

# East Haddam events

VOLUME 8 • QUARTER 1 • 2015



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# First Selectman's Corner

This Winter Events Magazine is highlighting the success of our renewed effort at improving the “pride” in our historic town. With the joint efforts from our boards and commissions we have been focusing on the gateways to our community by replacing town welcome signs and improving the grounds care. The importance of this focus is to show visitors and our residents how great our town really is. We did all this without raising our payroll, by sharing equipment and personnel with the Public Works, Board of Education, Conservation Commission, Little League, Garden Club, Library Volunteers, Eagle Scout Project, and private donations.

Our parks and ball fields are beginning to benefit from the skill and specialized equipment that was needed to bring our playing surfaces up to the standards of our neighboring towns. Our

goal is to have our fields known for the great care we are now giving them, through the joint effort of our BOE grounds staff and the town maintainer. Our goal is to impress the visiting teams coming to East Haddam in the spring by creating safe playable fields. Many of our parks, open space properties and town greens are getting improved gates, tree care, new plantings and gravel lots with new walking trails. Our Public Works department has also been a great help by supplying their own expertise and skilled use of their larger equipment.



Mark Walter



New Town Welcome Sign



Decorated Holiday Urn

The Heritage Park came to life with the new walking trail. If you have not visited yet, check it out, it is a relief to have a safe track to walk on and stay fit. Our hope is to make East Haddam such an interesting place to visit for tourists and residents that you will want to live here (improving our Grand List thus reducing our Mill Rate). If you would like to join this effort please call my office at 860-873-5021 for information on groups you can join such as the Conservation Commission, Friends of the Harris property, Friends of the Libraries, and Garden Club to name a few.

continued on page 2

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*Diane Daudt with her mom, resident Marie Daudt, looking at all the places they've flown to as flight attendants.*

**We've Traveled the World and are Still Enjoying Happy Moments Together.**

Diane Daudt and her mother, Marie, both enjoyed careers as flight attendants, traveling the world over. Now, with Marie's memory loss, Diane wanted her mom to continue to enjoy a quality life. “At Safe Harbor, Mom is able to be involved, stay active, and even go bowling with her friends. We've shared so many happy memories in the past and continue to enjoy happy moments together now. I can see that Mom is getting the quality care she deserves,” says Diane.

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## FIRST SELECTMAN'S CORNER ... continued from page 1

We have started the budget process for the 2015-16 budget. I am working closely with our Board of Finance, Director of Finance and our Department Heads to set a challenging budget. Our last budget continued our savings and reserve process which will insure that we are well capitalized and ready for the potential infrastructure upgrades to the Old Middle School (Future Town and BOE offices, Park and Recreation facility and Police and Emergency services), Firehouse improvements and renovations to our Elementary School. We anticipate a referendum on some or all of these projects based on how the price quotes come in by March.

Congratulations to our Finance Department and Boards of Finance and Education for completing the fiscal year with an unqualified audit opinion and maintaining our fantastic AA+ rating. (This is critical in order to keep our interest expenses as low as possible.)

Improved safety and service of our residents is evidenced by our latest police statistics. Changes made to our scheduling has resulted in an increased police presence. Crimes against owners and property are down while drug arrests are up. For example burglaries are down from 58 to 14 while drug arrests are up from 10 to 18.

### Improved Transportation Options

Last year we started the 9-Town Transit Bus Service, making it possible for anyone young or old to have transportation in and out of East Haddam for work, school or shopping by simply calling "Dial

A Ride". Plus our Senior Bus Service and Med Car give added help to our retired residents as they lead their active lives. Because of the increasing usage the town now has its first bus stop at the back parking lot of our town office. For more information please contact our Senior Center Director Brad Parker at 860-873-5034.

### New Building Inspector

We had to say goodbye to Keith Darin our Building Official after 8 years serving our town. Keith took a new position with Cheshire which is much closer to his home. I am proud to announce that our new Building Official is Gerald Russ. Jerry was the Building Official for the Town of Killingworth and interim for the town of Middlefield. Jerry has an extensive building background having owned his own construction company J. Russ Contracting LLC, since 1986, specializing in both residential and commercial building. Jerry was a licensed building contractor in Connecticut for the past 28 years. Jerry studied Electrical Engineering in the USAF, is a graduate of S. Western Oklahoma University and is married with three children.



Gerald Russ

Thank you again for trusting my leadership and our dedicated team of skilled employees to continue this effort of making East Haddam a place to be proud.

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman

### Tax Collector

Denise Dill

The Tax Office would like to remind everyone that the second payment on Real Estate and Personal Property taxes was due January 1, 2015. The last day to pay without interest or penalty was February 2, 2015. Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills were mailed December 18, 2014 and were also due January 1, 2015, payable by February 2, 2015. If you cannot pay your taxes in full, please call the tax office to set up a payment arrangement. Payments may be made in person, by mail or on-line. To pay by mail, send to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 376, East Haddam, CT 06423-0376. To pay on-line, go to [easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org) and click the link; "Pay Taxes Online". There is a fee for all credit/debit payments.

You may now look your taxes up online at [easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org). Go to the Tax Collector's page and click "Online Tax Information".

This office is for the collection of taxes only. Any adjustments to your bill must be made by the Assessor. The Assessor can be reached at 860-873-5026 or [assessor041@easthaddam.org](mailto:assessor041@easthaddam.org). You may contact the Tax Office at 860-873-5033 or [taxcollector@easthaddam.org](mailto:taxcollector@easthaddam.org).

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# A Note From The Assessor

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in March 2015 to hear appeals on real estate assessments. Requests to the Board are due by February 20, 2015. 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 web site: [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org). The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is P.O. Box K, East Haddam, CT 06423.

The Assessor's Office will begin taking applications for the Homeowners Credit Program, and the Homeowners' Local Option Program on February 1, 2015. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2015. The income limits (including Social Security) for the state Homeowners' Program are \$34,600 for a single person and \$42,200 for a married couple. The limit for the Local Option Program is \$50,000 per household.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31, 2015 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 from February 1, 2015 until October 1, 2015.

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. These assessments can be appealed to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Please note that legislation has raised the assessment limit for appealing to the Board from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Assessment appeals over \$1,000,000 will be tried in the Superior Court.

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

DATE/LOCATION	Budget Information DESCRIPTION
March 9, 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall	Board of Education and Selectmen submit budget requests to the Board of Finance.
March 24	"Citizen's Guide to the Budget" mailed to every household
April 7, 7:00 p.m., Nathan Hale-Ray High School	Budget Public Hearing
April 21, 8:00 p.m., Town Hall	Annual Town Budget Meeting
May 5, Town Hall	Budget Referendum

## "Good People Doing Great Things."



*High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. is just one of the many programs supported by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Learn more online or by phone.*

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, we know that it's the little things that count, that can change a community and improve the quality of life for all. TOGETHER we feed the hungry, shelter families, teach young and old to read, preserve local history and land, help people of all ages explore the arts, teach children to swim, support anti-bullying programs in our schools, help those with disabilities experience independence, and so much more. We do this by developing endowments, making grants that have impact, and assisting donors in meeting their philanthropic goals... all made possible by so many good people doing great things throughout Middlesex County. We invite you to learn more.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE  
860.347.0025 or [www.middlesexcf.org](http://www.middlesexcf.org)



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of Middlesex County

# events

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## Earth Day Saturday, April 11

### TOWN WIDE CLEAN UP - 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 11. 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 a.m. If you wish to join our groups, meet us at the East Haddam Town Hall on Town Street at 8:00 a.m. 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 p.m. 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.

## Annual Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 are available now in the Town Clerk's Office. This book is filled with valuable information regarding meeting dates, Boards and Commissions, reports from all Town Departments and 2013-2014 summary financial report. The full 2013-2014 year-end audit can be viewed on line at [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org). Feel free to stop in for your very own copy of the Annual Town Report.

## Holiday Closing

The Town Office Building and Transfer Station will be closed on the following holidays:

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day  
Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

## Sportsmen's Club Calendar

Ice Fishing Derby - February 8 - Pre Registration required.  
If there is no ice on the 8th the Derby will be postponed until February 15.

Earth Day Clean Up - April 11 - See additional notice.

visit [www.morefitct.com](http://www.morefitct.com) and sign up **TODAY**



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### *Nutrition Consultation*



## EDC Business Updates

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission (EDC) is pleased to announce the following:

Moodus Veterinary Practice opened its doors at 5 Grist Mill Road on December 15 and is now accepting new patients. The office is run by Dr. Anna Crosby and her husband Stephen, Moodus residents. Anna is a board-certified specialist in Emergency and Critical Care with over 16 years of experience as a veterinarian. She sees dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, pocket pets (guinea pigs, rats, hamsters, etc.), and pet chickens. All of the technicians are certified and Stephen is a Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) in Anesthesia as well. The hospital provides compassionate patient care with sophisticated equipment such as digital x-ray, ultrasound, endoscope, on-site laboratory, advanced anesthesia monitors, as well as yearly physical exams, vaccinations, and dental care. The building is comfortable for pets and their owners, located in a 1900's era classic Prairie style house on Grist Mill Road, between Moodus Package Store and Grist Mill Market. The office is open Monday through Saturday, with late office hours until 8:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. The staff is often available by phone on Sundays and after hours in the event of an emergency. Find them on the web at [www.moodusvet.com](http://www.moodusvet.com), Facebook,

call the office at 860-733-0411, or just stop by!

Pearls and Plaid is a boutique for women of all ages located at 4 Norwich Road in East Haddam Village Center, down the driveway in back of the main building, next to the Sweet Shoppe. Owner Caroline Lemley is thrilled to join the East Haddam community bringing fashionable accessories, clothing, and an ever-changing variety of gifts to the shop year-round. Items are showcased beautifully on antique displays obtained locally and from throughout the state. Pearls and Plaid is open Wednesday through Sunday in the winter with extended hours in the summer. A website will be launched soon, so stay tuned. Also, follow on Facebook at Pearls & Plaid and on Instagram @pearlsandplaids for day to day updates on new arrivals, sales and events!

