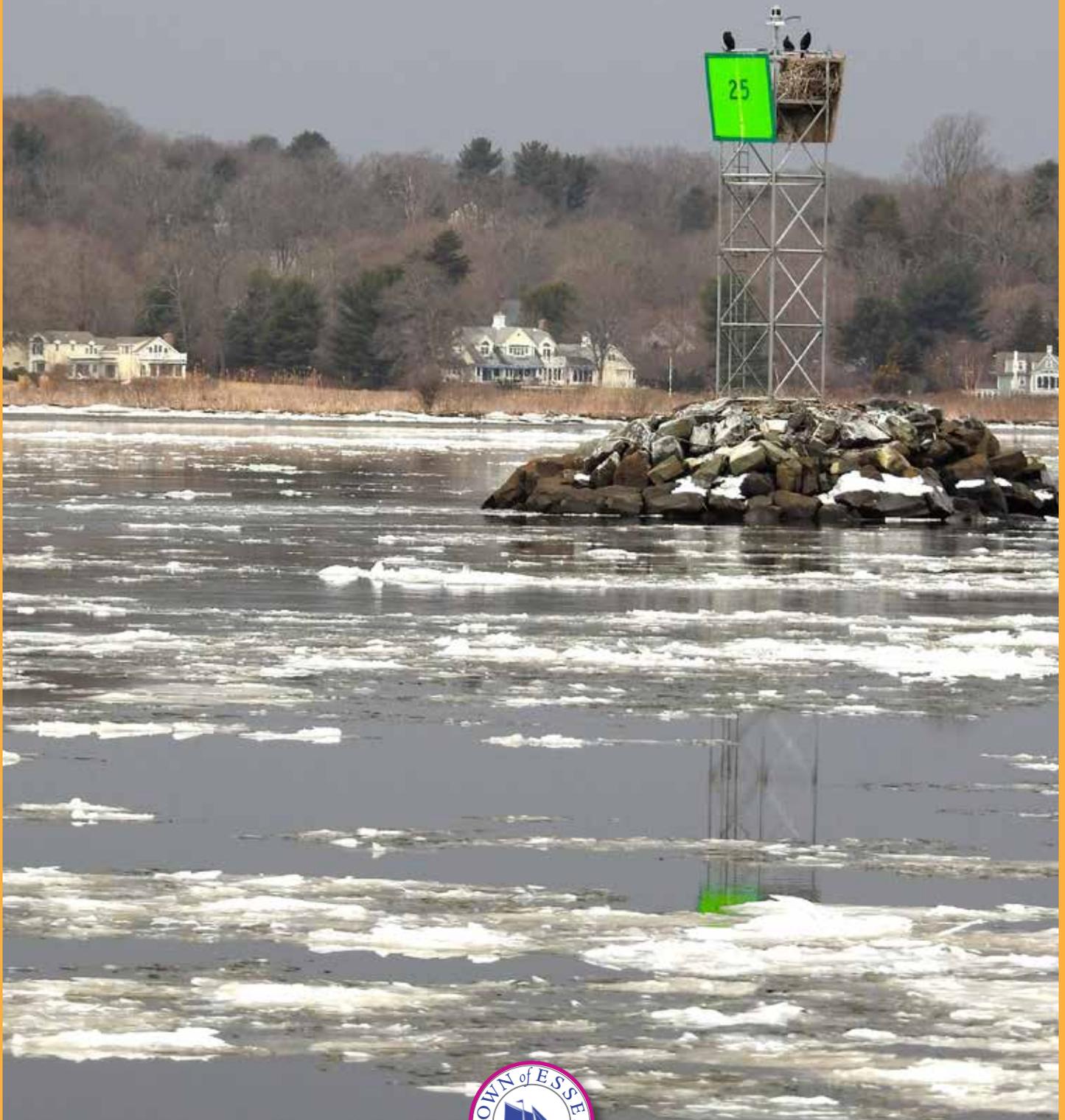


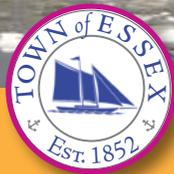
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First Selectman's Corner

Dear Essex Friends & Neighbors,

Happy New Year! Before we review local news, I'd like to thank the residents of Essex for their support during my State Senate campaign. Nothing was more gratifying than the encouragement and support I received in our hometown. I'll work hard to be the credible voice our town and our district badly need in the State Senate. As importantly, I will continue to serve you as First Selectman. Our town is fortunate to be on sound financial footing, and we have built a core staff of professionals in every area of municipal operations and services. Those services are reinforced by selectmen who are experienced municipal managers, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac. I will work with them every day to make certain that Essex continues its positive momentum.

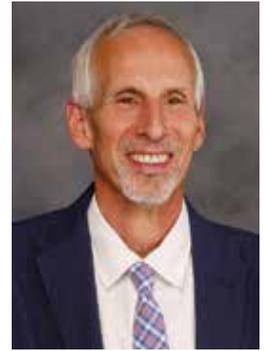
This year the Board of Finance dedicated the 2017-2018 Annual Report to Sam and Charlie O'Donnell. Their extraordinary dedication to the Town spanned decades and had a huge impact, most notably on our ambulance service. They were instrumental in establishing the Essex Ambulance service and worked tirelessly to improve response times and save lives. We are grateful for their years of dedication and service to the Town.

Preparation for the 2018-2019 annual budget is underway. Letters have gone out to Town schools, departments, boards and

commissions and they will soon be compiling and submitting their requests. Our goal is to continue to meet your needs and expectations with the highest levels of service, while keeping expenditures low. The schedule of budget meetings has been posted on the Town website. Budget meetings are open to the public, and we hope you will attend. The Board of Finance has overall responsibility for the budget process and will submit a final budget for the approval of residents at a Town Meeting, currently scheduled for May 13, 2019.

I'm pleased to report that the Town has been awarded a Connecticut Community Connectivity grant in the amount of \$145,200 to upgrade sections of sidewalk in Essex and Ivoryton villages. This grant, along with the Centerbrook STEAP grant will result in the completion of a network of sidewalks connecting all three villages from Bushy Hill to the Foot of Main. Essex will soon have a safe, non-motorized way of exploring our villages. These sidewalk links will benefit the economies of each village, while enhancing the sense of community. The projects are expected to start in the spring.

continued on page 3



Norm Needleman
First Selectman



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A photograph of a man and a woman sitting on a dark blue leather sofa in a living room. They are both smiling and looking at a small, scruffy dog sitting on the sofa between them. The man is wearing a blue sweater and jeans, and the woman is wearing a grey sweater and jeans. There are two white mugs on a coffee table in front of them. The room has light-colored walls and framed artwork.

events

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CONTENTS

First Selectman's Corner.....	1
Assessor's Office 2018 - A Property Revaluation Year.....	3
Tax Relief - Persons Totally Disabled or Over Age 65.....	4
Town Clerk's Office.....	6
Essex Ed Parade Celebrates 40th Anniversary.....	7
Essex Community Fund's 2nd Annual Cheers for Charity.....	10
Essex Park & Recreation Department.....	12
Essex Park and Recreation Announces the 2019 Essex go Bragh	
Grand Marshals, John & Judy Heiser.....	13
Winter Is Here... To all Town of Essex Residents.....	14
Building Department Generator Installation Guide.....	15
News from the Essex Elementary School Foundation.....	16
High School Spanish Exchange Students Travel to Spain.....	17
Essex Library Association.....	18
Friends of the Essex Library.....	19
Experience Essex with the Sailing Masters of 1812.....	19
Connecticut River Museum.....	20
23rd Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest.....	21
FISH (Friends in Service Here).....	22
8th Annual Run for Chris 5k with the Y.....	22
Ivoryton Library.....	23
Winter Readiness Plans.....	23
The Heating Season is the Best Time to Test for Radon.....	24
Stormwater Runoff & Snow Melt is Polluted.....	24
Middlesex to Rebrand.....	25
Upcoming Essex Land Trust Events.....	26
Ivoryton Playhouse Announces Its 2019 Season.....	28
Essex Historical Society.....	30
The Essex Garden Club Brought Holiday Spirit to Essex.....	32
Essex Garden Club Recognized by Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.....	33
Welcome to Essex.....	33
The Essex Foundation Expands Gateway Beautification.....	34
Portraits of Beethoven: Celebration Concert.....	35
The Last Word... Dr. Robert Ballard - The Race to Save the Human Race.....	36

First Selectman's Corner... continued from page 1

As always, I encourage you to contribute to the safety of all drivers and pedestrians this winter season. Please drive safely, make sure your tires are in good shape, always wear seatbelts, and be alert to hazardous road conditions and drive within the speed limit. Prepare your homes and cars for winter and be equipped for emergencies. As we have asked in the past, please clear your sidewalks of snow as soon as possible after storms so pedestrians can walk safely, clear of traffic. If you see something that needs to be repaired contact our Public Works Department at rwelch@essexct.gov or 860-767-0715.

On behalf of all of us here at Town Hall we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Norm Needleman

Assessor's Office 2018 - A Property Revaluation Year

Every five years, as mandated by the state, the Town of Essex conducts a real estate revaluation project. This year Vision Government Solutions was awarded the contract to help the Town with this process. This company valued all the properties in Town using a mass appraisal formula which is different than an appraisal for an individual property. This is the most cost-effective way of getting an average value for your property.

The revaluation will be effective with the October 1, 2018 Grand List. This means that the first property tax bill you receive with the new assessed value will be due July 2019.

The new values set for the town-wide Essex Revaluation were mailed November 9th. Hearings were held with Vision Government Solutions Inc., through the end of November. If you met with a representative from Vision a second letter letting you know the results of that hearing will be mailed to you.

If you missed the opportunity to meet with a Vision representative and you would like to appeal your new assessed value, you can meet with the Board of Assessment Appeals. An application for a hearing must be completed and returned to the Assessor's Office by February 20, 2019. Hearings will be held during the month of March.

- The application for a hearing can be found on the Town of Essex website. Go to www.essexct.gov, Government, Boards and Committees, Board of Assessment Appeals and complete the 2019 Essex Board of Assessment Appeals Application to Appeal.

continued on page 4



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Assessor's Office... continued from page 3

- Should you wish someone to represent you at the hearing please also complete the BAA Agent Form, which is available on the same page as the Application to Appeal.
- The link to the Vision Appraisal Essex Real Estate database to look at property values can be found at:

www.vgsi.com under the Taxpayer Information tab, Assessors Online Database.

