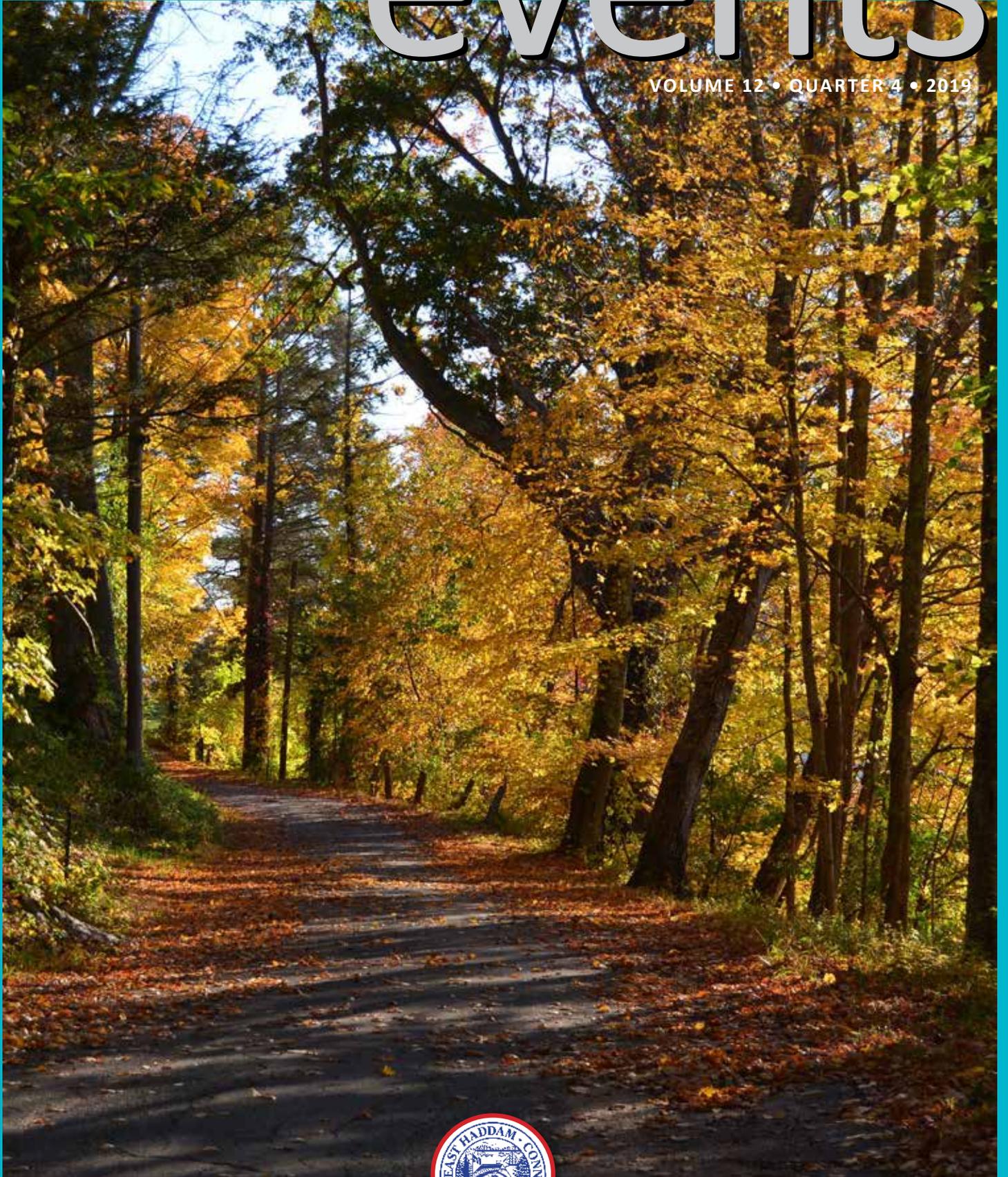


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# events

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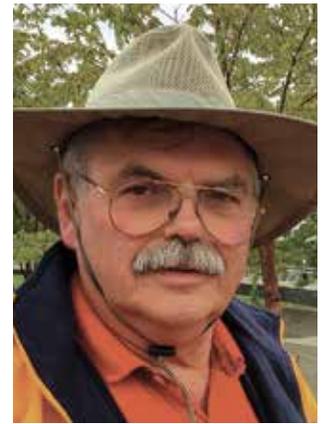
# First Selectman's Corner

We continue to recover from last year's storm. The damage to East Haddam was extensive. On September 25, 2018 Connecticut suffered 6.2 million dollars in damages, of that East Haddam's share was 60%, 3.7 million. FEMA quickly became involved but it took until January to get their approval to move forward. We will be reimbursed for 75% of the cost of approved projects. The associated



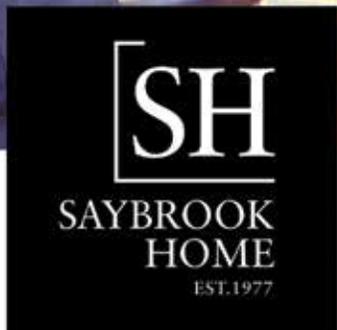
The severely damaged Neptune Road.

paperwork is endless and detailed but we are diligent and moving forward. We had 17 miles of gravel scenic roads washed out as well as numerous culverts and headwalls. Neptune Road and Hemlock Valley Road were severely damaged and needed to be closed. Bonfoey remains open but needs work. Priorities were established to rebuild our gravel roads and culverts. Their reconstructions are well underway. Wengell, McDonnell & Costello, Inc. has been awarded the contract to rebuild Neptune Road. It is expected to be complete by next June. Engineers are evaluating Hemlock Valley and Bonfoey with similar completion dates planned. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our Public Works Department managers and staff for their ongoing dedication and hard work in recovering from this event.



Emmett Lyman  
First Selectman

On September 7, we gathered to celebrate our twenty-third annual Venture Smith Day festivities. The celebrations were organized by our Town Historian, Dr. Karl Stofko, and took place at Venture's gravesite in the First Church cemetery. Many of **continued on page 5**



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# events

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## First Selectman's Corner... continued from page 3

Venture Smith's descendants joined with us and were an important part of the ceremony.



We are pleased to welcome David Southworth, above, to our hardworking Municipal Police Force. David was nearing the completion of his career as a Connecticut State Police Trooper when he learned we were creating a School District Resource Officer (SDRO) position. He applied for the newly created opening in our Police Department with the intention that he would later apply for the SDRO position. His outlook and background proved to be ideal and he has now attained that goal. We are all looking forward to having him on board for our schools and students.

East Haddam has accepted the challenge of participating in the Sustainable Connecticut program. This is a program developed by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), which seeks to enhance many aspects of our community. We have a great team involved. They are moving forward to have East Haddam certified as a sustainable town. The process is to complete a series of tasks, each of which will enhance the Town and in turn the State. These would include acknowledgment of many goals already accomplished, as well as completing new sustainable goals chosen from a suggested list. The program creates a series of diverse goals designed to sustain and improve our Town in a variety of ways. They range from improving land stewardship to resolving cultural issues, improving transportation and housing and promoting civic involvement. Additional opportunities are nearly endless. We select those goals which best reflect our particular needs. Awards at various levels are possible depending on how successful we are. To see what the program involves visit [www.sustainablect.org](http://www.sustainablect.org). To participate in East Haddam's efforts, contact the Selectmen's Office at: 860-873-5021 or by email at: [admin@easthaddam.org](mailto:admin@easthaddam.org).

The East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee (EHVRC) continued on page 6



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## First Selectman's Corner... continued from page 5

continues to move forward with its work. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on September 19. The applicant will now prepare a full proposal for how the property would be developed. This will be a detailed final proposal including all financial considerations as well as detailed plans for final structures on and uses of the property. It is anticipated that this will be complete by early spring. The plan will then be reviewed by the EHVRC and then forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. The BOS will review the plan, schedule a Public Hearing and forward it to the BOF for its review. The last step is a Town Meeting and possibly a Referendum where the citizens of the town will vote, making the final decision to accept or reject the plan.

It has been a pleasure and great honor to be able to serve the Town of East Haddam for so many years, in particular the last few years as your First Selectman. I have done many things in my

lifetime - working for you has easily been the greatest and most satisfying job I have ever held. New obligations for my time have developed. They make it impossible for me to continue as your First Selectman.

Thank you for all that you have given me.

For one last time I am going to remind you. We live in a beautiful and unique Town. Our miles of trails and endless opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors are very special. Pack a lunch, choose a destination and take a hike, go boating or whatever else appeals to you. I will be doing the same, more often now but it will never be often enough. I look forward to seeing you on the trails.

Emmett Lyman,  
First Selectman

## A Note from the Assessor

All persons having taxable personal property to declare such as unregistered motor vehicles, horses and ponies, farm equipment, or any furniture, fixtures, and equipment used in the operation of a business, must do so by November 1, 2019. Declaration forms are available at the Assessor's Office. They have been mailed to all businesses and residents who have declared property in the past. Please be aware that if you have taxable personal property, and do not declare it, state statutes allow the Assessor to add to it at an estimated amount and impose a 25% penalty on the assessment.

The application filing period for the elderly and disabled homeowners' program begins February 1, 2020 and ends May 15, 2020. Income requirements will be published by the Office of Policy and Management in January 2020.