Please visit the Business Directory on the homepage of the municipal website [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org) for a complete listing of East Haddam businesses. Also, check the Community Calendar section for upcoming local business events, including East Haddam Spring weekend (May 1-3) and East Haddam Fall weekend (Sept. 18-20).

Contact the EDC at [mrcdm@snet.net](mailto:mrcdm@snet.net) or P.O. Box K, East Haddam, to have your new business or service listed here.

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# Business Association Promotes Local Businesses

The East Haddam Business Association had a very productive and busy 2014! With our newly designed website, many of our member businesses took advantage of the opportunity to advertise right on our site! Our monthly meetings had multiple member business presentations where each member business introduced their recent promotions and services.

The biggest highlight of the year was our very well attended First Annual Taste of East Haddam. On a beautiful Saturday in May, over 550 people from East Haddam and surrounding towns strolled the grounds of Heritage Park tasting various delicious culinary delights offered by our own town foodies. And all our member businesses had a free booth where the attendees were able to check out their business and services. Lots of great exposure was had by all our member businesses. Money raised at the event was donated to Ray of Light Farm, The East Haddam Food Bank, The East Haddam Fuel Bank and the East Haddam Youth and Family.

## Town Clerk

**Deb Denette, Town Clerk**

### Number One Dog Tag Contest

Coming Soon!

Get those camera's ready...

1. Owner's name, address, phone number, and email address
2. Pet's name, age, and breed

Submit entry to: TOWN CLERK, PO BOX K, 7 MAIN STREET EAST HADDAM, CT 06423 or e-mail to [townclerk@easthaddam.org](mailto:townclerk@easthaddam.org).

Photos will be compiled and forwarded to the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School for voting in the Spring. Dog licenses go on sale June 1. The contest is designed to promote the importance of licensing your dog; the students have a lot of fun judging the contest. Licenses are required pursuant to Connecticut law for all dogs over 6 months of age. The winner and the runner up will receive the #1 and #2 tag (rabies vaccine must be up to date); license fees will be paid by the Town Clerk's Office. Photos will not be returned, so please retain a copy if it's a favorite photo.

### Vital Statistics

Birth, Marriage, and Death records for events that occur within our borders or involve our residents and occur within the State of Connecticut are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

There are strict guidelines regarding who may obtain a copy of a vital statistic in order to safeguard the information; identification is required. A \$20.00 fee is imposed for certified copies. A short form birth certificate (wallet size) is also available at the cost of \$15.00. The short form birth certificate contains limited infor-

We are so looking forward to an even bigger and eventful 2015. January 21 we held our first ever fireside chat with Mark Walter. East Haddam businesses took the opportunity to talk about how to bring the 'shop local' message to our town and collectively brainstormed how to effectively improve the business climate in town.

In March, we'll be holding our first ever career fair at the Nathan Hale Ray High School. Member businesses will hold workshops for the high school students to attend to see what it takes to be in the various highlighted business. This new partnership with the high school will hope to open many new doors such as apprentice programs, internship possibilities and even jobs. And finally, we hope to see everyone at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Taste of East Haddam at Heritage Park on May 2. Please check out our website for more information and to join at [EHBACT.com](http://EHBACT.com).

mation and is not sufficient documentation to obtain a driver's license or passport. The short form is acceptable documentation for kindergarten enrollment and little league.



The graphic features a stylized illustration of a coastal town with a lighthouse, a bridge, and sailboats. A signpost in the foreground reads 'EAST HADDAM CT'. The URL 'www.EastHaddam.org' is displayed at the top of the graphic.

**Business Directory**  
**[www.EastHaddam.org](http://www.EastHaddam.org)**

**On the Municipal Website**  
**Information on 250+ Town Businesses**

- WHERE TO EAT** (*snacks, dining and grocery*)
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## Ambulance Association

Over the past few months, members of East Haddam Ambulance Association have been busy with various training sessions and community events. EHAA participated in the 19th annual Project Safe Halloween Party held at the East Haddam Elementary gymnasium in October. Children and parents were invited to step inside the ambulance and see the various types of equipment that emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and emergency medical responders (EMRs) use during a medical emergency. The event is sponsored by the East Haddam Police Department and offers a safe, fun alternative to traditional trick or treating.

In November, EMTs and EMRs participated in an Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course that was specifically designed for ambulances. The course contained a parallel parking segment, serpentine segment (forward and reverse), alley dock segment and narrow roadway with last minute swerve. Also participating were Colchester, East Hampton and Lyme. This training session was held at Consumer's Union.

In December, East Haddam EMTs and EMRs were trained in the proper use of new Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The new suits, boots, face shields and gloves have been added to our inventory in the event that we are called to respond to a patient with Ebola like signs and symptoms or any other type



Children exploring the various types of equipment inside an ambulance that EMTs and EMRs use during a medical emergency during Project Safe Halloween Party held at the East Haddam Elementary gymnasium in October.

continued on page 9

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## AMBULANCE ... continued from page 8

of hazardous emergency. EHAA is proactive in protecting our technicians and providing excellent emergency care to our community.

Please visit our new and improved website. Our website has information about the history of EHAA, how to become an EMT or EMR and a course listing of CPR/First Aid classes held monthly right here in town. Please visit [www.easthaddamambulance.org](http://www.easthaddamambulance.org). EHAA is also on Facebook. Please search East Haddam Ambulance and "Like Us".



EHAA EMTs and EMRs participating in an Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course that was specifically designed for ambulances in November.



East Haddam EMTs and EMRs training with new Personal Protection Equipment.

## MARK REEVES, BUILDER

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## From the Publisher

Dear Valued Readers,

If you've ever seen an Events Magazine, you will appreciate that it provides the latest information from town mayors and selectmen, town departmental schedules and activities, senior news, menus and programs, library information, community listings, economic development and other important town information helping residents to "keep in touch" with what's happening close to home. And the content ensures true shelf life of the magazine.

As we enter our 19th year in 2015 we are introducing a redesign, from cover to cover.

2015 brings excitement as we continue to grow, adding our 15th town. Our latest addition provides local and regional advertisers greater coverage and awareness with the ability to reach over 250,000 readers at a very low cost per thousand.

Our dedication to our magazines will not change and our commitment to help bring our readers their local town news will continue.

### Essex Printing Award Winner!

Many encouraging changes have transpired at Essex Printing. We were presented the "The Benny Award" from the Print Industry of America. Over 3000 entries from companies around

the world competed in a variety of printing and graphic communications categories. We are very proud of our accomplishment being selected as one of only 84 companies around the world, and are able to say we are the "Best of the Best". Having won the Print Industry of New England's two Pinnacle Awards and Award of Excellence over the last two years highlights the quality and customer dedication at Essex Printing. In 2015 we will continue to look for new ways to enhance our products and assist our clients to meet their objectives.

I would like to thank you for making Essex Printing and Events Magazines part of your marketing and advertising plan. We are especially proud of the many wonderful and complimentary letters, cards, emails, and personal reviews we receive from our satisfied customers.

Our reputation of excellent customer service has helped us create and build lasting business relationships that are the hallmark of our continued success in helping your business and organization succeed! We look forward to working with you in 2015.

Sincerely,

William McMinn

President, Essex Printing and Events Magazines

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# Library System

*Hello Friends & Neighbors,*

It's always fantastic to see you at the library and around town. I get asked a lot of questions about our lovely libraries, and I'm sure there are many of you who have questions but don't have the time to ask me directly. With so much going on at the libraries, and so much advancement in the past few years, it's important to me that everyone knows what's going on. That's why I'd like to take this opportunity to answer a few...

## Frequently Asked Questions About the East Haddam Library System:

What is the East Haddam Library System? The East Haddam Library System was created in 2013 when both the East Haddam Free Public Library and the Rathbun Free Memorial Library came under town management. The libraries now share a

common board, are run by a single director, and have adopted a common mission statement. Although the two libraries are each great in their own right, they have each become branches of something greater.

## What are the benefits of the East Haddam Library System?

In addition to extending library hours, and adopting the same circulation policies for loan periods, late fines, etc. both EHFPL and Rathbun can offer enhanced services as members of the same library consortium. As of January 2015, EHFPL has joined Rathbun Library on the LION consortium. The libraries now offer services that were simply not possible before.

## What is LION, and why are the libraries a part of it?

LION stands for Libraries Online and is

a consortium of 27 libraries across the state of Connecticut. Its members share their collections equally among their patrons, making inter-library loans a much smoother process and giving you a much larger selection of readily available materials. Instead of having access to the 45,000 items at EHFPL and Rathbun, you now have access to over 2.5 million materials across the state. You can order these items online or at the library, and they (usually) arrive within a week. In addition to physical items, LION provides digital materials including eBooks, eMagazines & audio books free of charge. LION also subsidizes some of the library technology and tech support, which saves money for the town and relieves the pressure on our overworked tech support volunteer.

## Now that both libraries are on LION, what are the big changes that will affect me?

continued on page 12



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## LIBRARY ... continued from page 11

Only good things, I promise. The biggest challenge the library system has had up until this point is that the libraries have been on two separate networks. With EHFPL and Rathbun both part of LION, the library computers can talk to one another, which makes things much more convenient for you. There is now a single library catalog that can tell you at a glance which library has the items you are looking for and if they're available. You can order books from any LION library and select a pickup location. If you access the online catalog, you're able to see all of your library items in one place and renew them with a single click. It is also easier to return, renew, and request items at each library. Users of both libraries are certainly in for a treat, while folks who prefer one library will be able to access the other library's resources for the first time.

### How do I use the online services?

All services are accessible via the Library Blogs (<http://EHFPL.Blogspot.com> and <http://RathbunLibrary.Blogspot.com>). The staff and I are happy to help you with any issues you might be having. I'm also always available by appointment to help you with any computer issues. If you're looking for something a bit more formal, we'll be having special LION Information Sessions in February & March.

The EHLS Online Services How-To will be offered at each library on the following dates: Monday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. at EHFPL and Thursday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Rathbun.

The EHLS eBook & Audio Book How-To will be offered at each library on the following dates: Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. at EHFPL and Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Rathbun. Please call the library to register.

### If I check my materials out at one branch, can I return them to the other?

Yes. Any materials checked out in town

can be returned to either branch. They will be marked returned, and you won't owe any fines or fees (as long as the materials are on time).

