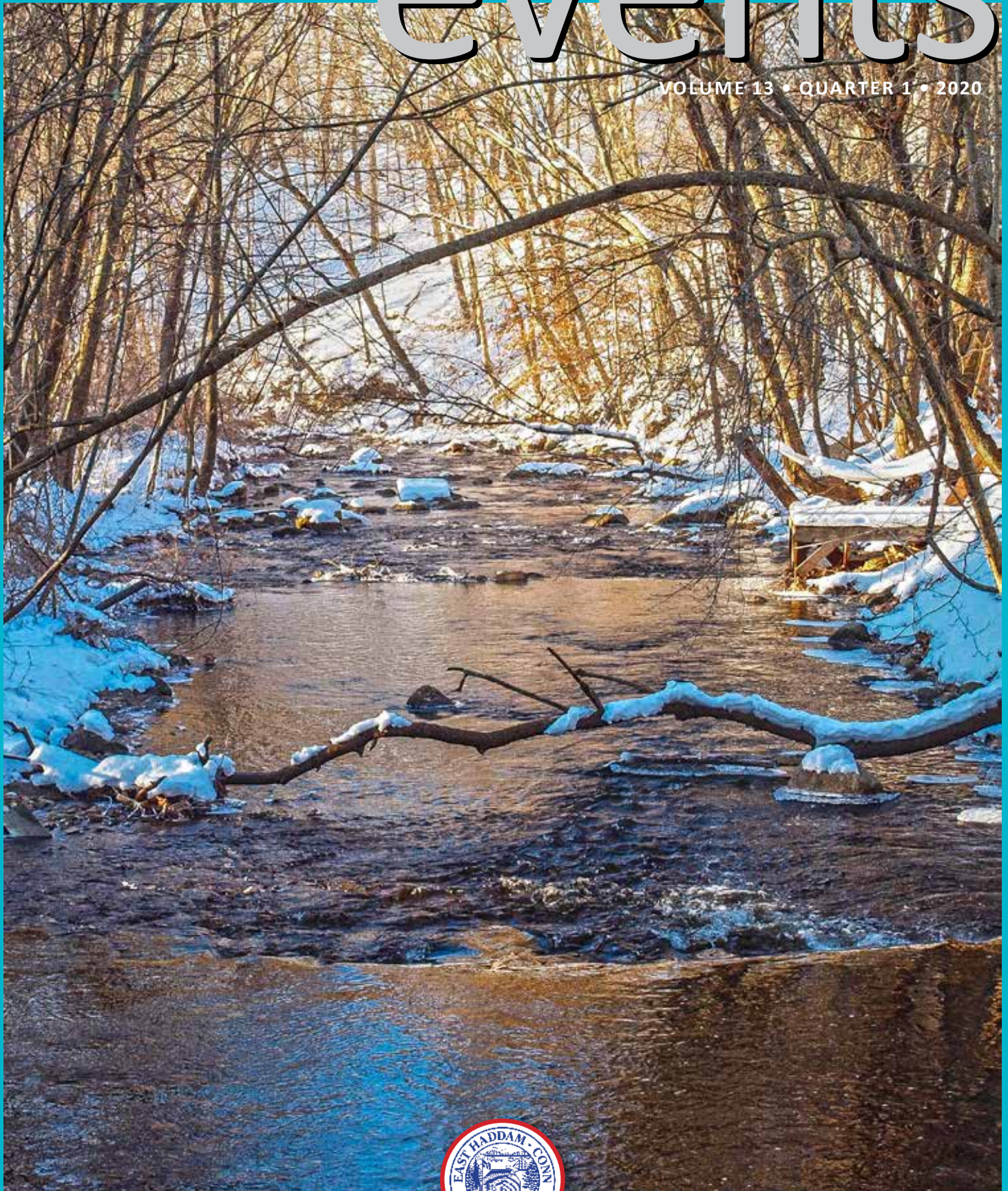


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First Selectman's Corner

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The first two months of my tenure have been very busy. Having been a Selectman for two years was tremendous preparation as it gave me a good foundation for taking on my new role.



Jonathan Hill



Steven Pietruszka



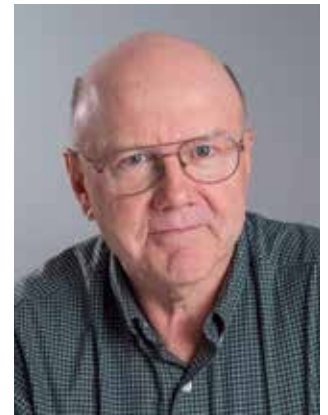
Robert Lenois



Nicholas Petrizzi

One thing I will do in the beginning of every one of these Events columns is to welcome any new employees: Jonathan Hill, above left, was hired to fill a vacant maintainer position at Public Works. We have also hired Steven Pietruszka, above right, who filled a

vacant mechanic position at Public Works. Having Steve on board will save considerable money for the Town as we will be able to handle many repairs in house rather than contracting them out. In addition, we have two new part-time paid Firefighter/EMTs, Robert Lenois, below left and Nicholas Petrizzi, below right, who are supplementing our existing part-time paid Firefighter/EMTs, providing improved daytime coverage with both fire and EMS support.



Robert Smith
First Selectman

It's the time of year when, in addition to performing their normal duties, all departments, commissions and committees are busy working on their 2020-2021 budgets. The Finance Director, Cynthia Varricchio and I have been meeting with all department heads and commission and committee chairs to review the budget process. The goal is to answer questions and improve the quality of the budget submissions. The Board of Finance instituted a ten-year capital plan as well, in an effort to improve our long-range planning and to reduce the number of unexpected expenses that might arise. I encourage our citizens to participate and attend our **continued on page 5**



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First Selectman... continued from page 3

budget meetings in the coming months prior to the referendum in May. Take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions. We look forward to public participation.

Work is continuing on several of the roads damaged in the floods 14 months ago. Ackley Road has been completely rebuilt, and we are trying new techniques and new materials to see if we can stabilize the gravel portion of Beebe Road. We have received engineering plans for the Neptune Road washout. The original plans were over \$1.2 M and we are evaluating where we can save money on it. We still anticipate completion by June, 2020. Other smaller jobs may have been addressed by the time you read this or will be completed by this spring.

The dead and dying trees along our roadways and near our cemeteries and recreation areas continue to present significant issues. Two tree removal companies are now working on our roads removing dead and dying trees. However, the dying ash trees have exponentially increased the volume of trees of concern and therefore the ultimate cost of removal. This is a challenge and we are looking at mechanized tree removal equipment which will reduce the cost per tree expense as well as being much faster. However, we need a more accurate count of the total number of trees that need to be removed to better plan the financial impact to the town.

School Resource Officer, Dave Southworth, continues to receive positive reviews and support from students, parents and school administrators. He has developed a good rapport with the students at all three of our schools.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Senior Project Expo at the High School. I was extremely impressed by the variety of interests and the potential career choices of the students. Although it was impossible to see all of them, they ranged from architecture, to dance, to woodworking, gaming technology and computer programming, all types of engineering, and all areas of health care.

I'm pleased that attendance at the Board of Selectmen meetings has been so good. But I'd like to see even more people attending. Consider this an open invitation to come to our meetings which are held the first and third Wednesday of the month in the Municipal Office Building Rooms 1 & 2. It is a great way to learn about what's going on in East Haddam's government and there is always a portion of the meeting dedicated to Citizen's Comments.

Rob Smith,
First Selectman

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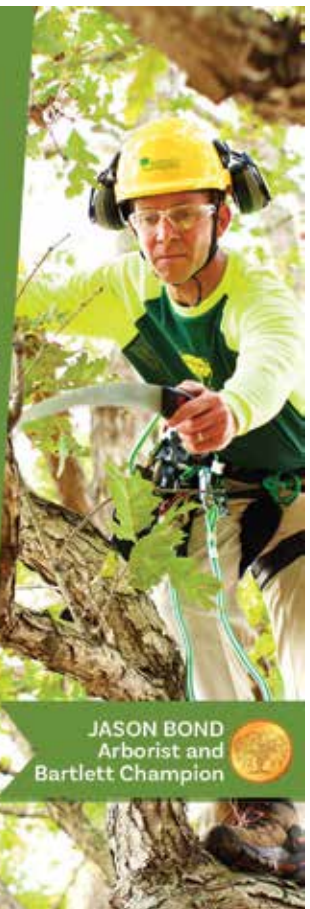
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East Haddam Welcomes New & Incumbent Elected Officials

Several new faces joined some already familiar names in the town government after the November 5th Municipal election. Robert Smith was elected First Selectman, Theresa Govert and Carleen Quinn were elected to their first terms on the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen are responsible for overseeing the affairs of town government and administration of its budget.

