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events

VOLUME 13 • QUARTER 4 • 2020



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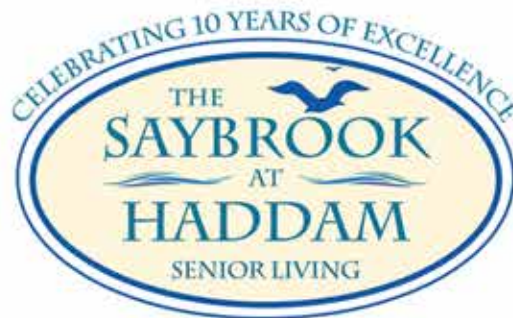
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First Selectman's Corner

I'm writing this while looking at the beautiful fall foliage on a warm afternoon in October.



We have hired a new Director of Operations, Don Angersola, left. Don grew up in East Haddam but many of you may know Don as our Fire Marshal. He is very familiar with our buildings and his background as a building official has made his transition into his new responsibilities seamless. His responsibilities will be split, working for the

Town and Board of Education.

We have a number of projects that Don will be supervising. Some examples:

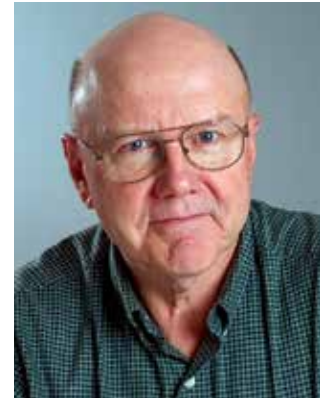
- First up is a generator at the Grange. Most of you know that the East Haddam Food Bank is in the basement of the Grange. The recent tropical storm emphasized the need for a new generator to supply power to the eleven refrigerators and freezers that support the Food Bank.
- Second, will be installing a new heating and cooling system in The East Haddam Free Public Library (EHFPL), which now belongs to the Town, having been transferred on September 22, 2020. The Town allocated \$50,000 this fiscal

year to replace the aged steam boiler which failed late in September.

The Neptune Avenue bridge replacement started October 5th after delays that included tropical storm Isaias. COVID-19 has impacted our Public Works Department delaying paving and other FEMA-related work. Tree removal crews are currently concentrating on the Lake Hayward area. There are many dead trees on Town property that are threatening residences and other structures. We consider these to be high priority trees for removal.

The use of the Community Garden increased this year. The Town rented 20 plots and most of our gardeners had a successful season. A local artist, Ms. Kristin Haddad, is going to be painting seasonally themed murals on each side of the tank trailer at the Harris Community Garden. Private individuals are covering her costs and she is donating her artistic talents.

The Town received a couple of grants, the largest being a \$904,000 **continued on page 5**



Robert Smith
First Selectman



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First Selectman... continued from page 3

FEMA grant for a new fire truck. The Truck Working Group is evaluating various manufacturers. The new truck, called a Quint, will replace two pieces of equipment—the 1977 ladder truck, which is no longer in service, and another fire engine. We hope to have the new truck delivered about December, 2021. A second FEMA grant was received for PPE for the Fire Department. Thanks to Steve Dorfman who wrote both grants.

At this time, it looks like we have at least one grocery store coming into Town. The former Middlesex County Camp, also known as the 4-H Camp, which has been on the market for about one year, is the proposed site of a new year-round campground. Getaway, a nationwide recreation company, will be putting in about 45 sites. These sites are for 2-4 people to camp and “get away” to the country and hopefully to disconnect from their electronic worlds. East Haddam’s 70 miles of hiking trails, lakes, streams, Important Bird Area, and Wild and Scenic Watershed, made this a perfect location to establish their business.



In September, our Department of Public Works Director, Beth Lunt, resigned to take a position in Columbia, CT. This position will not immediately be refilled. Firefighter Captain John (J.D.) Sarnik also resigned. The Town has hired Liam Duncan, left, to fill the Firefighter/EMT vacancy. Liam has been working for the Town as a per diem FF/EMT since August 10th.