Any person who acquired a new motor vehicle after October 1, 2018 will receive a supplemental motor vehicle bill by January 2020. These bills will be prorated, based on the date of registration, for the 12-month period starting October 2018 and ending September 2019. Vehicles acquired in August or September do

not receive supplemental tax bills.

The Assessor's Office has its own web page on the town website ([easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org)). Included is information on real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle assessments; property tax relief for seniors, veterans, and the disabled; renters' rebate; revaluation; access to applications and forms pertaining to the Assessor's Office.

If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's Office at: 860-873-5026.

## Tax Collector

**Please remember, due on January 1, 2020**, is the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills that were mailed July 2019. A second bill will not be sent for these accounts. If you are a new owner of real estate property and need a copy of your tax bill, please contact the tax office immediately. Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills are also due January 1, 2020. Supplemental bills will be mailed by the end of December 2019. The last day to pay these bills will be February 1, 2020. Payments may be made in person at the Municipal Office Complex located at: 1 Plains Road, Moodus, CT, by mail to: Tax Collector, P. O. Box 403, Moodus, CT 06469-0403 or online at: [easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org) and click the link "Pay Taxes Online." There is a fee associated with online payments which goes directly to the processing company, Point & Pay, for their service. This fee applies to online and in the office credit/debit card & e-check payments. A secure lockbox is

located to the right of the main entrance for payments dropped off after normal business hours. Anyone wishing a receipt must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their payment. Tax information is available online at [easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org). Click the link "PAY TAXES ONLINE." You will be able to check your current amount due and view past payments. This office is for the collection of taxes only. Any adjustments to your bill must be made by the Assessor at: 860-873-5026 or [assessor@easthaddam.org](mailto:assessor@easthaddam.org).

The Tax Collector may be reached at: 860-873-5033 or [taxcollector@easthaddam.org](mailto:taxcollector@easthaddam.org).

Denise Dill, CCMC,  
Tax Collector

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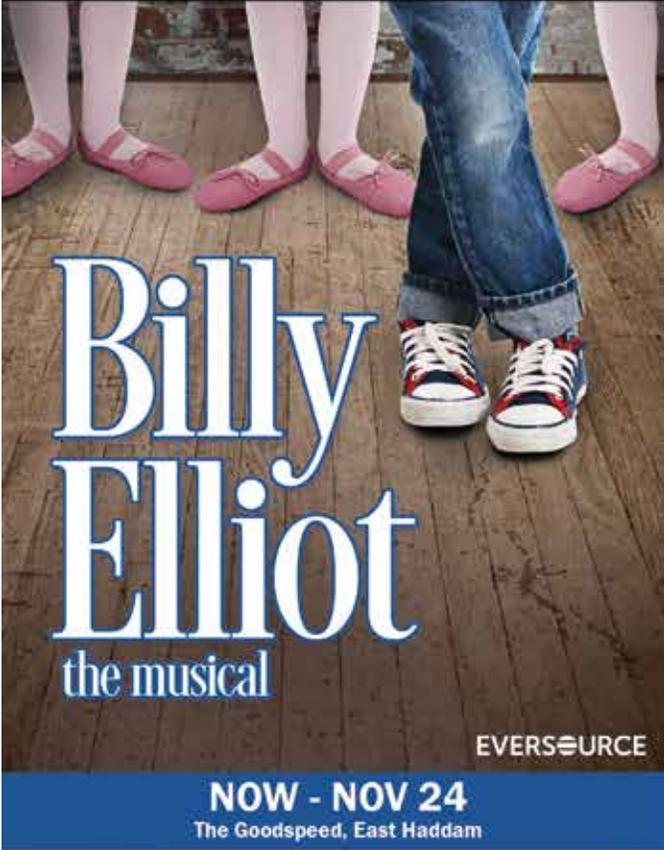
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7 am - 1 pm Sundays

## GOODSPEED MUSICALS

A poster for the musical Billy Elliot. It features a close-up of a person's legs in blue jeans and red, white, and blue sneakers, standing on a wooden floor. In the background, the legs and pink ballet shoes of other people are visible. The title "Billy Elliot" is written in large, white, serif font, with "the musical" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. The logo "EVERSOURCE" is in the bottom right corner. A blue banner at the bottom contains the text "NOW - NOV 24" and "The Goodspeed, East Haddam".

**Billy Elliot**  
the musical

EVERSOURCE

**NOW - NOV 24**  
The Goodspeed, East Haddam

A poster for the musical A Connecticut Christmas Carol. It features a Christmas tree with gold and red ornaments on the left. The background shows a window with blue curtains and a view of a snowy landscape. The title "A Connecticut Christmas Carol" is written in a large, red, cursive font, with "the musical" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it. The logo "Masonicare at Chester Village" is in the bottom right corner. A red banner at the bottom contains the text "DEC 4 - 28" and "The Terris Theatre, Chester".

**A Connecticut Christmas Carol**  
the musical

Masonicare  
at Chester Village

**DEC 4 - 28**  
The Terris Theatre, Chester

860.873.8668  
goodspeed.org UNITED

## Holiday Closings

THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX AND  
THE TRANSFER STATION WILL BE CLOSED  
ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- Veterans Day** - Monday, November 11
- Thanksgiving** - Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29
- Christmas Eve Day** - Tuesday, December 24,  
closing at noon
- Christmas Day** - Wednesday, December 25,  
reopen Thursday, December 26
- New Year's Eve Day** - Tuesday, December 31,  
closing at noon
- New Year's Day** - Wednesday, January 1,  
reopen Thursday, January 2
- Martin Luther King Day** - Monday, January 20  
*Regular hours will resume on the next business day.*

THE TRANSFER STATION WILL BE CLOSED  
ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- Veterans Day** - Monday, November 11
- Thanksgiving** - Friday, November 29
- Christmas Day** - Wednesday, December 25
- New Year's Day** - Wednesday, January 1
- Martin Luther King Day** - Monday, January 20

THE EAST HADDAM FREE PUBLIC  
& RATHBUN LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED  
ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- Veterans Day** - Libraries will be open.
- Thanksgiving** - Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29
- Christmas Eve Day** - Tuesday, December 24  
open 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Christmas Holiday**, Wednesday, December 25  
& Thursday, December 26,  
reopen Friday, December 27
- New Year's Eve** - Tuesday, December 31  
open 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
- New Year's Day** - Wednesday, January 1,  
reopen Thursday, January 2
- Martin Luther King Day** - Monday, January 20  
*Regular hours will resume on the next business day.*

## Municipal Office Complex Closing Early

On Tuesday, December 17, 2019 the Municipal Office Complex,  
1 Plains Road, Moodus will close at 4:00 pm  
for an employee holiday gathering. All departments will  
reopen on December 18, following their normal schedule.

# Economic Development

## East Haddam EDC & EHBA are proud to announce the "Business of the Month" for July & August 2019

### FOX HOPYARD GOLF CLUB & ON THE ROCKS RESTAURANT - July 2019 Business of the Month

Ranked #1 in Connecticut on Golf Advisor Best of 2018 and #24 in the USA, Fox Hopyard Golf Club is a masterly crafted collection of holes that gives you the feel of playing through the mountains of Vermont, the lowlands of Kiawah and the links of Scotland all in one round. The management of the club is proud of its rankings. "It all starts with the golf course: Fox Hopyard is completely unique and invites positive reviews because people have this incredible experience when they visit and they can't help but remark on the layout," said Brian Cummings, Golf Club Director. "We have the team in place to make people feel welcome and ensure that the experience of 'golfing the fox' is an enjoyable one" remarked Superintendent Wayne Lagasse. Fox Hopyard has a variety of membership options to fit anyone's specific need from Single, Family, Junior and more. Other offerings include group and private lessons, champion shop and a PGA golf professional on site. Perched atop a beautiful rock ledge overlooking the award-winning course, On The Rocks Restaurant at Fox Hopyard offers a perfect blend of New England charm and elegance. Offering a variety of fare, Chef and General Manager Nick Muce is sure to please with his culinary delights. On The Rocks



Fox Hopyard Golf Club and On The Rocks Restaurant.

also serves as a perfect location for corporate meetings to special events to weddings. The exceptional staff will help plan a stunning event, indoor or out. Definitely worth a visit to see what Fox Hopyard has to offer. East Haddam is thrilled to have such a wonderful venue and business.

Fox Hopyard Golf Club and On The Rocks is located at 1 Hopyard Rd East Haddam, CT 06423 860-434-6644. Visit their website at: <https://golfthefox.com> for the golf club and at: [www.otrrestaurant.com](http://www.otrrestaurant.com) for On The Rocks Restaurant. Like them on Facebook!

### SMITH FARM GARDENS

#### - August 2019 Business of the Month

Sixty Smith Road in East Haddam has recently been transformed, **continued on page 10**

## A Round of Applause... For Supporting Our Animal Friends.



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[www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org)

**It takes a community to improve the quality of life for all** – neighbors and friends who give their time and resources to support a passion or area of interest. We applaud the good people who are working in partnership to protect wildlife and help provide for the basic needs of animals and their human friends.

**Together, we are making a real difference.** Thanks to our donors, our nonprofit partners, and the Animals: Respect & Friendship Fund (ARF!), our neighbors in need are able to keep their animals and benefit from their companionship. Together, we are increasing access to veterinary care, keeping pets in homes, and supporting pop-up veterinary clinics for pets owned by seniors living in fixed-income housing.