Deb Denette retained her position as Town Clerk, as did Kathy Klinck as Treasurer

and Denise Dill as Tax Collector. Joseph Corbett will join returning members Bruce Dutch and Harvey Thomas on the Board of Finance. Marc Piscioti retained his seat on the Board of Education, where he will be joined by new members Patricia Stricker and Laurel White.

The Board of Assessment Appeals returns member Edward Blaschik. Returning members Edmund Gubbins and Richard Pettinelli will take their places on the Planning and Zoning Commission along

with new member Justin Anderson and alternate member Susan Kinsman.

Dawn Barlow, Jane Chisholm, Chris DeLise and Christine Van Valkenburg were elected to serve as Library Trustees.

The Town of East Haddam recognizes the service and dedication of all its citizens who put themselves forward for the demanding work of public office in our community.

From the Assessor

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in March 2020 to hear appeals on real estate assessments. Requests to the Board are due by February 20, 2020. Written requests should include the property owner's name, name and address of the person appealing the assessment, type of property being appealed (real estate or personal property,) reason for the appeal, and opinion of value. Although any written request is accepted, forms are available at the East Haddam website: www.easthaddam.org. The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is: 1 Plains Road, PO Box 385, Moodus, CT 06469

The Assessor's Office began taking applications for the Homeowners Credit Program and Additional Veterans Benefits on February 1, 2020. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2020. Income limits for 2019 are \$37,000 for a single person and \$45,100 for a married couple. These include Social Security. Applications for the Homeowners' Local Option program will be accepted from February 1, 2020 to May 15, 2020. The age and proof of income requirements are the same as

for the state programs but the income limit is \$50,000 per household.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31, 2020 to receive exemption benefits. Qualifying income for Additional Veterans Benefits is the same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted until October 1, 2020.

Any person or entity starting a new business in town should notify the Assessor's Office so that we can send a personal property declaration in the fall. Personal property assessments are based on the declarant's filing. The Board may decline hearing any appeal whose assessment is over \$1,000,000. These assessments can be appealed in Superior Court.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessor's Office at: 860-873-5026.

Annual Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 are available now in the Town Clerk's Office. The report contains valuable information from Town Boards and Commissions. The full 2018-2019 year-end audit can be viewed online at www.easthaddam.org. Feel free to stop in for your very own copy of the Annual Town Report.

Budget Information

DATE/LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7:00 pm Nathan Hale-Ray High School	Budget Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:00 pm Town Hall	Annual Town Budget Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 Time to be Determined Municipal Office Complex	Budget Referendum

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Registrars of Voters News

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS ANTICIPATE A VERY BUSY YEAR IN 2020.

Some Important dates are:

- **January 28, 2020:** Last day for enrolled party members to change from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the primary of their new party.
- **April 14, 2020:** Voter enrollment session will be held in the Registrar's Office for at least 2 hours between 12:00 noon and 9:00 pm. Exact hours will be on the town website and in the East Haddam News.
- **April 23, 2020:** Last day for unaffiliated voters to register, online or by mail, with a party to vote in that party's primary.
- **April 27, 2020, noon:** Last day for new voters to register with a party and be eligible to vote in the primary.
- **April 28, 2020:** Connecticut's Presidential Preference Primary. Primaries in Connecticut are "closed primaries" which means that only voters who are registered with a party may vote in that party's primary.
- **May 5, 2020:** East Haddam Budget Referendum.
- **November 3, 2020:** Presidential Election

We are currently working on the annual canvass of voters, and cross-checking voter registrations in the ERIC system. ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) is an organization that assists member states in improving the accuracy of its voter rolls. ERIC

member states include: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Washington, DC. The United States does not have a uniform system of voter registration. Each state's system is a little different and the systems are not connected to each other. This makes our voter registration system easier to protect, but also presents some challenges in keeping voter rolls accurate. All states must comply with the same Federal Voting and Election Laws.

The Registrars are always looking for people to work at the polls. For more information please call our office at: 860-873-5029 and leave a message. We will get back to you.

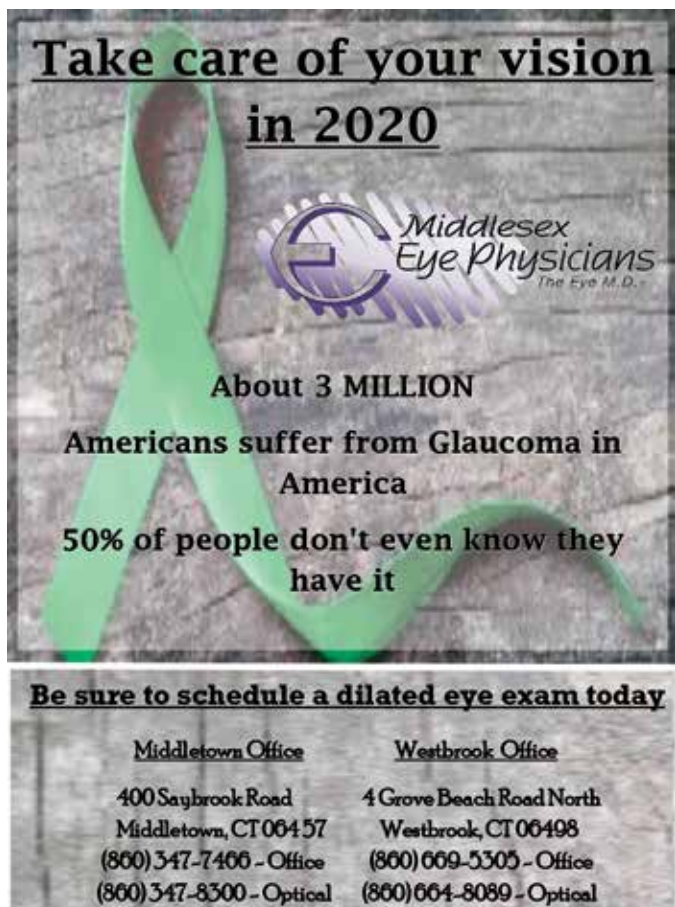
Town Clerk - Absentee Ballots for Referendum

AN ELECTOR MAY VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT DUE TO:

- 1 the elector's absence from their town for all of the hours of voting;
- 2 illness or physical disability;
- 3 active service in the US armed forces;
- 4 religious tenets forbid secular activity on Election Day; or
- 5 service as a polling place official in a town other than their own.

When a Referendum is called with less than three weeks' notice, (Town meeting calls the Referendum) different criteria for the issuance of absentee balloting result. Also, at referendum a non-registered taxpayer may vote if they are an American citizen and own property on the last published grand list valued over \$1,000.

The Town Clerk is statutorily charged to have ballots available within four business days after the question(s) to be voted on are finalized (this occurs at the Town meeting that sends the question to referendum.)



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Holiday Closings

THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, SENIOR CENTER,
LIBRARIES, PUBLIC WORKS AND
THE TRANSFER STATION WILL BE CLOSED
ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

Presidents' Day - Monday, February 17
Good Friday - Friday, April 10

Regular hours will resume on the next business day.

Absentee balloting is a two-step process. The ballot may not be issued until an application for the ballot has been received. At a referendum called with less than three-weeks' notice, ballots cannot be mailed.

For additional information, or to obtain

the application for an absentee ballot, call 860-873-5027 or come into the Town Clerk's Office. Forms may also be downloaded from the town's website: www.easthaddam.org (elections under Town Clerk) or www.sots.ct.gov (elections & voting, voter resources, absentee ballot and procedures, application for ballot.)

As of this writing, a referendum regarding the budget is anticipated to occur on May 5, 2020.

Debra H. Denette,
East Haddam Town Clerk

Economic Development

East Haddam EDC & EHBA are proud to announce the "Business of the Month" for October & November 2019

BALLEK'S GARDEN CENTER

-October 2019 Business of the Month

Ballek's Garden Center is located on a farm that has been in the family since the 1600s. The business is built on the foundation of land stewardship that has kept the farm productive for 14 generations. From subsistence farming to dairy farming, and now a full service garden center, the farm has survived and thrived through adaptation and diversity.

"My greatest satisfaction comes from watching this grow from a fledgling 4-H project 60 years ago to a flourishing business supporting eight family partners plus other families, said Anita Ballek.

"Over the years we have hired almost 500 youngsters, who became like family. Many of these went on to grow businesses of their own."