### Are there any exciting events coming up at the Libraries?

Yes! Lots. The full calendar is available online, below are few of the more prolific programs available: (Please call to register.)

#### For Little Ones (Ages 0-3)

Baby Time - Every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. at Rathbun Library

#### For Preschoolers (Ages 3+)

Story Time - Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at EHFPL

Story Time - Every Monday & Thursday at Rathbun Library, 10:30 a.m.

#### For Kids

Science Club - 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the Month at Rathbun Library at 3:30 p.m.

American Girl Club - 1st Wednesday of the Month at Rathbun Library at 3:30 p.m.

Cinco de Mayo Extravaganza - Monday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m. at EHFPL

#### For Teens

Teen Write Club - 2nd Friday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. at EHFPL

Anime Club - 3rd Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. at EHFPL

Nerd Day (Just Dance, Super Smash, Board Games and More) - February 28 from 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. at EHFPL

#### For Adults

EHFPL Book Club - 2nd Wednesday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m. at EHFPL

Library System Book Club - 3rd Wednesday of Every Month at 6:30 at the Town Tavern Restaurant

Technology Q&A Nights - Coming soon, see website for details

### What if I don't use the library? How does any of this affect me?

The libraries are now easier to use than ever. In fact, with LION's digital items and easy online reserve system, you can order just about anything from home. All you need is a library card. Either EHFPL or Rathbun is open until 8:00 p.m. on Monday - Thursday, you can stop by at your convenience to pick-up your orders.

How much do you spend renting or buying books & movies that you only get one use out of? Save your money! The libraries have brand new books, films, TV Series, and more, all available to check-out for free. Most items are available the same week they're released. The libraries also have free computer access and free WiFi, which are great for job-searching, facebooking, or even gaming. There's also printing, photocopies, and faxing. Best of all, the libraries are a great place to meet with friends & neighbors. If you're looking for a welcoming atmosphere, a way to save money, and a nice place to visit - look no further than your friendly neighborhood library system.

The best way to experience the libraries is to visit, and judge for yourself. If you haven't been in a while, I think you'll be presently surprised. If you're one of our more regular patrons - thank you so much for your support. Keep giving the staff your requests, our job is to get you the materials you want. There's something for everyone at your local library. For more details please, call the libraries - EHFPL: 860-873-8248, Rathbun: 860-873-8210, Google us online, or stop by and visit. If there's any way that I can be of service, please feel free to email me at [MGilroy@ehfpl.org](mailto:MGilroy@ehfpl.org).

Sincerely Yours,

*Michael Gilroy  
Your Friendly Neighborhood  
Library Director*

## East Haddam Lions Club

The Lions have a number of projects planned for 2015. Perhaps the most anticipated is the annual auction & tag sale in July. The club is already collecting donations for the event. If you have any “big ticket” items that you would like to donate - especially automobiles, boats & RVs, please contact Lion Joe Busher at (860) 873-2994.

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 with the East Haddam Leos. Special thanks to Lions Zac Jezek, Jim Prue, Tim Cahill, Mike Gilroy and the Leo Club for helping East Haddam have a simply wonderful Christmas time.

## Friends of the East Haddam Libraries

The Friends of EHFPL & Friends of Rathbun would like to invite everyone in town to a special celebration in honor of our wonderful East Haddam Library System. With the two libraries officially on the LION Consortium, the Friends would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the staff during this monumental transi-

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 Secretary Michael Gilroy at GilroyM@gmail.com.

## East Haddam Lions Community Phone Book

The East Haddam Lions Community phone book is gearing up for the 2015 edition. Many people have been left out of the book because of our inability to retrieve their phone numbers from carriers such as Verizon & Comcast. If you would like to be included in our book, please leave your information at tcurtis42@gmail.com.

tion. Please join us on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the East Haddam Grange Hall to show our appreciation for the East Haddam Library System. We're calling our event the I Love the Library Party, in honor of Valentine's Day. Finger foods will be available, but please consider bringing a dish to share.

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## 2015 Season



Mihae Lee, Artistic Director

**February 8, 2015**  
Valley Regional High School, Deep River  
*Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert*  
**Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks**  
Grammy Award-winners, the renowned band returns to play early 20th-century jazz favorites.

**March 1, 2015**  
Old Saybrook High School  
**Chanticleer – An Orchestra of Voices**  
“The world’s reigning male chorus”  
— *The New Yorker*. Also Grammy winners, the twelve-voice ensemble will perform a rich and varied program entitled “The Gypsy in My Soul.”

**March 29, 2015**  
Valley Regional High School, Deep River  
**Mihae Lee and Friends**  
Artistic Director and pianist **Mihae Lee**, violinist **Chee Yun**, and cellist **Julie Albers** in a thrilling program of piano trios by Haydn, Mendelssohn, and Ravel.

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# Leo Club

This past December was a busy month for the East Haddam Leos! Every Friday, the club sold trees at the Lions Club X-Mas Tree Lot to dozens of wonderful families in town. They also accompanied Santa Claus and the East Haddam Lions to Chestelm to deliver gifts, volunteered at St. Stephen's Harvest House, and decorated the Moodus green. Thank you to all the Leos who participated, and to all the parents who helped get them there.

The East Haddam Leos are hosting their annual "Big Bake Sale" at locations all over town on Saturday, February 14 from 10:00 - 1:00. Stop by Nathan Hale Plaza, Gristmill Plaza, and Shagbark Plaza to buy some sweets for your sweetie (or just some snacks for yourself). Simply make a kind donation of your choice, and enjoy tasty treats!

The Leos are a Teen Community Service Group devoted to various good causes all around East Haddam. They perform community service projects including the pumpkin walk, the apple festival, and arcade nights. All proceeds from Leo Events help local organizations such as the food bank, fuel bank, senior center, and library system. Any 12-17 year old interested in

joining is encouraged to contact Leo Adviser Michael Gilroy at [GilroyM@gmail.com](mailto:GilroyM@gmail.com) or to pick up a membership form at the East Haddam Free Public Library.

The Leos meet the 1st Thursday and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Rd, Moodus.



(L-R) Leos Sarah Gieseler and Amber Lake, Santa Claus, Lion Mike Gilroy, Lion Tim Cahill (Not Pictured)



(L-R) Leo Adviser Mike Gilroy, Leos Gillian Hoover, Sarah Haentjens, Alyssa Andrews, Grace McLean, Kara Izzo, TJ van Valkenburg, Owen McLean, Masey Bradway, Tanner Burke, Talon Close, Will Sanders, Ben Sibley, Samantha van Valkenburg, Nathaniel Goff, Amber Lake



(L-R) Leos Amber Lake, Sarah Haentjens, Nathaniel Goff, Emilia Mitchell, Alyssa Andrews, Samantha van Valkenberg, Leo Adviser Mike Gilroy

# Happy New Year

*from all of us at Events Magazines  
and Essex Printing*

# Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School



Arielle Laprey (left) and Falyn Freitas (right) started the Kindness Club at the middle school. High school student Pamela Acquaro (center) volunteers her time to assist the club members.

## Promoting Kindness at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School

Students at Nathan-Hale Ray Middle School recently started a kindness club. According to Arielle Laprey and Falyn Freitas, who founded the club along with Hailey Brant, the club was started to promote inclusion of all students. The club's mission is to ensure that students will no longer feel alone or like outcasts, help students that are picked on by others, and promote kindness throughout the school. The girls plan to have specified days of kindness on Thursdays, with events such as random acts of kindness and saying positive words to others. Club members plan to each wear a leaf bracelet so that they can be easily recognized as positive allies to other students. The group is also in talks to plan a school-wide day or week of kindness.

## Fall Athletics Awards Night

On Wednesday, November 5th Hale-Ray Middle School recognized their student-athletes in their annual fall awards assembly. The coaches of Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Co-ed Cross Country individually presented a year-in-review summary of their team's successes to the students, parents and faculty in attendance. Some students were also honored with individual awards and accolades.

Honorees/Coaches: Janet Kelly-Girls Soccer, Matthew Hopkins-Boys Soccer and Shaleen Thody – Co-ed Cross Country, Andrew Riccio - Athletic Coordinator

### Awards:

Girls Soccer: Most Improved - Skye Murray; Sportsmanship- Jasmine Ziobron; Leadership - Carly Houle  
Boys Soccer: Most Improved - Christopher Cappitella, Sportsmanship - Aiden Lucas, Leadership - Nicholas Bonadies  
Boys Cross Country: Most Improved -Theodore Kuderko; Sportsmanship - Brendan Dalton; Leadership - Stephen Melluzzo  
Girls Cross Country: Most Improved - Madison Chupas; Sportsmanship - Emma Libera; Leadership Emily Sienna

“Small School Cross Country State Champion” - Emily Sienna  
1st overall in the Girls Division II Middle School State Meet at Wickham Park, Manchester on Saturday November 1.

## NHRMS is going to QUÉBEC April 11-14, 2015

Nathan Hale-Ray Middle school students and their families are taking the opportunity to travel to Québec City this spring. Students and parents will travel the city with our group led by the experienced and knowledgeable guides from Prométour Educational Tours and learn about French-Canadian culture through history, art, music and food! Hopefully, they will be brave enough to use the French they have learned in school and learn some new vocabulary too! Some highlights of the trip are a ferry ride across the St. Lawrence River to enjoy a sailor's view of the Plains of Abraham and the Château Frontenac, a walk up and across Montmorency Falls, and a traditional meal at a maple sugar cabin. Students will also be visiting a French-Canadian school where our students will meet their pen pals who they have been corresponding with throughout the year! We are looking forward to an exciting spring excursion!



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Adam Yates, Rector

## New Organ

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Main Street will formally dedicate its new organ with a celebratory recital and reception on Sunday, April 19, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The new 3 manual (keyboard) Rodgers instrument is state of the art, with voices sourced from some of the finest pipe organs in the world.

Performing will be John Rose, college organist at Trinity College in Hartford. John has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Davies Hall in San Francisco, the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, and a host of other venues, churches, and campuses around the country both as recitalist and orchestral soloist.

In Europe his tours have been highlighted by performances at such landmark churches as St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. He has made festival

appearances in Australia, Belgium, England, Mexico, Norway, and Scotland.