**Thanks to you, by combining our resources, we are able to make even the smallest gift have a big impact** - through charitable funds that support not only animal welfare, but also arts and culture, health and social services, education, the environment, history, civic improvements, recreation, and economic security and opportunity.

**We celebrate all of you who share the same desire to help our local community thrive today, and tomorrow.**

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

## East Haddam EDC & EHBA... continued from page 9



through the labor of love of mother and son, Peggy and Travis Winkley, into an idealic destination for any occasion. Now known as Smith Farm Gardens, they have attracted patrons from all over the state and beyond to experience their perfectly maintained home and gardens for their memorable events. Two years ago, as a way of providing income for maintaining the grounds and property after Malcolm, the family patriarch passed away, the two began opening up their home to guests. It

is now operating as a multi-faceted event center hosting a variety of functions; primarily weddings, parties, showers, corporate events, yoga retreats, etc. Peggy and Travis have already received much positive feedback from their guests and the East Haddam community. They are honored to share the beauty, tranquility and hospitality seen and felt at Smith Farm Gardens.

The property dates back to 1718 when it was first owned by Matthew Smith. The house was built in 1778, the date carved into the cornerstone of the granite foundation. In 1985, Mal and Peggy Winkley purchased the property with the intent of providing a healthy, country environment for their family, which included 5 children. The Winkleys were only the 3rd owner since the house left the Smith family in the 70s. Over the course of many years the Winkleys were able to bring the overgrown grounds and neglected house back to life adding the needed modern amenities along with a great room wing and a new kitchen built in the late nineties.

In addition to hosting events, the property has continued as a worksite for Adult Vocational Program (AVP), a non-profit business created by the Winkleys which provides meaningful and healthy work opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. The AVP Smith Farm program and property is a hub for a variety of activities. The organic farm sells produce to the local community, taps the maple trees in the early spring, and produces cider in the fall. The property is used for processing wood in the winter, which is sold as cord wood and small bundles of firewood. The AVP landscape team maintains the beautiful grounds visible everywhere on the property.

Smith Farm Gardens is looking forward to sharing this beautiful property with the local community and beyond for many years to come! For more information please visit their website at: [www.smithfarmgardens.com](http://www.smithfarmgardens.com) or find us on Instagram at: [smithfarmgardensct](https://www.instagram.com/smithfarmgardensct).

## East Haddam Elementary School PTO is off to a Great Start!



### A GREAT START FOR PTO

Wednesday, August 28th, was a fun-filled, first day of school for all. Thanks to the PTO, delicious cupcakes from Sugar were on hand to sweeten the teachers' first day back. There were also many, many parent volunteers, donning their bright pink PTO volunteer shirts, assisting our new

kindergartners during bus arrival and dismissal, as well as lunch.

Our Arctic Book Fair was held the week of September 30th.

Thanks to all of the parent volunteers who made it happen! On September 30, the PTO officially welcomed our new Kindergarten class with EHES t-shirts. During this special annual event, each

Kindergarten class received a visit from a 3rd grade class. With teachers and parents looking on, each third grader welcomed a kindergarten student to EHES with a handshake and a t-shirt.

Lastly, our annual Holiday Fair will be held December 9th-12th. This fair is completely created and run by our very own volunteers. It offers students the opportunity to shop for friends and family during the holidays for items \$4.00 and less. This experience is not only a lesson in kindness, but also incorporates planning, math and money management.

For any information regarding the EHES PTO, please feel free to contact Jennifer Wilkins at: [EastHaddamElementarySchoolPTO@outlook.com](mailto:EastHaddamElementarySchoolPTO@outlook.com).

## Early Childhood Council

### EARLY LEARNING PLAY GROUP HAS BEGUN!

Children ages birth to age 5 can gather, learn, sing, hear stories and create with others in a play based setting, group meets on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 - 11:00 am.

This no cost program does not require registration. Email or call Early Childhood Coordinator, Lauren Kasperowski at: [lauren.kasperowski@yahoo.com](mailto:lauren.kasperowski@yahoo.com) or call: 860-873-3296 with any questions. The Family Resource Center is located in the East Haddam Elementary School, 45 Joe Williams Road, Moodus.



# East Haddam Library System

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIES,  
HERE ARE SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

## Ongoing Programs

**Story Time & Baby Time:** Read fun stories and do a craft at Story Time, every Monday at 10:30 am at Rathbun Library. For our youngest patrons, there are stories, songs and sing-alongs during Babytime - every Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 am at Rathbun Library. Please call to register.

**The American Girl Club:** Bring along your favorite American Girl Doll and enjoy snacks and crafts - the first Wednesday of every month from 3:30 - 4:30 pm at Rathbun Library. Please call to register.

**Science Club:** Young people are invited to use their smarts & imagination to create cool science projects. The second Wednesday of every month from 3:30 - 4:30 pm at Rathbun Library. Grades 4-8, please call to register.

**Dungeons & Dragons:** This timeless roleplaying game is perfect for Middle & High School age adventurers. The first Friday & third Thursday of every month from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at EHFPL.

**Magic the Gathering:** Play the most popular collectible card game of all time. Bring your own deck or borrow one from the library. The last Monday of every month, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at EHFPL.

**Ultimate Werewolf Legacy:** This popular party game is now an ongoing monthly event, 6:00 - 8:00 pm on 11/15 & 12/3 at EHFPL.

**Book Clubs:** Grab a copy of our book of the month or mystery of the month from the circulation desk, then join us for a discussion. Book Club is the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 pm at Rathbun Library. Mystery Book Club is the second Friday of every month at 2:00 pm at Rathbun Library.

## Special Events

**Pinterest Party:** Friday, November 22 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at EHFPL - Make a holiday craft at this special program for adults. Bring a snack to share, please call to register.

**Holiday Market:** Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Rathbun Library - Interested in buying some handmade holiday gifts? Talented crafters from the local area will have items that will make perfect gifts and/or decorations.

There's not enough room to list every event the library is doing. If you have any questions, would like to register for a program, or just want to see what else is available, please contact us: EHFPL: 873-8248 | Rathbun: 873-8210; visit our website at: [www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org](http://www.easthaddamlibrarysystem.org); or stop by: Rathbun Free Memorial Library 36 Main Street, East Haddam | East Haddam Free Public Library, 18 Plains Road, Moodus.

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# Why African American Studies Should Be Taught In Our Schools

For the last 23 years, Venture Smith Day has been held each September at the First Church Cemetery in East Haddam, Connecticut. Many people still don't know who Venture Smith was and why he's still a very important historical figure in our community today.

"Venture's autobiography, *A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, A Native of Africa: But Resident Above Sixty Years in the United States of America*, is the only first-person written account known where a former slave shares information about his childhood as a son of a West African King and the horrors of African slave trade," Dr. Karl P. Stofko, East Haddam Municipal Historian said. "Venture's story also gives us an accurate and historical account of his life in New England as a slave and freeman in Connecticut," Stofko added.

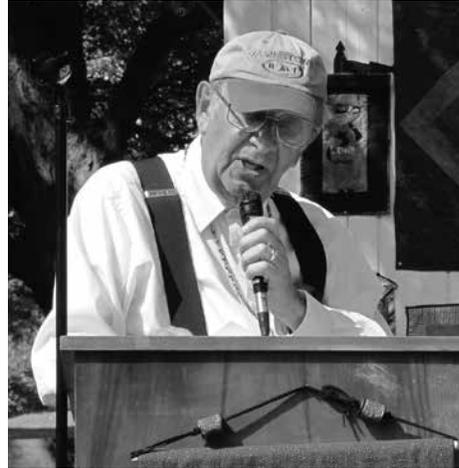
Venture's real name was Broteer. Born in Dukandarra, West Africa, he was the first child of King Saungm Furro. At about the age of six, he was forced into slavery in Africa. Then he was sold for "four gallons of rum and a piece of calico" on board a Rhode Island slave ship bound for America. His American Master renamed him Venture.

According to Stofko, Venture arrived in Rhode Island when he was between seven and eight years old. Since the early 1970s, Stofko has done extensive research on Venture Smith and his family and has helped to preserve Venture's gravesite in East Haddam at the First Church Cemetery.

While a slave in New England for about three decades, Venture was sold three times and worked on Fisher's Island, New York and in Stonington, Connecticut. Venture's last owner, Oliver Smith of Stonington, allowed Venture to work side-jobs to earn enough money to buy his freedom. When he was a freeman, Venture earned enough money farming, river trafficking, fishing, and lumberjacking to buy the freedom of his children, his wife, three other slaves and acquire 134 acres of land in Haddam Neck, Connecticut.

"Despite all this adversity, Venture became a very successful businessman during a time when it was nearly impossible for a former African American slave to do so," Stofko added. Stofko and others such as Connecticut State Representative Bobby Gibson are concerned that many Connecticut students aren't being taught African American History in school. "Our students can benefit from the mandatory inclusion of African American Studies in our schools," said Representative Gibson. Gibson was a speaker at the 2019 Venture Smith Day. "As a Connecticut educator for 24 years, I realized that our students simply aren't taught enough about African American history and its importance," Gibson added.