These applications/forms must be returned to the Assessor's Office on or before February 20 to have a hearing in March. If you have any questions, please contact the

Assessor's office at: 860.767.4340 ext. 123. Thank you.

Jessica Sypher, CCMA II, Assessor
jsypher@essexct.gov

Betsy D'Amico, Assistant to the Assessor
bdamico@essexct.gov

Tax Relief - Persons Totally Disabled or Over Age 65

The Assessor's Office will begin accepting applications for the State of Connecticut Circuit Breaker program on February 1, 2019. In order to qualify for this program a person must be totally disabled or over age 65. In the case of a married couple, only one spouse needs to be over 65. The total household income, including Social Security benefits, must be less than \$43,900 for a married couple and less than \$36,000 for a single person. Once qualified for the State Circuit Breaker Program, a person/couple is also eligible for the Town of Essex matching benefit.

The amount of tax relief is a sliding scale based on the total income. For example, if a married couple had a total income of \$20,000 for calendar year 2018, they may qualify for assistance from the State of up to \$1,000. The \$1,000 would be taken off their tax bill and the

Town would match that benefit up to 100%, depending on age and years of residency. In this example, the tax bill could be reduced by as much as \$2,000.

If you, or someone you know, might be eligible for this benefit, please have them come to the Assessor's Office at Town Hall with their 2018 SSA 1099, and proof of any income earned in calendar year 2018 or a copy of the 2018 tax return prior to May 15, 2019. We are looking forward to the opportunity to assist you. Please call us at: 860.767.4340 ext. 123 or email us with any questions.

Jessica Sypher, CCMA II, Assessor, jsypher@essexct.gov

Betsy D'Amico, Assistant to the Assessor, bdamico@essexct.gov

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Breakfast Hours **Lunch/Dinner Hours**

Tues-Fri 6:00 am – 9:45 am Tues-Wed: 11:30a.m. – 8:30p.m./Bar 9:30p.m.

Sat. 7:00 am – 9:45 am Thurs-Sat: 11:30a.m. – 9:00p.m./Bar 10:30p.m.

Sun. 7:00 am – 10:15 am Sunday: 12:00p.m. – 8:15p.m./Bar 9:00p.m.

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Essex 2.8 Acres with Dock! 47 River Road
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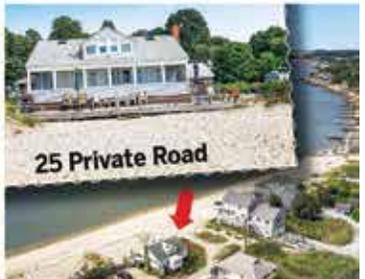
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Megan Nielsen & Jeffrey Carpenter	26 Brooks Lane	Ivoryton
Leslie Ryan	83 Lynn Road	Ivoryton
Douglas & Jada Loutit	49 North Main Street	Essex
Amy L. Grinsfelder & Stephen S. Czaplak	54 Mares Hill Road	Essex
William Fisher & Susan Grant	19 Rosewood Lane	Ivoryton
Colin Smith & Rachel Lowe	18 Earl Street	Centerbrook
Candice Elona Hunsinger	58 Saybrook Road	Essex
Larry Heebner & Kathy Lalikos	18 Cedar Street	Centerbrook
Louis R. Budney	7 Rachel Lane	Ivoryton
Randal Toews	194 Saybrook Road	Essex
Joan O. Holbrook	85 River Road, Unit K-5	Essex
Christopher Marino	61 Mares Hill Rd.	Ivoryton
Natalie A. Tornatore	31 Grove Street	Essex
Carl Schuler & Sybil Chambers	4 Dogwood Drive	Centerbrook
David Hayes & Nancy Vargas	85 River Road, Unit M1	Essex
Sarah Lively	85 River Road, Unit B6	Essex
Michael Noto & Betty Bishop	19 Navy Lane	Essex
Richard & Jacqueline Moscarelli	3 Andrews Road	Essex
Gloria G. Bartolotta	59 River Road	Essex
Elana Chase & Paul Bartsch	85 River Road, Unit G7	Essex
William Burley & Robert Burley	62 Lynn Road	Essex
David & Sherrill Collins	47 Falls River Drive	Ivoryton
Carl & Katherine Swope	7 Ivory Street	Ivoryton

LOSS OF RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

August	Suzanne B. Lougee
Jorge R. Carreira	Patricia O'Leary
Edward Lombardi	Rocco J. D'Amico
Norma Motta	
Grace S. Rowe	November
Donald K. Connor	Evelyn N. Punzelt
Gregory P. McGreevey	Eliot Peter Anderson
Joan M. Barry	Roland S. MacNichol
Michael D. Burdick	John K. Taylor
	Virginia C. Cook
September	
Edmund Cadrain	December
	None
	(as of time of printing)
October	
Nancy R. Turner	Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Avondoglio	Yvonne Roziak,
Lorraine Carlson	Assistant Town Clerk
Elizabeth Nash	

To download previous issues of Essex Events visit: www.eventsmagazines.com and download the issue you desire!



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Essex Ed Parade Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Left: Essex Ed departs Essex Boat Works with chauffer, Ralph Hermann of Centerbrook's Antique Auto Service.

And right: Essex Ed Parade attracts spirited groundhog attire!

Sunday, January 27, 2019 - Parade begins at 2:00 pm



Grab your pots and pans and head to Main Street in Essex Village on Sunday, January 27th at 2:00 pm for one of the Essex Board of Trade's biggest events of the year - the Essex Ed Parade.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Essex Ed's appearance on Main Street to celebrate Groundhog Day (officially, February 2, 2019). At 12 feet tall, Essex Ed is a paper mache version of a groundhog and each year a community organization dresses Essex Ed in a surprise costume that acknowledges a person or

special occasion. This year Essex Ed will be dressed by Essex Winter Series, and as always, he will make his annual pilgrimage from Essex Boat Works up Pratt Street to his place of honor at the roundabout on the top of Main Street.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In 1978, Essex Ed was created out of boredom by local resident Mary Ellen Brophy and friends who wanted to interject some fun into what was an extremely cold and unpleasant winter. Without securing town approval, Mary Ellen referred to Essex Ed's surprise

continued on page 8



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Essex Ed Parade... continued from page 7

appearance at the Essex Square roundabout on Groundhog Day as “creative vandalism - a way to get everybody outside for some silly, winter fun.”

In 1982, now with town support, Mary Ellen posted an ad on the Valley Regional High School bulletin board seeking volunteers for the Essex Ed parade. Essex resident and high school freshman, Jennifer Hill (now Jennifer Stassen of Glastonbury), was one of several students who rallied and continued to participate in Essex Ed’s annual Groundhog Day event from 1982-1985. Jennifer says, “I recall many long and cold days at Essex Boat Works, where Essex Ed was stored, having to repair him from mice damage he had suffered over the winter.”

Back then, Essex Elementary students and parents were invited to march in the Essex Ed Parade. All were encouraged to bring pots, pans, lids, spoons and trumpets and to make as much noise as possible to inspire Essex Ed’s march up Pratt and Main Streets. Nowadays, Essex Ed has grown to be a bit of a “celebrity groundhog” attracting upwards of 8,000 Groundhog Day lovers from near and far.

However, the Essex Ed Parade’s homespun silliness remains pretty much the same. Ed will make his annual journey to the top of Main Street along with a parade of antique cars, fife and drum



Essex Ed honors Valley Regional, 2014 State Basketball Champions.

corps, residents and visitors. All are invited to join the festivity and bring noisemakers and groundhog gear to awaken Ed from his long winter nap. The Griswold Inn continues to serve popcorn & hot chocolate for parade goers, just as it’s done since day #1! Parade takes place rain, snow or SHINE!

Suggested Hashtags for Social Media are:

#experienceessex; #destinationessex; #essexct; #essexed

Contact:

Amy Cameron, President, Essex Board of Trade
+1 (203) 512-0082 or amyesssexbot@gmail.com

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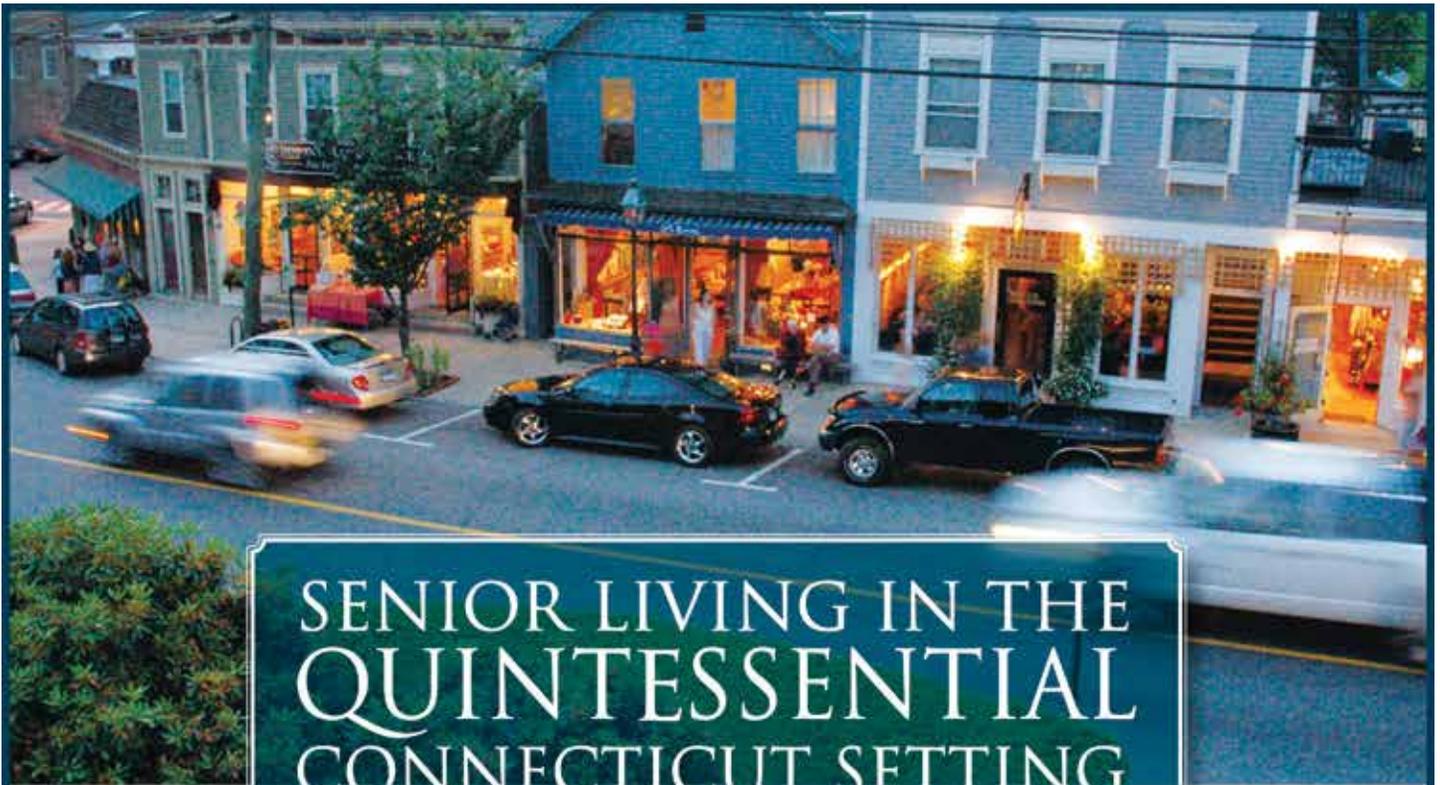
			
