

East Haddam Events



www.eventsmagazines.com

Volume 5 • Quarter 2 • 2012

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and more!

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TECHNOLOGY WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

First Selectman's Corner

What a great community we live in. We have so much to be proud of!

Education Accomplishments - East Haddam Elementary School was recognized as first in improvement within the top ten schools in Connecticut. This recognition came from ConnCAN's (Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now) list of 160 public schools. For two years, our elementary school's Connecticut Mastery Test results have greatly improved; performance results increased over last year's scores in math and writing as third grade students demonstrated at or above goal achievement for mathematics (82.1%) and writing (86.6%). Reading (75.8%) scores were at or above goal for achievement as well.

Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School took two FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition for Science and Technology) Lego Robotic teams to the Regional Competition and was awarded two trophies! Robotics team competition involves students creating a robot and mastering computer programming in order to maneuver a robot around a pre-determined field. The East Haddam Custom Robos Team received a trophy for the best overall research project. The East Haddam NXTremes Team won the Champions Award for the entire competition.

Nathan Hale-Ray High School's 11th grade class excelled on the 2011 CAPT (Connecticut Academic



Performance Test); with 30% of the total 11th grade class scoring at or above goal on all four portions of the CAPT. Out of the 88 students enrolled in the Senior Class 85% are attending college, university or trade Schools and 9% are pursuing the military or the trades.

We can all be very proud of the accomplishments being made by our students and our school district!

Dedicated Citizen Volunteers - We are also very proud of the many citizens that commit their time (and funds) to make special things happen in our town. Please reach out and thank Brian Barzee as an example of this commitment.

Continued on page 3

Center Podiatry Foot Pain Specialists



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Sunday, May 13th, 2012
Seatings at 11:00am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm & 2:30pm

Adults \$39.00
Seniors (65 and older) \$29.00
Children 4-13 \$18.00

Children 3 and under free. Tax and gratuities additional.

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For those suffering from Alzheimer's and other memory-related disorders, life should still be as fulfilling and active as possible. That is why The Saybrook at Haddam created Safe Harbor, a new specialized memory care neighborhood, located within our gracious assisted and retirement living community. Our compassionate and professional staff works tirelessly to give you peace of mind knowing your loved one is getting the care they need and the respect they deserve.

For a personal tour of Safe Harbor, call The Saybrook at Haddam today at 860-345-3779.

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The Saybrook
HADDAM

A Memory Care Neighborhood
1666 Saybrook Road, Haddam, CT

www.thesaybrookathaddam.com

Volunteer of the Month

Please join us in congratulating our most recent volunteers of the month: Janet Soboleski, Monica Pitney, Priscilla Hoover and Kenneth Grohbrugge. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so in a letter to the First Selectman.

Volunteer Reception / Thank you

The Annual Volunteer of the Month Reception will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 12:00 noon at the American Legion. This year the Town's Volunteer reception will be combined with the Emergency Services Volunteer Reception. Those volunteers named during the past year will be honored at this event as well as all those that assisted Emergency Management over the past year. Past honorees and the community are welcome to attend. Lunch will be served.

Please RSVP by April 15th to Linda Zemienieski at 860-873-5020 or admin@easthaddam.org or Jennifer Spencer at 860-209-7709 or spencer_jennifer@sbcglobal.com.

**Middlesex
County
Camp**

Open House
April 22 and May 6
2 - 4 p.m.

CAMP AGES 7-15

**298 East Haddam-Moodus Road
(Route 149)
Moodus, CT 06469**

middlesexcountycamp.org

First Selectman ... continued from page 1

Brian offered to fix the Girls Softball Score board and actually purchased and installed a new one at the elementary school. We have many citizen volunteers like Brian that make the East Haddam community vibrant and alive. We love to hear about these acts of dedication to our community. Please keep these special stories coming to the town office so we can share with you the great works of our citizens.

Town Budget Update - The annual Town budget is well underway. Each year the budget is carefully reviewed by the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance to ensure that we are fulfilling our responsibility of providing a quality education for our children, public safety for all citizens as well as continued improvement of the Town's infrastructure. The budget as proposed accomplishes that. Some highlights of the proposed budget are:

- Full-time Police Officer
- Investment of \$1.7 million for maintenance and improvements to town roads, school and town buildings and town properties.
- All-day Kindergarten
- Increased funding for the Senior Center for greater services and building maintenance.

Friends of East Haddam's Lakes

Become trained as a Launch Monitor formerly known as Invasive Investigator, to protect Bashan, Hayward and Moodus from more aquatic invasives. The DEEP will train volunteers from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 5th at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club. There is no fee. You will be given an official yellow t-shirt identifying you as a volunteer interacting with day boaters and fisherman providing education about invasive plants and tips to clean your boat before and after visits to lakes. An opportunity to become a paid Launch Monitor from 6 - 10 a.m. on weekends and holidays is possible. Please contact Bruce Fletcher at 860-229-8321 or 860-873-9978 for details and questions. The required refresher course will be given simultaneously.

Get your septic tank pumped soon.

If you "must" fertilize your lawn, please choose a phosphorus free fertilizer. Established lawns don't need extra phosphorus which too often runs off into ponds, lakes, rivers and eventually Long Island Sound. This nutrient phosphorus acts as a fertilizer for algae and aquatic vegetation which degrade our precious lakes. Encourage your state representatives and senators to vote in favor of S.B. 254 - An Act Restricting The Application Of Fertilizer That Contain Phosphate (The Roraback and Chapin bill).

Take the LakeSmart Home Pledge and get two handsome plaques. Contact ctlakes.org.

- Funding for the Agriculture Commission to preserve, protect and promote agricultural economic development.
- Greater financial support for the two libraries. We continue to review how the Town structures its services to make them more efficient and cost effective.

Some examples are:

- Sharing job positions with other Towns
 - Cross-training of positions to save on labor costs through attrition
 - Regionalized animal control to increase the professionalism and coverage
 - Schedule changes for our paid firefighters to increase public safety
 - Digitizing of Town records for greater citizen access
 - Increased police patrols for public safety
- Please watch your mail for information on the public hearing, town meeting and referendum dates.

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman

TAG SALE

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main Street, will be holding its annual Tag Sale on Saturday, April 28th, from 8-3 p.m. Come and browse.



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Check out our website: www.newimagesalon.org

Basket Bash

The East Haddam Elementary School PTO is proud to announce that the 12th Annual "Basket Bash" fundraiser will be held on Friday, April 27 from 6-9:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Gymnasium. Basket Bash is our school's biggest fundraiser. Students, faculty and members of the community create baskets based on a chosen theme. The baskets are raffled off the evening of the event. There will also be a grand prize raffle, 50/50 raffle and silent auction.

All members of the community are welcome; you do not need to be present to win a basket or grand prize raffle. However, it is an exciting evening for all who attend.

All proceeds benefit our school's cultural arts program. This program enables us to host educational events for our children. Programs scheduled for this school year include Farmer Jason, Mad Science, Living Abe Lincoln, Project Oceanography and many more.

Number One Dog Tag Contest

To enter, please submit a 4 x 6 photo* of your dog, along with the following information by May 18th:

1. Owner's name, address, phone number, and email address.

2. Pet's name, age, and breed.

Submit entry to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box K, 7 Main Street, East Haddam, CT 06423. Photos will be compiled and forwarded to the Nathan Hale Ray Middle School for voting.