Through the years, the garden center has seen many cycles in economic trends, gardening styles and plant popularity. Environmental concerns have taken center stage once again, and customers have shown renewed interest in butterfly friendly plants, pollinator gardens and native plants that support native songbird and hummingbird populations. Customers can pick out favorite plants, take suggestions from knowledgeable employees and have their garden designed and installed with nature in mind.

continued on page 10

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Thanks to you, we are making a real difference. With your support, we work in partnership with our local nonprofits and provide grants to help fund their amazing programs and services – all for a better today *and* a better tomorrow.

Thanks to you, by combining resources, we do make even the smallest gift have a big impact - through charitable funds that support animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, history, education, the environment, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity.

Thanks to you, great things happen every day in your community.

We invite you to learn more by calling us or visiting us online.



Ballek's Garden Center from left to right: Jess Stone, EHBA President; Nancy McKinnon; Robert Casner, EDC Chairman; Diane Ballek; Anita Ballek; Rich Ballek; Dan Ballek; Sam Ballek; George Ballek; and Emmett Lyman, First Selectman.

Another landscape trend has been the creation of "outdoor rooms." Ballek's landscape crew designs and installs walls, walkways and patios that create a relaxing oasis from the busy day. Garden art such as fountains, statuary, arbors, birdbaths and more can add whimsy and enhance the beauty of the planted garden.

A third trend has been a resurgence in interest in incorporating edible crops in the landscape. Ballek's has a cadre of foodies who love to share recipes and growing techniques of their favorite heirloom vegetables and interesting herbs. An expanding list of tropical fruits such as citrus, figs, dragon fruit and more are being grown indoors for their fruit, fragrance and beauty. New varieties like the ever-bearing blueberry "Perpetua" join old varieties like the tomato "Green Zebra" in the vast selection of edibles offered at Ballek's. Some of these can be seen at the East Haddam Farmers Market, hosted at Ballek's from June through September.

Most recently, Ballek's has seen a renewed interest in unusual houseplants. Ballek's has been collecting and propagating these plants since the 1970s, and the collection of thousands of varieties keeps growing.

Ballek's offers classes, lectures and workshops for garden groups and individuals, and is always willing to answer gardening questions.

Ballek's is open year round, offering fresh flower arrangements as well as holiday greenery, wreaths, roping, and Christmas trees.

EDDIE'S AUTO BODY

- November 2019 Business of the Month

With ingenuity and innovation, Eddie Lupinek and his wife, Carol have transformed his father's business into a lean, mean and efficient machine. They have always looked to improve the shop's efficiency, including equipment. For example, Eddie had wanted to redesign his cross-flow booth (paint booth) for years, but just couldn't figure out how to accelerate the curing process. They discovered the missing link at a trade show: a medium-wave infrared drying system. This gave them the ability to go outside the box with spray booth design. Installing the drying system into the booth allowed Eddie to create a drive-through setup, which lets cars leave the shop right from the booth. It also uses a clean room, which takes air from the shop's ceiling and filters it three times before entering the booth. This process generates a consistent flow of warm air, not only making the work environment more efficient but safe as well.

The redesigned booth isn't the only innovation of Eddie's. He also takes pride in his custom bumper rack that he attached to a garage door opener. With a remote control or wall mounted unit, the bumpers are safely lifted out of harm's way up to the ceiling, theoretically adding an extra bay of space.

Eddie also recognizes how important it is for his employees to have a clear view of what they're working on. To fulfill this need, he affixed a waterproof spray booth light to a base with wheels to create a portable, ultra-bright lamp. It even includes a handle so users can pick it up and carry it around. "It takes up very little space, about the size of a person standing, and it has an extension cord built right into it," said Eddie. "We've been on an extreme course on finding ways to continually make the shop run better." "I find it to be really helpful to tell the truth and tell the customers how things really are," added Eddie.



Eddie's Auto Body from left to right: Rob Smith, First Selectman; Carol Lupinek; Robert Casner, EDC Chairman; and Eddie Lupinek.

We've found that by being very transparent and truthful, the customers appreciate that. We are busy even when direct repair shops are slow, because of our very strong customer base."

By putting customers first and educating them about collision repair as much as possible, as well as maximizing efficiency through creative inventions, Eddie's Auto Body hopes to thrive for years to come. To reach Eddie's Auto Body, call 860-873-9044 Monday through Friday 7:00 am - 5:00 pm.

East Haddam's Earth Day

TOWN WIDE CLEAN UP

April 4, 2020 - Picnic to follow!

The Moodus Sportsmen's Club and the East Haddam Scout Troops are sponsoring the Annual Town Wide Clean Up Day to be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020. The goal of these organizations is to coordinate an annual effort to pick up the streets, lakes, streams, and other public access areas in the Town of East Haddam. Would your organization or individuals in your organization be willing to participate? We are still in search of families and groups to pick up sections of the streets in which they live on. Is there a section of town that you or your group would like to take over the stewardship? Could you and your neighbors adopt a street?

We plan to start the pickup at 8:00 am. If you wish to join our groups, meet us at the East Haddam Town Hall on Town Street at 8:00 am or start from your own street. At the conclusion of this pick up day, an invitation is extended to all participating to a picnic at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club starting at 12 noon to 1:00 pm. Traditional picnic items such as hot dogs, baked beans, coffee and iced tea and lemonade will be served along with the seasonal bounty only a sportsmen's club could serve. At this time, we can inventory the items collected and discuss solutions to reduce these problems. We also will have educational information about the Town's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities that are available to all.

East Haddam Senior Center Survey

The East Haddam Commission on Aging has collaborated with the Senior Center to create a short survey, which is available online and in paper format. Our goal is to determine how to better serve current and future members of the Senior Center.

This survey consists of 10 questions and is designed for both those who already use the senior center, as well as those who would like to help us design programs and services for when you are eligible. Anyone age 50 and over is eligible to join the Center, but we want everyone to participate in this survey, no matter what your age is.

To take the survey online, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DVXKKR6>. If you do not have a computer, feel free to use those available at the Center or at one of the Town libraries. Hardcopies are available at many of the businesses in Town, the Senior Center, the libraries, the Municipal Office Complex, food and clothing banks, and other places as well. This survey should take less than 15 minutes of your time to complete.

We want to emphasize that the Senior Center is not just "for old people." As you will see from the survey, there are many activities, programs, and services available for all interest levels. So please take a few minutes and help make East Haddam's Senior Center a place that everyone will enjoy when the time is right. Your responses are due March 31, 2020; results and planned action steps will be summarized and made available by summertime.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Parker at: 860-873-5034. Thanks in advance for your participation.



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Lions International Peace Poster Contest

NATHAN HALE RAY MIDDLE SCHOOL ART STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Erin Maniebo, a seventh grader at Nathan Hale Ray Middle School, was awarded 1st place from the East Haddam Community Lions Club for her poster design in a contest that they sponsored. The theme this year was "Journey of Peace." Erin's poster has

moved on to the next level of competition. Several sixth, seventh and eighth grade art classes participated in the contest. Natalie Dorr won 2nd place, Sadie Herold won 3rd place and Honorable Mention went to Nicole Wang.



Erin Maniebo and her prize winning poster.



Contest Winners from left to right: Erin Maniebo, 1st; Nicole Wang, Honorable Mention; Beverly Ventres, teacher, holding Natalie Dorr's, 2nd; and Sadie Herold, 3rd.

Hale-Ray Project Graduation 2020

Every year Hale Ray's seniors are whisked off to an undisclosed location to celebrate the rite of passage known as high school graduation. One has to wonder, what it takes to plan this alcohol free, all night event?

Planning usually starts the summer before the students' senior year. Many fundraising activities are planned, since it typically takes upwards of \$20,000 to pull this once in a lifetime event off. This year, Project Graduation has already sponsored Cow Chip Raffle that took place in November at Cold Spring Farm and sold holiday ornaments as a way of fundraising.

The single biggest fundraiser each year is the Project Grad raffle. Tickets are \$5 and each parent of a senior is asked to sell 10 tickets. On March 20th at 7:00 pm at the American Legion Hall, Project Grad will sponsor a Trivia Night, where the winners of the raffle will be announced. Anyone interested in putting a team together can contact Project Grad.

Another great fundraiser are the yard

signs, which will be available in February, for families to show their pride in their graduating senior.

Many parents work many hours to make this event happen and we thank them all. If you have any questions or would like

to help out making this event extra special for the kids, please email us at: nhrhspg@gmail.com.

Project Graduation is sponsored by East Haddam Youth and Family Services.



Parks & Recreation Events

As spring approaches, we look forward to the growth and rebirth that this season promises to bring.