According to Representative Gibson, students need to learn about



At the 23rd Annual Venture Smith Day, Dr. Karl P. Stofko, East Haddam Municipal Historian said he was concerned that many Connecticut students aren't being taught African American History in school.

how many enslaved people helped build Connecticut and our country on the backs of their free labor. In addition, students would hear how African Americans persisted through Jim Crow Laws and the Civil Rights Movement.



Connecticut State Representative Bobby Gibson told the crowd at Venture Smith Day that our students can benefit from the mandatory inclusion of African American Studies in our schools.

Representative Gibson supported House Bill HB7082, an Act Concerning the Inclusion of African American Studies in the Public School Curriculum, which was passed by the Connecticut House and Senate in June 2019.

Educators are encouraged to contact Dr. Karl P. Stofko if they would like to learn how to add Venture Smith to their African American Studies classroom curriculum. He can be reached at 860-873-9375; karstfk@aol.com. If you would like more information about HB 7082, an Act Concerning the Inclusion of African American Studies in the Public School Curriculum, please contact Connecticut State Representative Bobby Gibson at [www.facebook.com/staterepgibson](http://www.facebook.com/staterepgibson) or [www.housedems.ct.gov/Gibson](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Gibson).

Susan R. Waide

# The ECO Lake Harvester is Coming

THANK YOU TO MANY & CONGRATULATIONS  
TO RESIDENTS OF EAST HADDAM



## The ECO Harvester is Coming

Thanks to the many residents, the grants and the town of East Haddam, we have raised \$71,000 dollars towards the \$100,000 goal, enabling us to place an

order for the Eco Harvester to control the invasive weeds in Moodus Reservoir, the site of the Town Beach and two state boat launches. We still need to raise the additional amount to complete the effort and will need to raise funds in the future to support the operation and maintenance of the Harvester. We feel that we have the support of the community to continue to maintain Moodus Reservoir at a level of full and safe swimming, boating and fishing enjoyment.

## TIPS FOR A CLEAN AND HEALTHY LAKE:

- 1 **Do not rake or blow fallen leaves into the water;** they decay and become fertile soil for invasive aquatic plants.
- 2 **Always mow in "mulch" mode** and continue mowing as leaves fall to help your soil and minimize raking.
- 3 **Last lawn mowing should be done at 2 inches** for the best wintering and strong spring growth.

- 4 **To enrich the soil, make mulch simply.** Drive four 3-foot-tall posts/rods into the ground, wrap garden with chicken wire, fill with leaves and stomp down to pack. Let sit. In 2 years, use for potting, seed-sowing or to dig into instead of bagging and hauling leaves to the dump. For info on composting household waste, go to: [www.homecompostingmadeeasy.com](http://www.homecompostingmadeeasy.com).
- 5 **Over the winter, use clean unsalted sand** on surface walkways close to the shore to avoid contamination.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to: "MRPG," c/o Tim Varriale, Treasurer, 76 Falls Bashan Road, Moodus, CT 06469. To donate online, go to: [www.moodusreservoir.org](http://www.moodusreservoir.org), [www.facebook.com/Moodus-Reservoir-Preservation-Group-488742444530491/](http://www.facebook.com/Moodus-Reservoir-Preservation-Group-488742444530491/) or [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com). Donations may be made via mail, Facebook and Go Fund Me. Visit our website: [www.moodusreservoir.org](http://www.moodusreservoir.org) for future events.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Second Tuesday at the East Haddam Sportsmen's Club, 7:00 pm.  
ALL ARE WELCOME.

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

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Sunday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



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# Town of East Haddam

1 Plains Road ~ P.O. Box 385 Moodus, CT 06469

## Municipal Office Complex

Main Number: 860-873-5020

Fax Numbers: (Finance/Selectmen) 860-873-5025,  
(Land Use/Building/Health) 860-873-1565,

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

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,  
Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to noon

### Selectman's Office

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

### Assessor's Office

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

### Building Department

William Thody, Building Official 860-873-5024 building.dept@easthaddam.org  
Ruth Ziobron, Administrative Assistant

### Chatham Health District

Sanitarian 860-873-5101

### Finance Department

Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Director 860-873-5022 financeadmin@easthaddam.org  
Dawn Snow, Finance Assistant 860-873-5040 finance@easthaddam.org  
Kathy Klinck, Treasurer 860-891-8502

### Land Use Offices

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

### Tax Collector's Office

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

### Town Clerk's Office

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

### Public Works Department

fax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm  
Transfer Station Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Elizabeth Lunt, Public Works Director 860-873-5023 pwadmin@easthaddam.org  
Steven Hedler, Public Works Superintendent pwsuper@easthaddam.org  
Shirley Dill, Administrative Assistant publicworks@easthaddam.org  
Don MacKenzie, Transfer Station Foreman 860-873-5030

### Other Departments

Don Angersola, Fire Marshal 860-873-5004 firemarshal@easthaddam.org  
Brian Auld, Fire Chief 860-891-8400 firechief@easthaddam.org  
Lisa Conroy, Parks & Recreation Director 860-873-5058 parkandrec@easthaddam.org  
Michael Olzacki, Animal Control Officer 860-873-5044 animalcontrol@easthaddam.org  
Irene Haines, Economic Development Administrator 860-891-8503 edcadmin@easthaddam.org  
Craig Mansfield, Emergency Management Director 860-873-5103 ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org  
Ronald Turner, Director of Operations 860-873-6010 ronald.turner@easthaddam.org

### Resident State Trooper - Troop K East Haddam Police

860-465-5400 police@easthaddam.org  
860-873-5041 police@easthaddam.org

### Probate Court

Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate 860-295-6239  
Debra Daniels, Clerk ddaniels@ctprobate.gov

### Registrars of Voters

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

### Senior Services

15 Great Hillwood Road  
Brad Parker, Municipal Agent 860-873-5034 seniors@easthaddam.org  
Patricia Puia, Program Assistant 860-873-5034

### Food Bank

860-891-8100

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

## It's Back! (Snow, that is)



We hear frequent complaints about the dangerous road conditions that result when people push driveway snow out into our public roads. We actually have an ordinance prohibiting this practice, which states, "No person shall plow, throw, put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from any private property or from any area in the rear of said private property or in area between a private dwelling house or structure and the legally laid out sidewalk into any public highway in the town of East Haddam."



As a reminder to residents the town also has an ordinance regarding the clearing of sidewalks adjoining or fronting a resident or business property. The ordinance states, "Whenever the sidewalk, or any part thereof, adjoining or fronting any building lot of land or any street, square or public place in the Town of East Haddam, shall have upon it an accumulation of snow, sleet or ice, it shall be the duty of the owner, occupant or any person having the case of such building or lot, to cause such sidewalks to be made safe and convenient by removing the snow, sleet or ice there from, or by covering the same with sand or some other suitable substance, and in case such owner, occupant or other person having the care of such building or lot shall neglect to do so for the space of eight (8) hours during the daytime, the person whose legal duty it shall be to clear the sidewalk, and so neglecting, shall be fined not more than twenty five (\$25.00) dollars for each occurrence, and every hour of neglect to make the sidewalks safe in accordance with the provisions of this section, after notice from the First Selectman or his designee, shall constitute a separate offense."



Please keep this in mind this winter. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

## Sand for Winter Ice

Residents of East Haddam are reminded that they may take only a small amount of sand from the shed at the Transfer Station for their personal use in sanding steps, walkways, or ice patches in driveways.

It is understood that sand is provided for private, personal use and is not to be used commercially or for profit, or for any application other than as a safety precaution. Residents needing more than a few buckets of sand per winter should purchase their own supply.

# Parks & Recreation



Youth Basketball Winter 2019



Unified Kickball Game Spring 2019

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

Open to boys and girls. No experience needed, all players will gain experience and learn fundamental basketball skills.

### Pre-K to 2nd Grade:

Skills clinic format.

Date: Saturdays, January 4 - February 8

Location: East Haddam Elementary School Gym,

Fee: \$60

Pre-K & K from 9:00 to 10:00 am

Grades 1 & 2 from 10:15 - 11:15 am

### 3rd to 8th Grade:

Traditional practice and game format.

Date: December 2-March 7

Fee: \$75.

Registration deadline is November 3.

Players must be able to commit to practice 1-2 nights per week (after 5:00 pm) and a game on Saturday. Practice time and day of the week TBD by the coach. Some games may be away versus other towns.

Volunteer coaches are needed for all age groups. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the coach's portion of the registration form online or email [lisa.conroy@easthaddam.org](mailto:lisa.conroy@easthaddam.org). Head coaches will receive a free registration for one child in the program.

## FAMILY NIGHT ON THE MOODUS GREEN

Join us in the Parks and Rec Activity Room on December 4th to visit with Santa!

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Kidscapades, Crochet Club, Gentle Yoga, Pickleball, Co-Ed Adult Indoor Soccer, Co-ed Adult Dodgeball, Boot Camp Fitness, Girls Basketball Fundamentals for Girls in Grades 3-5, When I'm in Charge, American Heart Association First and CPR, American Red Cross Babysitting Course, Self-Protection Seminar, Men's 30+ Pick-Up Basketball, Men's 18+ Pick-Up Basketball, Youth Open Gym, Tai Chi Workshops, Introduction to Cooking for

Grades 4-8, Cheerleading Club, Photography, Disc Golf Tournaments and Guitar lessons. And while winter is just getting underway we're already planning for Summer Camp and Music on the River. Stay tuned!

Please visit our website at: [www.easthaddamrec.com](http://www.easthaddamrec.com) for additional program details and to register.



