to enable donors to make tax-deductible contributions to SCEH.

In October 2010, SCEH held a fund-raiser at the CT River Museum, which involved over 40 volunteers and raised over \$35,000 for Hôpital Albert Schweitzer and the Library Project.

On January 12, 2011, bells were rung for 35 seconds at St. John's Church and elsewhere, the duration of the Haiti "troublemaker" to commemorate the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, and in February 2011, St. John's Church's annual Shrove Tuesday Jazz Concert free-will offering was donated to the SCEH Library Project.

The Girl Scout Troop 62041 was active much of the year supporting SCEH. They volunteered as servers at the October Fund-Raiser, and, after learning more about Haiti, they chose to present Haiti at the Girl Scout World Thinking Day colloquium at the Essex Town Hall. They also began a pen pal program with teens in Haiti.

Tri-Club Rotary International hosted a dinner to raise funds for Hospital Albert Schweitzer in February of 2010, just after the earthquake. This fall they committed to donating 1,000

books, in Kroyal and identified as desired for the Deschanelles Library. They invited Terry Smith, chair of the Library Committee, to speak at their annual Tri-Club International dinner, and in March, they again held a very successful fund-raiser for SCEH's efforts.

On May 15, 2011, Karen Birch Blundell, Adam De Sogno, and Kristen Lettnerman launched their musical group, Essex Consort, with an obse concert at the Essex Congregational Church. The free-will offering was designated for SCEH. Additionally, Karen Birch Blundell introduced SCEH to the Person-to-Person outreach program of her music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota. They have a special fund to support musical efforts in Haiti, and they accepted SCEH's Musical Project as a partner. This enabled us to purchase musical instruments, music, and music stands for the musicians.

In April, the Essex Elementary School (EES) initiated a Read-a-Then with proceeds to go to the SCEH Library. To launch the program, SCEH board members were invited to do presentations to the students about Haiti and the Library Project. In June, at the end of the school year, EES presented SCEH with a check for over \$8,000.

This fall, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ruth Levy has



Read-a-Then

engaged all five schools in the Early Education Teacher Training program, with plans to participate in the training and to collect appropriate hands-on educational materials for the schools.

Members of the community serve on the Board and on committees (Library, Music, Early Education Teacher Training).

For more information about Sister Cities Essex Haiti, please visit our web site at SisterCitiesEssexHaiti.org or get in touch with anyone on our Executive Committee: Kathleen Maher, President; Dan Taylor-Stypa, VP and Communications; David Evangelist, Treasurer; Jenifer Grant, Secretary; Terry Smith, Chair of Library Committee; and Denise D'Avella, Chair of Development Committee.



Girl Scout Troop 62041.

Child & Family Agency Holiday House Tour

SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 10

Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT announces with pleasure its 11th biennial Essex Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The tour will feature beautiful village homes, including a landmark house, all decorated for the holidays and within walking distance from the Town Hall for easy access to village shops and restaurants as well. Essex Historical Society's Pratt House and Hills Academy and the Connecticut River Museum will also be open free to ticket holders. Enticing boutique wares for everyone on your shopping list and a small café at Town Hall will also merit exploring.

Tickets will be available at \$25 each in advance from Stoneware (Essex), Gather (Ivoryton), Saybrook Country Barn (Old Saybrook), The Bowerbird (Old Lyme), Celebrations (Deep River), Ceramica (Chester), and Walker & Loden (Madison). Tickets on the day of the tour will be sold at the Essex Town Hall for \$30 each, and tickets ordered after December 5 will be held there. For groups of 15 or more, tickets may be ordered in advance at \$20 each. When ordering by mail, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and send your check to Child & Family Agency, Holiday House Tour, 168 River Road, Essex 06426. For more information about the tour or the Agency, please visit our website at www.cbapress.org.



The Essex Holiday House Tour will be held on Saturday, December 10 and benefit the Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT

Our Mission

Since its founding in 1809, the mission of Child & Family Agency has been to promote the well-being and development of all children and their families. Priority is given to the unmet needs of children lacking physical, emotional, and intellectual care and nurturing.