The contest is designed to promote the importance of licensing your dog. 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

tags; license fees will be paid by the Town Clerk's Office.

**Photo will not be returned, so please retain a copy if it's a favorite photo.*

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are renewable each year in the month of June. Licenses are required for every dog over 6 months of age. The cost for a dog license is \$8.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$19.00 for a dog that has not been altered. Current law assesses a \$1.00 late penalty per month. In addition to it being the law, a license serves as a ticket home should your pet be lost.

Reminder notices will be mailed to those who licensed dogs the previous year. If sending in your payment via the mail, please include any updated paperwork; it will be returned to you with the license.

If you have any questions regarding licensing your dog, please contact: Deb Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk at 860-873-5027 or Mike Olzacki, East Haddam Animal Control Officer 860-873-5044. Thank you.

License #1 and #2 will be reserved for the winner and runner up chosen by the students at the Nathan Hale Ray Middle School.

Animal Control News

What's New? ...The dog pound renovations are complete, and it looks great. We added more runs, lights and a host of greatly needed repairs to bring the pound up to 2012 standards. Thanks to the contractors that worked on the project and the support from the towns people, we have a clean, safe and presentable pound that East Haddam can be proud of. Please stop by.

Mountain Lion - This past year I have not only seen it, but have had numerous reports of a mountain lion in our area. I would like to hear of your sightings. Please contact: Mike Olzacki, Animal Control Officer at 860-790-0574.

Continued on next page

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- Plantar Fasciitis

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Office Hours: Tues. 1:30 - 6:00; Friday 9:00 - 5:00

East Haddam Green Committee

Food Bank Garden - The Food Bank Garden is in its fourth season! Since 2009, it has provided 300 lbs of organically grown produce, all donated to the East Haddam Food Bank. Last year the 34' x 28' garden grew beans, carrots, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, spinach, and squash. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success - Nancy Pincus, Ted Stumm, Daisy Scouts, Ray of Light Farm, Ballek's Garden Center, the Rockfall Foundation, and many others! The garden is a community effort and volunteers are always needed to help plant and maintain it. Contact Nancy Pincus at 860-873-9171 or email us at easthaddamgreencommittee@gmail.com if you can help.

Local is a "Green" Choice - Can you be "Green" without driving a hybrid car, or powering your home with solar energy? Yes! Small changes make a big difference in your carbon footprint. One of the most important things you can do is to eat food that's in season and produced locally. Food grown in your town, state, within 100 miles... it's all "local". Consider the distance your food travels to get to you. If you live in the northeast, food grown in Florida or California isn't local, but it's better than food from Chile or Mexico. Additionally, food grown outside the US may be sprayed with pesticides banned here, but legal there. Then those foods are imported and sold here. Check the country of origin on the food you buy, especially fresh out-of-

season produce. Do you really want strawberries from Mexico, orange juice from Brazil, or frozen fish from China? Go to www.localharvest.org and enter your zip code for a list of local food sources.

The Green Committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at the River House (behind Town Hall). All meetings are open to the public. Contact Town Hall or email the Green Committee at easthaddamgreencommittee@gmail.com if you are interested, or to receive our newsletter.

Animal Control ... continued from previous page

Rabies Clinic - For the first time in the town of East Haddam, a low-cost Rabies Clinic will be held. The Clinic will be open to all people, whether you live in town or not. We welcome all. Dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, please! The Clinic will be held on Saturday, April 28, at the East Haddam Town Hall (across from the Goodspeed Opera House) from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$20.00. New pets or a pet with an expired vaccination record will be given a 1 year shot. Pets with a rabies certificate (not expired) will be given a 3 year shot.

*Michael Olzacki and Jeff McLean
Animal Control Department*

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Events

MAGAZINES



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dba **Essex Printing & Events Magazines**

18 Industrial Park Road, P.O.Box 205
Centerbrook, CT 06409
860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259
www.essexprinting.com

Publisher
William E. McMinn

CFO / Manager
Suzanne Spires

Editor / Art Director
Kathy Alsop
kathy.events@comcast.net
860-391-4372

Advertising Sales
Ward Feirer
wfeirer@gmail.com
914-806-5500

Betty Martelle
betty@eventsmagazines.com
860-333-7117

Magazine Layout
Amy Bransfield

Cover photo by
Mark Yuknat
Early spring on Selden's Creek

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From the Assessor

I would like all residents to be aware that the Assessor's Office will begin accepting applications for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters Rebate Program on May 15, 2012. Applicant's total income must not exceed \$32,300 for a single person, \$39,500 for a couple (joint income), including Social Security and Medicare. Applicants must be 65 or older or totally disabled and bring all income, rent, and utility information from 2011. The deadline for filing is September 14, 2012.

In addition, the deadline for filing for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners Program is May 15, 2012. Qualifying income and age requirements for the Homeowners Program and Additional Veterans Benefits is the same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters Rebate Program. It should be noted that the town of East Haddam has adopted by local option an additional tax credit to homeowners 65 and older whose income does not exceed \$50,000 (including Social Security). Applicants must bring proof of income including Social Security for 2011. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted until October 1, 2012.

As the Tax Collector's Office prepares the July tax bills, those residents whose motor vehicles have been sold, stolen, totaled, or who have moved out-of-state may be eligible for a pro-ration of their car taxes. Two forms of proof are necessary to pro-rate or remove a vehicle from the grand list. Residents must bring a copy of the plate receipt issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles at the time of cancellation of registration, and a copy of one of the following; bill of sale, transfer of title, receipt from junkyard, notification of total loss, trade-in papers, or some other document showing the date on which the vehicle was disposed.

The Assessor's office has its own web page on the town website. Included is information on real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle assessments; property tax relief for seniors, veterans, and the disabled; renters' rebate; information on revaluation; access to applications and forms pertaining to the Assessor's office.

Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade will step off at 10 a.m. from the old Middle School parking lot on Monday, May 28. All community groups are encouraged to join the parade.

If you have any questions, please call the Selectman's Office at 860-873-5020.

If you aren't a marcher, please join us on the sidelines. It is a great community event!

EDC to Create Farmers' Market

Many of us living in East Haddam have long wondered why our town has not sponsored a vibrant and expansive Farmers' Market during our bucolic summer months. This is about to change. At the direction of Ed Odell, Chairman of the town's Economic Development Commission, an East Haddam Farmers' Market Committee has been formed under the leadership of Pamela Rubenbauer, an EDC Commissioner. Upon accepting this assignment, Pamela stated, "When I signed on to the EDC, I agreed to work on whatever projects were economically feasible and beneficial to the town of East Haddam. If I couldn't make a sincere and significant contribution, I would not take on a project. The Farmers' Market is one I believe will succeed, and therefore, I champion this effort."

Assisting Pamela on this committee are Gerry Rucker and Fred Weissbach, fellow EDC members, as well as Dennie Burak and Peter Dean of the Agriculture Commission, Linda Stuhlman and Marianne Halpin, who have been involved with the Saturday morning Farmers' Market at the Rathbun Library, and Jeff and Jason Savitsky, who were instrumental in starting the Colchester Farmers' Market three years ago.

