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# Town Manager's Corner

Hello East Hampton,

## WELCOME TO FALL!

We have made it through a tough spring but had a better summer. The aeration portion of the Lake Pocotopaug project was implemented and, along with continued work in the watershed, seems to be having a positive influence on the lake. As of this writing in about Mid-August, the lake remains open for recreation.

East Hampton and Connecticut have been doing quite well in our reaction to the pandemic. Our efforts to protect each other and ourselves have helped us reopen and restart with dwindling numbers of new cases since the Town peaked during April and May. As we continue to visit local businesses and establishments, continue to protect ourselves by following recommended practices such as masks and hand washing.

## TOWN HALL IS OPEN!

Staff moved in on May 11 and we welcomed the public back on June 25. Even as the last details are being dealt with, the building is serving the needs of the community well; most Town staff are housed in the building at 1 Community Drive, including the Board of Education. Having so much of Town operations in one location is proving to be quite efficient. Soon, we hope to be opening our meeting rooms to larger meetings as it becomes

safer to host groups of people. With that in mind, it is expected that planning for a grand opening and dedication ceremony will resume and the community will be invited to the Town Hall for that celebration. Watch for that announcement in early fall.

The Town has been granted \$250,000 through the Connecticut Department of Health to focus on improving the quality of water in the Route 66 commercial area. It is hoped that these funds can be leveraged to design a system that will meet the water quality and quantity needs in that area as well as the Village Center and adjacent residential areas that experience water issues. As we all know, water has been a topic of discussion for many years. There is hope on the horizon for addressing some of the most pressing needs. Watch for more information on that as we move into 2021.

2021 is coming fast and some may think it cannot come fast enough! Last time I signed off with "Forward to normalcy." While much of our new normal may be different than it ever

**continued on page 5**



**David E. Cox**  
Town Manager



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## Town Manager... continued from page 3

was, we will adapt as East Hampton has done for more than 250 years. Just like slipping into that perfect old sweatshirt or our most comfortable shoes, our favorite events and activities will

return with new twists and it will be like they never left. Stay well.

David Cox, Town Manager



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# Office of the Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue would like to remind taxpayers that the "Lower Interest Rate Program" is now in effect. All unpaid real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes that became due and payable on July 1, 2020 and delinquent after August 3, 2020 are subject to an interest penalty of .25% per month. This is an opportunity for taxpayers to pay all or

part of their taxes at a reduced interest rate. As payments are made, interest is charged only on the remaining balance of the tax bill. This plan will remain in effect through October 1, 2020 and will expire on October 2, 2020. At that time the interest rate will revert back to 1.5% per month or 18% per annum to the original due date of the tax.

The Town will be waiving the 50-cent fee associated with all checking and savings account payments made through October 31, 2020. Please visit our website at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov) for more information.

We are open to the public; please note we have moved into our new location at 1 Community Drive.

# Why Call the Fire Department ???

There may only be fifty ways to lose a lover but, apparently, there are hundreds of reasons why people do not call the Fire Department:

*"I didn't want to bother you guys..."*

*"It was only a little fire..."*

*"I didn't want to disturb my neighbors..."*

*"My house is a little messy..."*

*"I thought I put it out..."*

*"I'm embarrassed..."*

And on and on it goes. Unfortunately, (and much like losing a lover,) the outcome is usually not positive for at least one, if not all, of the parties involved.

In emergency situations, the order of priorities that define the mission for Fire Departments across the globe is remarkably consistent: 1) Life Safety, 2) Incident Containment, and 3) Property Preservation. Firefighters spend hundreds of hours each year training with tools and equipment and fine-tuning protocols and techniques to effectively and efficiently support those mission priorities. But those readily available resources provide no benefit whatsoever if they are not called into service in a timely manner and utilized to their maximum potential.

Residents may not realize how those mission priorities also apply to themselves when faced with a potentially dangerous situation:

## LIFE SAFETY ("It was only a little fire...")

Perhaps the fire itself actually was "little" but even "little" fires can be deadly due to the toxic gasses that are released as smoke. Today's residences are full of furnishings and objects manufactured from synthetic polymers that burn hotter, faster and release more toxic chemicals than organic materials such as wood, cotton or wool. In less than a few minutes, that "little" fire is consuming much of the available oxygen and replacing it with high levels of carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, phosgene and other noxious gasses. These toxic fumes can very quickly overwhelm the respiratory system, inhibiting cognitive function and incapacitating those exposed. Smoke claims exponentially more victims than flame.



## INCIDENT CONTAINMENT ("I thought I put it out...")

In other words, don't make things any worse than they already are. A seemingly small incident can develop into a much larger issue if not thoroughly investigated and completely extinguished. A small, visible fire might have been put out quickly, but may still be actively smoldering in walls, ceilings or other hidden areas, erupting into



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a major problem hours later. Firefighters utilize specialized tools and equipment not available to homeowners to check for fire extension into voids and inaccessible areas to ensure the fire has been fully extinguished.

#### PROPERTY PRESERVATION

“I didn’t want to disturb my neighbors...”