Programs deal with child abuse prevention, the treatment of family violence, teen pregnancy, children's health care, childcare, parent education, and child guidance. Last year, over 16,000 children were served in 79 towns in New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties. Child & Family has 172 staff – social workers, teachers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, physicians, administrators, and support staff – dedicated to helping children at 27 service centers.

Much private support of the Agency is derived from six auxiliaries, located in Essex, Lyme/Old Lyme, East Lyme/Niantic, New London/Waterford/Croton, and Mystic/Noank/Storington. Auxiliary members are a diverse group, who give generously of their time and talent through caring for children, fundraising events, and educational services to further the mission of the Agency. New members and donors are always welcome.

Enjoy your tour, and know that, in doing so, you are helping to strengthen families in your community!



Child & Family Agency promotes the well-being and development of all children and their families.

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Asset Allocation: A Key to Portfolio Success

For many investors, investing typically begins with one stock or mutual fund. Over time, other selections are added because many people understand it may not be prudent to invest everything in a single security, even if it has a "blue chip" reputation. However, just "spreading money around" in a haphazard way may create only an illusion of diversification.

If you have assembled a "hodgepodge" portfolio, you may not know the extent to which your investments are (or are not) consistent with your objectives. How do you go about setting up a framework which tailors your investments to your particular circumstances?

A sound portfolio management strategy begins with asset allocation – that is, dividing your investments among the major asset categories of equities, bonds and cash. Since each type of investment category has unique characteristics, they rarely rise or fall at the same time. Then, you can make finer distinctions within each asset category (i.e., diversification). Combining different asset classes could help reduce risk, although it doesn't eliminate market risk altogether. Still two nagging questions remain: What factors guide the asset allocation process? How much of a portfolio should go into each category?

To answer the first question, the main objective of asset allocation is to match the investment characteristics of the various investment categories to the most important aspects of your personal investment profile – that is, your tolerance for risk, your return and liquidity needs, and your time horizon.

Investing according to your risk tolerance will help you keep from abandoning your investment program during times of market turbulence. One way to measure your risk comfort zone is to ask yourself how much of a loss in a one-year period you could withstand and still stay the course.

Finding an appropriate match for you means balancing your tolerance for risk against the different volatility levels of various asset classes. For example, if you have a low tolerance for risk, that fact may dictate a portfolio that emphasizes conservative investments while sacrificing the potentially higher returns that usually involve a greater degree of risk.

RETURN NEED refers to the income and/or growth you expect a portfolio to generate in order to meet your objectives. For example, retirees may prefer a portfolio that emphasizes current income, while younger investors may wish to concentrate on potential growth.

Your personal time horizon extends from when you implement an investment strategy until you need to begin withdrawing money from a portfolio. For example, a very short time horizon (less than 5 years) is probably best served by a conservative portfolio emphasizing safety of principal. On the other hand, the more time you have to invest, the greater risk you may be able to withstand because you have time to recover from market downturns.

The short answer to how much of a portfolio should go into each category is that asset allocation is more a personal process than a strategy based on a set formula. There are guidelines to help establish the general framework of a well-diversified portfolio. For example, you may decide on the need for growth in order to offset the erosion of purchasing power caused by inflation.

However, building an investment portfolio that is right for you involves matching the risk-return tradeoffs of various asset classes to your unique investment profile. One final point that is worthy of emphasis – when you put together your own asset allocation strategy, you should combine all your assets (i.e., your investments and retirement savings). That way you can ensure that all your assets are working together to help meet your goals and objectives. Keep in mind, investment return and principal value will fluctuate with changes in market conditions so that shares may be more or less than original cost. Diversification cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses.

— Ramapo Financial

This article is provided for general information only. It is not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. You should consult with your financial representative, attorney or accountant with regard to your individual situation.

Church Events

First Congregational Church of Essex
Christmas Fair on the Hill
Saturday, December 3, 9-3 p.m.

Ivoryton Congregational Church
Pastor's Tea
Sunday, December 11, 3-5 p.m.