Upon joining the committee, Linda Stuhlman shared these thoughts: "Having participated in the Rathbun Farmers' Market, I learned there is a need for a larger market with ample offerings to serve the residents of East Haddam and neighboring towns. People often state that they love the atmosphere of an old country town. Living in such a town is a privilege and the beauty is never ending. One thing that has been missing in East Haddam is a Farmers' Market that appeals to a wide array of people with various interests. A good size Farmers' Market would offer everything from vegetables and fruits to livestock. It's an opportunity for families and youth to participate. Connecticut has many Farmers' Markets, and it is exciting to look forward to East Haddam coordinating such a great community event."

Dennie Burak offered these perspectives: "Being an East Haddam farmer myself, and sitting on several state farming committees, my goal is to see farmers connect with the local public through a Farmers' Market. It is very important to me to foster and protect agriculture in our town as well as throughout Connecticut."

And here is what Jeff Savitsky has to say: "With the local food movement taking off, we figured it would be a good time to get involved. First, we started with a farm stand at my parents' house, then at our farm at Lake Hayward, expanding each year.

Fred Weissbach has briefed Mark Walter, East Haddam's First Selectman, about the Committee's intention to start a Farmers' Market this summer. Mark enthusiastically endorses the project and believes that the grounds around the Grange Hall will be a good location for the Farmers' Market. Pete Govert, a former Selectman, and Weissbach's colleague at Franklin Academy, is delighted that the EDC is providing

strong leadership. He thinks that a Farmers' Market will have wide appeal as "it is an initiative that everyone can support." We hope that you will agree with Mark and Pete.

Here are the important details. The East Haddam Farmers' Market will begin operation this summer. It will be held every Wednesday, June 20 to October 17, from 4 to 7 pm at the Grange. The one exception will be during the week of July 9 when the Lions Club is preparing for its annual auction at the Grange; therefore, we will not hold a market on July 11. If you are interested in becoming a vendor at the East Haddam Farmers' Market, please contact Jeff Savitsky, who will be serving as our Market Master. You can reach Jeff at easthaddamfarmersmarket@gmail.com

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

Friday, April 6 – Good Friday
Monday, May 28, Memorial Day
Wednesday, July 4 - Independence Day

Regular hours will resume on the next business day.

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Friends of East Haddam Free Public Library

The Friends of EHFPL want to thank everyone who participated in their donation drive. Thanks to your generosity we have raised over \$2,000 for the library. These funds help support EHFPL's collection and community programming.

Here is just a sampling of how you have helped your community:

- Expanded the library's Large Print collection
- Purchased Nutmeg books for the youth and young adult collection
- Provided funds for recent blockbusters & bestsellers

- Funded Summer Reading Programs for Tots, Kids, Teens, and Adults (aka everyone)

Join the Friends and be a part of East Haddam history, as we help the library celebrate its 125th Anniversary next year. The next meeting is May 1 at 6:00 at the library, or the first Tuesday of every month. We are looking for volunteers to help run book sales, fundraisers, and volunteer efforts at EHFPL. Join us and be a Friend.

*Friends of East Haddam Free Public Library
18 Plains Rd, Moodus (860)873-8248*

Registrar of Voters

The Republican Presidential Primary will be held on April 24, 2012, at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Gymnasium. Persons who are registered Republicans may vote. The deadline has passed for people who are registered in another party (Democratic, Labor, Green, etc.) to change their affiliation for the purpose of voting in the Presidential Primary (the dead line for change, for the August primaries is May 14). However, unaffiliated registered voters (and in CT there is a difference between unaffiliated and independent, as Independent is a registered party) may enroll as a Republican up to noon on the Monday before the primary, April 23. The Registrars will hold a special enrollment period on Tuesday, April 10 at their office in the River House (last building on the right, before the Swing Bridge),

between 4 and 7 p.m. Persons who are citizens, and will be 18 years of age by November 6, 2012, and who are either unaffiliated voters, or not enrolled at all, may register at this time... although, as has been mentioned, unaffiliated voters may register as Republican up to noon on April 23.

High School voter registration occurred on Monday the 12th of March at Nathan Hale-Ray H.S. Students who will be 18 by November 6, 2012 may register at any time before the election, and are eligible to vote in the primaries of April 24 and August 14. The August 14 primary will determine the CT candidates for U. S. Senator, and Representative to Congress.

We are also looking forward to our annual Students in Government Day, on May 2.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding voter registration or elections, please feel free to call us at 860-873-5029, email to registrars@easthaddam.org, or stop by our office at the River House Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m., or Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m.

*East Haddam Registrars
Harriet Cummings, Laurie Alt,
Margaret Urban and Martha Hansen*

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Vital Statistics

Birth, Marriage, Civil Union 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 information and is not sufficient documentation to obtain a driver's license or passport. The short form is, however, sufficient documentation for kindergarten enrollment and little league.

Deb Denette, Town Clerk

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Early Years Are Learning Years

The East Haddam Early Childhood Council asks East Haddam to come together for children during the Week of the Young Child™ (April 22-28). As part of this national campaign, the Council is raising awareness that Early Years are Learning Years® for young children. All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life. Quality early experiences provide a strong early learning foundation to succeed in school and to succeed in life. Early childhood education is vital to our community and will bring lasting benefits to East Haddam. Week of the Young Child™ is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.

Make a difference in our community:

- Support early literacy. Read to a child. Early reading skills are crucial for young children to be ready for school.
- Reach out and thank parents, teachers, and all adults who help young children get a great start.
- Support policies at the local, state, and federal levels that provide high-quality early learning opportunities for all young children.



East Haddam Business & Visitor Info.

Attractions, Recreation, History

www.EastHaddam.org



Look on the Municipal Website

Business Directory—over 250 town businesses, browse general categories, website links

Community Calendar—find or suggest upcoming special events at town businesses

Municipal pages—Town Departments/Staff, Boards/Commissions, Agendas & Minutes



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East Haddam Garden Club News

Annual Plant Sale: New date and location - The popular annual plant sale of the East Haddam Garden Club will be Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to noon, at the East Haddam Grange Hall, 488 Town Street, East Haddam (a change of date, place and time from the many previous Memorial Day weekend sales). This sale features special plants from members' gardens. A bake sale of delectable baked goods from members' kitchens will also be featured. Both plants and treats sell out quickly!


Proceeds from this sale are used to fund the club's many civic projects, including the flower beds at Gillette Castle, plantings and year-round care at the Goodspeed Green, seasonal plantings at Shagbark triangle, sponsorship of programs for area seniors, Thanksgiving centerpieces for the East Haddam Food Bank, public events featuring gardening experts, and more. For information, call (860) 873-8732.

Civic Beautification Projects - As the weather warms in late spring, watch for the colorful creations of the EHGC at Goodspeed Green and Shagbark triangle. Also, don't forget to check out the flower beds at Gillette Castle, designed and planted by club members. Club member Anita Ballek is the "floral artist" who plans a new palette of annuals every year.

October Featured Speaker - Lorraine Calegari will present "Beyond Flower Pots" at a meeting of the EHGC on Wednesday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m. (preceded by a members-only business

meeting at 7 p.m.), at the East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus. Ms. Calegari will demonstrate interesting ways to alter, re-purpose and display old flower pots, watering cans, hoses and other garden paraphernalia. Her presentation also will include easy ways to preserve and display souvenirs and collectables. This program will be free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served, and information about garden club membership will be available.

The EHGC was established more than 80 years ago and currently has 43 members. New members are always welcome! For more information, contact Betty Gross, 860-873-8732.