Firefighters are committed to protecting people’s property, and that includes the neighbors’ as well. A small incident that has escalated into a large incident as a result of a failure to call for help can not only destroy one’s own property but can also significantly affect the

properties of those in the immediate area. In addition, if property damage leads to the filing of an insurance claim, the insurance carrier is not obligated to cover that loss if the Fire Department was not called, a report was not issued and (if warranted) a subsequent investigation for cause and origin of the fire was not conducted by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department is here to serve. Don’t be embarrassed, you won’t be bothering us, we don’t care about dishes in the sink, your neighbors will thank you, keep little things little. Call us !!!

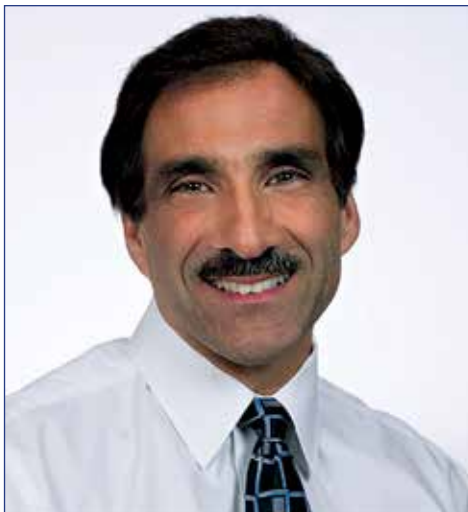


The East Hampton Prevention Partnership is looking for high school students to participate in leadership activities for the 2020-21 school year and beyond. Students involved will participate in group activities while promoting healthy lifestyles among their classmates. We are looking for student leaders who want to help their peers live up to their potential through healthy

lifestyles. These leaders will be tasked with helping their peers reacclimate to the new normal of school this fall.

Students and parents can keep up with our latest activities on ParentSquare under the group “EH Prevention Partnership Youth Committee.” Please call or email the Prevention Coordinator, James Olsen at: 860-267-9982 ext 3227 or jolsen@easthamptonct.gov for more information.

As a Local Prevention Council, the East Hampton Prevention Partnership is dedicated to reducing substance abuse among young people. Our mission is to foster a culture that values the wellbeing of East Hampton’s youth. We strive to instill self-acceptance, self-confidence and goal setting to promote healthy choices. In collaboration with community stakeholders, we offer educational programs and outreach initiatives.



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# East Hampton Police Department



The East Hampton Police Department wishes to warn all residents and businesses of the increasing number of telephone scams being conducted by individuals who have mastered the ability to spoof certain phone numbers to make it appear as if the number is coming from a local area code or a legitimate business. NEVER give out personal information over the phone and if it sounds too good to be true it probably is a scam. The callers can be very demanding and even threaten you with arrest if you don't comply. If you are suspicious of the caller, ask them for a call

back number and hang up. Conduct online research to see if the company is legitimate or contact the business/agency directly via the number you found on the internet or white pages not the number given to you by the caller as it could be an accomplice to the scam.

We continue to warn residents to lock their car doors and remove the keys/Fobs from the vehicle to ensure the vehicle does not get stolen or items removed from it. The simple task of locking your car will prevent these thefts. The perpetrators are not smashing windows to break into the cars, this draws attention to their activities,

which normally occur during the overnight hours.

With the start of the school year we want to remind motorists to pay attention to children walking to school or waiting for the school bus. It only takes a second for a child to run into the roadway. It is also the law that motorists stop for a school bus which is picking up or dropping off students while the red stop sign, and flashing lights are displayed.

Please obey all speed limits and don't text and drive.

## Public Works

The Public Works Department was in full swing over the summer. Filling of potholes, road sweeping, tree work and roadside mowing were a part of the daily routine. Catch basin cleaning, line painting, and curbing will all take place before adverse weather sets in. Public Works equipment is being repaired and maintained for both in season and winter use.

Along with our normal road and fleet maintenance operations, the Public Works Department has undertaken several drainage projects throughout the town including improvements on Lake Drive, Meeks Point, Walnut Avenue, Collie Brook Road and School House Lane. Additional projects are planned for Holly Drive, Edgerton Street, Sunset Drive, and Dogwood Drive.

Crews from Indus Inc. have completed crack sealing operations in the Seven Hills development. Crack sealing is an important pavement preservation technique that prevents water from seeping into the pavement structure causing premature failure.

The Transfer Station is fully open accepting their normal materials. More information on the Transfer Station can be found on the Town website at [www.easthamptonct.gov/public-works/transfer-station](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/public-works/transfer-station).

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# East Hampton Rotary Golf Tournament - Who wants to be a millionaire?

Would you like to win \$1,000,000 (yes, that is one million dollars)? Join us October 7, 2020 for the Rotary Club of East Hampton / Marlborough 27th annual golf tournament at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron, CT. The cost is \$125 pp and includes lunch, dinner, 18 holes of golf, golf cart and a swag bag including a "Red" golf shirt (if you pre-register.)