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My Haiti Experience: June 2011

I was invited by my friend and New Horizons Band member Jenifer Grant to travel to Haiti with her as a consultant to a group of musicians known as "Fanfare" in the town of Deschapelles, where her mother and stepfather had established Hospital Albert Schweitzer in the early 1960s. Jenifer gave me a little background on the hospital and less on the musicians. Always up for an adventure, I agreed to make the trip, having no idea what exactly I would be able to do, given that we didn't know anything about the musicians. Were they able to read music? What skills did they have/lack? Would they even welcome instruction from a non-Kreyol-speaking teacher? Would they be willing and able to come to rehearsals? What kind of music would they like to learn?

I tried to prepare by reading the biography of Jenifer's mother and stepfather, *Song of Haiti*, which provided background on Jenifer's life as well. I had supported the Sister Cities Essex/Haiti project and was aware that several Essex people had begun projects in Deschapelles, including establishing a library, but was a bit dubious about the music project—that is, until I met the musicians.

Arriving at the airport in Port au Prince on Sunday afternoon was quite a shock; the tropical heat hit us like a proverbial ton of bricks. We were taken to the hospital transportation center, where we waited for a ride to Deschapelles, about a two-and-a-half-hour trip. We hooked up with Terry Smith and her son Nicholas and Kathleen Maher and her son Alec Kellogg, who had preceded us by a day. We were all burdened with duffels and packages containing instruments, stands, and equipment for the project. Our mode of transportation was a school bus, which is used to transport the many people who commute from Port au Prince to Deschapelles each day, including doctors and nurses who are visiting staff.

After a brutal bus ride along the "highway," stopping often to discharge or pick up passengers, we arrived at Deschapelles. Terri and Kathleen and their sons, along with Roger Lecompte (saxophone player also in New Horizons Band) were staying at the Alumni House; Jenifer's daughter Kate and grandson Reid and I stayed in Jenifer's small house. Lunch and dinner would be at the house for all nine of us, as well as assorted guests.



We had arranged to meet the musicians on Monday for an 8:00 rehearsal. We dragged music stands, music, and instruments to Beoni, our open-air rehearsal hall up the hill from the house, set up the music stands and music, and waited for our musicians to arrive. We began the rehearsal with introductions (in Kreyol) by Jenifer. Our five musicians (Jenifer, Roger, Alec, Nicholas, and Reid) sat side by side with the Haitians and helped them find their places in the music as we went through some scales and warmup routines. My French was occasionally insufficient so Jenifer jumped in to expedite things. It quickly became apparent that the Haitians were eager to follow instructions and certainly played what was on the page—a pleasant surprise!

As the week progressed we added pieces to the repertoire. Using a standard band method, *Essential Elements Book 2*, we began with unison pieces, then a duet, then full band arrangements. We had asked Tom Briggs to arrange some music, which was very successful. We would arrive at the rehearsals to find that the men had set up stands and chairs so that we could get started quickly. We rehearsed from 8-9:30 after which Roger, Jenifer, and I often helped musicians who had specific questions or interests. We met again from 5-6. Several musicians work so could come to one or the other rehearsal; we never knew who would show up. The boys were very helpful in filling in where needed. Nicholas frequently put down

continued on page 48



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- *Event Experiences continued from page 58* -

his trombone to help in the percussion section; Reid, who played trumpet, also helped out in percussion. Their willingness and flexibility was invaluable.

By the end of the week we had a few pieces that we felt we could perform as part of the Fete celebrating the 55th anniversary of the founding of the hospital. The boys had helped silk-screen shirts for the band, which we wore for the performance. On Saturday afternoon the Fanfare Band plus about a dozen "majorettes" (teenage girls who did wonderful dance steps to the music, led by a male drum major) marched down the road from the hospital and into Beant. They played the "Star Spangled Banner" among other pieces. When it was our turn to perform the men took their places, Jenifer made some introductions, and we began to play. Our repertoire included an arrangement of "Home on the Range" by Tom Briggs, to commemorate the ranching background of Jenifer's stepfather and mother. We also played Tom's arrangements of "Closer Walk With Thee" and "Amazing Grace." About 100 people were in the audience, including hospital staff and local residents.