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<p>Located in the village, yet astonishingly private, this classic designed Colonial offers 3 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, beautifully remodeled Kitchen, executive office and so much more. Owner/agent related.</p> <p>Maureen O’Grady, x3116</p>	<p>Nantucket Shingle-style Farmhouse beautifully set on 1.15 acres and enjoys seasonal water views. Sun-filled floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, fabulous Kitchen, media room, workshop.</p> <p>Gigi Giordano Taylor, x3113 River to Shore Group</p>	<p>Recent renovations in the first floor Master Suite and the addition of a Family room make this the perfect house! 3 bedrooms, 3.1 baths, 3252 SF, 3 FPs. Close to the village yet private.</p> <p>Maureen O’Grady, x3116</p>	<p>One of the last 2.5+ acre parcels of raw land in Essex Village. Access from both River Road and Mill Road. Deeded easement to Mill Pond. Walk to Main St. Essex</p> <p>Chip Frost, x3112 CT River Properties Team</p>



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Essex Community Fund's 2nd Annual Cheers for Charity

SOLD OUT IN 2018!

We are excited to announce our 2nd Annual Cheers for Charity, a special afternoon event of beer tasting from a wide variety of small and craft breweries. Being held on March 9th at the Oliver Jensen Gallery and River Valley Junction Hall at the historic Essex Steam Train in Centerbrook from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. For more information visit: www.essexcommunityfund.org

2018-2019 FUEL ASSISTANCE CHALLENGE UNDERWAY

The Fuel Assistance Program (FAP) is an on-going program available to residents who meet the funding criteria and provides a one-time fuel drop valued at \$400. ECF brought awareness to the situation by establishing a matching gift challenge. We would like to thank members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex and to Peter Bierrie for supporting

this important program. Donations can be mailed to the Essex Community Fund with a note that it is for FAP. Thank you in advance for helping us to keep our neighbors warm.

CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

ECF is a great way to learn more about your community's needs and how you can help improve it for you, your family, your neighbors, and even future generations. Please consider becoming part of our organization, it is a wonderful way to give back to your community.

THANK YOU!

To all who donated at our Stuff-a-Cruiser food drives for The Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries this holiday season. A special thank you to the Essex Police for co-sponsoring this event with us, and to JWMS Chorus for its festive holiday music.

Visit our website at:
www.essexct.gov

We hope you will find our website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.

Events Presents - SAYBROOK HOME

A new look and name for Saybrook Country Barn

Family owned and operated retailer, Saybrook Country Barn, located in Old Saybrook, CT has a new name for its longstanding retail location. It will now be known as Saybrook Home. A cornerstone of Old Saybrook (located at the foot of Main Street), the 41-year-old business, owned and operated by the Bolles Family, has continued to evolve as one of the area's largest shoreline retail destinations for the home. It started as a 4000 square foot home and barn. Today, it boasts 42,000 square feet of retail shopping, sprawling between 2 buildings featuring fine quality furniture, home décor, exquisite gifts, hardware & lighting, unique area rugs, custom window treatments and a large selection of designer men's and women's apparel and accessories. Saybrook Home also offers custom interior design consultations and personalized shopping experiences by their experienced and professional staff.

"It has been over forty years since my grandmother founded what was originally

the Marlborough Country Barn. She had a simple philosophy for the business: provide great products, with great service, listen to your customers, and live your best life. Well, our customers have spoken and we have listened, which is why we are changing our name from Saybrook Country Barn to Saybrook Home," said Keith A. Bolles, managing partner. "We are excited for our future, and look forward to helping customers Live Their Best Lives for many generations to come."

The new brand, Saybrook Home, achieves that "welcome home" feeling to resonate with existing customers and connect with those of the future. "We wanted to capture the essence of our core values and mission and, at the end of the day, don't we all just feel better when we are at home?" says Cheryl Mader, General Manager at Saybrook Home.

To celebrate the launch of Saybrook Home, the store is dressed and ready for the holidays. From seasonal custom pillows and throws, placed upon today's top furniture brands to favorite designer sweaters and accessories in the apparel



Owners (L-R) Keith A. Bolles, Jane Bolles, Keith Bolles, Sr.

shop, Saybrook Home welcomes you to explore its new brand at their Old Saybrook, CT destination along with a newly designed website saybrookhome.com.

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1 Spinnaker Lane, Essex
Masterful minds met this spacious antique c1880 Colonial with the knowledge and keen ability to bring its renovation and expansion to fruition. Offered at \$1,990,000



381 River Road, Deep River
With over 365 feet of direct waterfront, this home's open and airy floor plan highlighted by banks of sliding glass doors from most rooms takes in the stunning views of the Connecticut River. Offered at \$1,799,000



123 Brush Hill Road, Lyme
This architecturally designed and custom constructed Colonial is privately sited on a quiet and bucolic country road, offering incredible resort living with a remarkable pool complex. Offered at \$1,295,000.



9 Talcott Farm Road, Old Lyme
Designed by the iconic architect Robert A.M. Stern as a Dream House for Life Magazine, this direct waterfront shingle style home in the desirable private enclave of Talcott Farm. Offered at \$1,050,000



16 New City Street, Essex
Sited on a professionally landscaped half acre lot in an area of charming village properties, the home sits two houses away from North Cove and has lovely seasonal water views of the Cove. Offered at \$720,000

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120 River Road, Essex
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Essex Brokerage | 13 Main Street | 860.767.7488 | Old Lyme Brokerage | 103 Halls Road | 860.434.2400

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*Source: BrokerMatrix, Sotheby's, based sales for residential single-family homes, lots and land in New London, New Haven, Middlesex Counties 1/1/17-12/31/17

Essex Park & Recreation Department

MISSION STATEMENT: Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs!

Essex go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival

Park and Recreation is planning the 9th Annual Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade, to be held March 9, 2019. The event will feature an Irish-themed parade down Main Street into the heart of Essex Village led by this year's Grand Marshals John & Judy Heiser. All Essex residents and community organizations are encouraged to get involved. Full event information will be posted on our website.

Essex Eggstravaganza

Our annual egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 10:00 am, at Grove Street Park. The Eggstravaganza is open to children pre-school ages to second grade. Join the Easter Bunny for story time at Essex Library at 9:00 am, and plan to arrive for the egg hunt 15 minutes early as we will begin at 10:00 am sharp.

Essex Foundation Expands Beautification to Sunset Pond & Plants 15,000 Daffodil Bulbs

The legacy of the late Elizabeth "Diz" Callender, through a generous bequest to the Essex Foundation, continues to enhance the Essex landscape. It has provided funding for the recent beautification of the Essex gateway, including the installation of 12 Chanticleer Pear trees and over 300 evergreen and perennial ornamentals at the intersection of Route 153 and Route 154. Now it is providing

funds for the planting of daffodils along the West Avenue entrance into Essex village. The first phase of the daffodil project was completed this fall. 15,000 bulbs were planted in a 3,000 square foot section of turf between Sunset Pond and West Avenue, with blooms expected next spring. Sullivan Lawn Care provided the planting services. Phase II will happen in fall of 2019 and includes expanded bulb planting in the Sunset Pond area as well as at the Route 153/154 gateway. Essex Foundations' idea for the planting project came from the fact that Diz Callender enjoyed planting daffodils.

PARK & RECREATION PROGRAMS

Park and Recreation always has a great offering of recreation programs to choose from. Please visit our website for full program information at: www.essexct.recdesk.com

Youth Dance

Tuesdays,

Session 1: January 28 - February 5

Session 2: February 26 - March 26

Kindergarten Basketball

Wednesdays, January 9 - February 6

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Already in session: Tuesday, January 22, and Monday, January 28

Zumba for Kids

Wednesdays, February 13 - March 13

German Language & Culture for Kids

Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9

Adult Yoga

Monday Evenings at: 5:30 pm - reoccurring 5 week session

Adult Drop-In Basketball

Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm

Stay tuned for our 2019 Spring/Summer Brochure in March!

Essex Park and Recreation Announces the 2019 Essex go Bragh Grand Marshals, John & Judy Heiser



John & Judy Heiser have been living and contributing to the Essex community for many years. John and Judy moved to Ivoryton in 1965 and have lived in the same

house ever since. They raised two sons both of whom attended Essex Elementary and graduated from Valley Regional. Both have been actively involved with the Town and

many local organizations. Judy is a member of the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley Board of Directors. She has served on the Board of the Essex Art Association and has worked for many years for the Essex Board of Trade where she was very active in arranging many of the parade, festivals and town wide events.