Concert and reception are free, and all are invited.

## Ash Wednesday and Easter Services

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church invites all people to come and enter into the great mysteries of Lent and Easter by joining us on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. for Ash Wednesday services - the traditional start to the season of Lent - and our joyous celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 5 at either 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. For more information about our special worship services during Lent and Easter this year, visit our website at [www.ststeves.org](http://www.ststeves.org).

Thank you!

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# East Haddam Public Schools

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the East Haddam School District is to develop a community of lifelong learners who are prepared to become independent, creative and productive citizens for our diverse and ever-changing global society.

Welcome to the East Haddam Public Schools section of the events magazine. We are very proud of our students. This year we are especially proud of the students depicted below. Each of these students can say that they are one out of 50,000 to achieve this accomplishment.

The East Haddam school system is in the process of developing a strategic plan. We have engaged community members, parents, students and teachers in the process. One of the benefits of starting such a process is that we learn about many of the wonderful things that are happening in the district. On many occasions, parents expressed their pleasure in having schools where the teachers and the principals know their child both as a child and as a student.

Recently, I had the opportunity to observe the presentations of our High School Senior projects. The experience of seeing our students take the reins of their education and develop a personal vision for their future should be the model for the nation's education. If you have the opportunity to attend the next Senior Project Expo in the spring, I strongly recommend it.

#### Educational Tidbit:

The teachers in the district are working diligently to challenge our students in the classroom and developing a revised curriculum. One of the cornerstones of the revised curriculum is the 'essential question' of a lesson unit. The essential question focuses the student on the bigger picture or the larger meaning of the lesson. One example that a social studies teacher might have as an essential question is; "What impact has war had on the development of nations like the United States?" This focus supports a student to translate history into today's current events. By focusing on the monumental impact, students have more motivation to learn the details.

Nathan Hale Ray Middle School  
Educational Teams Awards:

#### *Lego Robotics Team*

State Championships on 12/7

#### *Team Custom Robos*

- 4th place overall in Regional Competition, heading to States, 12/7
- 2nd place best research
- 6th place best robot

Congratulations to  
Max Daniels as  
Semi-Finalist in  
2015 Nation Merit  
Scholarship Program



And  
David Moreau as a National Merit  
Scholarship Commended Student.

### Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

February 10th —7pm— HS Café  
March 10th —7 pm—HS Café  
April 21—7 pm—HS Cafe

A complete listing of the Board's regular and Subcommittee meetings can be found on our website: <http://www.easthaddamschools.org/>



# East Haddam Elementary



**Principal  
Joanne Collins**

**Assistant Principal  
Noah Ventola**

**Telephone: 860-873-5076**

## COMING EVENTS

**Feb. 24**  
PTO Sponsored  
Living Abe Lincoln  
2nd Grade

**March 13**  
Report Cards ~home  
Pending~ snow days

**March 18-20**  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
Early Dismissal Days

**April 1**  
Connecting w/ kindergarten  
3:45 pm  
4/2 ~ Snow Day

**April 4-7**  
Kindergarten Experience

**PTO Meetings:**  
7:00 pm Room 304  
2/19/15  
3/19/2015  
4/9/2015



Our school community warmly welcomed veteran guests on Veterans Day as they joined classes and enjoyed a complimentary Aramark turkey lunch with stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. During lunch, hosting students sat beside their guests on the school's stage. Veterans were proudly introduced over the microphone as we graciously thanked over fifty veterans, and their families, for all they have done for our country.

November's professional development session was devoted to increasing positive school climate and common instructional procedures. In conjunction with our Building Council, School Climate Committee, and Student Council, our staff is developing a matrix of common language and procedures. This will enhance our current instructional methods through *Positive Behavior Support* in "catching" students being respectful, the *3Rs of Respect* and *Responsive Classroom* approach to teaching, our *Second Step* weekly lessons to promote active citizenship in school and at home through our parent links, and our Homework Club to support academic responsibility and increased achievement. Furthermore, our staff will be involved in *Leader in Me* (Stephen Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*) book talks. Our work together is confirmation of our recently revised mission statement: *Together, we are a community that nurtures the social, emotional, academic, and physical development of individuals.*

In December, our Student Council sponsored a food drive that yielded over 550 food items for East Haddam's Food Bank, our PTO provided a special dinner for our staff to enjoy during parent/teacher conferences and they held their annual Holiday Fair to enable elementary and middle school students to purchase reasonably priced gift items for their loved ones. Students brought home their first trimester progress reports on December 8<sup>th</sup>, prior to our parent/teacher conferences. Mrs. Mazzaferro conducted two holiday shows on December 18<sup>th</sup> for families and friends of our first, second, and third grade performers. The quality of singing and the third grade recorder performances drew well-deserved compliments from the audiences.

We continue to be grateful to our PTO and all volunteers as we work together to foster our home/school partnership in support of educational excellence and active citizenship. Wishing you a safe and Happy New Year.



THANK YOU TO THERESA MAZZAFERRO AND ALL THE STAFF  
FOR A FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY CONCERT!



# Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School



Principal  
Jason Peacock

Assistant Principal  
Roy Parker

Telephone: 860-873-5081

## COMING EVENTS

February 5  
MS Author Visit

March 13-14  
MS Play Production  
7:30 pm Gym

April 9  
4th grade trip  
Bushy Hill

April 28—May 1  
8th Grade Trip  
Washington DC

MPAC Meetings:  
7: 00 pm—Library  
3/2/15  
4/6/15  
5/4/15



We are almost at the halfway point of the school year and I cannot believe how fast it is progressing. Middle school students are very energetic and enthusiastic, so the days go quickly. They truly make it very enjoyable to come to work every day.

As I write this it is sunny and forty degrees outside. I love the winter, so hopefully by the time you read this we will have beautiful snow on the ground. In March, I'm sure that I'll be ready for the spring melt! If snowy weather results in dangerous road conditions, we will either begin school two hours later than usual or cancel school for the day. Any school delays or cancellations will be announced through the Everbridge system and on the local media outlets. If you are not signed up for Everbridge, please contact the school. During the winter, we will continue to have outdoor recess whenever possible. If the wind chill is above twenty degrees, the students are allowed to go outside. Please be sure to send your children in with a warm coat, gloves, and a hat.

As ongoing fundraisers, we collect "Box-tops for Education", Campbell's Soup Labels, as well as used ink and printer cartridges. While the school does not make a lot of money from these projects, we did just receive a check from "Box-tops for Education" for over \$200, which will furnish many supplies for our students. We also have an ongoing need for playground balls. If you are cleaning out your garage and find an old basketball or kickball, please send it in.

Congratulations to our 2014-2015 fire prevention poster contest winners.

Each year approximately 30,000 students participate in the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The annual statewide competition is sponsored by The Connecticut Fire Marshals' Association, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association, State Board of Education and the Connecticut FAIR Plan (representing the insurance industry). Its purpose is to promote child and adult awareness of fire prevention responsibilities. Each year thousands of entries are submitted throughout the state.



The posters created by Meghan, Emalee, Ethan, and Julia were selected in the first round of local judging and will continue on to the next round of competition. All four students were treated to ride to school on the East Haddam Fire Department truck!



Commissioner of Education  
Stefan Pryor, Steven Pernal, and  
Superintendent Brian Reas



Congratulations to Steven Pernal who is the 2015 Teacher of the Year for East Haddam Public Schools. Mr. Pernal is a terrific physical education and health teacher at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School. He was chosen by his peers who recognize his commitment to the children and educational community of East Haddam.

The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952. It does not attempt to select the "best" teacher; rather, to identify, from among many outstanding teachers of the year, one teacher to serve as a visible and vocal representative of what is best in the profession.

Mr. Pernal is an excellent educator who goes "above and beyond" to establish close relationships with his students. He is kind and consistent to all children and adults in the district. His positive attitude is contagious to his students regardless of their athletic abilities. He successfully gets every child to participate and improve their physical fitness. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Pernal regularly volunteers his time for the youth. He coaches little league, helps out at cross country running events, and for the past two years has acted as a judge for Odyssey of the Mind competition. He also organized the middle school feature on Channel 3 News "Cool Schools" last year.

We are proud to have Steven Pernal represent East Haddam as our Teacher of the Year.



# Nathan Hale-Ray High School

## NOISES NEWS



Principal  
Eric Spencer

Assistant Principal  
Jennifer Sarafin

860-873-5065

School Counselors  
Lisa Maciorowski  
Laura Truncali

### COMING EVENTS

#### February 5

Youth & Family Service  
Internet Presentation  
7 pm—HS Auditorium

#### February 9&10

Hale Ray Chamber Music  
Goodspeed Opera House  
7 pm  
(2/11—Snow Day)

#### March 6

Hale-Ray Alumni Basketball Game  
4 pm—HS Gymnasium

#### April 24&25

Spring Drama Production  
7 pm—HS Auditorium

#### May 9

Prom Night

### IT'S TIME FOR WINTER SPORTS!

Hale Ray winter sports are in full swing. Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball, Boys Junior Varsity Basketball, Fencing, Indoor Track, and Gymnastics are all available to our students.

Check out the full sports schedule online at:  
[www.easthaddamschools.org](http://www.easthaddamschools.org)

Hale Ray Indoor Track Team



### 2014 Accepted Colleges List, As of 12/1/2014

ACADIA UNIVERSITY  
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY  
GORDON COLLEGE  
LINCOLN COLLEGE  
MESSIAH COLLEGE  
MOUNT ALLISON UNIV.  
NE CULINARY INST.  
ROANOKE COLLEGE  
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Austin Gometz with High School Principal, Eric Spencer.

Austin, who is also the Senior Class President, was Principal for the Day during latest Hale-Ray Spirit Week, assuming the responsibilities of the position. The event was the result of a fundraiser for the Hale-Ray Multi-Cultural Club activities. Mr. Spencer, in turn, followed Austin's schedule for the day. Both found the experience enlightening and enjoyable

Four Student Council officers represented Nathan Hale-Ray High School this morning at the monthly Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce breakfast. An honor to be invited, the event was extra special because they got to meet the breakfast's guest speaker, Governor Dan Molloy. Seniors Austin Gometz, Zachary Wright, and Allyn Sweet, along with sophomore Sarah Gieseler made us very proud as they sat amongst hundreds of Connecticut professionals."