All golfers will have a chance to qualify for the Million Dollar Hole-In-One Contest. Up to four women and four men will qualify to take the life changing shot.

This fun filled annual golf tournament will be a scramble format tournament open to anyone and everyone. After the tournament we will have a tee-cup raffle at dinner. If you don't play golf you can still join us for the dinner and raffle.

You also have the opportunity to sponsor in a variety of ways ranging from \$100 - \$2,500. 100% of the proceeds will go back into the



Your ride awaits you.

community! Our auction this year will be online running October 1 - October 6. You can email [pjoslyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjoslyn@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

**VISIT East Hampton! • [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov)**

## Community matters...now more than ever.

This is the time for us to join together. Let's put our hearts and dollars to work for the benefit of all in Middlesex County.

Support our community with a donation of any size to the Live Local Give Local Emergency Fund. 100% of your gift will be granted to our local nonprofits.



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of Middlesex County



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## Social Services and Youth & Family Services

Social Services and Youth and Family Services have resumed operations; however, to maintain the health and safety of residents and our department, we are asking that people call ahead to schedule an appointment until further notice. While we do not encourage walk-ins, we ask that anyone coming to the office, whether walk-in or with an appointment, wear a mask and practice appropriate social distancing. Most, if not all, departments have appropriately placed floor markers to help up maintain safe practices.

Prior to the State and municipalities closing due to the pandemic, our department was fortunate to distribute all activity bags that we put together for the children in East Hampton. Items were purchased from Amazon through a Youth and Family grant. In total, our team at Social Services hand delivered 216 activity bags to children throughout East Hampton. Social Services was able to function on a remote basis during the months Town Hall was closed. We communicated regularly with the Food Bank and the Senior Center to identify families and seniors in need of food and necessities. Our department received many calls from town residents looking to make donations to families in need. We continued to be impressed by the generosity of East Hampton residents and thank you for thinking of your neighbors during such an unprecedented time.

Although we were able to continue most services remotely, we were not able to provide therapeutic services. As of July 16, we received approval to provide Telehealth counseling services. Currently, we have only one clinician doing telehealth services; however, four additional clinicians will be joining our department by the end of August. If you are a parent whose child was using services in our department or if anyone in your family was using services or are interested in starting therapeutic services, we encourage you to call our department for an intake.

By connecting residents to the Food Bank and energy assistance, Social Services and Youth and Family Services was able to reserve its direct assistance dollars. Partnering with the United Way, we connected several families to the United Way Covid-19 relief fund. Several families were connected through our department to programs offered by the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority with help on paying their rent and/or mortgage.

Unfortunately, we did have to cancel all our scheduled guest speakers and events. We are looking to reschedule events in a way that adheres to social distancing guidelines and will update residents when we are able to safely do so. In the meantime, please visit our Facebook page at East Hampton Youth & Family for events and department updates.



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# PARKS & RECREATION



## MISSION STATEMENT

The East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing innovative program opportunities and well-maintained facilities that enrich the East Hampton community.

## STAFF

Jeremy Hall, Director  
Shawn Mullen, Program Coordinator  
Sheri Yorker, Office Assistant  
Morgan Slossberg, Program Leader  
Joshua Seymour, Parks Maintainer II  
Matthew Kerkes, Parks Maintainer I

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah McKinney,  
Chairperson  
Tim Adams      Sheryl Dougherty  
Courtney Hyte      Jeff Leith  
Daniel Roy      Jessica Rurka

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Morgan Slossberg: [mslossberg@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:mslossberg@easthamptonct.gov)

## MAILING ADDRESS & PHYSICAL LOCATION HAVE CHANGED. WE ARE NOW LOCATED AT THE NEW TOWN HALL!

Parks and Recreation  
1 Community Drive  
East Hampton, CT 06424

## Afternoon Adventures After-School Program

860-367-5429 - Memorial School location  
860-781-0209 - Center School location

## Sears Park Pavilion

860-267-7178

## Youth and Family Services

860-267-9982

## Sears Park

**FACILITIES:** All rental request forms are available online at:  
[www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov)

**PAVILION:** Residents of East Hampton can rent the Pavilion for events for full or half-day rentals. The fees are \$75/half-day or \$125/full day. All reservations require a security deposit of \$125.

**LION'S PICNIC SHELTER:** Sears Park patrons may use this shelter when it is not reserved. Reservations are posted daily on the small kiosk next to the shelter with the specific reservations for that day. There is no cost to reserve the shelter; however, a completed reservation form is required.

**GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL PERFORMING ARTS GAZEBO:** The Gazebo can be used for small family-oriented performances and programs such as small musical performances, magic shows, plays, variety groups, etc. Music concerts are restricted to acoustic, instrumental or small jazz venues. Weddings and other special celebrations will be considered. Venues are lawn seating.

The gazebo will not be used for loud bands and or concerts. The fees are \$75 per day and a \$25 additional fee is added on if electrical or stage lighting is required. All reservations also require a \$125 security deposit.