John, an Air Force Veteran, was a longtime member of the Essex Rotary Club serving as the President. He coached both his sons in baseball and served as the President of the

Essex Little League for many years. He is also an active member of the Ivoryton Library Association. John has served several terms as one of Essex's Registrar of Voters. John is keeps busy as a volunteer dispatcher for FISH arranging drivers for the organization's clients. He also volunteers for other local groups including the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley and the Essex Board of Trade. Essex Park and Recreation is truly honored to have such supportive and active members of our community to lead our march down Main Street Essex Village on March 9, 2019.

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MARCH
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New Haven Symphony Orchestra
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APRIL
7

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Winter Is Here... To all Town of Essex Residents

It is the primary goal of the Public Works Department to make the town roads passable during storm events, minimize the hazards caused by slippery road conditions, and help restore safe traveling conditions throughout the town as soon as possible after each winter storm. This often involves drivers working long hours in hazardous driving conditions to ensure our safety on the roadways. We ask for your cooperation and patience during these times in order to have a safe season for all.

Residents should keep in mind that snow plows are designed to remove snow from the roadway to the edge of the road. It is likely that the plow will leave behind a windrow of snow in front of driveways. Residents are responsible for removing this snow.

The Town will be phasing out the use of sand during the majority of its snow removal operations.

PRIVATE PLOWING

Depositing of any snow from private driveways into the public streets is prohibited. This practice is dangerous and impedes the Town's snow removal process. This includes piles pushed across the street and the windrows that are created in the street. Homeowners are responsible for the actions of their contractors.

MAILBOX DAMAGE

During the winter season it is inevitable that some mailboxes will fall victim to winter's forces. Residents are advised of the importance of proper placement and

anchoring of mailboxes and support posts to prevent damage from snow removal operations. Mailboxes should be securely fastened to a sturdy post which is sufficiently anchored in the ground to resist the impact of plowed snow.

If a mailbox or post is pushed over or damaged as a result of snow or slush coming off a snowplow it is considered a winter hazard. The Town will not replace the mailbox or post.

If it is determined a mailbox is struck by a Town snow plow, not the snow coming off the plow, the Town will reimburse the owner for a basic support post and a basic mailbox up to seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). Payment will not include costs other than materials and will not cover the cost of decorative wood or metal posts or decorative mailboxes. The Town will do its best to assist residents with the replacement of mailboxes deemed to have been struck by a Town snow plow as time and circumstances allow.

The First Selectman or his designated representative is authorized to use reasonable discretion in resolving disputes involving unusual circumstances.

Residents are responsible for keeping their mailboxes clear for mail to be delivered.

TRASH CANS...

and recycling bins should never be placed in the road. If a plow truck hits them because they are in the road the Town will not be held responsible for replacing them.

ANY AND ALL PLANTINGS...

within the Town's right of way are not the Town's responsibility if they are damaged during snow plowing or any other kind of removal of snow from roads.

ANY AND ALL...

fences, walls, etc. within the Town's right of way are not the Town's responsibility if they are damaged during snow plowing or any other kind of removal of snow from roads.

INVISIBLE DOG FENCE LINES...

within the Town's right of way are not the Town's responsibility if they are damaged during snow plowing or any other kind of removal of snow from roads.

ANY SORT OF SPRINKLER HEADS, ETC...

within the Town's right of way are not the Town's responsibility if they are damaged during snow plowing or any other kind of removal of snow from roads.

The Town will not be held responsible for any damage that is in the Town owned portion of your property.

Questions and concerns during snow and ice storms should be directed to the Department of Public Works at: 860-767-0715. After hours calls may be directed to voicemail and will be checked periodically. All emergency calls should be made to Emergency Services at 911.

Sincerely,
Ryan Welch, Public Works Director
rwelch@essexct.gov



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/#>

Building Department Generator Installation Guide

PLANNING CLEARANCES

- You will be required to meet the minimum distances to combustibles (house, fence, shed, etc.) as per the manufacturer's directions for the specific model of generator you are installing. In lieu of such directions, a minimum clearance of 5'0" will be enforced. (NFPA 37 4.1.4)
- The generator must be a minimum of 5'0" from openings in the wall of a dwelling (window, dryer vent, exhaust fan vent, etc.). (NFPA 37 4.1.4)
- You will be required to meet the minimum clearance to obstructions on both the air intake and exhaust side of the generator as per the manufacturer's instructions specific to your model. (IRC 2406.1)
- The generator must be a minimum of 10'0" from the fill/vent of any propane tank. (NFPA 58 3-2.2.2)
- The generator must be 5'0" from the vent opening of any gas regulator. If the regulator is placed closer than 5'0" from the generator the vent may be piped to provide the clearance to the vent opening. The vent opening must be downturned at the end and screened. (NFPA 58 6.8.1.7)

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

- The generator must be installed on a concrete or approved base that is a minimum of 3" above the surrounding grade. (IRC 1305.1.4.1)
- Gas piping and gas regulator must be adequately supported and protected from physical damage. (IRC 2415.9)
- Underground gas piping shall be a minimum of 12" deep. (IRC 2415.12)
- Plastic underground gas pipe shall be installed with an adjacent tracer wire which terminates above grade at each end. (IRC 2415.17.3)
- The required appliance flex connector must be installed as per manufacturer's instructions (these will indicate the connector must be straight or nearly straight). (IRC 2406.1)
- A sign shall be placed at the service entrance equipment indicating the type and location of the optional standby power source. (NEC 702.7)
- Black iron gas pipe is required to be painted if used outdoors. (IRC 2414.8)

PERMIT APPLICATION

- Unless you are a homeowner personally doing your own work on your owner-occupied one or two family house you must have a licensed electrician and a licensed propane gas plumber do the work of hooking up the generator. (State Statute 20-340)
- The permit value must account for all labor and materials to complete the installation including the cost of the generator itself. (IRC 108.3)

REQUIRED INSPECTIONS

- Pressure test inspection on new gas line to generator

- required. Underground gas piping and underground electrical conduit require inspection prior to backfilling. (IRC Section 109)
- Final inspection required. Please have manufacturer's written installation instructions available and have the electrician scheduled to be present for the final inspection. The Building Official does not open electrical panels and will not be able to approve the installation without the electrician present. All grounds and neutrals in the existing house wiring must be separated to the first means of disconnect. (NEC 250.6)
- All items listed here will be checked for compliance at time of final inspection.



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News from the Essex Elementary School Foundation



We are fortunate to live in a town where such strong community support is in place to ensure that our elementary school students receive a quality learning experience. Essex Elementary School Foundation (EESF) thanks the many

community members who have supported the organization, particularly through the annual appeal. For the 2018/2019 school year, EESF has committed to funding over \$35,000.00 to enrichment projects for the students at Essex Elementary School (EES) that would otherwise not be available through traditional funding by the school system and budget.

The funding includes annual programs such as: World Culture Days for the second grade, all Transportation for High Hopes therapeutic riding classes, funding for the Engineering with Legos Program; grades 4-6 and The Makerspace program using 3D printers funded by EESF.

New from the Foundation this year will be a Townscape Participatory Collage. All grades will be involved in creating a photo collage that will depict the history of our town. Over 500 photographs contributed by students and members of our community will be incorporated into the project. Look for the unveiling in the Spring of 2019.



EESF uses grants to purchase iPads for students to use in the classroom.

Health and Wellness are an important part of the EES culture. In keeping with this theme, the Foundation sent several teachers to a mindfulness learning and practice workshop where they were taught different strategies to help children utilize self-calming and empowering techniques of self-regulation.

The Foundation will be funding a “Study Zone,” which will include the purchase of bookstands, noise cancelling headphones, tablecloths, and lamps for the cafeteria. These can be used by students who prefer a study area during the lunch time hour.

Finally, look for an art installation in the media center at EES which will be created entirely by the students. For more information visit: www.essexesf.org.



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High School Spanish Exchange Students Travel to Spain

The Spanish exchange program has been going on at Valley Regional High School for six years, and last year, students from Valley traveled to Spain, stayed in homes with students there, and experienced Spanish culture. This year, on September tenth, twenty-five students from Spain traveled to America to experience our culture. Twenty-one Valley students (some of whom had traveled to Spain previously) hosted exchange students in their homes, showing the Spanish students a day in their lives. Throughout the week, the exchange students attended our school, experienced our classes, went shopping at Foxwoods and Clinton Crossings, and walked around Chester, Deep River, and Essex.



Spanish exchange students in New York City.

While they were here, we learned of many differences between American culture and Spanish culture. For instance, the schools in Spain mostly have only academic studies. They do have art classes, but they don't have classes such as tech ed, jewelry, or photography. While the Spanish students were here, they enjoyed taking these types of classes. One student, Elena Balseiro García, said, "My favorite class was band and choir because we don't have that here. It was very interesting to see all of the typical things in America that we see in American films that we can't do in Spain." Tabby Hardgrove escorted two Spanish students, Claudia C. García Herrero and Luis Francisco Gallego Torres, to tech ed, where they were introduced to the school's robot. They were very excited, and Claudia was jumping up and down after the class.

Another experience the Spanish students enjoyed was riding on "yellow buses," or school buses. In Spain, the students can walk to school or, if they live further away, take public transport or are driven by their parents. After school, there are no sports or activities. Instead, they either organize their own sports or spend their time hanging out with each other, going shopping, or just walking around and talking.

Overall, hosting the Spanish was an amazing experience. They were able to experience our culture first-hand, and Valley was able to learn about Spanish culture, as well as practice speaking Spanish with native speakers. As world language teacher Ms. Cassella said, "the whole goal is to have our students communicate in the real world, when we take students we've had in class for years and see them succeed, have fun, make lifelong friends, it's all worth it!"

Valley junior, Erin LoMonaco



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Betsy D'Amico, Alyson Finnegan	x145	afinnegan@essexct.gov

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Jae Wolf	860-388-7082	jwolf@essexct.gov
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LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

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Bill Armstead		

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Richard Gallacher, David Martin, David Massey		

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Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov

www.essexct.gov



ESSEX LIBRARY

ASSOCIATION
*Your Community Center for Lifelong
Learning and Cultural Enrichment*

There are plenty of outstanding programs coming up at the Essex Library that will help get you through the rest of

the winter doldrums! We'll be hosting an ice fishing class in January with graduates enjoying a Winterfest fishing event on February 2. Professional Organizer Ellen Madere returns to the Library on February 9 with more ways to clean up the clutter and organize your home. Also on February 9 is a very special Connecticut premiere of the film *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*. Connecticut Architectural Historian Christopher Wigren joins us on February 15 for a Centerbrook Architects Lecture on Connecticut Architecture. CT Master Wildlife Conservationist Richard Taylor will give a talk on bald eagles on February 23. RISD Professor Jim Barnes returns to the Centerbrook Architects Series with a talk on March 1 and author Mary McAuliffe will be talking about her latest book, "Paris On The Brink: the 1930s Paris of Jean Renoir, Salvador Dalí, Simone de Beauvoir, André Gide, Sylvia Beach, Léon Blum, and their friends" on March 2. We'll also welcome speakers on CT river reclamation and CT history. Stay tuned for dates and times.