We are excited to share that the parks and rec department has seen lots of growth over the last 2 years, nearly doubling our program offerings and registrations. We are inspired by our residents' enthusiasm to try new things and enjoy bringing your programming ideas and suggestions to fruition.

We continue to listen to you, and after much research we have committed to updating our registration system. Over the next few months, we will be transitioning to a new registration software program that will streamline the registration process and offer a more user friendly and intuitive format. Like any big change, there may be a few hiccups as we institute the new program. We ask for your patience as we happily work with you to make this as smooth a transition as possible.



Adult dodgeball gang.

We are pleased to offer unique and fun programs to help keep you active and stave off the winter doldrums. Please visit our website for information on Kidscapades Sizzling Science, Qigong Workshops with Amalia Shaltiel, Adult Dodgeball, UK International Indoor Soccer for ages 4-6, Gentle Yoga, Boot Camp, Pickleball, 18+ Pick-up Basketball, Youth Open Gym for grades 7-12, Adult Indoor Soccer, Unified Family Events, Introduction to Cooking, Crochet Club Gathering with Sabrina, American Red Cross Classes – When I'm in Charge, Babysitting Certification, Pediatric First Aid/CPR for Babysitters,

and American Heart Association First Aid/CPR, Disc Golf and Spring Soccer for Pre-K-Grade 2.

Although it is still the middle of winter, we are already planning for the summer. We are accepting applications for summer day camp staff and lifeguards. The application deadline is March 15th. Job descriptions and applications can be found on our website at www.easthaddamrec.com.

Registration for summer camp will open in

continued on page 14



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Town of East Haddam

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Municipal Office Complex

Main Number: 860-873-5020

Fax Numbers: (Finance/Selectmen) 860-873-5025,

(Land Use/Building/Health) 860-873-1565,

(Town Clerk/Assessor/Tax Collector) 860-873-5042

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,

Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to noon

Selectman's Office

Rob Smith, First Selectman 860-873-5021 admin@easthaddam.org

Linda Zemienieski, Executive Assistant admin@easthaddam.org

Assessor's Office

Loreta Zdanys, Assessor 860-873-5026 assessor@easthaddam.org

Patty Veselak, Administrative Assistant

Building Department

William Thody, Building Official 860-873-5024 building.dept@easthaddam.org

Ruth Ziobron, Administrative Assistant

Chatham Health District

Sanitarian 860-873-5101

Finance Department

Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Director 860-873-5022 financeadmin@easthaddam.org

Dawn Snow, Finance Assistant 860-873-5040 finance@easthaddam.org

Kathy Klinck, Treasurer 860-891-8502

Land Use Offices

Jim Ventres, Administrator 860-873-5031 admin.landuse@easthaddam.org

Zoning Enforcement Officer zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org

Nancy Talbot, Administrative Assistant landuse@easthaddam.org

Tax Collector's Office

Denise Dill, Tax Collector 860-873-5033 taxcollector@easthaddam.org

Town Clerk's Office

Deb Denette, Town Clerk 860-873-5027 townclerk@easthaddam.org

Beverly Christopher, Assistant Town Clerk

Public Works Department fax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm

Transfer Station Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

Elizabeth Lunt, Public Works Director 860-873-5023 pwadmin@easthaddam.org

Steven Hedler, Public Works Superintendent pwsuper@easthaddam.org

Shirley Dill, Administrative Assistant publicworks@easthaddam.org

Don MacKenzie, Transfer Station Foreman 860-873-5030

Other Departments

Don Angersola, Fire Marshal 860-873-5004 firemarshal@easthaddam.org

Brian Auld, Fire Chief 860-891-8400 firechief@easthaddam.org

Lisa Conroy, Parks & Recreation Director 860-873-5058 parkandrec@easthaddam.org

Michael Olzacki, Animal Control Officer animalcontrol@easthaddam.org

Irene Haines, Economic Development Administrator edcadmin@easthaddam.org

Craig Mansfield, Emergency Management Director 860-873-5103 ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org

Ronald Turner, Director of Operations 860-873-6010 ronald.turner@easthaddam.org

Resident State Trooper - Troop K 860-465-5400 police@easthaddam.org

East Haddam Police 860-873-5041 police@easthaddam.org

Probate Court

Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate 860-295-6239

Debra Daniels, Clerk ddaniels@ctprobate.gov

Registrars of Voters

Lucy Salicrup & Martha Hansen 860-873-5029 registrars@easthaddam.org

Senior Services

15 Great Hillwood Road

Brad Parker, Municipal Agent 860-873-5034 seniors@easthaddam.org

Patricia Puia, Program Assistant 860-873-5034

Food Bank 860-891-8100

Visit our Website at www.easthaddam.org for more information, including meeting minutes

Parks & Recreation... continued from page 13



Family Night on the Moodus Green. Volunteers from left to right: Ben, Meredith, Mimi, Santa, Alex, Zachary, Arielle, Aaron. Bottom row from left to right: Carlee and Audra.

the beginning of April. More details and program information will be shared as it becomes available.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions our ears are open and we are ready to assist you.

East Haddam Library System

Our two libraries, EHFPL & Rathbun Library, play an important role in our community. They provide services that save taxpayers money, and help educate & enlighten citizens of all ages. Providing so many services to so many people means that there are a lot of fun statistics* about our local libraries. Here are a few of the more interesting ones:

- Around 125 people visit the libraries each day. The busiest times of day are the morning rush, the after school rush and two minutes before closing.
- Over 1,150 items are checked out each week. The most popular book in 2019 was Where the Crawdads Sing, and the most popular movie was Bohemian Rhapsody. Despite being the most borrowed TV Series, the final season of Game of Thrones is widely considered the least popular thing we own.
- The libraries' DVD circulation has more than tripled from 4,929 in 2009 to 17,399 in 2019. Which serves a reminder - getting movies from the libraries is 100% cheaper than cable, dish, or streaming.
- The Libraries have a combined total of 42,968 physical items and 29,657 shared digital items. To put this in perspective, if everyone in town checked out five items each, the librarians would need some serious help putting everything back on the shelves.
- 15% of the libraries' circulation comes from digital books, audio books, and magazines. 9,272 digital items were checked out in 2019. Did you know that more digital items

- circulated in the last two decades, than every previous decade combined?
- There is an average of 26 programs each month - approximately 6 each week. Our two most popular programs are Baby Time for our youngest patrons and Dungeons & Dragons for tweens, teens, and adults. If you're looking for a quiet time to visit the library, you might want to check the library website before heading over.
 - Last year's total program attendance was 4,842. Popular children's events included duck day, ballet dancers, & a magician. Popular presenters included an architect, a submarine expert, and a harpist. And popular wildlife programs included fisher cats, birds of prey, and the teen library lock-in.
 - In total, 37,423 people visited the libraries, checked out 60,162 items, and attended 346 programs in the past year. We only had to tell one person to be quiet. You know who you are.
 - Approx. 200 people a week use the libraries' computers. People

- use our computers when they need to search for jobs, work on homework or realize that they no longer own a printer.
- There are 5,276 library cardholders in East Haddam, with 681 of those cards issued in 2019. I think those numbers are almost perfect, but I'm waiting until I see 2020.

*Statistics aren't very fun, but hopefully you found these library numbers to be interesting if not entertaining. In short, our libraries are more popular now than ever - more materials, more services, more programs, more usage. To browse our new releases, find a list of our upcoming programs, or checkout digital materials - please visit: www.EastHaddamLibrarySystem.org.

If you have any questions, please stop by the libraries or call Rathbun Library 860-873-8210 or EHFPL 860-873-8248. Library Director Michael Gilroy is also available to answer any questions you may have - feel free to contact him at: MGilroy@easthaddamlibrarysystem.org.

Finding Lung Cancer

While lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, it's important to understand that it can be treated successfully when found early.

Lung cancer often has no symptoms, making it difficult for people to realize that something is wrong. Most often, early stage lung cancer can be best detected through lung screenings.

Lung screenings are ordered by physicians and recommended for those aged 55 to 80 who have a 30-pack year history of smoking. You must also be a smoker or former smoker who quit within the past 15 years and not be exhibiting lung cancer symptoms.

Middlesex Health is a Lung Cancer Screening Center of Excellence. This means that Middlesex demonstrates responsible, high-quality screening practices, and it ensures that the low-dose CT scans used to screen for lung cancer are carried out safely, efficiently and equitably.

Early lung cancer can also be detected through "incidental findings," meaning that a suspicious lesion was detected during the reading of a diagnostic test that a patient was having for another medical issue. It is critically important that lesions, regardless of how they are detected, are followed up on as recommended.