After we played, the Fanfare Band performed for another half hour (all in the key of Bb and without music) some very creative music, which included countermelodies, obligatos, and other wonderful effects, proving what excellent musicians they are.

Among the people who made this venture so successful is Stu Ingeasoll, a New Horizons Band member who deals



Jenifer Grant and friends

in used instruments. Stu made several instruments available to us at very reasonable prices, which were played by the Americans during the week and donated to the Fanfare group on our departure.

We are also very grateful to Sigma Alpha Iota, national music sorority, who made it possible to purchase music and equipment that we donated to the band.

I have to say that the week at Deschanelles was one of the most rewarding of my teaching career. The experience of working with talented, eager, and grateful musicians in a third-world country was unique, and I think that we all came to respect and appreciate each other's gifts through the music that we shared.

— *Patricia Hurley*



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The Sailing Masters of 1812 Fife and Drum Corps lead a lantern-lit parade of antique cars and holiday carolers through Essex Village to the Connecticut River Museum at Steamboat Dock for a parade of lighted boats and the arrival of Santa Claus. All are welcome to join in this very special holiday tradition.

Alice Powers 1921-2011, Essex Land Trust President 1990-95

It was one of those classic, inventive Chet Arnold presentations at the annual meeting, about a decade ago. Here we see projected on the screen the Land Trust properties already within its stewardship, those in play, and Alice's house...flashing at us from its location on Maple Avenue.

If we could zoom into her dining room, we would see the stacks of papers so endemic of the complicated legalistic process of acquiring properties, together with a gathering of Land Trust committed regulars huddled there to help get it all done.

With Alice, it almost goes without saying for those who knew and worked with her; underneath it all came a business-like demeanor, projecting an aura of professionalism, probably nurtured by her years in New York as Vice President of Young and Rubicam, one of the marketing world's top advertising agencies. Now the Essex Land Trust (ELT) was the beneficiary of this experience.

The ELT group might include the likes of Chet, Leslie Barlow, Judy Lovelace, David Hyde, John Matthiessen, Jean Leuchtenburg, and Barbara Edwards, all then current active board members themselves. Then Alice in true form might offer those in the group who so chose a martini to help lubricate their efforts. And why not? Making the job fun, in her view, was an important means to the end.

Alice's passion to see Land Trust projects move forward stemmed at least in part from her pervasive love of all things natural. For example, she also served on the Grants Committee of the Rockfall Foundation of Middletown, which helps funding for environmentally related projects in Middlesex County. Also she would vacation some summers in northern Vermont, near Waitsfield (and the Mad River Glenn ski area). If one wanted to know how to find a certain remote swimming hole or a beaver pond, the answer was simply to just ask Alice. Her last great natural adventure was a trip down the Amazon River in South America at age eighty.

Alice was born on March 16, 1921, in Mount Vernon, New York, daughter of James A. and A. Shirley (Arnold) Powers. Following graduation from Emma Willard School and Smith College she worked for the government during World War II in Washington, D.C. In 1946 she joined the New York advertising firm of Young and Rubicam, rising to the position of Vice President of Human Resources.



Alice Powers

Upon retirement twenty-five years ago, she moved to Essex, where she enjoyed the many cultural and four-season outdoor activities the area offers. In addition to her serving as a president of the Essex Land Conservation Trust for a record five years, she also was a member of the Connecticut River Museum, the Essex Garden Club, the Essex Yacht Club, and the Old Lyme Country Club, where she participated on the golf committee. Prior to moving to Essex she also had been the first woman president of the New York Amateur Ski Club, the second oldest in the United States, with its

headquarters at Mad River Glen.

Alice passed away on Friday, February 18, just a month shy of her ninetieth birthday, at the Avalon Health Center in Mystic (CT). She was predeceased by her brothers, Robert and William Powers. She is survived by her nephew, James H. Powers of Montpelier, Vermont, and his partner, Marilyn Hart and her sons, Charles, Otis, and Michael Hart.