Essex Library computer users after storm.

The Essex Library Children's Department will run weekly story times for children from February - May. Those with little ones (aged newborn - 36 months) are welcome to drop in on Fridays at 10:00 am (2/08 - 5/3.) Families with preschool aged children are invited to join us on Thursdays at 10:00 am (2/21 - 5/2.) Help us celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, February 2nd with children's activities and a family book sale. This spring, we will also continue our STEM science series for older children.

For more information, please call the Essex Library at: 860-767-1560.

Friends of the Essex Library



PUTT FORE THE ESSEX LIBRARY

“Putt Fore The Essex Library” will transform the Essex Library into an 18 hole mini-golf course. The course will wind its way through the library, with each hole uniquely decorated by community and business sponsors. The fun begins on Friday evening, January 25, (5:00 pm - 9:00 pm) with a special event just for adults, featuring 18 holes of mini-golf, live music, food, wine, and prizes. The fun continues for the entire family on Saturday, January 26, (10:00 am - 4:00 pm) with mini-golf, donuts, prizes and more.

“Putt Fore The Essex Library” will be fun for people of all ages,

while supporting the vital and varied services the library brings to our community. Tickets are on sale now at the library, cash or check only, please.

SPRING BOOK SALE AT ESSEX LIBRARY

The Annual Spring Book Sale is a two-day event on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Starting at 2:30 pm to close, books will sell for half price.

The “Fill your Bag for \$5” sale will be on Monday, April 8 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. You are invited to bring your own tote or paper bag. Free paper bags will also be available at the library.

Experience Essex with the Sailing Masters of 1812



Sailing Masters welcoming Essex Ed in 2018.

The tourists have followed the summer sun, and nature may be hibernating... but Essex is not. October 31st found the streets of Essex overflowing with witches, superheroes and specters of all kinds for the traditional Halloween costume parade. Essex kicked off the holiday season on Thanksgiving weekend with its very unique “Trees in the Rigging” lantern-lit parade and carol stroll down Main Street, followed by the colorful boat parade off of the town

dock. On the Sunday before Groundhog Day, look for Essex Ed to reveal what character he has chosen to dress as this year, and be escorted up Main Street with the ritual banging of pots and pans by fans of Ed adorned in groundhog hats. And in

March, Essex celebrates “The Wearing of the Green” with a parade of Leprechauns, marchers, dancers, and antique cars. What do all of these parades have in common? You will find the Sailing Masters of 1812 leading the way. The Sailing Masters of 1812 of Essex, CT is the Fife and Drum Corps that is an Essex institution. The men and women of the Corps are a part of living history, and proudly represent Essex

whether wearing our distinctive War of 1812 Naval Uniforms, dressed as Halloween hobgoblins, or wearing groundhog hats on our heads.

Essex does not hibernate, and neither do the Sailing Masters. If you would like to really experience everything about Essex throughout the year, the Sailing Masters invite you to “Come Aboard!” No previous musical experience is required. Come celebrate Essex with us and discover a wonderful world of music and revelries.

You can chose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard(carry a flag). For more information please call Vicki Miorelli at 860-212-1606 or email at: captainvicki1812@gmail.com; or Joe Diedrich at: 203-901-0945 or email at: gatossn615@yahoo.com.



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Connecticut River Museum

WE HAD SUCH AN EXCITING 4TH QUARTER!

Our second Haunted River was an exciting diversion from all of the rain that the Connecticut River Valley endured. Even though the skies were unrelenting, there were near sell-out gatherings for our guided tours and interactive performances. Over 250 people were able to get to know some of the characters and legends that make the Connecticut River so full of folklore and mystery.

The Trees in the Rigging Boat Parade on November 25th was a town wide success. Kicking off the holiday season, decorated boats paraded in the harbor and vied for bragging rights. Our winners were: First Place Big Boats - Fair and Square (Frostbite Yacht Club), Second Place Big Boats - Sonny IV (Doug and Kathy Campbell), and Third Place Big Boats - Patience (Bill Sullivan). First Place Small Boats - Tippy Tree Canoe (Crane and Laurie Allen), Second Place Small Boats - Essex Island Ferry (Safe Harbor Yacht Club), and Third Place Small Boats - Star of Bethlehem Canoe (Denise Pashko and Annie Allen.)

Our 25th year of family fun with the Holiday Train Show exhibit runs through February 18, 2019. This year's theme, The Era of the Streamliners, showcases train artist Steve Cryan's train and scenery magic!



The 25th Annual Holiday Train Show runs through February 18, 2019.

COMING UP

This winter we look forward to:

- Evening at the Lay House - Cider Tasting on January 25, fortune tellers, live music, drinks tasting, fabulous food and more.
- Eagle Season, opening February 1st
- Privateer Bash on February 23rd

Essex - Community Listings

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

All Saints Episcopal Church.....	(860) 767-1698
First Baptist Church.....	(860) 767-8623
First Congregational Church	(860) 767-8097
Ivoryton Congregational Church.....	(860) 767-1004
Our Lady of Sorrows Church	(860) 767-1284
St. John's Episcopal Church.....	(860) 767-8095
Trinity Lutheran Church	(860) 767-0228

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Ancient Order of Weeders.....	(860) 767-2700
Democratic Town Committee.....	(860) 767-7665
Community Foundation of Middlesex County	(860) 347-0025
Essex Board of Trade.....	(860) 767-3904
Essex Boy Scouts of America.....	(860) 304-9027
Essex Community Fund.....	(860) 304-2751
Essex Cub Scouts of America	(860) 790-0681
Essex Garden Club	(860) 767-2860
Essex Historical Society.....	(860) 767-0681

Essex Lion's Club.....	(860) 767-8072
Essex Land Trust.....	(860) 767-7355
Essex Little League.....	www.essexlittleleague.org
Essex Veterans Memorial Hall	(860) 767-8892
F.I.S.H.	(860) 388-2693
Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers.....	(860) 767-2237
Lower Valley Visiting Nurses	(860) 767-0186
Republican Town Committee.....	(860) 510-8318
SCORE	(860) 388-9508
The Shoreline Soup Kitchens	(860) 388-1988
Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau	(860) 526-3600
9 Town Transit	(860) 510-0429

SCHOOLS

Beanstalk Preschool & Childcare.....	(860) 767-3308
Essex Elementary School	(860) 767-8215
John Winthrop Middle School.....	(860) 526-9546
Superintendent.....	(860) 526-2417
Valley Regional High School.....	(860) 526-5328

23rd Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2, 2019 for the 23rd Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest, when Main Street will be lined with chili competitors vying for the highly coveted title of "Best Chili."

Chili Fest is a much-anticipated winter event, attracting nearly 3,000 visitors. The money raised from Chili Fest supports multiple charitable causes. The first is the C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce to area students pursuing college or post high school education. Additionally, the top three winners earn a donation to their designated charity. Over the years, this event has generated more than \$50,000 for the community.

The Chili Fest competition is open to the community. Professional chefs as well as non-professionals compete for votes, with the public casting ballots for their favorite chili. In addition to the popular vote, a panel of independent judges will conduct a taste test and announce the "Judges Choice" Award. Applications and instructions for entering Chili Fest may be found on the Chamber web site, www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/chili-fest.

Tickets are \$10 and serve as a voting ballot. They may be purchased at ballot stations along Main Street and at the Chamber office at 1 Main Street the week preceding the event.

Chili Fest is presented by Guilford Savings Bank and is held rain, snow, or shine along Main Street, Old Saybrook.



Parthenon Diner took home the "Judge's Choice" Award last year for their "Chili-Chili-Bang-Bang" shredded buffalo chicken chili. Shown are John Sousoulas, owner, with Sue Mallory and Kylynn Kirk.



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FISH (Friends in Service Here)

FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The officers for 2018 are: Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer, Dana Hill, Driver Recruitment and Leo Zavatore, Director. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Tony Carrano.

Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call: 860-388-2693 up to noon

the day before their appointment (Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford to the west and New London to the east.

Up through November 2018, FISH drivers provided 871 free rides, of which 422 were for residents of Essex. This total of all rides is a 28% increase over the same 2017 time frame with much of the increase coming this June, July and August 2018 and puts

us on track to have well over 900 free rides this year

The modest FISH budget is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Essex Rotary Club, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers and friends.

Henry May, Driver and President

8th Annual Run for Chris 5k with the Y



The 8th ANNUAL RUN FOR CHRIS 5k with the Y will be held Saturday, June 22, 2019, in Essex, CT, starting at Essex Town Hall. We continue our official partnership with the YMCA in Westbrook, and The Run

for Chris will once again be the Y's featured 5K, kicking off their Run Club's race season.

The race is held in memory of Christopher Belfoure, a 2005 graduate of Valley Regional High School, to raise money for The Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

While a student at VRHS, Chris went on several school trips abroad. These experiences served as catalysts for a strong desire to learn more about what lay beyond the scope of his horizon. Chris went on to major in History and Chinese Studies at West Virginia University, where he spent a considerable amount of time studying abroad in China and became fluent in Mandarin.

Influenced by his own life-altering journeys, Chris was passionate about encouraging others to also broaden their horizons and follow their own paths. Sadly Chris lost his life at the age of 24, so to keep his inspiration and passion alive, the Chris Belfoure Memorial Fund was established in 2011. The fund is intended to perpetuate Chris's vision by helping local area high school students travel abroad.



Over 200 local high school students have benefited from the Fund over the past 7 years, with grants supporting their travels to such places as Costa Rica, France and Spain. In April, 2019, students from VRHS will go to France, supported by a \$3,000 grant. This year Westbrook High School students will also benefit from the Fund, as they host students from France and travel with them to Boston with the aid of a \$1000 grant. Both grants are made possible by proceeds from the run and from our sponsors.