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Rathbun Memorial Library

The Rathbun moves into Spring and Summer with a host of programs for everyone! Don't forget the Friends Annual Plant and Bake Sale coming up in May, as well as their annual Fridays @ 5:30 Speaker Series (dates tba) throughout the summer months.

The Rathbun continues to expand its offering of free ebooks and audiobooks via OverDrive, now totaling over 2,000 titles, including bestsellers, nonfiction and teen/kids books - a great way to get a reluctant reader to read! But remember: you need a Rathbun/LION library card to access this resource. Stop by and get your library card today!

The Children's Department continues its weekly storytimes for babies and toddlers (Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.), for preschoolers ages 3-5 (Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.) and the American Girl Club on the first Wednesdays of May and June (3:30-4:30 p.m.).

Then storytime sessions conclude the week of June 11th in preparation for the 2012 Summer Reading Program - "Dream Big Read!" - that begins the day school ends. Children entering Kindergarten to 4th Grade can participate. Read 20 minutes a day for a week and win weekly prizes, as well as earn tickets for the Grand Prize of a Dream Big Read T-shirt! Here's the line-up for events: June 26, 2 p.m.: "Flashes of Light" program by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (all ages); July 11, 2 p.m.: "Make a Sand Art Star Necklace!" (ages 5 and up); July 19, 11 a.m.: "Make a Star!" (all ages); and July 25, 3-4 p.m.: "Hoots and Owls" with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (all ages).

Please pre-register for these events to ensure plenty of supplies for all (860-873-8210).

Spring is Upon Us at Ray of Light Farm

This time of year brings images of daffodils and baby animals, both of which can be found at Ray of Light Farm. Recent events included our Spring Farm Clean-up on March

24th and 25th; local residents filled their trucks with aged manure just in time for spring planting. Also in March, we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt, one of our most popular community events for children of all ages.

Our riding programs continue to flourish. Under the direction of our new Head Instructor Cathy Languer and, our therapeutic riding program has expanded and we will form our very own Special Olympics team this year.

On the rescue front, there are several Premarin Foal Rescues still in need of homes. It costs between \$150-\$200 per month/per foal to provide food and supplies (this does not include veterinary care). If you are able to sponsor one of these foals, it would be a tremendous help. Any amount would be appreciated - one-time, monthly, quarterly. Donations can be made by mail or online via paypal on our website.

Upcoming Events

Basics in Training Camps ~ Ages 11 & up
April 10th & 17th (10 am - 3 pm)
July 16th - 20th (10 am - 3 pm)
August 6th - 10th (10 am - 3 pm)

Annual Silent Auction

September 29th SAVE THE DATE!

As always, we are grateful for your generosity and support. Please stop in for a visit ~ there are many faces, both old and new.

Ray of Light Farm, Inc., a 501(c) non-profit public charity
232 Town Street ~ East Haddam, CT ~ 860-873-1895
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JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S AUCTION

Saturday, July 14 at the Grange Hall, 488 Town Street, East Haddam.

Tag Sale begins at 8 a.m. / Auction begins at 10 a.m.

Donations are now being accepted.

10 new children's bicycles to be given away: one every 15 minutes, beginning at 10 a.m.

Thanks to the Estate of Paul Robertson for its generous donation, and thank you for your continued support!

Town of East Haddam

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

Administrative Office Building

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 860-873-5020 admin@easthaddam.org
 Linda Zemienieski, Administrative Assistant admin@easthaddam.org

Assessor's Office

Loreta Zdanyś, Assessor 860-873-5026 assessor@easthaddam.org
 Patty Veselak, Administrative Assistant

Building Department

Keith Darin, Building Official 860-873-5024 building.dept@easthaddam.org
 Carolyn Hart, Administrative Assistant

Chatham Health District

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

Finance Department

Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Administrator 860-873-5022 financeadmin@easthaddam.org
 Dawn Snow, Administrative Assistant 860-873-5020 finance@easthaddam.org
 Kathy Klinck, Treasurer 860-873-5022

Land Use Offices

Jim Ventres, Administrator 860-873-5031 admin.landuse@easthaddam.org
 Jim Puska, Zoning Enforcement Officer zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org
 Janet Lombardo, Administrative Assistant landuse@easthaddam.org

Tax Collector's Office

Denise Dill, Tax Collector 860-873-5033 taxcollector@easthaddam.org
 Sharon Kuhn, Assistant Tax Collector tax@easthaddam.org

Town Clerk's Office

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

Public Works Department

Fax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage - Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 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
 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 860-262-0347 edevcoordinator@easthaddam.org
 Craig Mansfield,
 Emergency Management Director 860-873-5103 ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org

Resident State Troopers

Jeff Rhoades and Ian Hawes 860-873-1226 police@easthaddam.org

Probate Court

Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate 860-295-6239
 Linda Neal, Clerk lneal@ctprobate.gov

Registrars of Voters

Holly Cummings & Laurie Alt 860-873-5029 registrars@easthaddam.org

Senior Services - 15 Great Hillwood Road

Joanne Rocznik, Municipal Agent 860-873-5034 seniors@easthaddam.org

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

Greetings from your New Economic Development Coordinator

It has been a very busy six weeks since I first started as the economic development coordinator - there is a lot happening in East Haddam! I'd like to use these articles to showcase various financial and technical assistance programs available to East Haddam businesses to help them grow and thrive in town. This first article will focus on two programs. The first is the town's own tax abatement program and the second will be the state's new express program. The tax abatement program's official name is the East Haddam Tax Incentive Program. In 2010 the Town of East Haddam created a Tax and Business Incentive Program to attract new businesses, promote the expansion of existing businesses and also to encourage the reuse of vacant commercial buildings. This is a good proactive move on the part of the town to offer incentives for business growth by reducing the local property tax liability for the qualifying business over a specific number of years. Businesses qualifying for abatement assistance include: 1) commercial office buildings; 2) retail buildings; 3) manufacturing; 5) warehouse and distribution; 6) information technology; 7) resorts and other tourist attractions; and 8) other business uses.

Program benefits provide a graduated abatement of property taxes for a period of up to seven years. The assessment of real property and all improvements to be constructed on the property for projects must be valued at not less than three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to qualify for this program.

The second program highlighted is the new Small Business Express Program administered by the state Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). During the October 2011 Special Session on the economy, the Connecticut General Assembly passed the Small Business Express Program to support the growth and development of small business. Eligible businesses need to have been established in Connecticut for at least 12-months, employing 50 or fewer people, and be in good standing with both local and state taxes. The program has three components; 1) a revolving loan fund; 2) a job creation incentive component; and 3) a matching grant component. The state has authorized \$100 million over two fiscal years to support small business through these programs. A brief summary of each program is below:

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Eligible Uses: Machinery & Equipment, Construction / Leasehold Improvements, Relocation expenses (in-state),

Continued on next page

Economic Development Coordinator ... continued from previous page

working capital, other.

Terms: 4% max rate, \$10k to \$100k can be borrowed for up to a 5-year term.

Job Creation Incentive Component (loans).

Eligible Uses: training, marketing, working capital.

Job Creation forgiveness for job maintenance of 12-months or more.

Terms: \$10k to \$250k can be borrowed at flexible terms.

Matching Grant Component

Eligible Uses: Training, Machinery & Equipment, Construction/Leasehold Improvements, Relocation expenses (in-state), working capital, other.