Steady Habit Softball Team - won East Haddam Co-ed Adult Softball League Championship Summer 2019



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East Haddam  
Youth & Family Services, Inc.

# East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

[www.ehyfs.org](http://www.ehyfs.org) ~ 860-873-3296 ~ [youthandfamily@ehyfs.org](mailto:youthandfamily@ehyfs.org)

## Annual Holiday Campaign

The holidays are just around the corner and once again East Haddam Youth & Family Services is launching our annual Holiday Campaign. Last year, 49 families, including 100 children received assistance through the generosity and thoughtfulness of the East Haddam community. This year, we expect the need to be as great or greater. There are several ways to help:

Anyone interested in “adopting” a family for the holidays should contact East Haddam Youth and Family Services at 860-873-3296.

Anyone interested in donating new clothes, gifts, toys, games or gift cards can do so by delivering them to East Haddam Youth and Family Services during regular business hours (8:30 to 4:30 p.m.) between November 4, 2019 and December 2, 2019.

As always, the greatest challenge is providing gifts for youth ages 12-18. Any gifts for these older children, including gift cards, toiletries, jewelry, watches, wallets, clothing, hats/gloves/scarves, games, sporting equipment or books are greatly appreciated. Only new, unopened and unwrapped gifts can be accepted. We are unable to give used or opened items as gifts.

Families that require assistance providing gifts for their children are encouraged to contact East Haddam Youth and Family Services. To be eligible for this program, parents/guardians and their children must live in East Haddam/Moodus and have their school-age children enrolled in the East Haddam school district.

Applications are available at the EHYFS office or online at [www.ehyfs.org](http://www.ehyfs.org). A completed application and proof of residency must be received by EHYFS no later than November 19, 2019.

## Youth Helping Youth

Youth Helping Youth is looking for new members!

We are a leadership group for high school students who want to be positive role models for kids and make a difference in our community. As a member, you will have the opportunity to create events for middle school students, mentor younger students during Homework Hangout, and offer community events like the annual Senior Citizen Prom.

This year, YHY is expanding our inter-generational programming. We are planning a series of events that will bring together middle school students, high school students, and senior citizens.

If this sounds like the sort of community building that you or someone you know would like to do, please contact Youth & Family Services.

## Elementary School Family Nights 2019-2020

November 15th - Fall Festival

January 17th - Superhero Night

February 21st - Pirate Night

March 20th - St. Patrick's Day

April 24th - Outer Space

May 15th - Ice Cream & Twister

Family Nights are intended for families with kids aged 10 and younger. They are always free and snacks are provided!

Please note, dates are subject to change. For the most up to date info check our website or social media.

# East Haddam Local Prevention Council

East Haddam  
Local Prevention Council



Growing a Healthy Community

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

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

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

## Coalition Updates

### Vaping Education Sessions



The Local Prevention Council and Youth & Family Services has been hard at work spreading the word about vaping. On September 17th, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School faculty received a training on commonly used vaping devices, local trends and the potential dangers of vaping. A second training was provided to High School staff on October 1st. Faculty in both schools were able to interact first hand with a number of the most common devices thanks to a kit put together by the LPC's sister coalition in Haddam-Killingworth.

Following the faculty presentations, Kate Spring, LDAC, LPC, provided presentations on October 7th and 24th to high school and middle school parents. Parents were provided with information on what exactly vaping is, common devices used and potential health issues associated with it. They were also offered some tips on how to talk to kids about vaping, regardless of whether or not they were vaping currently.

These presentations occurred around the time that Connecticut increased the legal age to buy tobacco and vaping products to 21 and a number of states moved to ban flavored vaping liquids. Initiatives like these are likely to restrict access by minors, while continuing education aims to inform young people of the risks they take if they vape.

### Wellness Video Series

In addition to hosting several presentations in the community, we're always looking for ways to increase our audience and make our information more accessible to the public. One way we'll be accomplishing that is through the launch of our Choose Wellness video series. Starting in January, the coalition will be releasing short clips highlighting topics like parent advocacy, opioid awareness, marijuana legalization, youth stress and anxiety and more. You will be able to find these clips on the EHLPC and EHYFS websites, as well as on our various social media channels.



If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to see covered, you can make a suggestion using the contact form on the coalition website!

# Community Lions Light Up the Holidays



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

East Haddam Community Lions is holding its annual Light Up the Holidays fundraiser. Proceeds from this community-wide fundraiser go to the East Haddam Fuel Bank, Food Bank, Youth and Family Services, and other community causes.

Light Up the Holidays is a silent auction. Beautiful baskets with wine, hot chocolate, and delicious snacks, gift certificates for local



Chris van Valkenburg and Millie Gilroy take in the more than 90 items on display for the silent auction.

businesses, and decorative items for your home will be exhibited in the Rathbun Memorial Library, November 25 - December 7. Bids may be made on the exhibits anytime during library hours. Bidding will stop shortly before 7:00 pm on the 7th.

**EHCL hosts a HOLIDAY PARTY** with food and beverages on Saturday, December 7, the day of the East Haddam Village Stroll. Watch the newspaper for the start time for the party. The drawings for the Community Lions Tech Raffle will be held at 7:00 pm during the party. Silent auction winners will



One of the silent auction baskets available in 2018.

be announced after the raffle drawings. You do not need to be present to claim the items you have won.

Over the past ten years the East Haddam Community Lions with your support has donated over \$40,000 to the Food Bank, the Fuel Bank and Youth and Family Services.

The community is invited to donate gift certificates or items for the silent auction. Items for the auction do not need to be in a basket. Talented Lions are willing to make up baskets. Contact Mary Lee at: [mlabkemeier@gmail.com](mailto:mlabkemeier@gmail.com) to make a donation or with your questions. For further information go to the Community Lions' website at: [ehcl.org](http://ehcl.org).

## Family Night on Moodus Green

On Wednesday, December 4th beginning at 6:00 pm, join your friends and neighbors for the annual Family Night on the Moodus Green.

This fun-filled event begins with a parade that kicks off at 6:00 pm that includes the Moodus Drum & Fife Corps., East Haddam Volunteer Fire Department and of course, the Clauses - Santa and his wife.

The First Selectman will greet the crowd, and then holiday songs & Christmas carols will be sung by local chorus students, followed by the traditional tree lighting on the Moodus Green.

The rest of the event, which comes to a close at 8:00 pm, will include more fun - such as meeting Santa at the Municipal Office Complex (hosted by Youth & Family Services) and a visit with Mrs. Claus (and a free gift) at the East Haddam Free Public Library.



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Children can make reindeer food and decorate cookies at the East Haddam Little Village preschool, and visit a petting zoo in front of the library.

### OH, AND BE SURE TO BRING YOUR LETTER TO SANTA!

Our friends at East Haddam Parks & Rec will be delivering letters to the North Pole. Simply bring your Christmas wish list to EHFPL during the event (or write one while you're waiting to meet Mrs. Claus,) and you'll get a personal response from Santa (be sure to include your name and address.)

Thanks to everyone who makes this free, family friendly event possible. We'll see you December 4th at 6:00 pm, Happy Holidays!

## Annual Christmas Tea



If weather permits, Santa will arrive on his red-nose motorcycle.

The First Church of Christ, Congregational will hold its annual Christmas Tea & Children's Fair, Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Santa arrives at 10:00 am for photos with the children!

The event features the Penny-wise Gift Shop just for the children with personal shopping assistants and free gift wrapping! Adults can shop our Christmas White Elephant Sale and purchase cookies by the pound. Mrs. Claus' Kitchen will be serving warm drinks and cookies for all. All proceeds benefit the East Haddam

Fuel and Food Banks. Join us December 7th at First Church, 499 Town Street (Route 151,) East Haddam, CT.

## 14th Annual Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive

The East Haddam Police Officers and Resident State Trooper will host our 14th Annual Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The event will be held in the parking lot of the East Haddam Municipal Office Complex located at 1 Plains Road in Moodus.

New, unwrapped toys are needed for children from infants to age 18. In addition to toys, donations of hats, gloves, scarves and socks are needed for children of all ages. All donations will be distributed through East Haddam Youth and Family Service (EHYFS) to children within the community.

Any family in East Haddam or Moodus that is in need of assistance during the holiday with gifts for their children should contact Toni McCabe at EHYFS. She can be reached at: 860-873-3296.

For additional information on the Stuff a Cruiser Event please contact Officer Jeffrey Rhoades at: 860-891-8200 or email to: [police@easthaddam.org](mailto:police@easthaddam.org).

# Fox Ledge Farm



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**860.554.0551**  
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9 Town Transit is Operated by the Estuary Transit District

## A New England Tradition: Harvest House

Over the course of time, the idea of “community” has undergone many changes. As society has grown in size and complexity, the role and importance of community has diminished, become less important, or so it seems. Yet the desire to stay connected with our neighbors has never gone away. Harvest House was developed over a decade ago to rekindle the link between neighbors using the traditional New England communal meal as the vehicle.

In East Haddam 14 community based civic, social and religious organizations as well as eight families, have joined together to provide a freshly prepared dinner every Sunday for anyone in our Town who wishes to attend. Dinners are served in the Parish Hall of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church on Main Street in East Haddam village beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday. There is never a charge and all are welcome. The smiles on the faces of the diners and volunteers are what make Harvest House a community asset.