The Total Lung Care Center, part of

Middlesex Health Cancer Center, works with primary care physicians, radiologists and nurse navigators to coordinate expedited care plans. The goal is to always get you an appointment with a pulmonologist as soon as possible.

A timely diagnosis is very important because it allows lung cancer to be treated at an earlier stage. If your lesion is determined to be cancerous, you may need additional care and treatment. The Total Lung Care Center's nurse navigator will guide and support you through all aspects of lung cancer care-from diagnosis to survivorship.

For more information, visit MiddlesexHealth.org/lung.



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East Haddam
Youth & Family Services, Inc.

East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

www.ehyfs.org ~ 860-873-3296 ~ youthandfamily@ehyfs.org

Annual Holiday Campaign: Thank You East Haddam!



This year's holiday campaign was very successful once again thanks to the amazing generosity of our community and the tremendous commitment of time and energy from the staff and volunteers who made it happen. The short window between Thanksgiving and Christmas created a challenge for us this year and everyone involved stepped up to meet that challenge. Community members "adopted" families, donated gifts, money, or gift cards, shopped for special items, or donated hand-made scarves, hats and gloves. Community businesses ran toy drives, churches donated winter coats and hats, civic groups donated funds and even Christmas trees and our police ran their annual "Stuff the Cruiser" event. In all, 44 families with a total of 93 children experienced the joy of receiving gifts this year.

Every year, especially at this time, I am reminded of how giving this community is and how much we can accomplish when we come together to support, encourage and sustain one another. At a time when there can be so much divisiveness and lack of kindness influencing our lives, I look forward to those opportunities when this small community can create some change in its own narrative.

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of East Haddam Youth and Family Services, **Thank You** for your continued support and generosity.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

EHIYFS is a private, non-profit agency supported by the town of East Haddam, state and regional grants, private donations and the Middlesex United Way. We offer a full array of services including:

- Youth Leadership and Assistance Programs
- School and Community-Based Counseling and Referral Services
- Social Services Referral and Intervention
- School and Community-Based Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Education
- Parent Education and Support Programs
- Community Outreach and Education

Check our website at www.ehyfs.org or find us at [facebook.com/ehyfs](https://www.facebook.com/ehyfs)

Save the Date:

Presentation for Parents

"Internet Safety Concepts"

March 31, 2020

7:00—8:30 pm

"With the constant surge of new information, programs and apps, the world is just a click or text away.

This program shows parents the positives and potential pitfalls of today's most popular programs."

For more information go to www.ehyfs.org or call 860-873-3296

East Haddam Local Prevention Council



The East Haddam Local Prevention Council (EHLPC) is an alliance of individuals and groups working together to create a strong, safe and substance free environment for East Haddam youth.

Building that healthy environment takes a collective voice from all parts of our community. We need the insights, skills, and participation of a wide range of local stakeholders to achieve our goals, and building community collaboration is integral to addressing our local needs. By developing opportunities and building positive relationships, we decrease the risk of youth drug and alcohol use.

The East Haddam Local Prevention Council is seeking representatives from our community to volunteer their time in the service of our youth.

COALITION UPDATES

UNPLUG EAST HADDAM

Join the East Haddam Local Prevention Council and East Haddam Youth and Family Services for the National Day of Unplugging on March 6th! According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children average seven hours of "screen time" per day, including televisions, computers, phones and other electronic devices. While there are some benefits to the use of technology, too much screen time has been shown to have a negative impact on children's sleep, academic performance, behavior, social development, and overall health and well-being. The National Day of Unplugging is an invitation for our community to come together, put away our devices, and enjoy some quality time together. Past years' activities have included bingo at the town grange, an ice cream social at First Church of Christ, Congregational, games at East Haddam Free Public Library, and disc golf at the Municipal Building.

Each year, we have seen greater community participation with over 150 people in attendance last year. We would love if you helped us beat that record this year! In the meantime, here are the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations for youth screen time:

- 18 months & younger: avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting.
- 18 to 24 months of age: introduce digital media by choosing high-quality programming and co-view with children.
- 2 to 5 years of age: limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.
- 6 years & older: place consistent limits on the types of media used and the duration of time spent on them. Make sure media does not impact health or limit sleep quality.

WELLNESS VIDEO SERIES

Our Choose Wellness video series has launched! In January, the coalition began releasing short clips that highlight topics including stress, anxiety and more. These clips are available on the coalition and EHYFS websites, as well as on our social media channels. Going forward our goal is to cover a variety of subjects that pertain to wellness in a holistic sense.

These videos will help underscore the many ways we can be "well" and will provide practical tools and suggestions for increasing wellness in your life. If you have a suggestion for a wellness topic you would like to see covered, please reach out and let us know!



Where There's a Need There's a Lion



EAST HADDAM COMMUNITY LIONS
P.O. Box 328, East Haddam, CT 06423
www.ehcl.org

East Haddam Community Lions (EHCL) has had a busy and productive four months seeking to better the lives of people in and around our community.

EHCL joined Liberty Bank in its Turkey Initiative. When the \$3,943.67 check was presented to Liberty Bank, Branch Manager Jennifer Height said it was the largest check ever received for this initiative. Since Liberty Bank added \$0.25 per dollar contributed, the Community Lions' contribution meant that \$4,929.59 went to assist the East Haddam Food Bank.

EHCL participated in the Lions Fight Diabetes initiative. Over 1 million people were screened for type 2 diabetes. The initiative seeks to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve the quality of life for those diagnosed with it.

On a blustery, cold November day Community Lions, waiting in the Nathan Hale Plaza, received donations of good used



A truck full of clothing for local veterans.

clothing to benefit local veterans in need. As usual, the people of East Haddam responded generously. A small box truck was filled to capacity.

The Light Up the Holidays silent auction raised \$2,238 for the EH Food Bank, EH Fuel Bank, and EH Youth and Family Services. The Club expresses great appreciation to the many businesses and individuals who donated gift baskets, craft items, and gift certificates.



Premie Theodore Barbi staying warm with his knit hat.

In an effort to support premature babies and their families a corp of knitters and crocheters has been recruited to make Premie Octopuses and tiny, knitted hats, as well as cozy blankets. This effort is still underway led by Lion Deb Barbi, the mother of a child who had been born prematurely.

Being a Community Lion is fun while working to keep our community a wonderful place to live. It's not all work. The Community Lions enjoyed a festive, holiday dinner celebration at the Gelston House.

If you would like to consider becoming a Community Lion, come and be our guest at a monthly dinner meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center. Contact membership chair Shannon Jezek at 860-873-2822.

Charcoal Circles: East Haddam History Written on our Landscapes

Your Conservation Commission stewards East Haddam's town-owned open spaces, marks their boundaries and builds and maps the trails that bring you into the remarkable natural world we call home. What might surprise you to learn is that those open spaces are also home to more than wildlife, forests and beautiful vistas. Written on their landscapes is the history of our town's inhabitants, where they lived and how they made a living over two centuries. Our East Haddam woods are crisscrossed with stone walls that

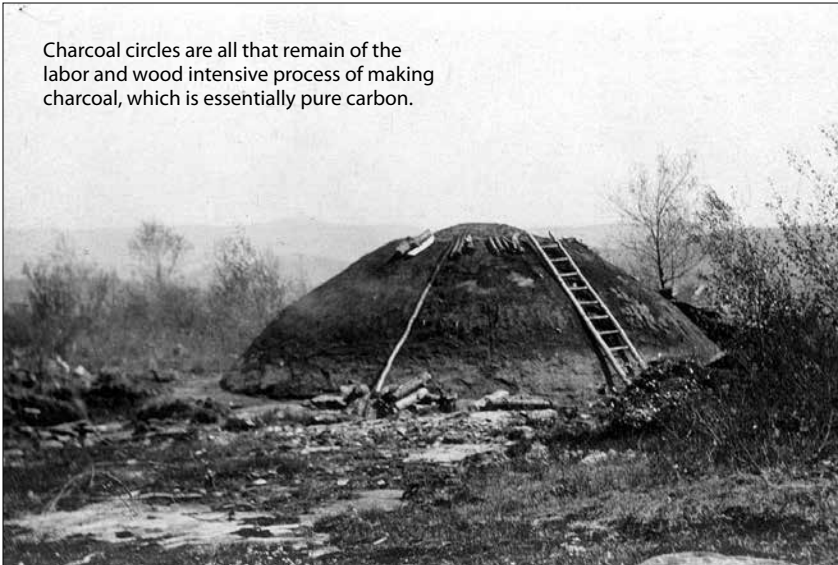
marked property lines, corralled farm animals and cleared the adjacent land to be farm fields. If you've ever built a stone wall, you cannot help but feel reverence for the back-breaking work they represent. Those same woods are dotted with ancient stone foundations that invite hikers to imagine the families that called these places home and the dooryards that still often boast the daffodils, lilacs and myrtle that cheered their owners.