## MILE

### Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education

More than 320 members of mile (Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education) completed another varied program of classes with everything from Bluegrass to Opera, from Women in History to Gardening for hummingbird attraction.

The spring semester will start with orientation on February 12th. Classes are held at the Middlesex Community College and are open to everyone 50 and older.

The spring session will include everything from a visit with Ben Franklin, Did the Exodus from Egypt really happen?, baseball, opera and space exploration.

The total cost is only \$60. More information can be found at [www.mileonline.org](http://www.mileonline.org) or [mileatchapman@gmail.com](mailto:mileatchapman@gmail.com).

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# Life Is a Work In Progress

Maryla Radziszewski, Health Coach, LMT, CPT, Morefit LLC, [www.morefitct.com](http://www.morefitct.com)

*"The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on your mother, the ecology, or the president. You realize that you control your own destiny"*

- Albert Ellis

Anyone's path is not an easy one however, when one practices patience and trust the process, then one can live happy. Health, peace of mind and balance are very important elements of life's course and each of us are responsible for a steady progress on their own. We all dream about aging slowly, stay strong and healthy till we die. We dream ... and then we allow ourselves to be pulled into life's daily rush. We stress too much, we eat too much, we abuse our body, mind and spirit too much. Then we look back into the years which passed and we realize that there is no one to blame for our unhappiness except ourselves.

Treat your road blocks and slowdowns as a point in which you can recover your energy. Continue your path of life with a plan. Don't forget when you arrive at the zero point, you will have time to rethink your life. Maybe you need guidance, maybe you just need to remind yourself to go back to your healthier lifestyle, either way you will have many great years in your future if you trust the process. What is the process, you ask? You probably know that

I'll tell you to eat healthy, exercise daily, take care of your physical body through manual therapy. Yes, that would be all true, and I have one more for you; you need to learn how to relax. Your physical body will scream at you out loud with all types of illnesses if you don't learn how to relax your mind and don't learn how to connect your body, mind and spirit together. You can learn this connection only through meditation, being in the moment. Regular contemplation time will teach you that.

How many times during the week you were just with yourself? How many times have you listened to your breathing and try to understand the pathway your breath is taking? How many times were you able to connect your breath with every cell in your body? If you've been practicing this on a regular basis - congratulations! You already grasp awareness of life's development. If not, make this your new habit. Start with two to five minutes of quiet time every morning or evening. Lay down flat on your back and just concentrate on your breath. Imagine your breath taking path through your nasals to your lungs and then imagine your blood cells traveling through every tiny cell of your physical body. Feel your energy in every tiny cell. Two to five minutes of this exercise will allow you to properly

distribute your energy through your body. You will learn how to connect your mind and body together. After a few weeks take more steps towards that connection and start practicing yoga. Dedicate one hour a week for a yoga/stretch session. Practicing stretches on regular basis allows the body to move freely. Connective tissue has more elasticity and blood cells can travel without restraint. Practicing yoga will allow you to regain balance in your muscle's tissue and will allow you to understand the function of your joints. All of this will lead to healthier organs in your body and of course to a healthier brain. The older you get, the more of this you'll need to practice and stay in the process.

How long ago have you played with a toddler? Have you noticed how much in the moment they are? Have you noticed how limber they are? When you have a chance, absorb that energy and your spirit will sense joy. You'll be filled with positive energy which will help you to age in good health. Just remember, everything starts with a moment when you realize how to be with yourself. Focus on your strength, and positive energy. Recognize that your life is lived in the moment, a work in progress.

Wish you a wonderful, live in the moment, year of 2015.

## Save The Date

**Sunday, March 28 / 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### East Haddam Healthy Living Expo

**Sponsored by East Haddam Senior Center & Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley**

East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus, CT 06469

Call 860-873-5034 for more information.

Participants will be able to experience ways to promote balance in life using the Model of Healthy Living Seven Components of a Healthy Life: Faith Life, Movement, Medical, Work, Emotional, Nutrition, and Family & Friends.

Each area of our life influences our daily living. When we are out of balance, our work, relationships and health are affected. Come see how to find more balance for a happier, healthier life!

All ages encouraged to attend.

Discover Community Resources, Local Vendors, Community Organizations, Prizes, Face-Painting and Fun for All!

## Ray FFA Chapter Keeping Busy

The Ray FFA Chapter at Nathan Hale-Ray High School has been very active for the first school semester. The year was kicked off with the annual trip to the Eastern States Exposition, New England's largest agricultural fair. At this fair, Jenna Sullivan participated in the FFA Creed Speaking contest taking second place while Emily Forsyth and her horse Belle competed in a variety of riding classes. Both girls competed against students from all over the eastern region and made their chapter proud!

In October the chapter held a scarecrow building activity and a pumpkin carving event. The scarecrows were donated to the walking path at Heritage Park. At the end of the month an FFA advisor and three FFA chapter officers attended the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky (see photo.) The students presented the chapter's FFA Living to Serve project results to a national committee. This four year project has been a cooperative effort with the East Haddam Conservation Commission and resulted in a beautiful trail system at the Nichols' Field area which is open to the public. Also while at convention, Jenna Sullivan competed against 48 FFA members in the Creed Speaking Contest and went home with a bronze award again making her chapter proud!

November and December kept FFA members busy with an after-

school Aggie Olympics and the annual fruit/meat/cheese sale as well as the annual wreath sale. FFA members were proud to see the FFA wreaths hung all over town. January will be busy with an ice cream social and movie activity and with preparing for midterm exams. The chapter officers will be creating the calendar of activities for second semester. FFA members, parents, alumni and community members are encouraged to contact an FFA advisor at [cheryl.matthewson@easthaddamschools.org](mailto:cheryl.matthewson@easthaddamschools.org) for calendar suggestions.



Attending the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky

## Rep. Ziobron Assigned to Legislative Committees



Melissa Ziobron

State Rep. Melissa Ziobron was chosen as the leading House Republican lawmaker on the legislature's Appropriations Committee.

Ziobron will serve on the legislature's committee on Children and the Environment Committee. Her committee responsibilities began the legislative session on Jan. 7.

"As Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, Ziobron will play a pivotal role in demanding change with regards to our state's financial crisis. I know she will serve the House Republican caucus with distinction," said state Rep. Themis Klarides, incoming House Republican Leader.

"During my tenure serving the people of the 34th district, I quickly realized the lack of representation for small towns within our state," said Ziobron. "As a legislator, my goal has been to be that voice. I plan to continue working hard for my constituents and for the taxpayers of the state. Our residents cannot afford to live in the state they love and that is a trend I want to reverse."

Gov. Malloy announced a recent projected budget deficit of \$44.8 million for the fiscal year 2015. Tackling the budget problems will begin during the month of February.

"As Ranking Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will work together with legislators on both sides of the aisle to address our financial crisis rather than temporarily pacifying our current situation with tax increases, borrowing or increased spending," said Ziobron.

"I am thrilled to continue serving on the Environment Committee; I am extremely passionate about these topics. Our state parks in the 34th District need a voice and I am proud to be one," said Ziobron. "The Children's Committee is a new assignment for me and as a Mom with two teenage children, I look forward to contributing."

Ziobron is humbled by the opportunity to again serve the residents of Colchester, East Haddam and East Hampton.

Melissa Ziobron represents the 34th district communities of Colchester, East Haddam and East Hampton.

## Are You Ok?

The East Haddam Commission on Aging (COA) is in the process of developing an out-reach program to check on those Seniors who are living alone and for those with health issues.

Each day, a telephone call will be placed to the home to check that the occupant(s) are "OK". If there is no answer, the designated contact person (family or neighbor) will be notified. If the designated contact person does not answer, the Senior Center will be called. The Fire and Police Departments will be the "call" of last resort.

The Commission feels this program will give Seniors and their families a feeling of security.

The Commission is collaborating with Craig Mansfield of East Haddam Emergency Management to create this program. Once the

out-reach program has been finalized, a public meeting to explain the details of the program will be held at the Senior Center.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or to obtain a contact form, please call the Senior Center: 860-873-5034. Contact forms are also be available on the town website at [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org). Completed forms can be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

COA  
C/O East Haddam Senior Center  
PO Box 623  
Moodus, CT 06469  
Fax: 860-873-5198  
[seniors@easthaddam.org](mailto:seniors@easthaddam.org)

## Historical Society & Museum News

The East Haddam Historical Society Board of Trustees welcomes new members Jo Golec, Lynne Meyer, Joanne Roczniak, and Patricia Thomas.

The Museum is currently collecting photos and items of all the Moodus Resorts for an exhibit this year. We want to help preserve the memory of the more than 30 resorts where thousands of vacationers spent their summers. If you have

one or more items from the past from any resort, camp, or boarding house to loan or donate we would be grateful. Please contact the Museum: [Museum@easthaddamhistory.org](mailto:Museum@easthaddamhistory.org) or [mmhalpin@comcast.net](mailto:mmhalpin@comcast.net).

Joining the East Haddam Historical Society is a wonderful way to participate in protecting, preserving, and promoting our local history. Our members enjoy the benefits of free admission to our museum and monthly events unless otherwise indicated.

This year's calendar of events will be mailed with our membership letter. Additional donations are also welcome. The museum is open from Memorial Day through Columbus Day, Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. Tickets are \$5 per adult; children under 12 are free.

## Baseball News

### American Legion Post 156 Baseball Spring/Summer of 2015

American Legion Post 156, serving the towns of East Haddam, East Hampton & Colchester is announcing that it will again be sponsoring three baseball teams this year. The Prep division (13, 14 & 15 year olds) along with the Junior (17U) and Senior (19U) teams. Tryouts will be after the conclusion of any Middle or High School play in early June.

Our home field is the Legion Memorial Field, located on Neptune Avenue behind Post 156 in Moodus.

If you are interested in playing for any of our teams or have any questions please send an email to Buddy Altomaro at [aaltomaro@outlook.com](mailto:aaltomaro@outlook.com).