Save the date and join us for a fun family event, which also includes a Kids' Fun Run and other special activities for children. This is a terrific, scenic 5K course through historic Essex, CT. Walkers can also join in for a 2mile walk. Awards and food for the runners, as well as a great raffle, round out the morning's festivities.

To register for the Run, go to www.aratrace.com. For more information, contact George Chapin, Race Director, at: george_c@snet.net. Visit the website at: www.chrisbel4mf.com and www.facebook.com/runforchris/.

Ivoryton Library

Have you noticed some beautiful new windows in our building? Thanks to generous donations from Southern CT Gas, Connecticut Water, Eversource and the York Hill Trap Rock Quarry, we have been able to replace or upgrade some of our windows over the last few years. A recent donation from the F. Curtis and Susan B. Thrall Foundation will allow us to do two more.

Are you interested in helping?

Individual donors will have their name engraved on a plaque to be added to the new window. Please talk with the director if you would like to pursue this.

Our Adult Craft Nights have been a lot of fun! Sign up for our next event, Wednesday, January 30 at 6:30 pm when we will make a keychain or pendant with your favorite words or images. This event is free but space is limited and registration is necessary. Please call 860-767-1252

Do you have your mother's wedding dress or your uncle's military uniform stored away in your attic? Old photos and letters, perhaps? Do you worry about your precious heirlooms deteriorating? Please join us on Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 pm for a talk with Melissa Josefiak of the Essex Historical Society. She will

discuss the levels of stabilization for your items, recommend the right products and help you preserve your past. Snow date is March 10.

We have a way to liven up the sometimes dreary days of winter: Join us for Trivia Night on Saturday, March 23 at 7:00 pm at the Centerbrook Meeting House. This is a night of fun, food and friends, at least if you are on the same team! What Trivia is once again coming to entertain us and test our knowledge of the trivial! Tickets on sale beginning February 25 at the library. Form a team and sign up!

Winter Readiness Plans

Winter brings many challenges such as sustained cold temperatures, fuel limitations, frozen equipment, severe weather conditions, power outages, blocked roads. YIKES! Now is the time to plan and prepare for your safety and that of your family and neighbors. See examples below. Visit the Essex Emergency Management website at: www.essexct.gov/emergency-management for detailed information about emergency preparedness, evacuation registry, SaferEssex, power outages and more.

Emergency kit: include enough non-perishable and easy to prepare food, water, medications, healthcare supplies, toiletries and anything used daily - enough to last for at least 3 days.

Home: flashlights/new batteries, candles/matches, electronics/charging devices, warm clothing, cash, important phone numbers, etc. Have shovels and bags of salt to keep paths clear and safe. If you have a fireplace, ensure the chimney is clean and firewood is readily available. If you have a generator, ensure you have sufficient fuel and that it is always used outside. Never operate a generator in the home or garage. Install new batteries in your CO detectors and smoke alarms.

Vehicle: ice scraper, shovel, extra hats/mittens/blanket/boots. Check tire pressure and windshield washer fluid throughout the winter and make sure all headlights are operational. Always remove snow from headlights and taillights and from the roof of the vehicle.

Neighborhood and neighbors: shovel snow 3 feet or more away from fire hydrants to ensure they are readily accessible.

Shovel sidewalks, driveways and walkways to your home so emergency personnel can reach you. Check on neighbors (*especially elderly or those with limited mobility*) to ensure they have electricity, heat, food, water, medications, etc. If you believe assistance is needed, contact a family member, 2-1-1 United Way, or local emergency personnel.

Travel around town: know alternate routes to your destination. Blocked roads, detours, and barricades require that you have some knowledge of "back roads" to get to home, school, family or a shelter. Remember, when cellular service fails, your phone's "map app" won't work.

Communications: register your cell phone and email information on SaferEssex so Town of Essex Emergency Management Officials can alert you to timely, critical, and local emergency information. Add 860-767-1198 to your phone's safe-senders list and always listen to the recorded message from the Town of Essex. Listen to radio stations 1420 AM WLIS or 1080 AM WTIC for statewide emergency information. Follow or Like the Town of Essex-Government Facebook page.

Public Utilities: your electricity comes from Eversource, not the Town of Essex. To report an outage, call Eversource at: 860-286-2000 or online at: www.eversource.com/customer-care/ReportOutage. For public water concerns contact CT Water Company at: 800-286-5700.

William Buckridge,
Emergency Management Director

The Heating Season is the Best Time to Test for Radon



Radon is a radioactive gas produced when uranium in soil decays. Radon is an odorless, colorless gas which moves up through the ground into your home through cracks and holes in the foundation, becoming trapped inside. It can also enter your private well water supply and can be emitted into the air in your home by bathroom showers and sprays. The EPA estimates that about 1 out of every 15 homes has elevated radon levels.

High indoor radon concentrations occur sporadically in all parts of Connecticut and two homes right next to each other can have different indoor radon levels. You can't see, smell, or taste radon but it can be harmful. Inhaling concentrated radon in indoor air over a prolonged period damages lung tissue and increases your risk of developing lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the primary cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Winter is a good time to test your home for radon because the windows and doors are sealed tightly and radon levels in your home can rise. Testing is easy and inexpensive. If you find high levels of radon in your home, the problem can be fixed! The EPA recommends radon mitigation in homes having an air radon level 4 pCi/L or higher and the CT Dept of Public Health (DPH) recommends radon mitigation in homes having a water radon level 5000 pCi/L or higher.

THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IF YOUR HOME HAS RADON IS TO TEST FOR IT. The Essex Health Department offers FREE test kits which measure radon in air. For measuring radon in water, contact a certified water testing laboratory.

Contact the Essex Health Department at 767-4340 x 118 or visit: www.essexct.gov. For information and video on how to test your home for radon, visit the CT Department of Public Health at: www.ct.gov/dph website and search RADON. Home radon test kits can also be purchased from local retailers, American Lung Association or EPA for approximately \$25.00.

Lisa Fasulo, MPH/REHS
Essex Health Dept.

Stormwater Runoff & Snow Melt is Polluted

Stormwater runoff is polluted and contributes to pollution of local waters. When it rains or when snow melts, the water on driveways, roofs, roads and other surfaces picks up pollutants and carries them directly to the local water bodies without treatment. Anything that goes down a storm drain and catch basin goes directly into local waters. There are things each of us can do to prevent water pollution.

Don't dump into a storm drain.

Anything that's lying in on the pavement is easily washed by stormwater into storm drains. If any chemicals or yard debris - including leaves, twigs, grass clippings - get on the sidewalk or road, sweep them back onto the lawn to prevent it from washing into the storm drains. Don't wash the car or hose driveways or sidewalks to get it clean. Lawn care companies must not blow leaves into swales, culverts, drainage areas, or onto adjacent parcels. These companies must either remove leaves from the homeowner's property or

blow them into an area on the property that does not obstruct the flow of stormwater. No industrial or household chemicals or any septic system overflow should ever be dumped or allowed to discharge into a storm drain.

Use Fertilizers Sparingly.

If you must fertilize, use a slow-release fertilizer - more is not better. If you use a lawn care company, ask about their environmental options and certifications. Avoid using fertilizers near wellheads or within 75 ft of waterways. Hand-pick weeds or spot-treat them rather than dousing the entire lawn. Water lawns and gardens wisely so that fertilizers, pesticides and nutrients are not washed into storm drains.

Recycle Rainwater.

Install a rain barrel under a roof downspout or connect it directly to the downspout. The water that's captured can be used for irrigation. If the runoff from your roof flows directly onto pavement, use a downspout extender to direct the

water to a landscaped area instead. Install a rain garden, which is a natural or dug shallow depression designed to soak up water. If you're thinking of re-paving your driveway, consider using a porous material that allows water to pass through their surface (in the case of porous asphalt or concrete) or through void spaces (in the case of concrete or grid pavers).

Scoop the Poop, then trash it.

When you are out for a walk, pick up after your pet. Carry a paper bag, collect your pet's waste then throw it in a trash can. Never throw it in a storm drain or culvert.

For additional information visit the CT Dept of Energy & Environmental Protection website at: www.ct.gov/deep and search Municipal Stormwater or MS4 General Permit.

Lisa Fasulo, MPH/REHS
Essex Health Dept.

Middlesex to Rebrand

MIDDLESEX IS MORE THAN JUST A HOSPITAL
Middlesex has grown to include many services located outside the walls of the hospital.

Middlesex has a network of primary care offices, three urgent care centers, five physical medicine and rehabilitation offices and two Cancer Center locations. It offers homecare and assisted living, and the list goes on.

It is often difficult to explain these many different parts and how they all fit under the Middlesex Hospital umbrella, but one thing has become clear. Middlesex's current brand name no longer accurately reflects what Middlesex does and what it can provide.

In an effort to help the community better understand, Middlesex's branding will soon change to include the name Middlesex Health and a new logo that better represents the organization's incredible growth.

Middlesex is one of the few independent nonprofit health systems remaining in Connecticut, and it has evolved and expanded for the good of its patients,

becoming a more comprehensive health partner. It's become Middlesex Health.

Middlesex remains committed to the communities it serves, and it will continue to provide the same high quality, compassionate care and personalized service that you've come to expect.

Over the next few months, you will begin to see the new brand name and logo on Middlesex signs and other materials, including staff uniforms and informational brochures. There will also be a new TV commercial, and Middlesex will soon launch a new, more user-friendly website.

A change like this does not happen overnight. The transition will take time to complete. Please be patient.

Moving forward, Middlesex remains a strong, independent health system - one that strives to always be your first choice for health care. Your health is of the utmost importance, and these improvements are being made to better serve you.

Pilates for Life

The Tradition and Method of Joseph Pilates

Joseph H. Pilates, originator of **Pilates Method**...
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Romana trained **Marlene Powers**, let Marlene train you
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Alignment and Posture
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Upcoming Essex Land Trust Events

The Essex Land Trust annually organizes a calendar of diverse events including hikes, lectures, nature talks, canoeing and kayaking trips, all featuring guest speakers and knowledgeable naturalists. All of these events are free and open to the general public.