— Dan Nesbett

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Austin-Healey...Extraordinary, Then and Now

While sitting in the publisher's office one day this past July, it was announced that there was a phone call for the "Motorsports editor".

What a surprise, this was a first, but I recovered quickly and was soon chatting with George Greider, a member of the Austin-Healey club of North America. George informed me that he and a large contingent of club members were having a summer rallye, which included a luncheon stop at the Gelston House in East Haddam. Would I like to come up, meet some of the folks and check out the cars, he asked. You bet, what's the date? I'll be there.

These cars have always been on my short list of favorite sports cars, I even owned one for a while back in the "long ago". You may recall a story I wrote about it for *Events Magazines*, but I digress. Let's take a quick look at some of what made these cars so special when introduced in 1953 and sought after as collector cars today.

Built in Great Britain, the Austin-Healey 100 was initially just a two-seat roadster. A 90" wheelbase chassis underpinned the car. Power was provided by a 2,660 cc inline four cylinder engine. Torquey and rugged this power plant was rated a 90 horsepower which seems puny today, but when coupled with a car weighing just over 2,100 pounds, provided good performance for the era, good enough to propel the car to 100 mph, hence the model designation. The Austin Company also provided the three speed transmission with overdrive and drum brakes. All this fairly standard fare for the time.

So what made the car so special then and now? In a word: "looks". Road and Track Magazine in a March 1956 review of a 100M model suggested the cars popularity was due to being a "genuine" sports car and also trouble free. I submit a third reason, colored without question by nostalgia. They were drop dead gorgeous. Low slung and curvaceous, long hood with short rear deck and a two seat cockpit all riding on wire wheels with bright chrome knock off hubs. Wow! This was a "sports car".

The cars evolved over the next decade and a half. Six cylinder engine, four speed transmission, disc brakes, all welcome advances. Also four seats in some models, roll up windows, increased weight and in the opinion of at least a few, an overly



A large contingent of Austin-Healey club of North America members recently held a summer rallye, which included a luncheon stop at the Gelston House in East Haddam.

chromed front end. But, nit pickers aside, the big Healey's endure as icons of the British sports car era.

In the late fifties A-H introduced an entry level sports car called the Sprite. Affectionately known as the "Bug Eye" in the states, because of its bulging upright headlights, it too is a sports car icon. A low cost, entertaining street sports car, Sprites also enjoyed considerable success in sports car racing competition.

All this wonderfulness came to a screeching halt following the 1967 introduction of the Federal Safety and Emissions Standards. Austin-Healey withdrew from our market. It was the end of an era.

We should all thank George Greider and his fellow Healey enthusiasts for keeping this very special sports car part of our modern car culture. It's especially gratifying to see and hear them on our public highways and byways. Thanks all you guys and gals and kudos for a job well done.

Keep the shiny side up and I'll see you next time.

— Dana Hill, Motorsports Editor



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Seniors Getting Fit at the Jaybrook at Hooksett

Walking, lifting weights, stretching, aerobics, lifting, etc. are all fun things seniors do every so many physically fit longer growing. In fact, "working out" is becoming a bigger part of daily life for seniors' senior citizens, and the benefits are piling up. Seniors who work some form of physical fitness in their lives are enjoying better posture, preventing steps or accidents (or even improving their quality of life. Regular exercise builds muscle - which can be accomplished in many ways at the Jaybrook. Seniors enjoy water aerobics or the same activities and strength training on their own.

Regular exercise helps keep seniors "in balance" and flexible, which, in turn, helps them avoid falls and injuries that can hinder quality of life. It also increases metabolism, improves cardiovascular health, and helps maintain posture - which all combine to improve overall well-being. Seniors also benefit from stretching exercises by using group exercise or exercise classes, or by simply going for walks outdoors.

Daily exercise also maintains or helps to build posture. Many individuals experience posture loss or discomfort by their circumstances. Furthermore, if they have been consistently such as the Jaybrook at Hooksett they will be able to maintain or their body, even when they are not at the gym, and they will be healthier.