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INFORMATION

### EAST HAMPTON LITTLE LEAGUE

[www.easthamptonlittleleague.sportssignup.com](http://www.easthamptonlittleleague.sportssignup.com)  
For boys and girls ages 6 - 18 (by July 31 of the current year)  
Registration takes place in January.  
Practices for the season begin in late March.  
Opening day is in April. Fall season begins in September and is open for children ages 8 years and up.

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### YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

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Email: [info@ehyouthfootball.org](mailto:info@ehyouthfootball.org)

### EAST HAMPTON SOCCER CLUB TOWN RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

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# PARKS & RECREATION

Spring season is late March-June.  
Registration for spring takes place in January.  
Fall season is late August-October.  
Registration for fall takes place in June.

## TRAVEL SOCCER

[www.easthamptonoccerclub.org](http://www.easthamptonoccerclub.org)  
For boys and girls ages 8 - 18  
Email Soccer Club for tryout information

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## EPOCH ARTS

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Email: [info@epocharts.org](mailto:info@epocharts.org)  
Contact: Elizabeth Namen 860-365-0337

## REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our program offerings are ever changing based on local and state guidelines. Please check out [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com) for the latest schedule and offerings. Our programs all follow in accordance with current CDC and OEC guidelines. Program enrollments are accepted online at: [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com). Registration forms are available online at: [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com) or at the Parks and Recreation Office.

All registration forms must include payment. Payment is required at the time of registration. All registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis. We accept MasterCard and Visa. Please make checks payable to East Hampton Parks and Recreation. Cash payments should be made in the office only. Please do not try to register or pay program instructors unless indicated.

Registration confirmations are available by email if subscribed to on your main account page at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). No other confirmations are provided; however, if you have registered with us and paid, you will be on the final roster.

### Program Refund Policy

If you are unable to attend a program you have registered for, please contact us. You must contact us 7 days before a program starts to receive a 100% refund. Cancellations inside of 7 days will receive a 50% refund or be issued an account credit for another activity. After the program starts no refunds will be issued. Our ability to refund money for trip cancellations depends on our contractual agreement with the travel companies.

In the event of inclement weather, all programs are cancelled if school is closed or has an early dismissal. Cancellation information is posted on WFSB Channel 3 Early Warning Network. Households who have subscribed to the online registration site's email notifications will receive an email regarding the cancellation.

Program times are subject to change based on enrollment numbers. Programs will be cancelled if the minimum enrollment number is not reached.

Applications for reduced-tuition scholarships are available at the Parks and Recreation Office and Youth and Family Services. All information is strictly confidential. This is an application process. Only programs run directly by East Hampton Parks and Recreation qualify.

A portion of your enrollment fee may be put into your Special Revenue Program account for the East Hampton Parks & Recreation Department to maintain or enhance this program or other programs. This fund is not associated with the General Fund of the Town of East Hampton.

## SEAMSTER PARK FUNDRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT

### September 17

The Seamster Park Fundraiser Golf Tournament is back for its 3rd season! All funds raised at the tournament go towards adding on to the playground located at Seamster Park.

The tournament is played at Blackledge Country Club on the Anderson's Glen Course and is a shotgun start, scramble format going off at 10:00 am. There will be contests through-out the round (long drive, closest to the pin, etc.) raffle and dinner following the round (lunch, dinner and two drink tickets are included for all golfers.) You must pre-register for the event at [www.easthamptonrec.com](http://www.easthamptonrec.com) or by calling the Parks and Recreation Office. Day of check in begins at 8:30 am. See our website for sponsorship information.

### Golfer Registration

\$130 per golfer, register as an individual or with your 4 some.  
Dinner Only - \$50

### Sponsorships

Contest Sponsor - \$100  
Platinum Sponsor - \$1000  
Gold Sponsor - \$800  
Silver Sponsor - \$400

# Middlesex Health: Continuing to Provide the Care You Need

You have been told to stay at home—and to wear a mask—but what happens when you have a doctor's appointment scheduled or if you experience a possible medical emergency such as chest pain?

Even during a pandemic, it is important to keep up with your medical care, including routine physicals, and you should absolutely seek emergency care if you need it.

Nationwide, there has been a significant increase in mortality rates—more deaths than can be attributed to COVID-19. The worry is that people are not seeking emergency care when they feel very sick.

Middlesex Health knows the idea of leaving home to go to a medical facility can be anxiety provoking, but it is doing everything it can to ensure that you get the care you need safely. This includes offering virtual (telehealth) visits when appropriate.

Please know that visiting a Middlesex Health Emergency Department location is safe. Patients in a Middlesex Health Emergency Department are separated: one area for possible COVID-19 patients; another for patients who may have other

problems. All patients, regardless of why they are visiting, are expected to wear masks.

Middlesex Health is also taking extraordinary measures to ensure your safety in its primary care and specialist offices. From extra cleaning and screening staff and patients, to making sure everyone is properly masked and limiting the number of patients in its waiting rooms, Middlesex's goal is not only to keep you safe, but to make you feel comfortable. If you have put off getting the care you need, now is the time to make an appointment.