During his per diem time here, he has been an exemplary employee, receiving praise from his superiors and co-workers.

COVID-19 continues to impact the Town and citizens in so many ways. The Municipal Office Complex is now open to the public. Public participation at our Boards, Commissions and Committee meetings is still limited except by electronic means (YouTube). We anticipate having multiple hearings to discuss the proposal for the East Haddam Village starting in December or January. We are still evaluating the best way to do this in the time of COVID-19. The Governor’s Phase 3 opening began October 8th. There are still significant constraints on meetings, but our churches are now having services with limited attendance. Restaurants can now have 75% occupancy. Our libraries have reopened. Park and Recreation programs continue to expand, again with constraints. As always, please check the website for the latest information. And please remember to mask up.

There has been tremendous use of all of our open spaces, State parks, and Town recreation areas. At the same time, mother nature has been creating numerous issues with trees and limbs falling on the trails. It has been difficult for our volunteers to

continued on page 6

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First Selectman... continued from page 5

keep up with the ongoing maintenance required to keep our many hiking trails and recreation areas cleared. Please consider volunteering to assist the Conservation Commission (CCChair@easthaddam.org) or East Haddam Land Trust (president@ehl.org) in their efforts maintaining the trails.

By the time you read this the 2020 elections will have occurred. I'd like to thank all who ran for office and congratulate the winners.

I would also like to thank Deb Denette, our Town Clerk, and Bev Christopher, Assistant Town Clerk, for their efforts. Additional thanks go to the Registrars, the Election Monitors, the Checkers, and all the staff and volunteers who worked long hours during the pandemic to have a safe and fair election for our citizens.

Rob Smith,
First Selectman

From the Assessor

All persons having taxable personal property to declare such as unregistered motor vehicles, horses and ponies, farm equipment, or any furniture, fixtures, and equipment used in the operation of a business, must do so by November 1, 2020. Declaration forms are available at the Assessor's Office. They have been mailed to all businesses and residents who have declared property in the past. Please be aware that if you have taxable personal property, and do not declare it, state statutes allow the Assessor to add it at an estimated amount and impose a 25% penalty on the assessment.

The application filing period for the elderly and disabled homeowners' program begins February 1, 2021 and ends May 15, 2021. Income requirements will be published by the Office of Policy and Management in January 2021.

Any person who acquired a new motor vehicle after October 1, 2019 will receive a supplemental motor vehicle bill by January 2021. These bills will be prorated, based on the date of registration, for the 12-month period starting October 2019 and ending September 2020. Vehicles acquired in

August or September do not receive supplemental tax bills.

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

Please call the Assessor's Office at: 860-873-5026 if you have any questions.

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Tax Collector

Please remember, due on January 1, 2021, is the second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills that were mailed June 2020. A second bill will not be sent for these accounts. If you are a new owner of real estate property and need a copy of your tax bill, please contact the tax office immediately. Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills are also due January 1, 2021. Supplemental bills will be mailed by the end of December 2020. The last day to pay these bills will be February 1, 2021. Payments may be made in person at the Municipal Office Complex located at 1 Plains Road, Moodus, CT, by mail to: Tax Collector, P. O. Box 403, Moodus, CT 06469-0403 or on-line at easthaddam.org and click the link "Pay Taxes Online." There is a fee associated with online payments which goes directly to the processing company, Point & Pay, for their service. This fee applies to online and in the office credit/debit card & e-check payments. A secure lockbox is located to the right of the main entrance for payments dropped off after normal business hours. Anyone wishing a receipt must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with their payment.

Tax information is available online at easthaddam.org. Click the \$ "Look up & Pay Tax Bills." You will be able to check your current amount due and view past payments.

This office is for the collection of taxes only. Any adjustments to your bill must be made by the Assessor, 860-873-5026 or assessor@easthaddam.org.

The Tax Collector may be reached at: 860-873-5033 or taxcollector@easthaddam.org.