Grant size range from \$10k to \$100k.

Contact me for assistance to guide you in applying for these funds. Businesses can apply either directly to the DECD using the application material found on their website (<http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=3931&q=489792>), or by contacting Paul Hughes at the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission at 860-347-6924.

By Peter Simmons

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Lions Club Auction & Tag Sale

Join Kevin Hogan of WFSB Channel 3
 and the East Haddam Lions Club
 for the annual auction.

Donations wanted - cars, boats and RVs. For more than 50 years the East Haddam Lions have conducted a live auction in early July. This year the auction will be July 14 at 10 a.m., at the Grange Hall, 488 Town Street, East Haddam. Tag sale starts at 8 a.m. Donate your unwanted items of value now; tag sale items, boats, autos, pickup trucks, trailers and RVs. Free pickup by Lions members. 100% of proceeds benefit charity. Donations are tax deductible. 10 new children's bicycles to be given away: one every 20 minutes, beginning at 10 a.m. Classic BMW motorcycles to be auctioned off. Thanks to the Estate of Paul Robertson for its generous donation, and thank you for your continued support. Contact Joe Busher at (860) 873-2994 or at jmbusher@yahoo.com.

Attention Business Owners

2012 East Haddam Lions Phone Book

The East Haddam Lions are preparing their 11th annual town phone book with listings for East Haddam, Moodus, and sections of Hadlyme. The proceeds in excess of the cost of the book are returned to the town in the form of charitable donations, scholarships, Christmas food donations, vision testing, and many other important projects benefiting the community. All books are mailed to residents and businesses free of charge. If you would like to be included as an advertiser, please email Tim Curtis (ttcurtis42@gmail.com) for rates and other information.

Business Updates

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

Cassenti Academic Tutoring Services (CATS) offers academic tutoring and fun enrichment activities for all levels of students, from elementary school to high school and beyond, special needs to gifted and talented. Owner David Cassenti began his business in the summer of 2011 with 15 years of education and teaching experience at all levels, from preschool to college. He tutors in multiple subject areas, helping students learn how to learn, fitting the material to the student, rather than making the student fit the

Continued on next page

Business Updates ... continued from previous page

material. He specializes in services to families of special needs students, including social skills instruction, family assistance, advocacy at PPTs and support in understanding the special education needs of their children. CATS also offers SAT/ACT Prep tutoring and interesting enrichment activities in all subject areas. For more information, contact Mr. Cassenti at 860-759-8167 or dave@cats-inc.com.

Please visit the Business Directory on the homepage of the municipal website www.easthaddam.org for a complete listing of East Haddam businesses. Also, check the Community Calendar section for upcoming events at local businesses.

Contact the EDC at mrcdm@snet.net or P.O. Box K, East Haddam, to have your business listed here. Businesses, please ask us about our drawing for a FREE ad in the next East Haddam Events Magazine or listing on one of the Directory signboards.

Annual Car Raffle

The Rotary Club's Annual car raffle will be held on Monday, June 25th. Ticket sales will begin in mid to late May.

This year's raffle will again be held in the Beer Garden, on the lawn and inside the Gelston House Restaurant. The Gelston House is home to Rotary's regular meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m., with a meeting and/or program following at 7:00 p.m.

If you would like further information, please contact Rotary Club Secretary Deb Denette at 860-873-2284.

Annual Round Up

The First Church of Christ, Congregational at 499 Town Street will be hosting its annual Round Up on May 19, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. It's a tag sale, bake sale, silent auction, tea cup raffle, games, pony rides, face painting, a moon bounce and hot dogs & hamburgers for lunch. Come join us for fun or rent your own space. The spots are generous and cost \$25 per space. If you have "used but not abused" items that you could donate, or if you would like to rent a space please call Betsy Barney at 860-873-1489. It's a great family day!

Moodus Sportsmen's Club

Fishing Derby ~ May 6, 8 a.m. - noon

Shad Bake ~ June 24, noon - 3 p.m.

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East Haddam Historical Society



Some of the featured ceramics that are part of the Historical Society's renovated display/gift shop. George Drenga, the Museum's Director, supplies the expert advice.

The East Haddam Historical Society Museum has undergone major renovations. New doors and windows were donated by Shagbark Lumber and installed by Saltus Builders, who also completed the vinyl and aluminum siding and

the reconstruction of the deck and handicapped ramp.

Dave Andeen and Ed Raczka worked on the front drainage and concrete pad. Parker Painting and Restoration remodeled the large display/shop room. The First Selectman's Office and R. A. Parady & Sons made significant contributions.

The Museum's Directors thank all the companies and individuals for their help. We are creating a cleaner, more attractive, more educational museum as one piece of East Haddam as a tourist mecca. Visit and let us know what you think. Volunteer if you can by contacting George or Charlie.

There are plenty of new things to see. George Drenga revamped the Gift Shop. Laurie Alt filled one of the niches with all manner of beautiful ceramics. Alison Guinness curated a memorial to archeologist Anita Sherman. The Goodspeed Opera House has a new display, and there will be an additional surprise for visitors.

Seasonal Events:

5/9 - Franklin Academy students present their archival research, "Then and Now."

5/28 - Memorial Day. The Museum opens, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tours and refreshments.

6/13 - Nic Damuck - "Modeling-Trains, Planes, and Ships."

7/11 - Summer Potluck Picnic. 6 p.m. Cash wine and beer bar.

All events, unless otherwise noted, start at 7:30 p.m. in the front meeting room. Refreshments served. All ages welcome.

The Museum is on Route 82 between Staehly Tree Farm and Wolf's Den Campgrounds.

Regular hours are Memorial Day - Columbus Day, Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., other hours by appointment. 860-873-3944. museum@easthaddamhistory.org. Facebook - East Haddam Historical Society Museum. Donations and group tours welcomed, and the entire facility is available for rent.



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From the Tax Collector's Office

I would like to remind residents that tax bills for the 2011 Grand List will be mailed on June 30. If you owned real estate, personal property, or motor vehicles on October 1, 2011 and do not receive a bill, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at (860) 873-5033 or by e-mail taxcollector@easthaddam.org. Not receiving a bill does not invalidate the tax or the interest on that bill. If you purchased a house or property after October 1, 2011 and did not receive a bill for that property, please call the Tax Office to request a bill. You will be responsible for the tax on that property. If your taxes are escrowed through your mortgage, the tax bill will be sent directly to the mortgage holder, not to you. Motor vehicle bills are due in one payment on July 1, 2012. Payment must be received by August 1, 2012 to avoid interest. Real estate and personal property bills that total \$100.00 or more may be paid in two installments. The first payment is due on July 1, 2012 and is payable by August 1, 2012 without interest. The second payment is due on January 1, 2013 and must be paid by February 1, 2013 to avoid interest. You must save your bills for the January payment. No second bill will be sent. Payments may be made in person at the Town Office Building, 7 Main Street, East Haddam, CT. Town office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There is a secure lockbox in the front hallway for after-hours payments. Payments by mail should be sent to the Tax Collector, P.O. Box 376, East Haddam, CT 06423-0376. If a receipt is needed, the payment stub and check must be sent along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Payments postmarked after August 1, 2012 will be considered delinquent and subject to interest of 1.5% per month (18% per year) from the original due date of July 1, 2012. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 per tax bill will be charged. Taxpayers are responsible for maintaining their own income tax records. Please retain copies of all bills for that purpose. The Tax Office is for the collection of taxes only. Questions regarding assessments must be addressed to the Tax Assessor, Loreta Zdanys at (860) 873-5026 or by e-mail; asses-sor041@easthaddam.org.