Putting off annual exams and important tests and procedures can have unintended long-term consequences. It could mean that you miss identifying a problem early, allowing it to become a much bigger problem. The goal is to stay healthy—not to make things more challenging.

For more information about Middlesex Health during this pandemic, visit [Middlesex Health.org/safe](http://Middlesex Health.org/safe).






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**860.873.8108**

# Senior Center

105 Main Street, East Hampton, CT | 860-267-4426  
E-mail: seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov

Well, you might think things slowed down at the Senior Center because they are closed. NOT! The staff have been very busy designing programs for those with the technological know-how and those without!

Yes, we have been able to continue the Grab and Go meal program since the end of March with the help of the Community Renewal Team. More than 1,000 meals have been delivered in this time period.



Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who have made life more comfortable to the older adults in our community. Community Renewal team has brought in over 1000 meals since March to continue to provide Grab and Go Meals and Meals on Wheels

Several folks are not able to come to the Center to pick up their meals so a member of the CERT (East Hampton Community Emergency Response Team) has volunteered to deliver those meals. We also developed a Volunteer Shopping program for older adults not able to shop for themselves. CERT members have generously volunteered their time to shop and deliver groceries to individual homes, all the while maintaining minimal contact and social distancing. This program is a great service to the older adult community. If you are need, please call the Senior Center for more information.

While our doors are closed, programming is being offered on a regular basis. We have the following classes and programs via Zoom meetings. If you are interested in participating call the Center to express your interest, the staff will be glad to sign you up and walk you through the steps.

**VIRTUAL BINGO** Play BINGO from your home via Zoom. Nelson will call the numbers, and someone will ring the bell when 66 is called. A wide variety of games

continued on page 16

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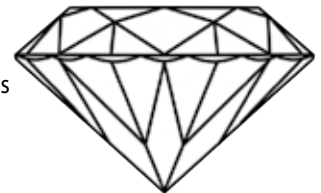
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## Senior Center... continued from page 15

are played. New members are welcome to join. Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.

**WRITER'S WORKSHOP** with Elizabeth every other Wednesday at 9:30 am and every Thursday at 10:30 am via Zoom meeting. Elizabeth will take you through the steps of creative writing. Classes have started but new members are welcome.

**YOGA** with Kitch via Zoom Wednesdays, at 11:15 am. This yoga class stretches your mind, body and soul. Call the Center for more information.

**THE BELLTOWN STEPPERS** meet twice a month to share their walking times and or steps. Conversation flows from sports to activities going on around the Town and State. Next meeting: September 10 and 24 at 9:30 am.

**LUNCH BUNCH** - No meeting on Monday September 7 due to the Labor Day Holiday. Next meeting on September 21, 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Just a time to gather and catch up with each other!

**THE GIFT OF GAB** call will be held September 14. You do not need a computer or any device other than your phone. We will designate a time to call in and meet others wanting to socially connect! Want more information? Call the Senior Center.

One other program we are offering is a Pen Pal program. We are matching people up to write to each other so they can be connected without the technology. If you are interested contact the staff at the Senior Center.

We hope to see you in the real near future. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe!



### VISIT East Hampton! • [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov)

East Hampton is located 22 miles south of the state capital of Hartford and is equidistant from Boston and New York City. Our Town is known for its rich history, environmental assets, and small town charm.

We strive to preserve our rural-suburban character, our farmlands, watershed land, and historic structures by taking a long-term view. Enriching quality of life, respecting Town heritage, and building community are among our highest priorities.

## East Hampton Town Directory

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

Animal Control (24 hour dispatch).....	860-873-5044	Land Use .....	860-267-7450
Assessor .....	860-267-2510	Parks & Recreation .....	860-267-7300
Board of Education .....	860-365-4000	Police Department (non-emergency).....	860-267-9544
Building.....	860-267-9601	Probate Court .....	860-295-6239
Chatham Health District .....	860-365-0884	Public Library .....	860-267-6621
Collector of Revenue.....	860-267-2300	Public Works.....	860-267-4747
Emergency Management.....	860-267-0088	Registrars.....	860-267-6720
Finance Department .....	860-267-7548	Senior Center .....	860-267-4426
Fire Marshal .....	860-267-0088	Town Clerk .....	860-267-2519
Food Bank .....	860-365-5978	Town Manager.....	860-267-4468
Housing Authority .....	860-267-8498	Water Pollution Control Authority .....	860-267-2536
Human Resources .....	860-267-4468	Youth & Family/Social Services.....	860-267-9982





105 Main Street | East Hampton CT 06424  
860-267-6621 | [www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org](http://www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org)

### Library News

As this pandemic stretches on (and on, and on, and on) the Library is here for you. We recognize that it seems like nothing is the same as it used to be, but we're still committed to serving you, wherever you are.

**Over the last few months, we've added many services like:** curbside pickup, exploration kits, Zoom storytimes and early learning backpacks. But we've also kept up with old standards that are even more necessary now, like ebooks and downloadable audiobooks, research databases, online learning platforms and reader's advisory services.