Denise Dill, CCMC,
Tax Collector

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Holiday Closings

THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

Veterans Day - Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving - Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27

Christmas Eve Day - Thursday, December 24,
closing at noon

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25,
reopen Monday, December 28

New Year's Eve Day - Thursday, December 31,
closing at noon

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1,
reopen Monday, January 4

Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 18
Regular hours will resume on the next business day.

THE TRANSFER STATION WILL BE CLOSED
ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

Veterans Day - Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving - Friday, November 27

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1

Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 18

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

Veterans Day - Libraries will be open

Thanksgiving - Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27

Christmas Eve Day - Thursday, December 24

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25,
reopen Saturday, December 26

New Year's Eve Day - Thursday, December 31

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1,
open Saturday, January 2

Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 18
Regular hours will resume on the next business day.

It's Back! (Snow, That Is)

We hear frequent complaints about the dangerous road conditions that result when people push driveway snow out into our public roads.

We actually have an ordinance prohibiting this practice, which states, "No person shall plow, throw, put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from any private property or from any area in the rear of said private property or in area between a private dwelling house or structure and the legally laid out sidewalk into any public highway in the town of East Haddam."

As a reminder to residents the town also has an ordinance regarding the clearing of sidewalks adjoining or fronting a resident or business property.

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

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



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Sand for Winter Ice

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

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

Class of 2021 High School - Project Graduation

**CLASS OF 2021 NATHAN HALE RAY HIGH SCHOOL
PROJECT GRADUATION**

Sponsored by East Haddam Youth & Family Services

Senior year is a time of celebration and lasting memories! The goal of Project Graduation is to sponsor a memorable graduation event for the class to be together one last time and have a safe, fun-filled night!

The Class of 2021 Project Graduation Committee has begun planning this traditional all-night, alcohol & substance free party for ALL seniors in the graduating class. Project Graduation is organized by parents of seniors who volunteer their time throughout the students' senior year, raising the money necessary to provide the opportunity for all graduates to participate in this event. Project Grad is a totally self-supporting program sponsored by East Haddam Youth & Family Services.

Our first fundraiser, a car show, was held on Saturday, October 17th and hosted by The Farm at Carter Hill in Marlborough, CT. We are very appreciative of the below vendors who helped make it happen with their donations for raffle baskets and goody bags:

AutoZone of Colchester	East Haddam Community Lions	NAPA of Colchester
Cardone & Daughter	Harvey's Appliance	NAPA of East Hampton
Coca-Cola	Mark's United Auto Parts	Moroso Performance Products
Cromwell Automotive	Mark's Auto Service LLC	Simoniz USA Inc

Upcoming fundraisers include raffle tickets to be sold at various locations & dates. Please reach out to a committee member for more information. We plan to have Trivia Night, Cow Chip Raffle, Project Grad Swag, Paint Night etc. Project Grad relies completely on the generosity of townspeople and the business community to fund and support this safe graduation party! Please show your support by purchasing raffle tickets, joining us at one of our events or by donating. Thank you for your support!! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Remind.

Class of 2021 Project Graduation Committee:

Cathy Tozier	-Chairperson	dcstozier@yahoo.com
Lara Sullivan	-Co-Chairperson	rogersredbarn@yahoo.com
Chris VanValkenburg	-Secretary	cmvan1961@gmail.com
Pam Champlin	-Treasurer	pamchamplin3@sbcglobal.net

Donations can be made to: NHRHS Project Graduation Class of 2021
 PO Box 317 | Moodus, CT 06469

Capitol Update: State Representative Irene Haines



Irene Haines
State Representative

The 2020 legislative term has been unlike any other in recent memory. During the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, legislative leaders agreed to postpone business essentially ending the legislative session leaving many issues to be addressed at later dates. Most recently, the General Assembly convened on September 30th, to consider bills addressing utility providers and other regulatory changes.