Harvest House is a success because of the spirit of community of so many groups and individuals within our Town. Those who participate find a different kind of community reward, a different kind of joy. It renews the spirit of giving in our Town and offers a unique opportunity for volunteers to give something special to the community.

Harvest House is open on 48 Sundays, closing only on New Year’s weekend, Easter, Independence Day weekend, and Christmas Weekend.

Harvest House is always seeking volunteers for the program. Any community organization or family that wishes to participate in Harvest House is asked to contact the Harvest House Coordinator, Bill Barney at: [william\\_barney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:william_barney@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## East Haddam Village Stroll



December 7, 2019

The East Haddam Village Stroll will take place in the East Haddam Village on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All are welcome to join in this free, fun and family friendly holiday event. There will be Santa, a holiday market, beer garden, food, music, street performers and more! Sponsors needed! For more information email: [EHVSTROLL@yahoo.com](mailto:EHVSTROLL@yahoo.com).

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## East Haddam Leo Club

The East Haddam Leo Club held its eighth annual Apple Festival on Saturday, October 12th. Many families stopped by to join in the activities of games, bounce house, live music, face painting, and more. The Leos extend a special "thank you" to others who volunteered their time, talents, contributions and baked goods to make the Apple Festival a fun-filled day for families. We also appreciate the support of everyone who purchased our apple-theme baked goods. Again this year your donations are a major part in the success of this event.

All proceeds raised at the bake sale are donated to various local community organizations that help others.

In addition to the Apple Festival, the Leos host many community service and fund-raising projects throughout the year, such as the Annual Pumpkin Walk, Valentine's Day Bake Sale and Technology Help workshops. Other proud achievements include working side by side the Lions Clubs at their Annual Auction, Triathlon, Christmas Tree Sales, Road Race and collecting funds

for the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation on Sight Saver Day. For all their hard work, the Leos have earned their reputation as the pride of East Haddam.

The East Haddam Leos are a group of 12-18 year olds who want to make a difference in the East Haddam community. Leo meetings are held on the 1st Thursday and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Senior Center. For more details, email Leo Advisor Michael Gilroy at: gilroy@gmail.com.

## The East Haddam Lions Club

The Lions would also like to thank all the businesses, sponsors, and participants who helped make the annual East Haddam Golf Tournament and East Haddam Phonebook successful. Annual events such as these are how the Lions Club raises nearly \$40,000 a year, all of which goes to fund charities & good causes in our community - such as the Food Bank, Fuel Bank, and scholarships for graduating seniors.

The Lions will once again be selling Christmas trees starting

Thanksgiving Weekend and will continue every Friday evening and Saturday/Sunday until Christmas. Stop in for freshly cut trees and spread the holiday spirit knowing that all proceeds will be given to local charities. The club will also be packaging food baskets at the East Haddam Food Bank in December, and helping Santa give small gifts to the patients at Chestelm. If you would like to donate to the club and help serve the East Haddam community or become a member, please contact Lion Michael Gilroy at GilroyM@gmail.com.

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## Venture Smith Now Resides at the East Haddam Historical Society & Museum

A life-sized sculpture of Venture Smith now resides at the East Haddam Historical Society & Museum. This powerful figure brings to life the man and the legend that was well known in colonial East Haddam and other towns in colonial Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York.



Left to right, sculptors, Weymouth Eustis of Chester, Connecticut and Frank Todaro of Butte, Montana created this life-sized wooden sculpture of Venture Smith, which was unveiled at the 23rd Venture Smith Day on September 7th and is now on display at the East Haddam Historical Society & Museum.



Above, The scar on Venture Smith's face is a reminder of the horrific conditions he endured.

The scar on his face and the empty shackles resting at his feet are daily reminders of the horrific conditions he had to overcome to buy his freedom and live his American dream.

Although no photographs or sketches have ever been found, Venture was often referred to as "The Black Paul Bunyan" when he was alive. He stood over six feet and one and one-half inches tall and weighed about 300 pounds. He was often seen carrying a nine-pound axe to cut down trees.

The wooden sculpture of Venture Smith on display at the East Haddam Historical Society & Museum is the creation of two extremely talented sculptors, Weymouth Eustis of Chester, Connecticut and Frank Todaro of Butte, Montana. Life-long friends, Eustis and Todaro successfully merged their artistic talents to create Venture Smith.

Both were once teachers at Daniel Hand High School in Madison,

Connecticut. Eustis taught math while Todaro taught electronics. Eustis and Todaro carpoled to work together and became life-long friends.

After five years, Todaro left the high school to teach physics and electronics at the University of Hartford for another five years. Then he pursued a long, fulfilling career in the field of engineering. Todaro, who now is retired and lives in Butte, Montana, has been an ice sculptor for the past seven years.

For 37 years, Eustis taught math at Daniel Hand High School. When he retired from teaching, he didn't know what he wanted to do. After Eustis sprained his ankle during the first summer of his retirement, he became interested in working with wood and created his first full-sized sculpture, St. Francis of Assisi. After finding his passion for woodworking, Eustis continued to create other life-sized sculptures including Captain Ahab, Vincent van Gogh, Madame Butterfly, William Shakespeare, and the Old Leatherman. He donated his William Shakespeare sculpture to the Killingworth Library and Old Leatherman sculpture to the Chester Historical Society, where they are on display.

Eustis became very interested in Venture Smith after reading author Russell Shorto's book, *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom*, which was published in 2018. Shorto is his favorite author. "My Dad loved the way Russell told the story of the Revolution from different perspectives," said his daughter, Tammy Eustis. "He was particularly taken by Venture's story," she added.

Weymouth Eustis also read Chandler Saint's books about Venture Smith and followed Marta Daniels in her discovery of Venture Smith's first tract of land in Stonington, Connecticut, which he purchased in 1770, after he became a freed man. Old deeds, photos, and maps lost for nearly two centuries uncovered the boundaries of Venture Smith's land using modern technology in 2009.

Eustis needed help to complete the historically correct life-like wooden statue of Venture Smith on time. Venture Smith's unveiling was set for September 7th at the 23rd annual Venture Smith Day. Eustis decided to

continued on page 24



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## Venture Smith... continued from page 23

ask his life-long friend if he could create Venture's face and hands. Eustis and Todaro collaborated by telephone and through email. Eustis sent his friend carving tools, clay, wood, and paint to create Venture's head and hands.

"I can tell they were both swept away by the response at the unveiling at Venture Smith Day!" Tammy Eustis said. "It was very emotional and uplifting for both of them," she added.

Eustis and Todaro are very grateful to have been involved in the event and meet the family members. They enjoyed having the chance to work together on bringing a life-like image of Venture Smith back to East Haddam.

The East Haddam Historical Society & Museum was founded over 50 years ago. It has a permanent 7,000 square foot building located on Rt. 82 on the way to Gillette Castle. The nine-room museum features the history of the town and its villages. The East Haddam Historical Society & Museum, located at 264 Town Street, is open Memorial Day through mid-October on



Dr. Karl P. Stofko, East Haddam Municipal Historian and Venture Smith Day Coordinator, has done extensive research on Venture Smith and his family and has helped to preserve Venture's gravesite in East Haddam at the First Church Cemetery since the 1970s.

Saturdays and Sundays from 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm. For more information about events or membership please visit: [Museum@easthaddamhistory.org](mailto:Museum@easthaddamhistory.org); [www.facebook.com/ehhsm](http://www.facebook.com/ehhsm) or call: 860-873-3944. The mailing address is: East Haddam Historical Society & Museum, P.O. Box 27, East Haddam, CT 06423-0027. The street address is: 264 Town Street, East Haddam CT, 06423.

Susan R. Waide

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Women who are identified as being high risk, or who think they might be at high risk, are encouraged to either make an appointment with the center directly or ask their primary care physician for a referral. Within the center, the scheduling of diagnostic tests and a meeting with a breast surgeon can happen on the same day.

Middlesex Health Cancer Center is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. The Comprehensive Breast Center is located at 540 Saybrook Road in Middletown. The same services are also offered at the Middlesex Health Shoreline Medical Center in Westbrook. To contact the center, call: 860-358-2780.



# Thunder in the Valley



## 2019 MOODUS DRUM & FIFE CORPS MUSTER

With a beautiful weekend on hand the muster drew in 24 fife and drum corps from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont to participate in the muster. Early morning arrivals could be seen warming themselves by the fire, most already wearing

uniforms representing their various units. By 12:00 noon the parade stepped off from Chestelm and the groups headed up the hill towards the Grange Hall. As each group entered the field they were greeted by the Moodus corps who lined the shoot with hats held high in salute. The friendship between these musicians was evident as they called out to each other in greeting as they marched onto the field.

As the last corps marched through, Moodus reassembled and started the muster off with the National Anthem and the Company Prayer. This was followed by the on-stand portion of the muster and each corps played their best pieces for the gathered crowd.

Visiting corps enjoyed mixing with the crowds that stood around the fire and took advantage of the fall foliage for taking photos. Both new and old friends were welcomed and the day was certainly considered a success. We thank the Town of East Haddam for the use of this beautiful property and for the opportunity to share the music that we work so hard to preserve.