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# Project Graduation

## Happy New Year and Thank You from NHRHS Project Graduation 2015!

Project Graduation Committee would like to extend Congratulations to our 12 Lucky Winners of the Fabulous \$5 Raffle Prizes!! Thanks so much to everyone who purchased tickets and to all our prize donors: Banner Total Fitness & Deb Annino; Dutch Oil; Grand View Camping & Traceski Electric; Little B Barn & Fox Ledge Farm; the Gionta Family; Goodspeed Musicals & Gelston House; the Dill Family; EB Exterminating; Gristmill Market; Shagbark Lumber; Bob's Discount Furniture; Banner Country Club & Jack's Place Cafe. This fundraiser was a huge success, raising about \$7000 toward an incredible night of safe celebration for the Hale-Ray Class of 2015!

We would like thank the following donors, new this quarter: Nathan Hale Pharmacy, Sullivan Paving, Tastefully Simple - Michelle Shea, Alan's Small Engine Service, Anytime Fitness, Child & Adult Orthodontics, Comer & Co., Chestelm, EH Dental, EH Historical Society, EH Rotary, Higganum

Medical Group, Moodus Package Store and the Prichard Family.

Interested in further supporting our fundraising efforts?

Donate your unwanted books to the Book Bin at the Transfer Station, we get paid by the pound!

Our Retail Gift Card Fundraiser continues in the New Year, gift cards make great gifts for any occasion (grads will love them!!). Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser over the Holidays!

Join our Donor List! Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to Project Graduation 2015, PO Box 317, Moodus, CT 06469

Project Graduation is proud to be sponsored by East Haddam Youth & Family Services.

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Hours by Appointment Only

# Town of East Haddam

7 Main Street ~ P.O. Box K East Haddam, CT 06423

## Administrative Office Building

Main Number: 860-873-5020

Fax: (1st floor) 860-873-5042, (2nd floor) 860-873-5025

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

### Selectman's Office

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman 860-873-5021 admin@easthaddam.org  
Linda Zemienieski, Executive Assistant admin@easthaddam.org

### Assessor's Office

Loretta Zdany, Assessor 860-873-5026 assessor@easthaddam.org  
Patty Veselak, Administrative Assistant

### Building Department

Gerald Russ, Building Official 860-873-5024 building.dept@easthaddam.org  
Kamey Cavanaugh, Administrative Assistant

### Chatham Health District

Liz Davidson, Sanitarian 860-873-5101 liz.davidson@chathamhealth.org

### 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

f ax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Transfer Station Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Lunt, Public Works Administrator 860-873-5023 pwadmin@easthaddam.org  
Richard Toolan, 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 admin@easthaddam.org  
Shawn Daigle, Fire Chief 860-891-8400 firechief@easthaddam.org  
Tiffany Quinn, Parks & Recreation Director 860-873-5058 parkandrec@easthaddam.org  
Michael Olzacki, Animal Control Officer 860-873-5044 animalcontrol@easthaddam.org  
Peter Simmons  
Economic Development Coordinator 860-891-8503 edevcoordinator@easthaddam.org  
Craig Mansfield,  
Emergency Management Director 860-873-5103 ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org  
Craig Mansfield,  
Facilities Director 860-873-6019 cmansfield@easthaddam.org

### Resident State Trooper

860-873-1226 police@easthaddam.org

### East Haddam Police

860-873-5041 police@easthaddam.org

### Probate Court

Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate 860-295-6239

Linda Neal, Clerk lneal@ctprobate.gov

### Registrars of Voters

Lucy Yacovino & Laurie Alt 860-873-5029 registrars@easthaddam.org

### Senior Services - 15 Great Hillwood Road

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

Susannah Griffin, Administrative Assistant 860-873-5034

860-891-8100

Food Bank

Visit our Website at [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org) for more information,  
including meeting minutes

## Help Support Our Friend and Neighbor, BJ Miles

BJ Miles has been a resident of Lake Hayward for years after growing up in Colchester. In December 2013, he lost his home to a tragic fire and suffered extensive, severe burns requiring treatment at the Bridgeport Burn Unit and is now completely disabled. He is in need of continuing, long-term medical care which is and will be financially overwhelming. Please come together as a community to help our neighbor and friend get through this devastating time.

A fund has been established at TD Bank. Any monetary donation would be greatly appreciated! Please send checks payable to: THE BJ MILES FUND, TD Bank, 64 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415. Thank you.

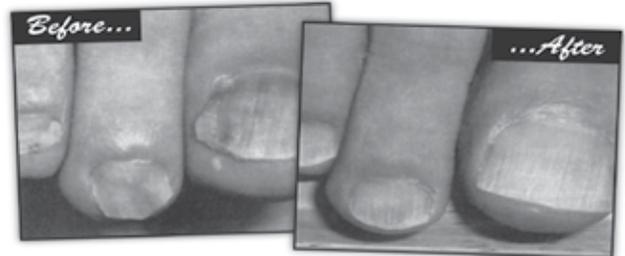
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CTF-18-13

# Hale-Ray Connections - High School Parents Group

**“Connecting parents, staff and students for academic success.”**

This fall our Connections group was involved in various ways at the High School. On Veterans Day several of us were thrilled to attend the moving ceremony at the close of the High School day. We sincerely hope the ceremony will become a high school tradition and we are eager to support the celebration of our Veterans at future events. In December, Connections participated in the High School’s “12 Days of Kindness” by providing a “Kindness Card” for each student and staff member. The cards were printed with a “kindness quote” and had a penny attached for use in the High School Penny Wars. We wrapped up our fall events by hosting a Holiday Staff Lunch, open to all high school staff. We had tremendous attendance; staff and parents all enjoyed the

opportunity to socialize together! We hope to host more events of this nature in the upcoming months.

As the New Year begins, please note that our Connections meetings will merge with the East Haddam Youth & Family Services hosted by Alicia Farrell with seminars January 21, February 25 and March 25, 7:00 p.m. at NHRHS Library. Topics will include: The Effect of Pop Culture on Youth Substance Use, The Impact of Screen Time on the Developing Brain, Managing Stress When Kids are Over-Scheduled.

For more information about H-R Connections please contact Lenore McLean at [lmclean70@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmclean70@sbcglobal.net).

## The Friends of Harris

The Friends of Harris is an all volunteer group of East Haddam citizens dedicated to improving and maintaining the rural character and historical significance of the Mount Parnassus Area with little or no cost to the Town of East Haddam.

Currently, the Friends of Harris are focused on two key parcels for East Haddam residents – The Captain George Comer Memorial Forest and the Harris Municipal Space. These two sites are next to each other at the top of Mount Parnassus. The Comer Memorial Forest is actually on State of Connecticut Forest Land while the adjacent Harris Municipal Space is Town owned land.

The Comer Memorial Forest was established in the late 1930’s as an area set aside for recreation and preservation purposes and contains the Comer Memorial Plaque that was dedicated, by the Governor of the state, Wilbur Cross, on June 4, 1938. The Forest honors the memory of Captain George Comer, an East Haddam native, who was a Sea Captain and Arctic Explorer during the late 19th century and early 20th century.

The Harris Municipal Space was purchased by the Town in 2011 with the intent to be used for either agricultural, recreational or other municipal purposes. It was originally part of the Harris dairy farm which provided milk, sweet corn and produce for the local resorts, schools, grocery stores and residents during the Great Depression, WWII and the post war years.

Over the past years the Comer Memorial Forest has fallen into disrepair and needed restoration. For the Harris Municipal Space a Community Garden Project was proposed and started in early 2014. Initially the Project included plans to design, build and operate a commercial kitchen for the agricultural produce from the garden plots and other gardens. Recently, the commercial kitchen proposal encountered significant town-wide opposition

and it has now been dropped from the Garden Project. However, the Town intends to continue with the leasing of garden plots to interested residents of the Town.

Due to the controversy over the proposed use of the Harris Municipal Space, neighbors in the Mount Parnassus area and citizens from other parts of Town decided to form the Friends of Harris in order to spark and promote positive awareness of the Mount Parnassus area and the Town of East Haddam. Their first focus was the Community Garden Project. However, they also believed that the Comer Memorial Forest on the adjacent property, site of the former East Haddam Fire Tower, and gateway to the Harris parcel, also needed restoration.

The Friends of Harris have met with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Town Officials to communicate their concerns, requests, ideas and plans for both properties. Friends of Harris volunteers have also contributed substantial physical effort performing work on both sites including clearing, clean-up and restoration. The Friends of Harris have created a comprehensive Restoration Plan for the Comer Memorial Forest that will soon be submitted to the DEEP for approval. They have also generated an alternative improved plan for the Harris Municipal Space that includes the continued leasing of Community Garden Plots along with restoration and maintenance of the recently cleared land.

Work is ongoing and the Friends of Harris are open to ideas and input from town residents interested in preserving and maintaining this historic and agriculturally significant area of the town.

Interested volunteers may join the Friends of Harris by contacting Todd Gelston at [tgelston@comcast.net](mailto:tgelston@comcast.net) or call at 860-873-8221.

# The Master Gardener's Corner

Linda Stuhlman, Certified Advanced Master Gardener; Certified Tree Warden

Did you know that Connecticut is home to hundreds of community gardens? Here in East Haddam, there was a lot of talk around town in 2014 about "Community Gardens." Along with peripheral discussion about what should happen with the town owned Harris Property, many residents voiced positive feelings about East Haddam having its own community garden. New Haven County offers over 100 gardens open to the public as a gathering place for visitors or growing plots for gardeners, Middlesex County has ample gardens also. These gardens are operated by Land Trusts, Conservation organizations, miscellaneous agencies and Garden Clubs. There is so much to offer town residents such as learning to garden vegetables and flowers, education sharing, creativity visions, planned activities, and fellowship. Likewise, the benefit for greenspace and conservation development adds to the advantage of such an undertaking. Kids and adults both feel accomplishment when they start their own garden plot and reap the paybacks from sowing seeds for vegetables and fruits. Often, doing such activities away from home makes the effort worthwhile. You will find lots of info online about how other towns run their community gardens. Here is a quote from westportgardens.org, which makes the case for

why we in East Haddam should think positively about developing our own community garden.