There was a strong bipartisan consensus to update regulations for our state's large electric utility providers, namely Eversource. During the special session, the House and Senate passed legislation – HB 7006 – to establish performance-based regulation, extend rate case decision deadlines, increase civil penalties for failed emergency response, and establish customer credits for outages that cause food or medication to spoil after 96 hours. I believe these changes are a step in the right direction to improve

customer value, however I think more will have to be done to prevent rate hikes like the ones we saw this summer.

Another notable bill from this special session was HB 7001 which makes technical changes to the Transfer Act that regulates how industrial sites and other properties can be redeveloped. For years now, the Transfer Act has been criticized by both environmentalists and developers as an obstacle to remediating properties. A study cited by the Commissioners of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Economic and Community Development found that the Transfer Act has cost our state 7,000 jobs and \$178 million in tax revenue. The new regulations will move our state to uniform standards for cleaning up properties without the burdensome and confusing red tape.

As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding state government, please contact me at: Irene.Haines@housegop.ct.gov. You can also follow legislative activity on my website at: www.RepHaines.com.

Visit our website at: www.easthaddam.org

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

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East Haddam Libraries

The library buildings reopened to the public in September. Patrons are invited to visit the libraries, browse the shelves, and use library services. Curbside service remains available and is still the safest way to use the libraries.

For more information on curbside services, visit our website at: www.EastHaddamLibrarySystem.org or call us at: EHFPL: 860-873-8248 or Rathbun: 860-873-8210

- If you plan to visit the library, please limit your visit to 30-minutes or less.
- Masks are required, as is adherence to CT State social distance guidelines.
- Please return all materials to the book drop outside. For health & safety reasons, returns cannot be accepted inside the library. All returned materials are quarantined before they are checked-in and shelved.
- Programs & Events will remain online until further notice - including our popular D&D Clubs, Book Clubs, Pinterest Parties, and Guest Speaker presentations. See the calendar on our website for more info.
- Kids' take-home craft kits for Thanksgiving, and the holiday season are coming soon - check our website for updates.
- The libraries are currently unavailable for any meetings, study groups, or organized gatherings.
- Restrooms are recommended for "emergencies" only.

- Inter-library Loans have been affected by the pandemic. Materials coming from out-of-town libraries may take a week or more to arrive. We will call or email you when your materials are ready.
- Our computers, printers, fax machines, and copiers are available inside. If you need assistance or other special arrangements, please let us know.
- For curbside pick-up, please give us a call before you head over and we will have your items ready for you.
- Whenever possible, we recommend reserving your items in advance. For next day pick-up, please use our online catalog.
- For same day pick-up, please call the library. Please note, only items listed as "On Shelf" at EHFPL or Rathbun are available for same or next-day pick-up.

During these troubled times, the libraries are here to help. If there is anything we can do to be of assistance, please call us or email Library Director Michael Gilroy at: MGilroy@easthaddamlibrary-system.org and we will help however we can. Have a safe & happy holiday season!

NOTE: This article was written weeks in advance of publication. Due to the inherent unpredictability of 2020, please check the library website or call the libraries to make sure that none of the above information has changed before stopping by for a visit.

Parks & Recreation

Skyhawks Youth Basketball Weeknight Clinics: Open to boys and girls in grades 1-8. Will follow CIAC guidelines with possibility of adding scrimmages with clinic teammates on Saturdays for grades 3-8.

Skyhawks Multi-Sport Tots: Introduce your little superstar to sports in our most popular program! This multi-sport class uses age-appropriate games and activities

to explore balance, hand/eye coordination, fitness, sport skills and child development. Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5 years. Saturdays, January 9-February 20 (no class February 13.)

Pickleball: 6-week session, November 9 - December 14.
Session 1: Mondays 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Session 2: Wednesdays 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm,

Municipal Gym, \$30/session.

Boot Camp: Get back to basics with a fitness BOOT CAMP class! We provide a 60-minute workout with a 15-minute stretch that will improve your core strength and balance.

Tuesdays and Thursday, 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm,
1x/week \$45, 2x/week \$69, or \$10 drop-in.