LAND TRUSTS PHOTO CONTEST

January 1 - February 28, 2019

Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to submit your favorite photos taken in East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Salem Land Trust Properties, Scenic Landscapes, Wildlife, Plants, and Cultural/Historic locations. Includes Youth and Black & White categories. For contest rules, entry forms and other details visit: landtrustsphotocontest.org. An exhibit reception of all entries and announcement of winners will be held in April 2019.

AMPHIBIAN HABITAT IN CT: IS THERE ENOUGH FOR POPULATIONS TO PERSIST?

Thursday, January 24, 7:00 pm

Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue

Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse, an Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UCONN will define amphibian habitat and discuss whether or not there is enough habitat in Connecticut to maintain amphibian population for future generations. Learn about amphibian habitat and improve your understanding of habitat in general. Dr. Tracy has a BS from University of Wisconsin-Madison and MS and PhD from University of Missouri-Columbia. She studies where wild animals live and how they travel through habitats. Snow date January 29.

WINTER BIRDING FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 2, 12:00 pm

Essex Town Hall Parking Lot, 29 West Avenue

Eagles, Hawks, Owls and Ducks: an outing to search for birds that winter in our region. Several types of raptors may be seen, among many other wintering birds. Novice and advanced birdwatchers are welcome. Led by ELT's Jim Denham and Andrew Griswold of CT Audubon. Bring bag lunch, binoculars, boots and warm clothes. Two vans are available to seat the first 14 people who sign up. Limited additional space may be also available. To reserve, please call Jim Denham at: 860-876-0360 or email at: info@essexlandtrust.org by January 26. Inclement weather cancels.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY ROAD SHOW

Thursday, February 7, 7:00 pm

Essex Town Hall 29, West Avenue

A presentation by Gary Nolf, a retired school administrator and educator, and a self-taught archaeologist who will display Native American artifacts and demonstrate the

use of several artifacts, particularly the atlatl. As a long-standing member and first President of the Friends of the Office of Archaeology, he volunteers to provide education about local Native American traditions. All ages are welcome to learn about this fascinating topic. Co-sponsored by Potapaug Audubon.

LIVE OWLS!

Monday, March 4, 2:00 pm

Essex Town Hall Auditorium, 29 West Avenue

A live presentation by Kim Hargrave from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center of Mystic. All ages are invited to learn about owls, their habitats and conservation efforts by this organization. Not to be missed. Co-sponsored with the Essex Garden Club.

COLLECTIBLE CREATURES WALK

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 am

Canfield Meadow Woods, Book Hill Rd. entrance

Celebrate the arrival of spring by taking the whole family on this unique nature walk in search of collectible art stones hidden along the trail. Each stone portrays a creature who lives in Canfield-Meadow Woods and provides a special code for discovering more about them on the Essex Land Trust website. Rain/snow date: March 30. Led and created by ELT volunteers Stephanie Gatto and Susan Scott.

ESSEX LAND TRUST ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 5:30 pm

Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road

Join us for ELT's festive cocktail party and annual meeting. Light food will be served. Tickets (\$30) for the buffet (5:30-6:30 pm) will be available at the door. Business meeting and presentation that follow are free to all. Non-members welcome.

EDIBLE MUSHROOMS FOR THE TABLE

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 pm

Essex Town Hall Auditorium, 29 West Avenue

Meet the Mushroom Detective, Dr. Terry Doyle, to learn about the "bad actors" and the edible mushrooms. A Canadian now living in Killingworth, Dr. Doyle is a research chemist who has worked in the pharmaceutical industry. After being introduced to mushroom hunting by a microbiologist friend he has been collecting and eating mushrooms since 1975.

COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



Chester \$579,000
Cedar lake area! Contemporary style home on 2.67 private acres, hrdwd flrs, C/A, C/Vac. In-law suite w/ Kit, LR, full BA & deck.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Chester \$175,000
1.5 acres w/all-season views down the CT River valley. Private hilltop home site w/ approval for 3 bdrm septic.
Marguerite Mattison 860-510-2848



Chester \$979,995
This timeless gem on over 4 acres - the home is a 6200+ sq ft built in 2007 with a focus on casual luxury living. Lrg FF MBR-suite w/ private terrace.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Deep River \$675,000
Expansive views of CT River! Well maintained custom ranch w/ indoor pool. Spacious open flr pln w/ stone FP, open DR & Chef's KIT.
Peg Mitchel 860-391-1701



Deep River \$409,000
One of the rare 4 family homes in the area. 2 two bedroom units and 2 one bedroom units, all in good condition. Off Street parking.
Rick Greene 860-395-6832



Essex \$1,795,000
The Dickinson Mansion filled with elegance! Mid 20-th century Col in Essex Village. Meticulously updated & maintained. Water access at end of adjacent Dickinson Lane.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Essex \$285,000
Designed for casual living! Caribbean inspired custom Cape w/ charm & character. Set on 1.35 acres w/ perennial gardens and level yard.
Peg Mitchel 860-391-1701



Essex \$275,000
Colonial home w/3 fireplaces, wide board floors, 3+ bedrooms, full baths up and down. Bedroom on first floor. Full basement.
Rick Greene 860-395-6832



Essex \$165,000
Circa 1870 Samuel Cheney house. Victorian home with wood shingle exterior, new furnace, paved driveway, FF Bdrm, close to town of Ivoryton.
Rick Greene 860-395-6832



Old Saybrook \$2,198,000
Views of L.I. Sound from this marvelous yr-round enchanted cottage located in Borough of Fenwick! Guest suite w/ full BA & balcony.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Old Saybrook \$649,500
Direct waterfront on S. Cove! Well maintained 1975 Contemporary Cape w/ great room overlooking S. Cove. Lovely landscaped yard.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Old Saybrook \$589,000
Fantastic view of L.I. Sound! 3300 sq ft hilltop home on 2.2 secluded sunny acres. Designer KIT, oversized 2-car garage, C/A.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Old Saybrook \$439,900
Set on a peaceful setting is this beautiful 3300 sq ft Georgian Colonial on 4 acres. Close to downtown. C/A. Great expansion possibilities.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Old Saybrook \$359,000
Spectacular townhome in Oyster River Landing! Finished LL FR & Exercise rm, updated custom KIT, hrdwd flrs.
Joel Lucas 860-304-9150



Old Saybrook \$349,000
Beautiful 4BR/3BA home with stellar features. Engaging residence with an array of extras. Generous floorplan. 2 fireplaces. A very enticing style!
Kyle Hinding 860-857-4219



Westbrook \$459,000
Mediterranean Col in one of the Shorelines finest areas. Surrounded by Town Forest & nestled on 4 private acres.
Peter Bonanno 860-227-9798
Shane Bonanno 860-227-97353

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Ivoryton Playhouse Announces Its 2019 Season



On Friday, March 1st, the Ivoryton Playhouse will open its doors for a new season - a year full of exciting, affordable professional theatre. The year begins with The Women Playwrights Initiative, returning for a third year with staged readings and talkbacks of 4 new plays in one weekend.

The subscription season opens on March 20th with a new musical BURT & ME. If you fell in love to the music of Burt Bacharach, then you won't want to miss this nostalgic romantic musical comedy. Featuring the classics: "What the World Needs Now," "Walk On By," "I Say A Little Prayer," and many more. Through April 7th.

A progressive white couple's proud liberal sensibilities are put to the test when their daughter brings her black fiancé home to meet them in this fresh and relevant stage adaptation of the iconic film, GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER (April 24th - May 12th.)

GODSPELL (May 22 - June 16) which is loosely based around the Gospel of St. Matthew, features a parade of beloved songs, including "Day by Day" and "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

July is family musical time and this year is no exception. On June 26th, summer opens with a splash with the blockbuster musical



MAMMA MIA. The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. Runs through July 28th.

The Tony award winning CABARET takes us back to Broadway on August 7th - September 1st. Join us at the Kit Kat Club with unforgettable musical numbers including, "Willkommen," "Cabaret," and "Two Ladies."

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Our final show of the season will feature David Lutken and his trusty band of musicians from October 23rd to November 10th. Title to be announced soon.

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Essex Historical Society

Come in from the cold as Essex Historical Society fires up its Winter Lecture Series, co-sponsored with Essex Meadows and Essex Land Trust. All talks are free. Info: www.essexhistory.org, 860-767-0681.

“POWER, MONEY, PEOPLE: BEYOND THE SHIPYARD” WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Explore Essex’s rich history in the popular Annual Winter Lecture Series presented by Essex Historical Society, Essex Meadows and Essex Land Trust, Sundays, January 6, 20 and 27, at 3:00 pm. Entitled “Power, Money, People: Beyond the Shipyard,” the 2019 series puts the collaborative Follow the Falls project in context by addressing the interconnected forces and stories which continue to shape our understanding of the Williams Complex & Shipyard at Falls River Cove, 1690-1845.



The former Williams sawmill at Falls River Cove.
 Courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

Sunday, January 6 at 3:00 pm:

“THE WILLIAMS SHIPYARD COMPLEX: FINDING THE REST OF THE STORY”

This illustrated talk will be led by our investigative Follow the Falls team, summarizing their 2018 findings through period documents, rare images, aerial photography and custom maps created for this project to ‘put the pieces all together’ in crafting a better understanding of the natural and historic significance of Falls River Cove.

Sunday, January 20 at 3:00 pm:

“FOLLOW THE MONEY: FUNDING THE VALLEY SHIPYARDS”

Prof. Wick Griswold provides a detailed look at the Triangle Trade, complex business relationships and social patterns on which Essex’s shipyards and maritime economies depended.

Sunday, January 27 at 3:00 pm:

“LIFE IN A SEAPORT VILLAGE.”