Seniors at the Jaybrook at Hooksett are enjoying their fitness classes and water aerobics. The Jaybrook at Hooksett is a great place for seniors to stay active and healthy.

as they do have their fitness, as well as with friends and for many other purposes throughout their day. They always have the option to take water instead of the classes, giving them more water to exercise. In the morning, many individuals find great joy walking outdoors.

The Jaybrook at Hooksett recently added a new gym to enhance community health and fitness. This new facility has the gym water aerobics, stretching, and water aerobics. It also has a variety of equipment - including weight machines, rowing machines, and self-propelled walkers. The staff at the gym can assist with water aerobics or water can assist their guests and the staff can assist the machines correctly. The professionals have a large selection of water aerobics, the equipment is complete and can be the user to the machine, the things in the gym, and the professionals can be the water aerobics equipment. The gym is open all-day long, so seniors can take or come their own water aerobics equipment any time of day - including walking or lifting weights, stretching, and water classes.

Our seniors are excited to find themselves in better shape than they ever before, making them more active. They don't realize the level of physical activity they take on each day, but they certainly realize how good they feel. This is why we encourage each senior to use the gym as much as possible. Their health, fun, and happy is what we want to see going forward and enjoying life.

When seniors are fit, we want seniors to enjoy their health and fitness, the more individuals' children and grandchildren, and have the best quality of life possible. We have physically fit seniors here in many ways and activities, so they can be on the same independent longer. We encourage them to have more fun and health. We are here to help for every senior!

— Nancy Ryan, Executive Director,
The Jaybrook at Hooksett

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Essex Appoints Town Historian

At a town meeting on August 15, First Selectman Phil Miller appointed Chris Pagliuco to the position of Essex Town Historian. Pagliuco succeeds the late Don Malcarne in that position. "Don had an unparalleled love and expertise of Essex History. He was an important mentor to me on several projects that I have worked on. In time, I hope to build upon Don's scholarship and continue the many ways he worked to make our town's history available to the public," Pagliuco said of his predecessor. Pagliuco, who holds a BA in History from Keene State College and an MA in History from Trinity College, is a social studies teacher at Daniel Hand High School in Madison, CT. He also is a part of the editorial team of *Connecticut Explored*, a quarterly history magazine. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Ivoryton Library for four years. During the summer, Pagliuco has worked as a docent at the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry, CT and, most recently, the Stonington Lighthouse Museum. He has published history articles in the *Hartford Courant*, *Connecticut Explored*, and *Edible Nutmeg*. "I am excited to serve our community in this position. We have tremendous people and resources in our town and I am eager to work with them to preserve and promote the long and distinguished history of our three villages," Pagliuco stated.



Chris Pagliuco, Essex Town Historian.
Photo courtesy of Kris Connors

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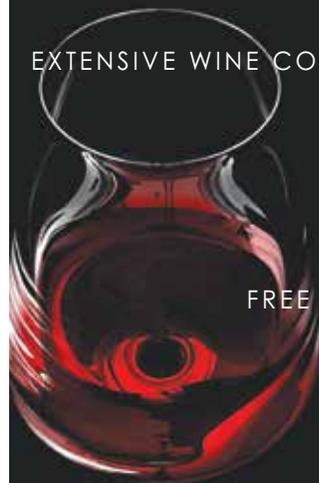


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Gift Wines for the Holidays

Choosing wines for the holidays can be difficult whether it be for a family meal or a present for a friend. The first thing you need to know is whether they would prefer a red, white or sparkling wine. Then you need to know their style preference; dry, fruity, sweet, acidic, soft on the palate or big and bold. Here are some basic examples for picking a wine.

Starting with white wines, if you are looking for something fruity your best bet would be a Chenin Blanc or a Riesling. When buying a Riesling you should know that the grapes are picked at different times which can alter the sweetness of the wine. For a drier Riesling choose a Kabinett which is the earliest pick. For a medium-sweet wine you should try a Spatlese, and for the sweetest Riesling choose an Auslese which stays on the vine longer and therefore has the highest residual sugar. If you are looking for a fuller white Chardonnay is the way to go. They tend to be rich and buttery since they are usually aged in oak, although some are fermented in stainless steel which allows for a cleaner more crisp Chardonnay. If you are looking for a drier and lighter white both Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio are right up that alley.