On March 31st my assistant Sharon retired. Sharon has been the Assistant Tax Collector for 27 years. Sharon and her husband will now have more time to enjoy with their three grandchildren and their home in Maine. It was a pleasure working with Sharon the past 2 years.

Respectfully,
Denise Dill



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East Haddam Newcomers' Guide

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First Church of Christ Congregational	860-873-9084
Hadlyme Congregational Church	860-526-9628
My Father's House	860-873-1906
St. Bridget's of Kildare.....	860-873-8623
St. Stephen's Episcopal	860-873-9547
Moodus United Methodist	860-873-8491

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion	860-873-8042
Boy Scout Troop 22	860-873-1098
Cub Scouts Pack #28	860-873-1872
East Haddam Ambulance Assoc.	860-790-0575
East Haddam Community Lions Club	860-873-9282
East Haddam Lions Club.....	860-873-2822
East Haddam Democratic Town Committee ..	860-873-3787
East Haddam Education Foundation	www.eheducationfoundation.org
East Haddam Free Public Library.....	860-873-8248
East Haddam Garden Club	860-873-8732
East Haddam Lakes Association.....	860-537-6070
East Haddam Republican Town Committee....	860-873-9240
Friends of Gillette Castle State Park	860-526-2336 (434-2603 Judy)
Friends of Rathbun Library	860-873-8310
Rathbun Library	860-873-8210
Friends of East Haddam Public Library	860-873-8248
Hadlyme North School Society	PO. Box 328 Hadlyme CT 06439
Middlesex County Community Foundation	347-0025
Moodus Fife & Drum	860-873-8837
Rotary Club of East Haddam	860-873-2284
St. Bridget's of Kildare Knights of Columbus Council 9358	860-873-9663

EAST HADDAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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East Haddam Elementary	860-873-5076
Nathan Hale-Ray High School	860-873-5065
Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School.....	860-873-5081
Superintendent	860-873-5090

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

East Haddam Historical Society.....	860-873-3944
Nathan Hale School House.....	860-873-3399
Amasa Day House	860-873-8144

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Gillette Castle State Park	860-526-2336

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Moodus	860-873-8632
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Peter Charbonnier	860-526-1780

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Liberty Bank	29 W.F. Palmer Road

BUILDER

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CAMPS

Bushy Hill Nature Center	860-767-2148
Middlesex County Camp	middlesexcountycamp.org
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The Fish Sisters	860-873-1326
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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East Haddam Boot Camp Fitness	www.bootcampct.org
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East Haddam Lions Club.....	860-873-2994
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Red House Restaurant	RedHouseRestaurantCT.com
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East Haddam Parks and Recreation

Did you know that every month we email a newsletter with all of the Park and Recreation information and program updates? If you are interested in signing up for the newsletter, just go to <http://eepurl.com/jKq9f> and complete the form!

All of the recreation information is updated regularly on our website at www.easthaddam.org. This is the best place to find the most current program information. New programs are added all the time!

I would like to take this time to thank all of our volunteer basketball coaches. We had a fun year and we all learned more about the game of basketball! This year, our coaches were: Sarah and Megan Ryczek, Dan Soucier, Al Dadario, Chris and Suzy Minor, Mike Michalski, Bill Feeley, Matt Breton, Sean Conroy, Michele Larson, Jeremy Francese, Dan Carbo, Tammy Kulaga, Matt Calovis, Pete Dean, Pete Gowac, Dave Cabrera, Dean Delloiacono, Paul Zemienieski,

and Ron Isenberg. We are very lucky to have such awesome coaches, without their help and endless hours at practices and games we wouldn't be able to offer basketball to our youth!

The Skatepark development phase is complete and the building phase will begin in April (barring any late spring snow storms of course!). I will post pictures of the progress on the website. We can't wait to have a grand opening this spring! Details will follow as they become available!

Are you an artist, instructor, designer, creator, musician, writer or just an inspired community member who wants to share your craft? East Haddam Parks and Recreation has a place for you! We love to offer new programs, new ideas and events! Call Tiffany to discuss how we can work together to bring your passion to an East Haddam Park and Recreation program!

Master Gardener's Corner

One of the splendid enjoyments of living in a rural town is the ornamental topography of stunning fields, gracious forests, winding streets, and old New England homes. Even a quick errand to the store allows one to assess the scenery and breathtaking views adorning our roads. In contradiction to this beauty, one also finds tree-lined streets overwhelmed with massive Oriental Bittersweet vines clinging to beautiful mature trees, joined by Multiflora Rose and Japanese Barberry bushes offering entangled masses of thorny shrub. These types of unsightly and useless vegetation are three examples of Invasive Species.

The growth and spread of numerous varieties of invasive plants has become a serious problem in our town as well as throughout Connecticut. For example, The Bittersweet vine is a swift growing, strong vine that thrives on vertical growth, as it wraps and twists around the trunk and branches of any tree. One reason why we experienced such tree damage during recent storms is due to the choking effect of this destructive vine on every part of the tree, resulting in death of the branches and eventually, the entire tree.

Invasive species are not 'native' to our country. Many have originated from Asia and other continents. All invasive plants are destructive to our environment. They thrive and invade our properties and landscape while occupying the ground where native plants once flourished. This is a detriment to our extensive wildlife and healthy native vegetation that inhabits our land.

Prior to understanding how destructive these plants are to our property, waterway, wildlife and forest, not much was done to stop the spread. In recent years, education for the public has increased and property owners are taking notice.

Town officials are getting better educated and applying measures to eradicate these destructive species. We all need to be well-informed and have a part in stopping the destructive spread of invasive species. Just think, if all property owners cut the vines growing on their own trees, what a difference it would make to the plant life vigor of our town. A little input from all of us will result in restoration of natural flora and continued beauty for all to enjoy, now and in the future.

Please join Mark LaCasse, Master Wildlife Conservationist, and me for a "Walk and Talk on Invasive Species," on April 28th, 11:00 a.m. at the East Haddam Senior Center (rain date, April 29th). Lots of information will be available as we identify destructive plants and demonstrate easy ways to rid them from our properties. It's a family affair and all are welcome. An RSVP to: mclcoventry@aol.com helps us with preparation of handouts. For further information on Invasive Species, visit: www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg.

Farmers' Market Update: While East Haddam Agriculture Commission and Economic Development Commission plan for a future Farmers' Market, the Rathbun Library will continue holding its traditional Farmers' Market every Saturday morning starting in May. Please participate with your garden vegetables, crafts, or nick nack (tag sale) table. It's a fun community event for the whole family and a chance to meet new friends. Bring along your farm pet for viewing.

See you on April 28th at the East Haddam Senior Center.

*Linda Stuhlman
Certified Master Gardener*

5th Annual “Relay For Life” of East Haddam

The American Cancer Society’s “Relay For Life” is happening for its 5th year in East Haddam/Moodus! The Event will take place this year from Saturday, September 15th at 12 p.m. through Sunday, September 16th at 9 a.m. on the East Haddam Elementary School grounds. During this fundraising walk there will be a Survivor luncheon, bands, clowns, food, Luminary Ceremony, raffles, performances, games, themed laps, Relay For Life logowear sales and more!