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# East Haddam Garden Club

## THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING... MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITY

On Monday, November 25, members will again create over 100 Thanksgiving Centerpieces for the East Haddam Food Bank. Members meet at the Grange at 11:30 and provide all supplies and materials. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to join us. It's a lot of fun, no experience necessary, and refreshments are served. Each year, clients from Chestelm's Adult Day Services join us for the fun and we hope they will come again this year! They also fashion an arrangement for themselves to bring home to brighten up the holidays.

Later in the fall, we will redecorate our outdoor installations (Blue Star Memorial, the three planters across from Two Wrasslin Cats and Town Tavern, and the Urn near the Goodspeed) for the holiday and winter seasons. At our holiday luncheon in December, members contribute to the East Haddam Food and Fuel Banks.

### RECENT PROGRAMS

During the summer, members enjoyed participating in a variety of programs, including "Bats" by bat and wildlife expert Maureen Heidtmann, who discussed their issues/diseases, building the right bat house and more. We also created fall wreaths at an August workshop led by Anita Ballek and Nancy Ballek Mackinnon. A joint bus trip to New York City's High Line in September with the Hadlyme and Haddam Garden Clubs was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our Program Committee continues to schedule a variety of exciting and informative programs and trips... so please consider joining us.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020

Just when everyone is beginning to "Think Spring" our 2020 programs begin. On Wednesday April 15, the public is invited to "Weather Wit and Wisdom" presented by meteorologist Art Horn. This free program begins at 7:30 pm at the Senior Center (preceded at 7:00 pm by a short business meeting for members). Refreshments



Maureen Heidtmann gently handles a baby bat, which is showing off for members at our July meeting.

will be served. The May program is for members, but if you wish to attend as a guest and/or are interested in joining the Club, let us know. Contact Maureen Gillis at: 860-287-6228. On May 20 at 11:30 am member meeting at 11:00 am, "Pest Management" will be presented by Carol Quish of the UConn Home and Garden Education Center. Refreshments are always served at our meetings, so come and enjoy!

### GARDEN CLUB INFO

**The East Haddam Garden Club is a fun loving group, dedicated to Our Mission, which is:**

- To stimulate the knowledge of gardening and related activities
- To aid in the conservation of natural resources in order to preserve our heritage while promoting civic beauty in our community
- To assist in educating the youth in our community on matters relating to our purpose; and
- To promote charitable activities in our community

The East Haddam Garden Club currently has over 40 members; new members are always welcome... attend one of our monthly programs or two and get to know us. Check out our East Haddam Garden Club Facebook page or call Maureen Gillis or any club member for more information. Guests are also welcome at our annual holiday lunch, to be held December 4 at Scotch Plains Tavern. For price, menu, reservation, and other information, contact Lori Inferrera at: 860-873-8968.

# Become a Friend of Gillette Castle State Park Today



Gillette Castle State Park is located at 67 River Road, East Haddam, Connecticut. The goal of The Friends of Gillette Castle is to keep the public informed about educational, preservation, restoration, conservation, and fundraising efforts that take place at Gillette Castle and its park-like grounds.

The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park is presently looking for new members to join its all-volunteer, non-profit group. "Our goal is to keep the public informed about educational, preservation, restoration, conservation, and fundraising efforts that take place at Gillette Castle and its park-like grounds," said Wendy Vincent, the President of The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park.

In 1919, William Gillette, a well-known stage actor, who wrote the scripts for and acted as Sherlock Holmes on stage in the

United States and abroad, built the Castle. He also produced, directed, and wrote several other plays throughout his life-long acting career.

In 1943, the State of Connecticut purchased the Castle, and today it's a museum. Located on the Connecticut River, visitors enjoy touring the castle and visitor center and hiking the trails year-round on this 184-acre estate. Gillette Castle State Park is part of the Connecticut state park system managed by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP).

In 2019, the Friends of Gillette Castle held a New Year's Day Hike, an 100th Anniversary Speakeasy Gala, and will deck out many of the 24 rooms for a Holiday Tour and Celebration during November and December. Visit: [www.gillettecastlefriends.org](http://www.gillettecastlefriends.org) for details.

Members receive a 10% discount at the Friends of Gillette Castle Gift Shop and advanced notice on upcoming events. If you're interested in joining The Friends of Gillette State Park, please visit: [www.gillettecastlefriends.org](http://www.gillettecastlefriends.org) and complete and submit your

membership form online. You may also mail your membership check and form to The Friends of Gillette Castle, P.O. Box 152, Hadlyme, CT 06439. Questions, please email the Friends at: [info@gillettefriends.org](mailto:info@gillettefriends.org) or call: 860-222-7850.

## This is Yours Now . . .

In September of 1985, 21 years old and fresh out of the military, I walked in to the East Haddam Elementary School for my first drum lesson with Moodus Drum & Fife. A man that I didn't know (Dave) walked with me to one of the classrooms and gave me a quick rundown on how drum lessons were handled and what would be expected of me if I decided to stay. One of the things Dave told me was that I would have to show him my commitment by making my own drum pad. This consisted of a piece



Left, Patrick Murray & David Strong, right.

of wood covered with canvas and stuffed with some sort of padding... easy enough. I examined Dave's drum pad and it looked like a machine had made it; the canvas was tight and smooth and the tacking around the sides was perfectly placed. I asked why I couldn't just buy one like his and he looked at me like I had three heads. Ten minutes later, Dave was still telling me about commitment and looking a bit put out with the new guy. I realized very quickly that Dave was a proud man and that his pride extended to his love for playing and teaching ancient drumming. When the lesson was over Dave said something that I remembered for the next 34 years. He held his drum pad in the air and said "if you work hard and do what I say, this pad may be yours someday, then you'll be responsible for teaching others." I felt I'd learned enough not to make that mistake again and made my own pad as soon as possible.

I joined Dave and the other members of the group as a snare drummer once my lessons were completed and each fall when we'd move back to one of the schools Dave would bring that same drum pad that I remembered from the evening back in 1985. One recent evening the drum corps met at the old town hall for practice when Dave drove up. He was very quiet and didn't immediately approach us. He stood to the side and watched for a few minutes. Dave finally walked over and told us that he was unable to march with us anymore and he needed to turn in his equipment and uniform. It was obviously difficult for him and everyone else present. As Dave handed over his uniform, sticks and drum sling, he turned to me and held out his drum pad. He said, "This is yours now, keep teaching."

Thank you Dave, for teaching and sharing the music.

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# Conservation Commission: Building Bridges for You... Literally



Rose Farm bridge is that it was completely constructed with volunteer labor, some 300 hours of it. In temperatures ranging from below freezing to 90 degrees, many of those hours involved slogging through mud.

The Rose Farm Homestead Reserve is an East Haddam treasure, acquired 10 years ago to protect both sides of a 1500-foot section of Hemlock Valley Brook. This 68-acre reserve is known for its nearly two miles of trails that offer hiking, snow shoeing, horseback riding and mountain biking. It is especially known for excellent birding opportunities. Until the bridge could be built, however, this preserve consisted of two disconnected sections,

Your Conservation Commission stewards 20 open space preserves and reserves in East Haddam, many of them managed for you to enjoy for hiking, birding and the nature watching opportunities they offer. Most people understand that stewarding involves things like marking property boundaries; designing, clearing and mapping trails; maintaining parking lots and kiosks... all done by volunteers. It may surprise you to know that sometimes stewardship actually involves significant construction projects. Case in point: the brand new Rose Farm Homestead bridge, an astonishing 230 feet in length. It spans Hemlock Valley Brook with a 96-foot-long elevated section over the stream bed and a 124 foot "bog bridge" across the adjacent wetland. In order to allow dappled sunlight to reach the water, it features a special section of open gridwork treads where it crosses the stream. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the

divided by a brook and wetlands with no way across. We are very grateful for the volunteer time and sweat that built this connection.

If you would like to experience the Rose Farm Homestead Reserves and walk across our newest bridge, you can find this preserve just south of Ray of Light Farm on Route 82. Watch for a blue sign and parking area on the left. A trail map awaits you at the Conservation Commission's web page. Go to the Town of East Haddam web-site, to town board and commissions, find the Conservation Commission, and click on trail maps.

If you would like to know more about what the Conservation Commission does and how you can be involved, email Sue Merrow at: [amerrow@snet.net](mailto:amerrow@snet.net).

## Trail Monitors Needed



Do you enjoy hiking the trails of East Haddam? If so, you can help yourself, other hikers and your Land Trust as a Trail Monitor.

Doing so is simple. Sign up as a Trail Monitor for one or more of the East Haddam Land Trust trails you often hike, then report any conditions needing

work. If you choose to expand your Trail Monitor tasks, additional duties would include removal of small fallen branches, cutting back intruding small vines, briars, or branches, and removing any trash. The Land Trust provides Trail Monitor guidance and asks you to report trail conditions and any tasks you complete to your specified Stewardship Team member.

East Haddam Land Trust's most used public-access trails include those through Sheepskin Hollow Preserve, with entrances from Ridgebury and Sheepskin Hollow Roads and Woodmont Circle, and Golet Farm Preserve off Great Hillwood Road. The Land Trust also maintains trails through William Jezek Memorial Preserve off Daniel Peck Road, Ballahack Preserve off Ballahack Road #3, Duncan Preserve

at the junction of Porges Road and Creek Row, Olde Field Preserve off Parker Road, Hidden Valley Farm Preserve off Grist Mill Road, Miller Farm Preserve off Tater Hill Road, and other smaller Preserves (see the list at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org).) All East Haddam Land Trust preserves are marked by a brown sign with gold lettering.