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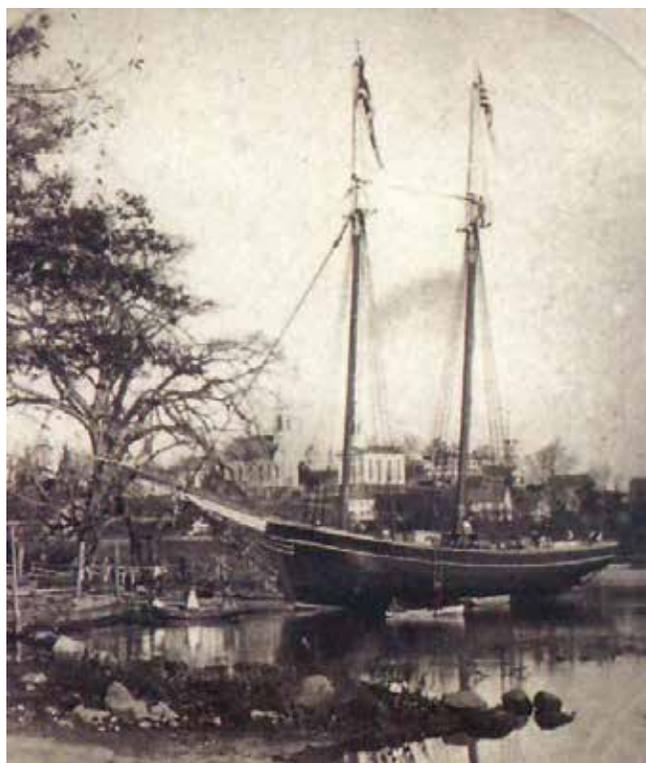
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early 19th century with a first-person interpreter from the Mystic Seaport Museum.

All lectures are held at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road, Essex. Free and open to the public. More info: www.essexhistory.org or 860-767-0681.



Ship "George Hurlburt" built in the Williams Shipyard.
Courtesy of CT History Illustrated.



The David Mack Shipyard, Middle Cove, Essex.
Courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

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The Essex Garden Club Brought Holiday Spirit to Essex



In preparation for the holidays, the Essex Garden club members decorated merchant window boxes and tubs of the villages of Essex as well as the town park gazebo on Main Street. Using a variety of evergreen cuttings from members and other generous donors from the community, designers helped the town put on a festive face for the “Trees in the Rigging” held in November, and the Holiday stroll in December.

The “Silent Policeman” as all knows to be the roundabout in town was named PRINCESS HOLLY this year. She was decorated this year by (from left) Joan Todd, Pam Peters and Sandy Meister with all kinds of Greenery. Thanks to both Barbara Powers and Janice Strait for their efforts in coordinating the day of decorating.

Finally, The Essex Garden Club would like to thank the Essex community for its continued support, especially during our spring May Market and extends best wishes to all the residents of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton for a Healthy and Happy New Year.



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Essex Garden Club Recognized by Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

The Essex Garden Club was recently recognized by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut for its civic work maintaining parks, traffic islands and especially the fundraising used for the planting of trees, shrubs and perennials. This is part of the ongoing effort of the EGC Civic Team that helps support the mission to create civic beautification in our community and promote educational opportunities for our members and the general public.



The Garden Club Civic Committee Chairs (*past and present*) are with the President of the Garden Club, Augie Pampel.

Left to right: Janice Strait, Suzanne Tweed, Augie Pampel, Barbara Powers and Liz Fowler.



Welcome to Essex

Essex consists of three unique villages and is ideally located on the Connecticut River a few short miles from Long Island Sound. Well-known for its beautiful landscapes, majestic trees and gardens, fascinating architecture, and cultural and historical attractions, we are a boating and sailing destination as well. Essex is famous for hosting a multitude of parades throughout the year and offers an outstanding culinary and shopping experience to our residents and visitors. Come experience, explore and enjoy the small-town enchantment of Essex, Connecticut.



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The Essex Foundation Expands Gateway Beautification

15,000 Daffodil Bulbs Planted At Sunset Pond



A truckload of daffodil bulbs are at the ready to be planted at Sunset Pond along West Avenue in Essex thanks in part to a bequest to The Essex Foundation by the late "Diz" Callender.

The legacy of the late Elizabeth "Diz" Callender continues to enhance the Essex landscape. Through a generous bequest to The Essex Foundation upon her passing in 2014, funding support is now fueling the addition of daffodils along the West Avenue entrance into Essex village. The first phase of the daffodil project was completed this October with 15,000 bulbs planted in a 3,000 square foot section of turf between Sunset Pond and West Avenue, and blooms expected this spring. Sullivan Lawn Service was hired to provide the planting services. The second phase of the daffodil project will be completed next fall, and includes expanded bulb planting in the Sunset Pond area as well as at the Route 153/154 gateway intersection.



Sullivan Lawn Service crew members focus on the task at hand – the planting of 15,000 daffodil bulbs at Sunset Pond along West Avenue in Essex thanks to the efforts of The Essex Foundation and its project partners.

The idea for the project came from the fact that Diz Callender enjoyed planting daffodils. Additional funding is coming from The Paul Foundation (owners of the Sunset Pond property), Centerbrook Properties, and individual donors. The gateway beautification project, which also included the installation of 12 Chanticlear Pear trees and over 300 evergreen and perennial ornamentals at the intersection of Route 153 and Route 154, is a good example of the types of community efforts supported by The Essex Foundation; projects that are somewhat unique, require quick action, and have an immediate impact.

The Essex Foundation was founded in 1970. It is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents. The foundation is funded through donations from the community and strives to fill needs not met by other organizations or sources. In general, funds are granted for special purposes, including buildings, equipment, land, and programs, but not to recurring expenses. More information can be found at: www.theessexfoundation.org.

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Portraits of Beethoven: Celebration Concert

Vista Life Innovations, a community based program dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving personal success is partnering with Project: Music Heals Us to present the third event in a series of three, Portraits of Beethoven: Celebration Concert. This event is generously sponsored by the Danielle Rose Paikin Foundation.



Taking place at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, this event will explore the music and life story of Ludwig van Beethoven through storytelling and music as performed and spoken about by the Solara Quartet.

As an individual who overcame many obstacles - including significant disability - during his life, the lifeworks of

Beethoven show what is possible to achieve with perseverance and determination - concepts that mate perfectly with the core philosophy of Vista Life Innovations.

The event is scheduled for 7:00 pm on February 20th at The Katharine Hepburn

Cultural Arts Center. To purchase tickets, please visit The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center's website at: katharinehepburntheater.org. For more information about this event, the three part series or Vista Life Innovations, contact Jessica Lillge at: 860-399-8080 ext. 269.

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Dr. Robert Ballard - The Race to Save the Human Race by Sigrid Kun



Above center,
increasing our oceans'
productivity can
provide the way to
human survival.



Above right, each Nautilus
expedition includes scientists,
student interns, and educators.

Just back from the last leg of a 7 month-long expedition by his Corps of Exploration, Dr. Robert Ballard was at his Lyme, CT home - busy summarizing the 2018 series of expeditions by his 64-meter exploration vessel, the E/V Nautilus. Yes, he discovered the Titanic in 1985 (old news, he says, of what was actually a cover for a top secret naval operation). Yes, his work caused a wholesale change in how science was taught by uncovering the secrets of plate tectonics and hydro thermal vents (a revolutionary revelation evidencing that sunlight wasn't needed to support life). And the 30-year naval veteran and /geologist/undersea robotics developer/explorer has for so many years revealed to the world human history lost beneath the sea - with over 35 National Geographic television specials and countless books. After 150+ expeditions, starting at age 17, retirement isn't in the works for the 76-year old.

Our Oceans - The Last Frontier

Dr. Ballard's unrelenting pursuit of ocean education and exploration through his non-profit organization, the Ocean Exploration Trust ("OET"), is urgent. There are sobering facts: 95% of the Earth's population lives on less than 5% of the Earth's surface; farmland is being replaced with housing tracts; while 95% of all living space is located in largely unexplored international waters. But 90% of all large, predatory fish have been hunted down and killed. The carrying capacity of our planet is already at the brink. By 2050 we will not have enough food to feed everyone.

The Wichita, Kansas-born explorer explains that the Earth's waters, largely unexplored, are the human race's final hope. "I'm worried about the human race," he says. "The big question is, will the human race survive? The Earth will be fine. The planet is a creature. It was born. It evolves. It will die. It just has a long life expectancy. But there's no Plan B for the human race." The key, he says, is to move from hunting/gathering in the ocean to creating productive waters via deep sea farming - just as society thousands of years ago moved away from hunting and gathering on the Earth's lands and into organized food production. Every Ballard/OET/Nautilus expedition provides vital information as to how our Earth's waters can provide for the survival of humanity. The programs run on

multiple tracks; internships, community STEM and STEAM (to include the Arts) programs, and fellowships. Each ocean expedition includes scientists, student interns and educators as part of the Nautilus corps. The OET website is maintained on a 24/7 basis while the Nautilus is at sea to provide for live communication and interaction. During the last expedition, over 24,000 questions were answered live. Each expedition cultivates a new set of students and mentors (both on and off-board). "The key is to do it wave after wave after wave," he says. To make a difference you needed to reach millions of students.

No Boundaries

Dr. Ballard's message, however, is about more than just the ocean. Life's lessons include understanding one's self. Dr. Ballard is dyslexic. For quite a while, he didn't even know it. It took the book "*The Dyslexic Advantage*" to explain me to me. It was a strange but enlightening experience. Those affected (which is 10% of the population) are often loathe to admit it. To him, it is a gift - an interesting advantage. "I created a dyslexic world that I excel in," he explains. Dyslexia has caused him to rely on visualization and memorization. "It's perfect," he says. "In the sea, it's all dark...it's pitch black. But the water goes away and I see everything." He recalls a dive in 1986 to explore the Titanic. Everything went wrong. No sonar. No tracking. Landing 12,000 feet below surface in the mud, there were no signs of the Titanic to the other crew members. "It's over there," pointed Ballard. And, indeed, the Titanic was.

Dr. Ballard is also a keen proponent for empowering women. As he puts it "males as top leaders is by their design." Empowering women, he maintains, is a key to saving the human race. Accordingly, he mandates that 50% of his team be comprised of women.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Dr. Ballard is a problem solver - from 15 years spent restoring an earlier home to jigsaw puzzles (even when the 1,000 pieces are the same shade of blue, with no border pieces, holes in the puzzle, and extra pieces just for kicks.) But he doesn't have the ultimate answer. Will the human race survive? "I am a realist. The Earth is becoming aware of us and deeming us as a threat," he observes. "We still have time but indications are we are going in the wrong direction." What can we do? "Look at the first 12 feet around you. Look at what you are doing," urges the avid recycler. "Leave things better than you found them. That's what my grandmother taught me."



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