If you are alert to subtle landscape

signs, you may see a fascinating trace of our town's role in industrial history, a charcoal circle like the one spotted recently on the Shugrue Preserve above Lake Hayward. Charcoal circles are all that remain of the labor and wood intensive process of making charcoal, which is essentially pure carbon.

The production process went something like this. Thirty to fifty cords of wood had to be cut down and hauled by mule or horses to a flat area known as a "hearth." A team of men known

Charcoal circles are all that remain of the labor and wood intensive process of making charcoal, which is essentially pure carbon.



as “colliers” would build a circular stack, 30 feet in diameter, of wood in 4 to 5 foot lengths around a central chimney-sized opening. This hut-like structure was then covered in leaves and dirt to keep it air-tight. Embers dropped down into the chimney hole would start a smoldering fire that, over as much as a month of careful tending by teams of men, would drive off the water, gasses, tars and resins in the wood. And what was left was pure carbon charcoal. This resulting charcoal was raked into piles, bagged, and hauled away. Pure black carbon was highly desirable for use in medicines, ink and paint, but most famously it was used for smelting iron. Indeed, it was the only fuel in those early days that could develop enough heat to smelt iron ore. By the turn of the twentieth century, charcoal was beginning to be replaced by coal in iron smelting, and the strange process of charcoal making became a footnote in the early industrial history of town’s like ours.

As you wander your favorite trails and wild spaces on our preserves and reserves, enjoy peace and quiet, the views and the fresh air. But keep an eye open for the vestiges of our town’s fascinating history, written sometimes in stones and sometimes in circles. If you would like to know more about the Conservation Commission or town open space, please email Sue Merrow at: amerrow@snet.net.

Did You Know?

Publisher’s Note: The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Our “The Last Word” feature found on page 30 of this Essex Events Magazine provides for a commemoration of this milestone and honors the commitment of so many who fought painstakingly over so many decades for women’s right to vote. Below, we have compiled a few fun facts regarding women’s suffrage.

While voting rights could no longer be denied because of race or sex, after the 15th and 19th Amendments, many voters still faced ballot restrictions, including registration rules, literacy tests, poll taxes, and moral residency requirements.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/

continued on page 20

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Did You Know?... continued from page 19

The official colors of the formal woman suffrage movement in the United States were gold, white, and violet, or “Give Women the Vote.” Red was the official color of the anti-suffrage movement.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/history-woman-suffrage-movement-prior-to-ratification/

Alice Paul, of the National Women’s Party, designed a “ratification banner,” on which she sewed stars for each state that ratified the 19th Amendment. When she reached 36 stars, it was complete.

Source: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/Programs/19th-amendment-centennial/fun-facts/ratification/

Not all Connecticut women and men were in favor of women’s suffrage. By the early 1900s, the Connecticut Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage had local branches all across the state. Members of the organization thought voting put an unnecessary burden on women. Like many other states in America, Connecticut was split on the issue of women’s suffrage.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

In 1869, Frances Ellen Burr and Isabella Beecher Hooker (*the half-sister of Harriett Beecher Stowe*) established the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA). This group advocated for women’s suffrage in local elections and eventually worked with national leaders to organize protests and demonstrations.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/connecticut-and-the-19th-amendment.htm>

Katharine Martha Houghton Hepburn (*mother of actress Katharine Hepburn*) co-founded the Hartford Equal Franchise League in 1913, a group that eventually numbered between 20,000-30,000 members. She later became President of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, an affiliate of the NAWSA, actively speaking as a representative of women who were mothers as well as suffragists. In September 1917, inspired by the arrests of the White House pickets, she resigned from the Connecticut organization and joined the National Woman’s Party. By November 1917 she was on the NWP’s National Executive Committee, where she continued to make public appearances on behalf of the cause.

Source: <http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/exhibits/suffrage/nawsa/Alums.html>

In 1918, Katharine Ludington (*who settled in Old Lyme,*

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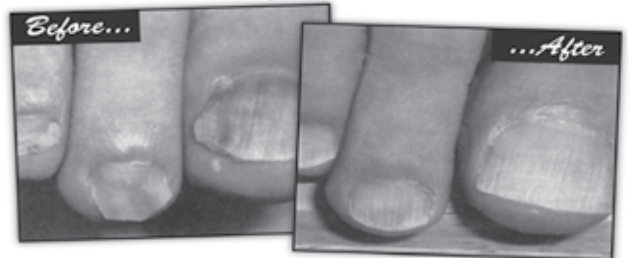
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CT) became the President of Connecticut Women's Suffrage League. In 1919, the federal amendment that would grant women the right to vote was passed by Congress and sent to all the states for approval. Women wanted to vote in the 1920 presidential election and Ludington worked for the Connecticut legislature to approve the amendment because it needed 36 states to be officially ratified, and at

this time only 35 had agreed. Ludington organized rallies, mobilized supporters, wrote letters, and tried to convince Connecticut's Republican Governor Marcus Holcomb to call a special session to bring the suffrage amendment to a vote. Unfortunately, Holcomb refused and Tennessee ended up being the thirty-sixth state to approve the amendment.
Source: <https://votesforwomenct.com/ct-suffragettes/>

East Haddam Leo Club

The East Haddam Leos have had yet another busy year! This past December, the Leo Club donated over \$2,500 to the Food Bank, Fuel Bank, and Youth & Family Service's toy drive. They also helped the East Haddam Lions sell dozens of trees to wonderful families within our community. Thank you to all the Leos who contributed to our success in 2019, and to all the parents who helped get them there.

The East Haddam Leo Club will be hosting a Roaring '20s party for prospective members on February 29th from

7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Rathbun Library. Students in grades 6 through grade 11 who are interested in helping their community and taking part in fun projects such as the Pumpkin Walk, Cardboard Boat Race, and Apple Fest are encouraged to attend. Everyone who comes in a 1920s themed costume gets a candy bar.

Information will soon be available for the Annual Cardboard Boat Race. Check out our Facebook Page or website for details.

The Leos are a teen community service

group devoted to various good causes all around East Haddam. Any 12-17 year old interested in joining is encouraged to contact Leo Adviser Michael Gilroy at: GilroyM@gmail.com or to pick up a membership form at the East Haddam Free Public Library.

Potential members can also just stop by a meeting and see what the club is all about. The Leos meet the 1st Thursday and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7:00 - 8:00 pm at the East Haddam Senior Center; 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus.

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 CT Lic. # SM1-1980



The East Haddam Lions Club

This past December, the Lions Club once again sold Christmas trees to families all over East Haddam. In addition to selling trees, the Lions donated and prepared over 100 holiday feast baskets at the East Haddam Food Bank. They also arranged for their good friend, Santa Claus, to visit Chestelm to drop off presents to the residents.

The Lions have a number of projects planned for 2020. Perhaps the two most anticipated are the car raffle in June and

the annual auction in July. Car raffle tickets will be on sale shortly, please email EHLions@gmail.com for details.

JULY AUCTION

The club is currently collecting donations for the July Auction. If you have any "big ticket" items that you would like to donate - especially automobiles, boats & RVs, please contact a Lion or visit our website at: www.EastHaddamLions.com for details on how to contribute.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Lions Club scholarships will soon be available for East Haddam residents graduating from High School this year. Please contact your guidance counselor for more information.

If you have any questions about the Lions, upcoming events, etc. please contact Lion Michael Gilroy at: GilroyM@gmail.com.

Near the Harvester Fund Goal



Thanks to donations, grants, support of town businesses and fund raisers run by the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group (MRPG), we raised \$77,000

dollars towards the \$100,000 goal and have ordered the Eco Harvester. We need to raise the remaining \$23,000 in time for delivery in the spring. The Eco Harvester will enable us to control the encroachment of invasive aquatic plants in Moodus Reservoir, the site of the Town Beach and two state boat launches.

These plants are hampering swimming, boating and fishing activities for our town residents. Please continue to be generous in donating and participating in this year's promotions.

TIPS FOR A CLEAN & HEALTHY LAKE:

1. Use salt-free sand on icy walks and pavement near water to avoid compromising the lake's water quality.
2. Spring is coming. While clearing leaves accumulated over the winter, do not blow them into the lake, as they provide

fertilizer for invasive aquatic plants. They may be mulched and applied to the lawn.