"Grow, share and care for your garden" is the motto of the Westport Community Gardens, a town-sponsored group whose member's note that they have been "bringing joy through gardening since 2004." There have been community garden projects in the town since 1971, and like many such groups in Connecticut, the joy they bring is not only measured by the bushels of vegetables, herbs and flowers they harvest .... While the bounty harvested is impressive, the members of this group do more than just hoe and grow: they have a bocce ball court, host poetry and do plants sales and other activities to benefit both the gardens and the community.

The ideas and opportunities are endless. As the Harris Property volunteers are in the infancy stage of developing a community garden for all to enjoy, please consider participating in the endeavor to make East Haddam's first community garden an exceptional place for residents and visitors to enjoy. So, jump on the bandwagon and be part of a much needed community adventure in 2015.

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# Get Out Of The House With The Conservation Commission

Wonderful outdoor experiences await you on your town's publicly-owned wild places. You can hike for miles on marked trails, walk through the federally recognized Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed, admire distant views of Long Island Sound, cross country ski or ride your horse through pristine woodlands, bird watch during the spring migration, and much more without ever leaving your hometown.

To make these opportunities easier than ever, your Conservation Commission has been working hard to improve accessibility to some of our most beautiful outdoor

places. During just the past year, volunteers have donated more than 220 hours of time and muscle to mark trails, build bridges, create parking lots, and install signage on the Hatch Lot and the Rose Farm properties. Eagle Scout candidates have added projects including creation of a primitive campsite, the building of kiosks, and the creation of new trails. We are proud to say that these efforts would have cost thousands of dollars had they not been entirely donated.

We want to do more. We are working to connect one of East Haddam's parcels with a "four town" trail, which would

eventually offer the opportunity to hike from East Lyme, through Lyme and East Haddam, all the way to Colchester. We have more trail possibilities too.

Projects like these only happen with volunteer help. We sponsor work parties twice monthly on Saturday afternoons where folks of all ages and skills can leave a mark on our town and get fresh air at the same time. Perhaps you have a few hours to share or maybe you need a change of pace from a desk job. Please email Sue Merrow at [amerrow@snet.net](mailto:amerrow@snet.net) if you would like to know how easy it is to get involved.

## Immediate Opening - Full Time Press Operator

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# Garden Club

## “Nature is Art - Art is Nature” Photography Contest

The East Haddam Garden Club is proud to be the sponsor of “Nature is Art - Art is Nature,” a photography contest for students at Nathan Hale-Ray High School. Shea Jezek of the EHGC worked with the art department at the school to develop guidelines. Photos were submitted from December 4 through January 16 and will be displayed on the monitor at the East Haddam Free Public Library. Members of the EHGC will select the top three winners. Watch for the announcement!

### Meteorologist Art Horn “A Hurricane Is Coming”

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.  
East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road,  
Moodus  
Sponsored by the East Haddam Garden Club - Open  
to the public - Free - Refreshments

Learn about the history of New England hurricanes and how they form. Art Horn is a meteorologist and

professor of meteorology, and was a TV weatherman for 25 years.

### Annual Plant and Bake Sale

Mark your calendars now! The popular annual Plant and Bake Sale of the EHGC will be Saturday, May 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the East Haddam Historical Society, 264 Town Street, East Haddam. The sale features plants from members’ gardens and treats from their kitchens. The annual Tag Sale of the EHHS will be held the same day! Don’t miss this event!

### About the EHGC...

The East Haddam Garden Club, founded more than 85 years ago, currently has 43 members; new members are always welcome. We enjoy hands-on civic planting projects, programs featuring knowledgeable speakers, visits to notable gardens, etc. Come sample a program or two and get to know us! For more information, contact Betty Gross, 860-873-8732.

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# Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group, Inc. (MRPG)

## Spring 2015 Treatment

Moodus Reservoir is home to our town beach and two state boat launches. The lake is being overrun with invasive aquatic plants. Our water monitoring of turbidity (lack of clarity) over the past summer found the water clearer than past years. However, we have observed more invasive and native plant presence, much of it nearer to the surface.

MRPG was recently awarded a grant from the Connecticut DEEP, which, along with Town budgeted funds and donations received, will allow proceeding with a pilot treatment in the Spring of 2015 to control invasive aquatic plants. The pilot will cover treatment of 25 acres of the 566 total acres and will test its effectiveness to assure that we should proceed with full lake treatment. All treatment involves state and federal approved herbicides applied by licensed contractors and will be monitored by the state DEEP.

Full treatment is an eight year plan costing a total of \$235,000. We can only move forward with a full lake treatment if we have continued grant funding and increased contributions and membership dues. MRPG is a 501c3 corporation; thus donations and membership dues are tax deductible by donors.

Annual dues for July, 2014 to June 2015 are \$25 per household. Dues and donation checks payable to "MRPG" may be sent to T. Varriale, Treasurer, MRPG, Inc., 76 Falls Bashan Rd, Moodus 06469; indicate on the check memo "dues" or "Treatment".

To become involved, contact Jeff King, MRPG President at 860-873-1957. Information inquiries may be sent to Moodus.Reservoir@gmail.com. See us on FaceBook at "Moodus Reservoir".

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# Local Prevention Council



During the winter and spring of 2015 the East Haddam Local Prevention Council will continue their efforts to engage community members in establishing a community where all children, youth and families feel connected, respected and valued. Our desire is that all sectors of the community are enlisted to support, nurture and provide for the well-being of all its citizens.

On January 14, 2014 the Local Prevention Council hosted a community forum regarding marijuana. Local experts were present to discuss multiple issues surrounding the topic of marijuana. Dr. Alicia Farrell, a cognitive psychologist, discussed how marijuana impacts the developing adolescent brain. Dr. Robert Powers, former states toxicologist, presented information in relation to the changing THC levels of CT marijuana and the dangers of synthetic marijuana. Francis Carino, supervisory assistant state's attorney, discussed the legal issues and consequences of marijuana use by our youth. The local prevention council will continue the conversation around marijuana and will continue to engage and educate the community on issues that concern our community and youth.

In 2015 the local prevention council will continue to host our monthly "Coffee-Talk- What's Brewing?" This event provides an opportunity to speak with neighbors in your community to help each other build strong, safe and substance free youth in East Haddam. First Cup of Coffee is on us! Come, listen, discuss among yourselves at this informal get together. Our coffee hour is held at Two Wrasslin Cats every second Tuesday of the month from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Please join us to warm up and share ideas to grow a healthier community.

In early spring the council will host an event to share the results of the 2014 Search Institute's "Profiles of Student Life" survey that was administered to students grades 7th through 12th. The results of this survey will assist in educating the community in regard to risk taking behaviors youth are engaging in, as well as supports youth who may or may not be receiving from community members.

If you are interested in learning more about the East Haddam Local Prevention Council please visit us online at [www.ehlpc.org](http://www.ehlpc.org), like us on Facebook, or call us at 860-873-3296.

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# MPAC (Middle School Principal's Advisory Committee) News



First Day Celebration



Walkathon

MPAC helps provide cultural enrichment and social events for our students. We organize afterschool programs and a number of fun events throughout the school year. Beginning with the 12th Annual First Day Celebration on Sept. 2. This national movement involves families, community members, school staff and students to participate in a fun event to kick off the school year. The middle school's main fundraiser, Walkathon, occurred on Oct. 31, and was organized by Tammy Spurgeon. About \$8,000 was raised to help offset student activities such as field trips and supplies. Students were encouraged to show their school spirit while taking laps around the school with their classmates and teachers. With the Fall Book Fair proceeds, we were able to donate \$3,500 in books to the school. Thank you to chairperson Kim Caminati and all her volunteers! There were over 35 student acts in The Variety Show that took place on Nov. 7 and 8. Many thanks to the directors, Lara Sullivan and Ellie

Muckenhirn, and the numerous MPAC volunteers, especially Trish Tarnowski, who sold tickets, flowers and concessions. Most importantly to all the student performers who worked so hard - Bravo! Over 100 6th-8th grade students attended the first St. Stephen's Dance - thank you to Janet Kelly and her dance committee. The first 4th and 5th grade Ice Cream Social was a huge success with over 70 students attending - special thanks to Trish. Additionally, thanks to Monique and John Kananowicz for heading up the Running Club for over thirty 4th and 5th graders. Lastly, the school store is open every Friday during lunch waves. Laura Wieleba has water bottles, school supplies, clothes, and of course bow ties!

We invite you to attend our monthly meetings, generally on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the library. We provide parents with a forum to address school issues and meet with the school administration and staff.

## Rotary Club

It is with sadness that the East Haddam Rotary Club announces that it is going to cease being a Rotary Club in East Haddam effective June 30, 2015. There has been dwindling membership over the past decade and it is becoming increasingly difficult to carry on as we should.

In June of 1945 the Rotary Club of East Haddam was chartered. That represents

seventy (70) years of service above self in East Haddam. For many years the Rotary Club thrived. Parenting the Colchester Rotary Club, and establishing a subsidiary entity, East Haddam Scholarships Inc.

The administrative management of two distinct organizations by our small group has facilitated discussions about the longevity of Rotary for quite some time.

Going forward, we will be focusing our efforts on the services we provide through East Haddam Scholarships, Inc.

We want to thank the residents of East Haddam that have been supportive of our efforts throughout the years. Any funds remaining in the Rotary accounts will be transferred to East Haddam Scholarships Inc. effective June 30, 2015.



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# Community Lions

Annual April Fools 5K Walk/Run & 1/2 Marathon Race, April 4, 10:00 a.m. at the East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus. New for 2015! Half Marathon replaces the 10.5 mile race and begins at 10:00 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. This annual race draws runners from Connecticut and beyond! Register online at [www.ehcl.org](http://www.ehcl.org) or [ehclrace@yahoo.com](mailto:ehclrace@yahoo.com). Registration for 1/2 Marathon is \$45 and for 5K is \$25. The first 100 to register get a free race T-shirt.

Annual English Tea Party will be held in early May at St. Stephen's Church. More info to come!