You know that a Library is more than just a warehouse of books, it's a place where our community comes together. We're committed to that goal even when it means re-imagining our services to meet your new and changing needs. The Library might look different these days but we're still here for you.

Keep up to date with everything going on by visiting our website: [EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org](http://EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org) or on our facebook page: [facebook.com/pg/EastHamptonLibrary](https://facebook.com/pg/EastHamptonLibrary).

Sincerely,  
Ellen Paul, Library Director

### Online Programs

We're offering virtual programs for people of all ages on Zoom and Facebook. Here is a sampling but check our Facebook page or event calendar for the latest listings.

**BABY RHYME TIME: Ages 0-12 months**  
**Mondays 10:00 am - Kicks off Monday September 14**  
*\*\*This program is hosted virtually. Check our website for the most up to date information.\*\**

A virtual place for you and your baby to sing, play, and connect. Enjoy 20 minutes of songs and playtime with your baby while building early literacy skills. After play time, stick around to chat with other parents in your community. No registration is required, just drop in.

**continued on page 18**

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## Library... continued from page17

### STORIES & SONGS: Ages 18 months - 4 years

Wednesdays 10:00 am

*\*\*This program is hosted virtually. Check our website for the most up to date information.\*\**

An early literacy program for child and caregiver that combines stories, songs & literacy activities to promote lifelong learning. Unstructured play time with toys, art supplies, and socialization will follow. Year Round. No registration required, just drop in!

### FOOTPRINTS, FRIBRARY, & FUNDAYS ONLINE

For children and families in grades 2 - 8. Siblings welcome!

**Mondays and Fridays in September, October, and November at 4:00 pm**

*\*\*This program is hosted virtually. Check the library's online calendar for exact dates and registration information. \*\**

Our favorite after school programs are moving online! Join us after school on Zoom for educational and interactive experiences like cooking classes, animal encounters, and more. Special programs are being held for children in grades 2-3, 4-5, and new this year, grades 6-8! Check our events calendar for the latest information.

### TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: Grades 6 - 12

**The last Monday of the month! 6:00 - 7:30 pm**

*\*\*This program is hosted virtually. Check our website for the most up to date information.\*\**



Come together to plan and create events and programs you want. Provide input to expand our YA/Teen collection. Share your knowledge, creativity and interests to make the East Hampton Public Library a place you love to be. Earn community service hours. Applications are being taken now! Our first meeting will be via Zoom on September 29th.

Check our website for the most up-to-date program listings.

## New Children's Services

### TAKE & MAKES: Ages 0 - 18

Whether your child is a Little Learner (5 and under,) school age (6-11) or a teen/tween (12+), we've got an activity pack for your family filled with activities, crafts, and of course, 3-5 library books to help you keep exploring the month's theme.

### 1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN IS NOW ONLINE

If you've always wanted to get your child involved in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten but were never able to get to the Library, we've got great news for you! You can now sign up online and download new reading logs! New to 1000 Books? 1000 Books Before Kindergarten is a reading incentive program for ages birth to five. As you read together (repeats count!), you'll track your progress on bubble sheets or using an app. Every 100 books, we'll reward you and your child with stickers, books to keep, and celebrate your progress!

### SPROUT EARLY LEARNING BACKPACKS NOW

**AVAILABLE FOR CHECK OUT: Ages 3-8 years old**

Need new toys and games, but don't have the space? Check out one of our 33 new early learning backpacks! Each Backpack is themed and includes several picture books, two to four educational games or toys, and the activity guide showing how to use the items. For example, try out The Science Of Sound, which contains books, musical instruments, and more! Families can check out one backpack at a time. Backpacks are available for ages 3-8 years old.

### PARENTING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Parenting and educating children can be complicated - finding the right books shouldn't be! East Hampton Public Library is proud to offer support and enrichment for East Hampton's parents, home-schooling families, and educators with our newly updated Parenting and Educational Resource Collection. The books in this section are geared towards adults and range from books about child development and nutrition, mental and physical health, educational resource guides, and more. East Hampton Public Library also provides residents with access to digital content like the History Reference Center, language learning, and Explora, a database with sections designed for Elementary, Middle, and High Schoolers. Still confused? Librarians are happy to help you find what you are looking for, even if it's not on our shelves.

## Books & More

### CURBSIDE PICK UP

Request books online through our catalog or just call one of our friendly staff members. We'll be happy to bundle up any of your requests and set them out for curbside pick up.

### READER'S ADVISORY SERVICES

#### Don't know what to read next? Call us!

We'd be happy to talk to you about your taste in books and suggest some new ones you might try. We'll even put them on hold for you and set up curbside pick up.

### EXPLORATION KITS

Exploration Kits are curated mystery boxes of library materials - books, movies, music and more - that help you discover something new and amazing. A great weekend activity, Exploration Kits are perfect for families looking to learn together or for couples or individuals who want to broaden their horizons in a new and fun way. Reserve your exploration kit through our website: [EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org](http://EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org) or call us at: 860-267-6621.