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American Red Cross CPR for Babysitters: This is an extension of our ARC Babysitting Course and is open to those who have previously taken our babysitting class. This class will certify babysitters in Basic First Aid as well as infant and child CPR.

Monday, November 30 and

Wednesday, December 2, 5:45 - 7:45 pm, \$55.

American Red Cross When I'm in Charge: Participants will learn the safe way to stay home alone. Topics include internet safety, sibling care, and basic emergency care.

January 13, 5:45 - 7:15 pm, Ages 9-12, \$40.

Heartsaver CPR/AED & First Aid: This course teaches Adult/Child CPR AED and Infant CPR.

Tuesday, December 15, 5:30 - 9:30 pm,

Parks and Rec Activity Room, \$60R, \$65NR.

Gentle Yoga: This class is appropriate for all levels of fitness or yoga experience. Ages 16+. Increase your strength and flexibility while decreasing stress. Enjoy moving your body and breathing mindfully! Wednesdays 6:30 pm.

For more information please visit our website at: www.easthaddamrec.com.

Harvest House Temporarily Closes

It is with regret that Harvest House announces that it will be closed for the remainder of 2020. While our volunteers remain committed to the mission of Harvest House, which is to provide a hot Sunday dinner for our patrons in a welcoming, congenial atmosphere, it is clear that getting the program up and running in 2020 is just not possible. St Stephen's is not open for services, and when it does open, the church hall, where Harvest House is held, will not be available. The leadership of Harvest House has developed a schedule for 2021 and hopes that it will be able to open in January, 2021.

Bill and Betsy Barney have announced that they will be stepping down as Harvest House Coordinators at the end of December. Liz and Mark Sallie will be assuming the role of Coordinators. Liz and Mark are no strangers to Harvest House having prepared numerous Sunday dinners over the years, including the annual holiday feast.

Mr. Barney said that working with Harvest House and the incredible team of volunteers has been an incredible honor and privilege. He is grateful for the support and assistance that the leaders and members of St. Stephen's Church have given to him and Betsy and to Harvest House. He hopes that they will be regular visitors to Harvest House when it begins again in 2021.

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East Haddam
Youth & Family Services, Inc.

East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

www.ehyfs.org ~ 860-873-3296 ~ youthandfamily@ehyfs.org

Holiday Giving Campaign 2020

Dear Neighbor,

With so many other things on your mind right now, you may not be thinking about the EHYFS Holiday Campaign or the Police Department Stuff the Cruiser event that helps to support it. It is hard to believe that the holiday season is right around the corner.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all needed to look at things in a different way, be flexible, and try new things. In order to keep contact limited while maintaining our goal of offering families a positive and uplifting experience around the holidays, we are changing the look of our campaign this year.

Rather than asking for toys, clothes and other gifts, this year we are asking for gift cards and monetary donations for distribution to families who need help with buying gifts for their children. We recognize how different this will be. It will be for us as well.

Providing parents with gift cards gives them the opportunity to do their own holiday shopping and to have more autonomy in deciding on gifts for their children. It also gives them the opportunity to order their gifts online and have them delivered right to their door which helps to mitigate the potential risk involved in going into stores during the holiday rush.

In anticipation of possible mail and delivery delays around the holidays, we must move our distribution date up. We will distribute gift cards to families on November 23rd and 24th so that they have ample time to shop and can take advantage of Thanksgiving sales, Black Friday, Cyber Monday, etc. and receive their items in plenty of time.

THE DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS THIS YEAR IS NOVEMBER 16TH.

Last year, 99 children in our community received gifts through our holiday campaign. We anticipate that the need might be even greater this year.

If you would like to donate one or more gift cards, we ask that you purchase them in increments of \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$75 from either Walmart, Target, Amazon, or Visa.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can do so at: www.ehyfs.org/holidaycampaign. Simply click the donate button on that page and enter your information. Or you can send a check made payable to EHYFS Holiday Campaign to East Haddam Youth and Family Services.

All monetary donations will be used to purchase additional gift cards and all donations are tax deductible.