3. Use low phosphorous fertilizer when reseeding or starting a new lawn.
4. Get reliable information; go to ladybug@uconn.edu, the University of Connecticut Home & Garden Center site.

Watch for coming MRPG Events on our website: www.moodusreservoir.org and in the East Haddam News.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to "MRPG", c/o Tim Varriale, Treasurer, 76 Falls Bashan Road, Moodus, CT 06469. To donate on line, go to: www.moodusreservoir.org, <https://www.facebook.com/Moodus-Reservoir-Preservation-Group-488742444530491/> or www.paypal.com.

The Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group, Inc. (MRPG) is a local 501(c) 3 non-profit. Member annual dues are \$25 per household per year, tax deductible.

Monthly meetings: 2nd Tuesday at the East Haddam Sportsmen's Club, 7:00 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME.



East Haddam offers visitors the opportunity to explore history, art, and natural beauty in scenic New England. East Haddam inhabits 56.6 square miles of rolling countryside dotted with old farmsteads, lakes, handsome state parks and quaint neighborhoods.

The fortunes of East Haddam have always been tied to the Connecticut River which brought settlers and commerce to the area. Historic homes, old stone walls, post and beam barns and early American buildings are a testament to the early life of our trading and farming town. You are welcome to share the views of our undisturbed woodlands, miles of dirt roads, and numerous pastures. Take time to relax and enjoy your "get-away" in a location that the Nature Conservancy calls "One of the last great places."

Visit our website at: www.easthaddam.org to find detailed information about the many attractions East Haddam has to offer.

From the Desk of Senator Needleman

As Senate Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, my colleagues and I are continually discussing the best ways to power Connecticut's future. I'm proud of the many advances we made in 2019 - and as the 2020 legislative session swings into action, I'm excited for what else can be done.

To say Connecticut became greener in 2019 would be an understatement. From January to December, legislators worked tirelessly to find new ways to support green energy. The state can now study the feasibility of installing solar panels alongside our roadways, for instance. In the future, that will likely lead to the installation of those panels to drastically reduce energy costs, and source energy through more renewable and ecologically conscious means in the process. The landmark offshore renewable energy deal struck was another - our state could supply up to a third of its power through wind energy in coming years.

On the Energy & Technology Committee, we don't see those achievements as victories, simply the start. We plan to keep that momentum going with several major priorities.

Solar is a huge boon if we can properly harness the sun's rays, which is why I plan to advocate for further support of it this year. My colleagues and I are considering a number of proposals to see how else we can address the expansion of solar in our state. Key among them is to attempt to act on the installation of the highway solar panels, using state land in a public-private partnership to lower energy costs through a means less directly harmful to the government. Solar breakthroughs can also represent small change, too; last year, as part of our Green Economy bill, legislators included a provision to expand solar incentive programs. That means solar energy will at once be less expensive and more accessible, both of which are wins for businesses and families alike.

On the same level, we will continue to encourage the adoption of wind energy on the coast. Energy costs will drop, new jobs will become readily available and our coastal towns could become reinvigorated by these new opportunities. Right now, there are still 1,200 megawatts of power that the state still needs to award a contract for. That's hundreds of millions of dollars that could flow into our energy industry.

Every winter comes with it the promise of a flourishing spring and a beautiful summer, both of which are not hard to find in Connecticut. I'm approaching this winter's work with that mindset. Hard work now will only stand to benefit our future.

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Rep. Haines Connects with East Haddam Constituents with Coffee & Conversation

State Representative Irene Haines (R-34) hosted a constituent coffee hour at Higher Grounds in late November as part of a series of updates that included a coffee hour in East Hampton and a pizza & politics night in Colchester.

"One of my favorite things about being a legislator is talking with constituents, hearing your concerns and taking them back with me to Hartford," remarked Rep. Haines. "As we look forward to the 2020 legislative session beginning in February, I would urge residents to stay in touch and share your views on the issues so I can more effectively bring your voice to state government."

Residents across the 34th district shared their questions, comments and concerns about state government.



Many shared their concerns about Governor Lamont's proposed tolls and recent tax increases enacted as part of the biennial state budget.

Those who were unable to attend are welcome to contact Rep. Haines at:

860-240-8700 or Irene.Haines@house.gop.ct.gov. To follow the latest news from the Capitol visit: www.facebook.com/RepHaines34 or visit: www.RepHaines.com to sign-up for Rep. Haines' email newsletters.

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Did you know that one out of seven students are either a bully or a victim of bullying? And that an estimated 160,000 children miss school each day for fear of intimidation or attack? Mean-spirited behavior is everywhere - the playground, school hallways, the workplace, and more often, online. It is up to each and every one of us to put an end to bullying by learning more about the issues, and the available resources for empowering individuals to stand up for themselves and others.

Help make Middlesex County a bully-free community.

Join us as we work together to make each and every community a positive place for change. For more information, call us at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County at 860-347-0025 or go to www.bullyfreemiddlesexcountycf.org.

TAKE THE PLEDGE.

BullyFreeMiddlesexCountyCF.org

East Haddam Garden Club

Connecticut native and well known meteorologist Art Horn will present "Weather, Wit and Wisdom" on Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 pm at the Senior Center. Sponsored by the East Haddam Garden Club, the event is free and open to the public.



Art Horn,
Meteorologist.

We've all heard the old adage "Everybody complains about the weather but nobody does anything about it," but did you know that this statement is not from Mark Twain as most people believe? In fact, it's not even true! In Weather Wit and Wisdom, you'll learn how someone IS doing something about the weather each and every day.

Ben Franklin is famous for many things but one of his best quotes is "Some people are weather wise but most are otherwise." You'll be much more weather wise by knowing which clouds are dangerous and which ones are not. In this program you'll learn which clouds to look out for and which ones to ignore.

The winds of the day wrestle and fight longer and stronger than those of the night. This expression is true and in this program you'll see why.

Today we have tools that can unlock the secrets of the past several hundred thousand years. With the help of these tools we know the last Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago. How far back in time can we go and can we tell when the next Ice Age is coming? Weather Wit and Wisdom will answer these and many other questions.

Whether it's weather wit or weather wisdom you'll take home some fascinating factoids of fun from "Weather, Wit and Wisdom."

The East Haddam Garden Club welcomes new members. The group sponsors a variety of programs throughout the year, some open to the public and some for members only, as well as many community oriented hands on projects. For more information, email: easthaddamgarden@aol.com.



WHAT IS 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut's free and confidential information and referral service. By calling 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours-a-day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.

Visit the website for more information: <http://www.211.org/#>

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I-Park: Where Art Meets Nature

2019 was a busy year at I-Park. We hosted 50 artists, including writers, composers and architects, in fully-funded residencies from April through November - a great season of art making and cross-cultural connections. For public programming, we organized Plein-Air Painting events, a Friends & Supporters Appreciation Party and a Fellows Reunion in NYC - as well as, in September, our signature Site-Responsive Art Biennale, eighth in the series. The Biennale featured nine new art installations set within I-Park's natural and built environments. The artists came from five countries and three continents. The program culminated with Illuminations, our annual fundraising event. Select sculptures created during the Biennale, along with artworks from previous years, will be on view throughout 2020 at our OPEN Studios events (free to the public) and our new Saturday Guided Trail Walks (ticketed to support I-Park.)

Renovations to the Common Area are just about complete. We had our first public event there on November 24. This modern, light-filled space will become available for event rentals later this year.

In 2020, in addition to hosting its artists-in-residence program, I-Park will introduce a pilot education program, including school field trips, onsite art making and nature walks and lectures. We hope to expand this initiative in the coming years so I-Park will

become more accessible to the public, including visitors of all ages and from under-served communities.

I-Park is currently seeking volunteers to help maintain our trails, offer artists' support and to serve on our events and development committees. Anyone interested in supporting the arts and the I-Park mission, email info@i-park.org or call 860-873-2468.

SUNDAY OPEN STUDIOS

May 31 | June 28 | July 26 | August 23 | October 25

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June 6 | July 11 | August 1 | October 3

ILLUMINATIONS

September 12



Left, visitor interacting with The Funambalist, interactive sculpture created by Italian architect Pietro Pagliaro, which will be available for viewing in 2020 season. Photo by Frank DiNardi.

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Goodspeed Musicals Announces 2020 Season

Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed's Executive Director, announced three thrilling titles on track for the 2020 Season at The Goodspeed. Gennaro explained, "2020 promises to be a spectacular year. We will have three directors with artistic roots in Connecticut - all having directed successful shows at Goodspeed. We begin with a time-honored Golden Age musical, then a contemporary retelling of a well-known story and finish with a bold, madcap and seldom-produced classic. Our audiences expect the best from Goodspeed and we plan to give them exactly what they want: exciting, entertaining and uplifting stories along with plenty of song and dance."