### E-BOOKS & E-AUDIO BOOKS

We're doubling down our commitment to offering you a great selection of e-books and e-audiobooks. We've increased the monthly borrowing limit on Hoopla and we're investing more money in titles on Overdrive. If you've never downloaded an e-book from the library before, checkout the tutorials we've created on our website, or call us! We'd be happy to walk you through it.

### RESEARCH & ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

Now is a great time to check out all of our research tools. If your kids are doing research projects and need articles, we have you covered with a full range of scholarly articles on ResearchItCT specifically for elementary and middle school children. And for fun, check out our online arts and crafts video tutorials through CreativeBug or do some family research through Ancestry! All you need is your library card number to access any of these resources for free!



#### WHAT IS 2-1-1?

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

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

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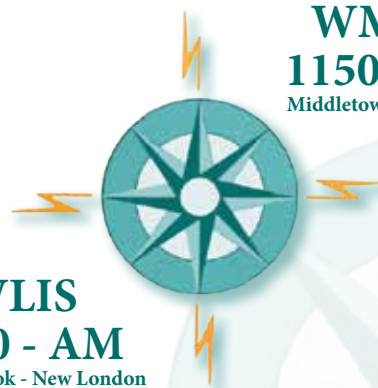


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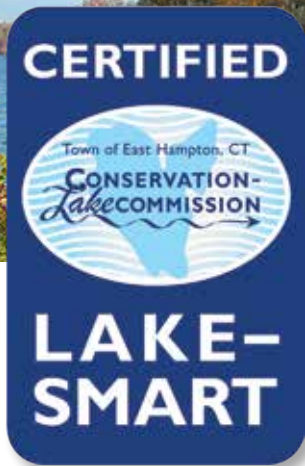
[www.wliswmrd.net](http://www.wliswmrd.net)

# Lake-Smart Award Program for Lake Pocotopaug

The East Hampton Conservation Lake Commission (CLC) is starting a Lake-Smart Award Program for property owners living on Lake Pocotopaug or in the surrounding watershed. The purpose is to encourage property owners to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug by doing projects to prevent infiltration of phosphates, nitrates, pesticides, and other impurities into the lake. Those that achieve seven requirements will receive a Lake-Smart Award sign they can display on their property. It is hoped the program will not only improve the quality of the lake but also encourage neighbors to make improvements to their property,

Some of the seven criteria property owners will be evaluated on are do they have a “buffer zone,” rain gardens, diversion ditches, etc. that contain stormwater runoff before it reaches the lake. Do owners refrain from using chemical fertilizers containing phosphates and nitrates or using pesticides and herbicides? In mowing their lawn do they maintain the level of their lawn at 2 ½-3” and use a mulching blade instead of bagging grass clippings? Do they cover bare soil areas with mulch or plantings? Also, do they refrain from feeding waterfowl and discourage them from coming onto their property? Finally, do they prevent leaves and grass clippings from entering the lake?

Those wishing to be evaluated for the award, should contact Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department at: 860-267-7300 or



Keep Lake Pocotopaug clean. Refrain from feeding waterfowl and discourage them from coming onto your property.

jhall@easthamptonct.gov or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Department at: 860-267-7450 or jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov. An appointment will be arranged for a CLC member(s) to visit the owners and help them evaluate their property. If there is a deficiency, owners will be given suggestions on improving their property. If they achieve all the goals, they will receive a Lake-Smart Award. We can all work together to have a cleaner lake.

## Land Use Department

2020 has certainly proven to be quite the year thus far! While the current COVID-19 pandemic has caused some disruptions in the normal process of doing business, the Land Use Office and all land use commissions continue to process applications and hold public meetings. All meetings are being held virtually using Zoom which allows anyone who is interested to login or call from the comfort and safety of their own home.

The Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency,

and Zoning Board of Appeals are holding regular meetings and conducting business on their normal schedule. If you want to participate or view a meeting, all information about how to do so can be found on the town website.

The new Town Hall has opened to the public. Our department is open and functioning normally, but we recommend that as much as possible, rely on the website and use digital means to submit applications to limit the number of people in the building. All application forms and a variety of

information is posted to the Land Use and Commission webpages. Applications and other forms can be emailed, and payments can be sent via mail. If you do need to come in, please wear a mask and follow appropriate social distancing.

We recognize that submitting information digitally and attending meetings virtually can be frustrating at times. Thank you to all Commission members for continuing to volunteer your time and to everyone for your patience during this unprecedented time.

# Keeping Community Connected with the Community Foundation of Middlesex County

At the Community Foundation of Middlesex County (CFMC), we know that Helping Good People Do Great Things is simple: connect people, connect organizations, connect ideas, connect the dots. We know that we can all make an impact in Keeping Community Connected. Our partner and CFMC grantee, Epoch Arts, provided the perfect opportunity to underscore that motto through its artwork.



Community Connected through CFMC's Thank You Card Initiative.