All Teams, Participants, and Survivors are able to register on the website www.relayforlife.org/easthaddamct.

The Event’s Kick-Off will be held at The Gelston House in East Haddam on Tuesday, April 24th at 6 p.m. Anyone planning to attend “Relay For Life” this year, as well as those

looking for more information, should attend Kick-Off!

Upcoming Meetings are May 21st, June 13th, July 23rd, August 15th, September 5th and 10th. All meetings are held at the East Haddam Elementary School in Room 202. Each night the Planning Meeting starts at 6 p.m. with the Team Captains Meeting following at 7 p.m. Please come to lend a hand in any way you are able!

A new addition to “Relay For Life” this year will be a “Bark For Life” to raise awareness for the prevalence of cancer in dogs. It will be held on the Colchester Green on Saturday, July 7th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., with a rain date of July 14th.

Please direct questions and donations to Melissa Michalski at 860-873-2992 or melissamichalski@hotmail.com.

East Haddam Free Public Library

What’s going on? A little bit of everything at your friendly neighborhood library!

The East Haddam Free Public Library is the place to be this spring. In addition to having the latest and greatest books & movies, plus free computers & Wi-Fi and the cheapest photocopies, faxing, and printouts in town - EHFPL is offering up a plethora of programs. With an average of 5 programs every week, there’s something for everyone at EHFPL. Below are just a few of our offerings:

Story Time: Join Local Legend, Beth Schondorf, for fun & educational stories - then stick around for a related craft. Make memories at the Library every Wednesday from 10:30 -11:30 a.m.

Video Games for Kids: This is program is exactly what it sounds like. Kids in grades K-5 are invited to stop by EHFPL and play the game of the month (see blog for details). The Third Monday of Every Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Teen Write Club: EHFPL is making a book, and it wants YOU to write it! If you’re in 6 - 12th grade, stop by the library for fun writing exercises, and free pizza. The second

Thursday of Every month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Book Club: Stop by the library and pick up the book of the month. Enjoy a great, thought-provoking read, and join the club for a scintillating discussion! The first Wednesday of Every Month from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Turtle Time: Meet real live turtles! What’s the difference between a Turtle and a Tortoise? What do turtles eat for breakfast? Why did the turtle cross the road? Find out the answer to these questions and more on Friday, April 27 at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Bones & Pelts: What’s in Your Backyard: Join First Selectman, local celebrity and nature enthusiast, Mark Walter, for a fun look at all the wonderful wildlife treasures that can be found in East Haddam. Stop by EHFPL for a program sure to make fur fly, skulls roll, and bones rattle! Friday, May 18 at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Stop by <http://ehfpl.blogspot.com> and find out what else is going on. If you have an idea for an awesome event, tell your friendly neighborhood librarian! We love hearing from you.

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Senior News

The East Haddam Senior Center has a monthly newsletter which can be found at Ballek's, Shagbark, Liberty Bank, East Haddam Dental, East Haddam Family Practice, the Pharmacy, both libraries, the ice cream shop and of course at the Senior Center. If you would like it delivered the cost is \$5.00 per year for postage. Make the check payable to the Senior Club and mail it to P.O. Box 623, Moodus, Ct. 06469.

May 7th - 12:30 to 4:30 - AARP Safe Driving Class. The class is now only 4 hours long. Taking the class entitles you to a discount on your car insurance. The course is \$12 for AARP members (you must bring in your card) and \$14 for non-members. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.

June 1st - the 8th annual intergenerational picnic with the Straight from the Heart & Ag kids from the high school. This is a pot luck picnic so participants are asked to sign up to let us know what you will be bringing. This year we have hired some entertainment that should prove to be very interesting.

June 13th - the 15th Golden Anniversary Party for couples married 50 years or more. If you know someone who was married in 1962 or earlier please call us so they can be invited.

June 29th - our 6th tag sale. We welcome all useable items.

Board of Education Publishes Newsletter

In response to the many requests from parents and community members about the desire for more information about our schools, the East Haddam Board of Education formed a Communications Committee in November. The chair of the committee Deb Fiala, along with members Laurie Alt and Nancy Haslam, embraced the challenge of providing more opportunities for communication about important and interesting school information within the East Haddam community. With no dedicated local cable access channel and limited

coverage in major area print newspapers, the committee targeted readily available electronic and print media sources as the best places to start. With established support from the East Haddam Patch News and from Edline, the district's website, an idea was formed to publish a district-wide Board of Education Quarterly Newsletter. The first edition of the newsletter was released electronically and in hardcopy in February 2012 and contains valuable information about the district's Full Day Kindergarten proposal, the 2012-13 Budget, and Board of Education news highlights.

The second edition of the newsletter is scheduled for publication in April/May 2012. Interested readers can obtain a copy of the East Haddam Board of Education newsletter on our district website at www.easthaddamschools.org (click on Board of Education) or by stopping in at the Board of Education Offices at 26 Plains Road in Moodus.

Ellen Solek

East Haddam Superintendent of Schools

Third Intergenerational Ballroom Dance

Come and learn to dance like the stars on Saturday, May 5. Swing, Foxtrot, Waltz, and more!

Dance Class Instructor is from the Fred Astaire Studio of Glastonbury. Class at 7 p.m. and Dance at 8 p.m.

East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus, CT. Sponsored by the East Haddam Commission on Aging. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Senior Center, from members of the Commission on Aging, and at the door.

For More information call the Senior Center 860-873-5034, or Dr. John/Alexa Pagnani 860-537-6679.

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Safe Harbor Memory Care Neighborhood Opens



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

We designed the Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood to be a beautiful, open and engaging environment. Our common-area living room is very home-like with comfortable chairs and couches, a large television, games, and books. Residents enjoy family-style meals each day in our large, open dining area - which always has room for "one more." Both of these rooms are available for use anytime throughout the day for visits with family and friends, or enjoying our many social activities designed specifically for individuals with memory disorders. These areas overlook our outdoor walking garden and patio.

Each private or shared studio apartment is also light and open, featuring seating areas, a small kitchenette, and a spacious bathroom.

Entering Safe Harbor is like walking down the main street of a village. As you stroll along the path, you pass a park and café setting with table, chairs and striped awnings. You then pass a "neighbor's house" (which is a large mural of a lovely yellow house), and make your way to the beach and boardwalk (another mural). The doorways are decorated with wreaths. Additionally, our secure entries and exits blend into the surroundings.

The philosophy at Safe Harbor is that life is made up of many

little touches, events, and small happenings every day, and it is our job to use these little opportunities to create happy moments. Our team works closely with doctors and families to provide a personalized memory care plan for each resident - so they can be their best at every moment of the day.

We were able to show off Safe Harbor during a "preview" open house in December, when we invited professionals and the community to tour this newly completed specialized memory care neighborhood. Many guests told us the open spaces, inviting layout, and warm environment was ideal for anyone living with a memory-related disorder. You are welcome to schedule your own private tour by calling 860-345-3779.

Kathy Ryan, Executive Director, The Saybrook at Haddam

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



A "Neighbor's House" Mural



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Treat Sleep Apnea with da Vinci Robotic Surgical System

According to Middlesex Hospital Ear, Nose and Throat physician, Mark D'Agostino, M.D., statistics for sleep apnea show that it affects 4 to 9 percent of women and 9 to 25 percent of males and a lot of it is under diagnosed. In post-menopausal women, the incidence tends to catch up with that of males. Sleep apnea can also lead to serious health problems, such as heart disease and stroke.