If you hike any of the trails at the above Preserves, please consider volunteering as a Trail Monitor. Email: [info@ehlt.org](mailto:info@ehlt.org) to indicate your interest.

Your eyes on the trails will help the Land Trust's Stewardship Team plan more involved maintenance during its regularly scheduled preserve work, 9:00 am to noon on the third Saturday of each month from September through June.

# Rep. Haines Tours Yankee Cider Company

State Representative Irene Haines (R-34) recently toured the state's first farm cidery tap room at Yankee Cider Co. with the Stahly family to learn more about their new business.

“Back in January, I proposed legislation that would permit farm cideries to sell their products by the glass, and that proposal was incorporated into a larger effort to update our laws,” said Rep. Haines. “I was eager to learn how the new regulations were working for different producers in our region.”

During the 2019 regular session, the General Assembly passed Public Act 19-24, “An Act Streamlining the Liquor Control Act.” The omnibus legislation was passed with the intention of modernizing and rationalizing state regulations to accommodate craft breweries, cideries and farm wineries. As a result of the legislation cider manufacturers will now be able to sell cider and apple wine for on-premises consumption, same as other producers. “I’m excited to see their business expand and offer another attraction for residents and visitors to our region,” commented Rep. Haines.



Rep. Haines visits the new Yankee Cider Company tap-room.

The new tap room is housed in a renovated 100 year old barn on Petticoat Lane. In addition to visiting the Yankee Cider tap room, Rep. Haines toured Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co. and Priam Vineyards in Colchester.

Rep. Haines continues to host events across the 34th District, East Haddam, East Hampton and part of Colchester. Follow at: [www.RepHaines.com](http://www.RepHaines.com) and [www.facebook.com/RepHaines34](https://www.facebook.com/RepHaines34) for the latest updates and news from the Capitol.

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## The Hartford Whalers – Forever and Always

by Sigrid Kun



Longtime Whalers radio broadcaster Chuck Kaiton leads pre-game ceremony with Whaler Alums at Yard Goats Alumni Weekend. Photo courtesy Hartford Yard Goats.



The iconic logo is omnipresent. There are Hartford Whalers hats, t-shirts, and sweatshirts seemingly everywhere. It doesn't take much to get the conversation going. Bumping into someone with Whalers' gear spawns a trading of stories, a bonding moment full of laughs and nostalgia. Why do we still care so much, yearn for the past, and continue to hope for the future?

Alums like Chuck Kaiton, the beloved voice of the Whalers and John Forslund, former Whalers PR director/television broadcaster and now television broadcaster for the Carolina Hurricanes and NBC, provide some answers.

They fondly recall the Whalers as a pioneering organization that focused its efforts around the community and the fans. Together, they can compile a number of firsts: the first National Hockey League (NHL) team to earmark a charity as its own (the UConn Children's Cancer Fund); the first NHL team to have a team store right in the arena; the first NHL team to boast a blimp that dropped prizes and gift certificates to the crowd. Kaiton points out that the Whalers came up with the idea for a skills competition for the 1986 All-Star game held in Hartford. The team spearheaded youth hockey development that ultimately evolved into today's local elite programs. "We were ahead of our time," explains Kaiton. "Speaking engagements, school visits. It cemented the relationship between the team and the community. The 1980s were a great period with a lot of innovation that has carried into today."

Forslund agrees. The tradition continued into the 1990s with events like the "Tip-a-Whaler" fundraiser (soon after adopted by the Kings) and Casino Nights (also later in vogue). "When we had PR and marketing meetings, we talked about programs with high schools and boys and girls clubs. It was grass roots." The community connection remains, he says, due to the hands on nature of the team.

The history is also special - beginning with the upstart World Hockey Association (WHA) to become the only U.S. based WHA team to enter the NHL in 1979. There are so many names and moments. Gordie Howe, of course. The playoff run in 1986. And there were the low moments. The Ron Francis trade in 1991. The ultimate heartbreak? The move to Carolina.

The Whaler passion endures. For the past three years, the Hartford Yard Goats host a Whalers Alumni Weekend. "It's terrific," says Kaiton. He, among other Whalers, attends every year. The weekend kicks off with tradition - visiting patients at the UConn Health Center. A luncheon on Saturday precedes the first pitch that is thrown out by the Whalers alumni. There is an autograph session.

The Whalers Booster Club continues a presence. Once down to 30 or so members it is 140+ strong.

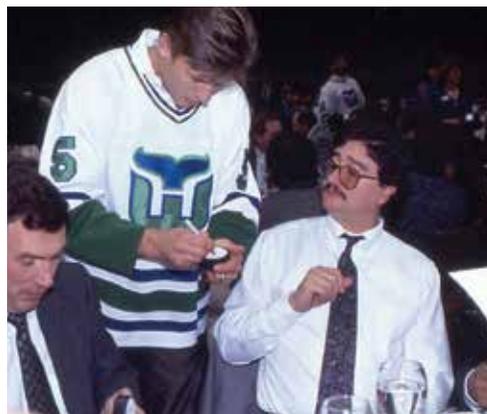
The club meets monthly. It provides for an annual scholarship for a CT student, organizes a trip to see at least one NHL game a year, and continues to hope for a Whalers return. "We do what we can to try to bring back a team," says Mark Anderson, a member since 2011. "Since we can't do it with money, we keep the name out there. We keep the spirit alive."

There are Whalers, too numerous to mention, still making a hockey impact. A few examples include; Joel Quenneville (Florida Panthers' coach), Dave Tippett (Edmonton coach), Ron Francis (Seattle GM), Mike Liut (agent), Ray Ferraro (broadcaster), and Mark Johnson (University of Wisconsin women's coach).

Both Kaiton and Forslund refer to the Whalers in terms of "we." Kaiton was there for the NHL start. "I was the luckiest person to be chosen and to broadcast from day one. I will never forget it. The relationships with management, the players, the fans ... so passionate. I really cherish the memories. 18 years - I wish it were 28 or 38." Forslund joined the Whalers shortly after the Francis trade. "We were doing damage control," he recalls. The ticket base went from over 11,000 to around 6,000." But there were still high moments. "We got through a lot of adversity. The fans came back. We wanted to be more competitive. The team was good enough to make the playoffs."

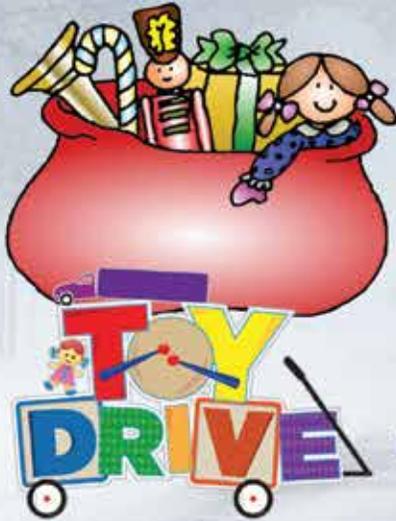
Forslund vividly recalls broadcasting the last Whalers game. It took him until a few years ago to actually watch. He wasn't sure he had done the moment justice. "It was the toughest thing I've ever done in my career," he notes. "How do you go on the air for the last game? There's no playbook for closing a franchise and leaving a city. How do you present that so it makes sense... is poignant? No one wanted to see it happen. We did [the broadcast] in the right way. You could feel the emotion of the fans."

As Kaiton puts it the Whalers years "were special years and it was a special place." The same goes for Forslund. "That's the one thing to convey, how special that time was... It was like family."



Ulf Samuelsson signing a hockey puck at the "Tip-a-Whaler" fundraiser. Photo by Diane Sobolewski Photography.

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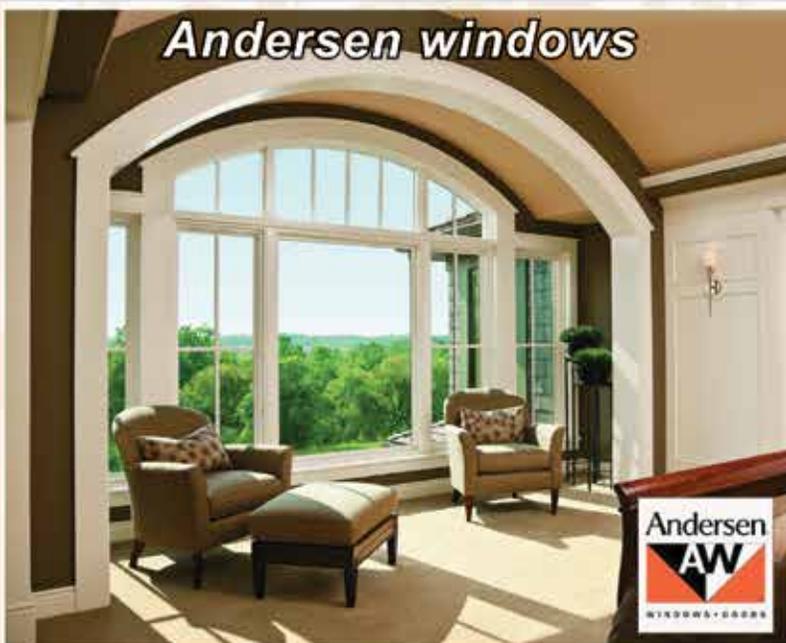
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