Enter Rachel Martin -Raddatz. Rachel joined the Epoch Arts programs at 13 years old and is now both an alumna and a staff member. When we saw the "We Are All Connected" artwork she created for a fundraising project at Epoch Arts this spring, we knew we just had to share her incredible talent - and her vision of Keeping



CFMC has been partnering with several nonprofit organizations in Middlesex County to promote and

highlight talented young artists in their programs. We want to remind everyone how much art enriches our lives and how much talent there is - right in our backyard. Rachel's artwork created for Epoch Arts seemed to be that perfect way to say "we are in this together, let's keep our community connected, especially in this challenging time."

CFMC is honored and proud to partner with Epoch Arts, Rachel, and its talented artists to say "Thank You" for sharing, caring, and enriching our community. We encourage you to visit Epoch Arts at: [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org) to see the incredible work of talented young artists and learn more about the many ways Epoch Arts is making an impact every day in the lives of our youth.

To learn more about the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, please visit us at: [MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://MiddlesexCountyCF.org).

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## New Questions; Some Silver Linings

by Morgan McMinn

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives inside out. We went from the normalcy of work and school, attending events, going to gyms, restaurants and bars to a state of emergency, social distancing and new protocols. As we continue to grapple with the struggles that have come with the pandemic, it is important to reflect upon what we have learned to date. Uncertainty remains, but perhaps we are better prepared for what may lie ahead.

### THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY RESPONDS TO CHALLENGING TIMES



We have been living amid constantly evolving information about just what COVID-19 is? Is there immunity from the virus? Will the virus mutate? How is the virus transmitted? “We are always

learning new information” notes Amanda Falcone, Public Relations Director for Middlesex Health. “As of today, there is still much that is unknown. There’s no clinical playbook - no established standards of care for this virus. Knowledge changes rapidly.”

COVID-19 has altered what “normal” health care entails. Insurance has, at least for an interim period, approved telehealth visits. Telehealth is an important option especially for those who may lack mobility, access to transportation or the time for typical health care appointments. Middlesex Health stresses the importance of keeping up with your medical care. “Putting off annual exams and important tests and procedures can have unintended long-term consequences,” states Falcone.

Organizations like Middlesex Health are working to find out more about COVID-19. Middlesex Health is a part of a national initiative, led by the Mayo Clinic, that is investigating the use of convalescent plasma. Middlesex Health is also part of a study on Remdesivir, which, according to Falcone is the only medicine so far to show even a moderate benefit with respect to treating COVID-19.

Early on the healthcare industry faced worldwide supply shortages with respect to items such as personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. Middlesex Health quickly made adjustments in how care is provided (additional cleaning, masks, care areas segregated based on COVID-19 status, additional safety equipment, etc.)

“We are actually using our pandemic plan as we work,” states Falcone. “When things get better, we will take a close look at our emergency and pandemic plan and adjust accordingly so that we are even more prepared should we ever need to use them again. Over the past several months we’ve learned a lot. We are now more knowledgeable and more prepared as we move forward, and we recognize that we will be dealing with this virus for a long time to come. It will likely be a moving target for a while yet to come.”

### A RETURN TO NATURE?

With families and individuals confined to their homes across the globe, our planet was able to take its own breath and get slightly healthier. Startling images show clear waters in the Venice canals and the India Gate War Memorial in New Delhi became more visible as air pollution decreased (above right).



Some studies indicate that, while pre-pandemic levels of daily emissions were rising steadily every year, COVID-19 restrictions brought numbers comparable to 2006, mainly due to a reduction in surface transportation, power and industry (cars, electricity, fossil fuel, etc).

Mr. Robert Klee, Lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, notes that “clean air is important and this is a link to the pandemic being a respiratory pandemic - those who suffer from dirtier air and depressed or compromised health from dirty air are more susceptible to the likes of COVID-19. There are correlations with bad air quality and higher incidents.”



People are taking walks, running, hiking, biking, kayaking, etc. The pandemic “reconnected people in interesting ways,” observes Klee. “People locked in the house go on walks, hike on a trail, want to go out and experience nature.”

Cities like Bogota, New York, Paris and Berlin, along with local communities, have made new street spaces for safer individual mobility (walking, cycling etc.). Will this lead to more permanent change? “Part of the question as we restart our economy is what are we restarting it for and to? What is our goal?” And don't forget climate change is still an existential threat and a huge crisis and we can't forget about it for one moment.”

### MENTAL HEALTH – RESILIENCE AMID UNCERTAINTY

COVID-19 has taken an emotional toll. “There is so much uncertainty. It's unprecedented,” observes Nancy Randall, a psychologist at East Lyme Psychological Associates. “People are more isolated than they have been. People are stressed about going back to work. They are anxious about the reopening and not sure what it will look like. The anxiety is really the biggest thing. Not knowing what's coming next.”

Is there a silver lining? “We adapt pretty well to things,” she says. Many are enjoying nature, adopting pets, finding time for relationships and hobbies. People connect via facebook groups or Zoom. They have found ways to make a difference, whether sewing face-masks or checking in on others. “People are resilient,” notes Randall. “We've found ways to adapt and try to find the positive in things. Things we learned we can take with us. That doesn't have to go away.”

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