Sleep apnea is obviously a common problem. For some time, the standard treatment for sleep apnea has been use of a CPAP machine. But many people find the machine uncomfortable and do not tolerate it well. Dr. D'Agostino has developed a revolutionary new technique to treat sleep apnea using da Vinci technology, called transoral robotic surgery, in which the base of the tongue is surgically "trimmed." Up until now, a typical surgical technique to treat sleep apnea was to trim the palate. The success rate of this type of procedure is about 45 percent. With transoral surgery the success rate goes up to about 70-80 percent and sometimes even higher. Although there is no guarantee with the success of sleep apnea surgery, transoral surgery has shown significantly positive results.

In the past, there had been no easy way to surgically address the tongue base for sleep apnea surgery. The da Vinci surgical

system has offered a breakthrough in this particular surgical technique. The da Vinci allows surgeons to get down to the base of the tongue and shave it off going through the mouth, without making any incisions on the outside of the jaw. Dr. D'Agostino has pioneered this new type of surgery, along with only a handful of surgeon colleagues throughout the country.

As with any surgery, there are risks associated with transoral surgery and most patients have some problems swallowing immediately afterwards, which normally resolves itself. Overall, Dr. D'Agostino has seen positive results with the new surgical technique.

For further information about transoral robotic surgery using the da Vinci, you can contact Dr. D'Agostino directly:

Mark A. D'Agostino, M.D.

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Times May be Tough, Getting Help is Not

Dial 2-1-1 to deal with a problem or crisis, get information, or discover options. Calls are free. In addition to dialing 2-1-1, the database can be accessed online at www.211ct.org.

2-1-1 has a comprehensive database of services and programs that is continually updated. The database contains information on basic needs resources, child care services, programs for youth and seniors, substance abuse treatment resources, and much more. 2-1-1 also handles suicide and crisis calls and is fully accredited by the American Association of Suicidology.

In 2011, United Way 2-1-1 received 14,027 calls from Middlesex County which resulted in 18,714 requests for service. This marks a 17% increase in calls over the previous year. Of those calls, 553 were generated from East Haddam.

United Way 2-1-1 is a partnership between the State of Connecticut and all local Connecticut United Ways, including Middlesex United Way. The program began in 1976 and by the mid-eighties, gained national recognition as a model system. In 1999, Connecticut became the first state in the country to use 2-1-1 statewide. Currently, about 86% of the U.S. population has access to a 2-1-1 service. In many communities, 2-1-1 has been used in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis, becoming a critical communications center that residents can contact for up-to-date information on where to get help.

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9th East Haddam Chowder Cook-Off Winners

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission (EDC) would like announce the winners of the 9th Annual East Haddam Chowder Cook-off held on March 17.

With nearly 350 votes cast, it was an extremely close race among the three traditional New England clam chowder recipes. By a margin of one just vote, the first place "People's Choice - Best Chowder" silver ladle trophy was awarded to On the Rocks at Fox Hopyard, whose chowder was made by Chef James Martell. Second place was Gelston House and third place, only a few votes behind, was La Vita Gustosa.

Hillside Sweet Shoppe offered "make your own candy chowder," bringing along 30 pounds of sweet ingredients for the festive crowd. Two stuffed lobster mascots, fishnet, and colorful signs helped the business win the EDC "Table Décor" prize, best displaying the spirit of the annual community event.

Special thanks go out to all of the chefs and businesses for donating their time and chowder. Also thank you to all the community attendees for their donations to support local causes. The EDC will decide which charities and non-profit organizations will receive the approximately \$1,000 in proceeds at their April 5th meeting.



Representatives from On the Rocks ready to serve the 2012 Best Chowder.



Gelston House took second place.



LaVita Gustosa took third place.

Hillside Sweet Shoppe owner Mary Milewski cooking up her world-famous Candy Chowder.

happy spring!

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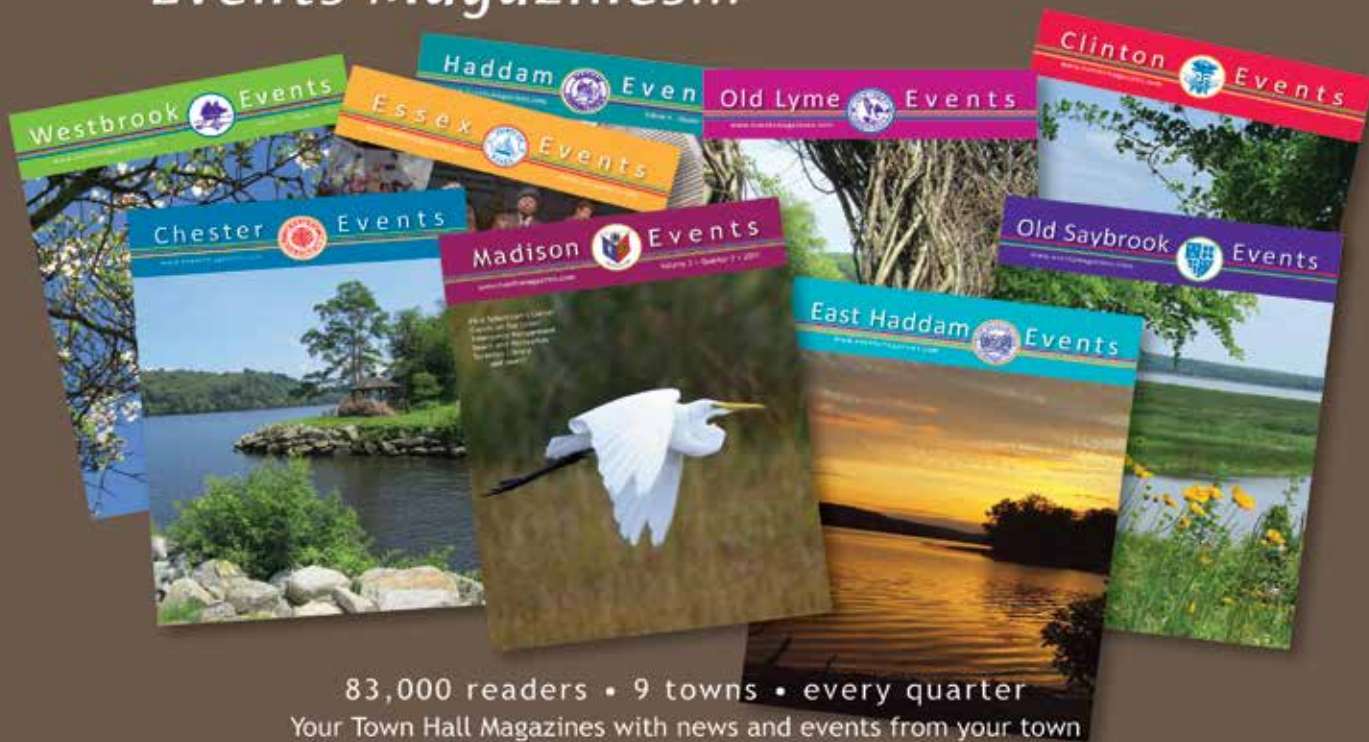
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