The season will begin with the beloved classic Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, and book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan, running April 17 - June 28. Next up will be the new folk-rock musical Anne of Green Gables, featuring book and lyrics by Matte O'Brien and music by Matt Vinson, running from July 10 - September 10. Closing the season will be the madcap musical masterwork Candide, which features music by Leonard Bernstein, book adapted from Voltaire by Hugh Wheeler, and lyrics by Richard Wilbur with additional lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and John LaTouche. This Tony Award-winning musical comedy will run from September 18 - November 22, 2020.

Season tickets are now available. Single tickets go on public sale beginning February 23, 2020. For more information, call the Box Office at: 860-873-8664 or visit www.goodspeed.org.

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Saving Land, Saving History

While wandering at Bernstein or Hammond Mill Preserves, it can be difficult to visualize how the nature-reclaimed dams and machinery relics fit into the once-thriving mills of Moodus and East Haddam. But soon this history will come to life through video.

In commemoration of East Haddam Land Trust's 40th anniversary, East Haddam Historical Society and the Land Trust joined forces to fuse history and land preservation into five video profiles produced by local videographer Ken Simon. Simon draws on the knowledge of local historians and conservationists to recount how the land and rivers fit into the life of Moodus and East Haddam during the 1700s and 1800s.

Videos on the Bernstein and Hammond Mill Preserves bring mill history to life. A video on the Patrell Preserve features the geologic history of the Eightmile River and the eskers and kettle hole remnants of ancient glaciers. Separate videos profile East Haddam Land Trust, and East Haddam Historical Society's 50-year history. Each video incorporates voices, images, and talents of local residents and those who have worked to preserve East Haddam's land and history.

The videos will become part of a new Historical Society

exhibit, "Saving Land, Saving History," highlighting the Land Trust preserves and the area's rivers and historic sites. The videos will also be downloadable through the Historical Society and Land Trust websites so preserve visitors can watch them as they explore the preserves on foot.

The "Saving Land, Saving History" collaboration is further supported by the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed Coordinating Committee and a grant from Connecticut Humanities.

The project and exhibit will be presented June 17, 2020 at the East Haddam Historical Society Museum, 264 Town Street, East Haddam. Visit SimonPure on YouTube to watch the "Shooting the Falls" project preview.



Above, Bernstein Preserve turbine from Atlantic Mill.



Hammond Mill dam control point from main sluiceway to upper mill headrace.

Vista's A Shared Stage Productions Offers Inclusive Theater to the Shoreline Community



A Shared Stage Productions, a program of Vista Life Innovations, seeks out opportunities to connect individuals of all abilities through the performing arts. Through A Shared Stage Productions, Vista strives to break down barriers and stigmas about individuals with disabilities and replace them with awareness, understanding, and acceptance. Vista is committed to boosting

creativity and curiosity through diversity in the performing arts.

This year, taking on the production of All Shook Up, A Shared Stage Productions will partner with The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook for the fifth consecutive year to present its seventh unique and collaborative musical production, featuring a cast and crew from the Vista and shoreline communities. With nearly sold-out shows in past years, audience members have had the opportunity to witness the meaningful relationships and open communication formed amongst cast members.

The production will run May 15 - 17 at The Kate in Old Saybrook under the direction of Neil Fuentes. Tickets will be available on The Kate's website - www.thekate.org. For more information, please contact Jess Lillge at: jlillge@vistalifeinnovations.org or 860-399-8080 ext. 269.

Vista Life Innovations is a 501©3 nonprofit organization with campuses in Madison and Westbrook. Vista's mission is to provide services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. For more information about Vista, please visit www.vistalifeinnovations.org.

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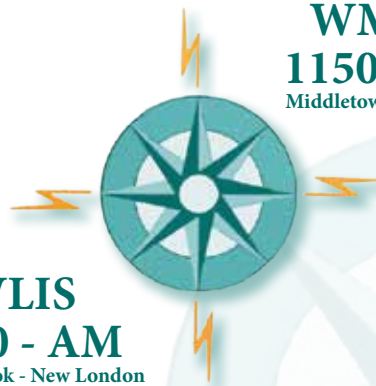
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Women's Suffrage 100 Years Later

by Sigrid Kun

Honoring the Hard Fought Battle for Women's Voting Rights



The year 2020 marks 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18, 1920. The 19th Amendment reads as follows:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Two simple sentences, it seems. Today, it is unimaginable that this basic right would not exist for women. Yet, the 19th Amendment resulted from a long, incredible struggle for equality and it represents a true turning point in United States history. It is only fitting to take a moment to reflect on this centennial. This brief segment can only present a few historical snippets surrounding the fight and can only point out some of the organizations commemorating the centennial.

THE BEGINNINGS

The first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. It marked the beginnings of what would become a national movement for women's suffrage. The first National Woman's Rights Convention was held in 1850 in Worcester, MA. Other conventions followed. The Civil War (1861-1865) effectively halted the women's suffrage movement with activists focused on the abolition movement. While the movements for the abolition of slavery and women's rights, respectively, were often entangled, the constitutional amendments following the Civil War created rifts.

By 1869, there were two main groups advocating for women's suffrage. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Lucy Stone and others founded the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). While each entity had the same ultimate goal of winning woman suffrage, their philosophies differed. The NWSA sought change through constitutional amendment while the AWSA focused on gaining rights via individual states.

There were also differences between the AWSA and NWSA when it came to the constitutional amendments following the Civil War. The NWSA opposed the 15th Amendment (the right of a U.S. citizen to vote not to be abridged by race, color or previous condition of servitude) due to the exclusion of women. The AWSA supported the amendment, believing that voting rights for women were not far away. The two organizations ultimately united in 1890 as the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

AN ARDUOUS STRUGGLE

Progress for the women's suffrage movement was painfully slow and rights were garnered state by state. Women achieved voting rights in Wyoming first in 1869. Colorado followed in 1893. In 1896, Utah and Idaho were added. Fifteen states granted women the right to vote prior to the adoption of the 19th Amendment.

The 19th Amendment itself languished for many decades. Drafted by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848, the 19th Amendment was not introduced in Congress until 1878 (30 years after the Seneca Falls convention). It was not until 1919 - 41 years after the amendment's introduction and 71 years following Seneca Falls - that Congress submitted it to the states for ratification. The successful struggle capped heroic efforts by a multitude of women

- including pickets, petitions, marches, and speeches. The suffragists endured mockery, arrests, jail, and even forced feeding after hunger strikes.

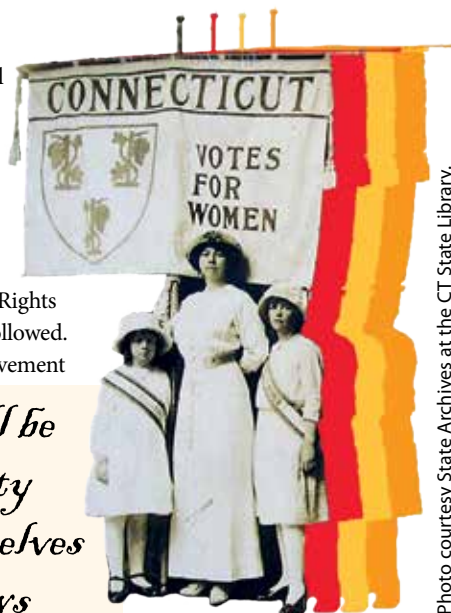


Photo courtesy State Archives at the CT State Library.

One of "Hartford's Mothers" Josephine Bennett.

“There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.”

Susan B. Anthony

CONNECTICUT'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Numerous events in 2020 around the country are celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage. Here in Connecticut, the Centennial Commission on Women's Suffrage (co-chaired by Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz and Connecticut's First Lady Annie Lamont) was launched to celebrate the 19th Amendment. Merrill calls the 19th Amendment “the largest expansion of democracy our nation has ever seen.” The Commission she adds “celebrates the women who made this victory possible, and take[s] a thoughtful look at the work that is left to be done.”

“The moment of achieving a woman's right to vote was a turning point for our country and for our world, that one of the most powerful nations on earth was sending a message that women have the right and responsibility to contribute to our government,” stated First Lady Lamont. “That moment opened the door for women to hold positions of power in government, education, healthcare, and of course, in business.”

Please see www.votesforwomenct.com for some of the Connecticut events commemorating the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The website also provides insightful biographies of some of Connecticut's women suffragists, including Josephine Bennett pictured above.

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