The East Haddam Community Lions held our 'Light Up The Holidays' auction and cocktail party fundraiser on December 5 at the Rathbun Library. Many individuals/groups donated a decorated holiday tree, wreath, exhibit or gift for auction. There were over 50 items! Through your contributions and support we raised over \$2,300! This money will be equally divided among the Fuel Bank,

Food Bank and Youth & Family Services. Thank you again for another successful event!

We are proud to welcome two new members to our ranks: Betsey Barney and Elizabeth Galvin, both of Moodus. Our Lion family now numbers 56 women and men from Moodus-East Haddam to Colchester, Old Lyme, Deep River, East Hampton and Niantic. To meet the ever changing needs, both at home and overseas, the focus of clubs and membership also needs to change to meet new challenges. EHCL is a shining example; unlike other clubs and organizations that are losing members, we continue to grow, and more importantly, retain our members; we are encouraging and utilizing our member's diversity, supporting new ideas while embracing the traditions of Lionism.

For information on events, dates and much more, check out our website at [www.ehcl.org](http://www.ehcl.org) and 'Like' us on Facebook!

## Influenza Information

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

### Signs and symptoms of flu

People who have the flu often feel some or all of these signs and symptoms: Fever\* or feeling feverish/chills, Cough, Sore throat, Runny or stuffy nose, Muscle or body aches, Headaches, Fatigue (very tired), Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

\*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

### How flu spreads

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or possibly their nose.

### Period of contagiousness

You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

### How serious is the flu?

Flu is unpredictable and how severe it is can vary widely from one season to the next depending on many things, including: what flu viruses are spreading, how much flu vaccine is available, when vaccine is available, how many people get vaccinated, and how well the flu vaccine is matched to flu viruses that are causing illness.

Certain people are at greater risk for serious complications if they get the flu. This includes older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions([http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high\\_risk.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/high_risk.htm)) (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease).

### Complications of flu

Complications of flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

### When to get vaccinated against season flu

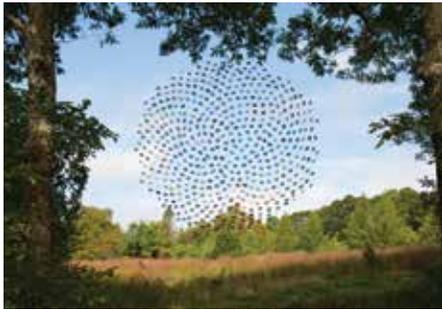
Yearly flu vaccination should begin soon after flu vaccine is available, and ideally by October. However, getting vaccinated even later can be protective, as long as flu viruses are circulating. While seasonal influenza outbreaks can happen as early as October, most of the time influenza activity peaks in January or later. Since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against influenza virus infection, it is best that people get vaccinated so they are protected before influenza begins spreading in their community.

[www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov)

# The I-Park Foundation Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant



The Journey by Tim Norris  
Photo Credit: Caryn B. Davis



Clytia by Tatiana Ferahian  
Photo Credit: Caryn B. Davis

The grant will support a 2015 residency and exhibition that will feature site-specific, ephemeral art in the landscape.

East Haddam, CT, December 15 - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced on December 2 that I-Park was selected to receive an NEA Art Works grant. In the Artists' Communities category, I-Park was one of only 32 to receive this prestigious award, a \$10,000 grant to support its 2015 Environmental Art Residency and Public Exhibition. Planned for September, I-Park's Environmental Art Biennale, fifth in the series, will be titled "Ephemeral Art in the Landscape." A multi-disciplinary jury and curatorial panel will choose the 10 - 12 artists, or collaborating teams, who will create their installations during the 3-week residency. The public is invited to meet the artists during the opening exhibition on September 19.

NEA Chairman Jane Chu says, "I am pleased to share the news of our support through the NEA Artworks including the award to

I-Park. The arts foster value, connection, creativity and innovation for the American people and these recommended grants demonstrate these attributes and affirm that the arts are part of our everyday lives."

I-Park's founder and board chairman, Ralph Crispino, Jr., says, "We are very gratified to receive this important award by the NEA. We consider it an important milestone in our evolution within the not-for-profit world. The NEA grant, along with State of Connecticut, individual, foundation and corporate support will allow us to continue providing impactful, fully-funded artists' residency experiences, across a broad range of creative disciplines, in an intimate, collegial atmosphere. We invite the public to attend one or more of our many events at I-Park this year. The work that's being created here is truly exceptional!"

About I-Park: Established in 2001, I-Park's mission is to nurture individual artists as well as the process of artistic creation itself. Located on an expansive nature preserve bordering the Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, Connecticut, I-Park is both an open-air and a closed-studio laboratory for creative pursuits. For 14 years, I-Park has advanced its mission through its artists-in-residence program and the aesthetic engagement of its natural and built environments. It also designs and sponsors specially-themed exhibitions and symposia for the purpose of moving ideas of great cultural significance out of the studio setting and bringing them to life in the public domain. For more information, please visit [www.i-park.org](http://www.i-park.org).

Art Works grants support the creation of art, public engagement with art, lifelong learning in the arts and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. The NEA received 1,474 eligible applications under the Art Works category requesting more than \$75 million in funding. Of those applications, 919 were recommended for grants for

a total of \$26.6 million.

For a complete list of the projects recommended for the Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov). Follow the conversation about this and other NEA-funded projects on Twitter at #NEAFall2014.

## I-Park Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 30  
Friends and Supporters Appreciation Gathering  
\*invitation event

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Fellows' Residency Open Studios

Saturday, May 23  
Spring volunteers Day  
Spring Illuminations at I-Park



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## Land Trust Offers Winter Recreation



Evidence of beaver activity along the white trail in EHLT's Sheepskin Hollow Preserve.



Sheepskin Hollow Preserve pond, as viewed from the white trail.

Winter is perfect for discovering interesting features found in East Haddam Land Trust preserves. Glacial rock formations, stone walls, and tree trunk textures are highlighted against beds of leaves or crisp snow cover. During colder months EHLT schedules many outdoor activities.

Stewardship work parties - 9:00 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday - teach trail creation, marking, and maintenance. There's ample work for all abilities, from light pruning and clean-up to more strenuous trail building and tree work. Mark February 21, March 21, April 18, and May 16 as EHLT Stewardship mornings on your 2015 calendar.

EHLT's "Last Sunday" easy-to-moderate-exertion hikes show off the winter beauty of local landscapes. Identify trees, learn about glacial formations, and note wildlife activity during each 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. hike on February 22, March 29, April 26, and May 31, 2015.

Celebrate spring at EHLT's Annual Kite Fly the first Saturday in May. Plan for this great family event on May 2, 2015.

To receive details of these events complete the email notification form in the Manage Your Subscriptions sidebar at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org). On Facebook, search East Haddam Land Trust and check the Like and Follow tabs to receive updates to your news feed - even non-users can access this page by searching East Haddam Land Trust, Facebook in your Internet search engine.

EHLT hikes, Stewardship events, and EHLT Preserve trails are open to everyone. If you cannot get to a scheduled event, don't miss the chance to hike an EHLT trail on your own. Learn more at the Preserves sidebar at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org).

And ... while visiting [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org) consider making a donation to support East Haddam Land Trust's continuing preservation of East Haddam's natural spaces.

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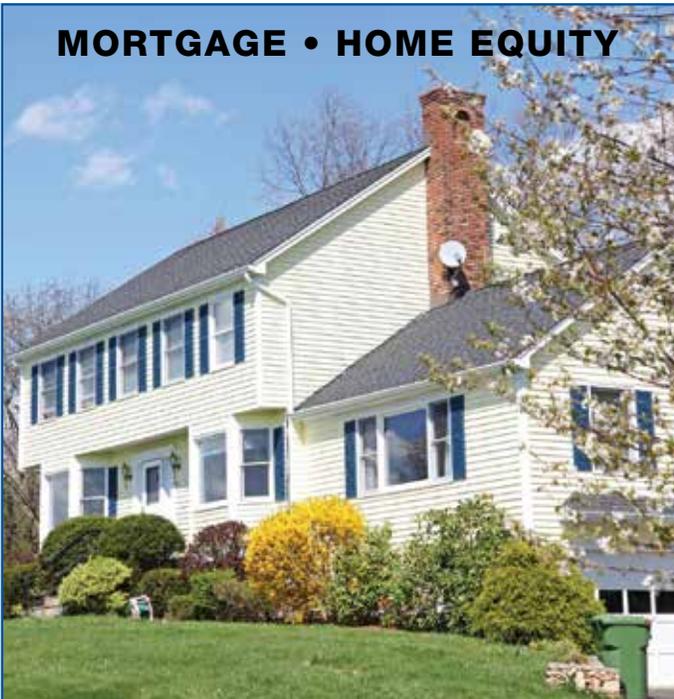


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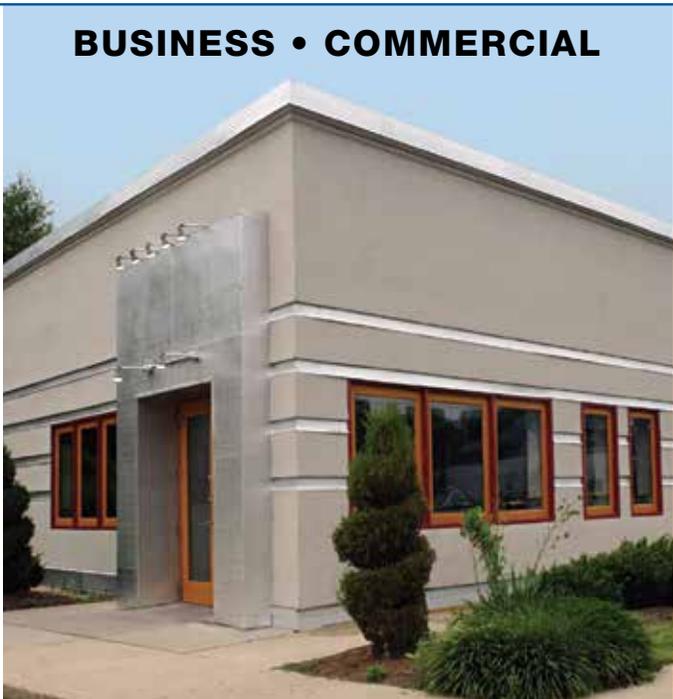
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