When looking for red wines French Beaujolais and California Merlots tend to have more forward fruit and have lighter finishes. The lightest reds would be Pinot Noir and Cotes-du-Rhone which have plenty of flavor but sit lightly on the tongue and have very smooth finishes. The most robust reds would be Cabernet Sauvignon and Red Zinfandel from

California, as well as French Bordeaux and Italian Barolo and Brunello. These wines are bursting with flavor and have a lot of complexity.

If you prefer sparkling wine there are many to choose from: French Champagne, Italian Prosecco or Spanish Cava to name a few. Champagne tends to be more complex and is usually priced higher than Prosecco and Cava which are usually priced under twenty dollars.

These are of course just a few generalized examples to work with. Sometimes it is difficult to know what to choose when buying for someone else. Come visit our knowledgeable staff to find the perfect dinner-pairing or gift wine. We are here to assist you in making this holiday season a success!

— Art Lipuma, Manager, SeaSide Wine & Spirits

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A Valley Shore YMCA Membership Saved My Life

The mission of the Valley Shore YMCA is to develop and encourage the growth of all individuals in Spirit, Mind and Body, in an atmosphere of mutual respect. This means different things to four generations of women in my family. To our six year old granddaughter, it means showing her family that she can swim independently, without a bubble. To her mother and aunt, the Y means swim and gymnastics lessons, as well as summer camp and teenage employment. To her great grandmother, the YMCA means mastering the mind-over-matter challenge of learning to swim in her 70s, despite a lifelong fear of being in water over her head.

I have enjoyed regular exercise at the Valley Shore Y for four decades, where I am a member of our local Board of Directors.

*Laid back nights, small plates,
chilled martinis...*



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I have also been influenced by the world community leadership of the YMCA, with its ability to connect people across the world and train them for community leadership and social service.

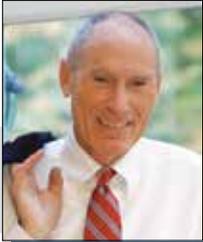
I recently experienced a health crisis which served to underscore the mutual importance of the three worlds of mind, body and spiritual health. I contracted a bacterial staphylococcal infection, for which my medical team could not find a cause. The infection rapidly spread to my heart and my brain. Treatment required three surgeries and intravenous antibiotics to stem the infection. My cardiologist informed my family that there is a 40% mortality rate associated with endocarditis, and that the risk of three surgeries boosted that rate exponentially.

But one week after the surgeries, I was alive and lucid. Clinicians from other medical specialties (internal medicine, infectious disease, neurology, orthopedics, and ENT) joined my cardiology team and treated me over the next month. Three weeks at a rehabilitation facility followed the hospitalization. Although there are many unanswered questions about the cause of the staph infection, there was universal consensus about WHY I survived the ordeal. All agreed that my state of health enabled me to endure the surgeries and fight the infection. The recurring comment from the medical community was that "I did not look like my chart"; I seemed stronger than my records indicated.

The fitness I have acquired at the YMCA and often take for granted provided the strength to survive the surgeries and jumpstart a return to health. "Mind" and "spirit" components also formed a net that carried me through the pain and worry of losing my health. The strength of my family, friends and YMCA colleagues prevailed whenever I had doubts about recovery. I am now enjoying regular, although modified workouts at the Valley Shore YMCA. My cardiologist predicts that I will "return to baseline", eventually resuming normal activities.

My granddaughter learned to swim at the YMCA, and my daughters formed life-long connections with the Y. My mother-in-law conquered her fear of water at the Y. And I reclaimed my appreciation for the mind-body-spirit power of the YMCA. Thanks, Y colleagues, for supporting so much more than my physical recovery alone.

— Kathleen C. Laundry, PsyD, LMFT



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