Gift cards and checks can be mailed to: East Haddam Youth and Family Services, PO Box 572, Moodus, CT 06469 or hand delivered to the office at 387 East Haddam-Moodus Road in Moodus.

Thank you for your generous and continuing support of our Holiday Campaign and the children it serves. All of us at Youth and Family Services wish you a safe, healthy, and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Toni McCabe,
Director



**East Haddam
Youth & Family Services, Inc.**

**East Haddam
Youth and Family Services
PO Box 572
860-873-3296
www.ehyfs.org**

2020 Holiday Campaign

The holidays are just around the corner and once again East Haddam Youth & Family Services is launching our annual Holiday Campaign. Last year, 99 children received holiday gifts through the generosity and thoughtfulness of the East Haddam community. This year, we expect the need to be as great or even greater.

Because of COVID-19 concerns, and in an effort to limit contact and mitigate risk, we are not able to accept toys, clothes or other gifts this year. Instead, we are asking for monetary donations or gift cards in increments of \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$75 from either Walmart, Target, Amazon, or Visa.

All donations will be distributed to families who need help with buying gifts for their children. Monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards.

In anticipation of possible mail and delivery delays around the holidays, we must move our distribution date up. We will distribute gift cards to families on November 23rd and 24th .

The deadline for donations this year is November 16th.

Families that need assistance providing gifts for their children are encouraged to contact East Haddam Youth and Family Services by phone (860-873-3296) or email (youthandfamily@ehyfs.org). Applications are available online at: www.ehyfs.org.

The deadline for completed applications is November 13th.



East Haddam Police Department /Resident Trooper Annual Holiday Giving Drive

The East Haddam Police Officers and Resident State Trooper will host our 15th Annual Stuff a Cruiser event on Saturday, November 14 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The event will be held in the parking lot of the East Haddam Municipal Office Complex located at 1 Plains Road in Moodus.

**East Haddam Police Department and
Office of the Resident State Trooper
1 Plains Road, P.O. BOX 385,
Moodus, Connecticut 06469**

This year, because of COVID-19 concerns, and in an effort to limit contact and mitigate risk, we will not be accepting toys, clothes or other gifts. Instead, we are asking for gift cards in increments of \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$75 from either Walmart, Target, Amazon, or Visa or monetary donations.

All donations will be distributed to families who need help with buying gifts for their children through East Haddam Youth and Family Service (EHYFS). Monetary donations will be used to purchase gift cards.

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

For additional information on the Stuff a Cruiser Event please contact Officer Jeffrey Rhoades at 860-891-8200 or email to: jrhoades@easthaddam.org.

Town of East Haddam

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

Municipal Office Complex

Main Number: 860-873-5020

Fax Numbers: (Finance/Selectmen) 860-873-5025,

(Land Use/Building/Health) 860-873-1565,

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

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

Selectman's Office

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

Assessor's Office

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

Building Department

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

Chatham Health District

Sanitarian 860-873-5101

Finance Department

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

Land Use Offices

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

Tax Collector's Office

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

Town Clerk's Office

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

Public Works Department

fax: 860-873-6014

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

Other Departments

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

Resident State Trooper - Troop K East Haddam Police

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

Probate Court

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

Registrars of Voters

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

Senior Services

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

Food Bank

860-891-8100

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

Senior Center News

On September 21, the Senior Center had a "soft opening" and continues to open its programs and services back up as the COVID-19 situation dictates. During the summer, the Center continued to deliver Meals on Wheels to its clients and also offered brown bag lunches Monday-Friday (funded by generous donations from the community and local businesses) to any senior who called to reserve one for pick up. From March through August, we provided 3600 of these bag lunches. The Medical Car continued to offer transportation as needed and staff was available to answer questions and offer help. All trips and regular programs had to be cancelled.

For the "soft opening" certain programs began again, with limitations. These included Thai Chi, Pilates, the exercise room, the computer room, a flu shot clinic (filled to capacity,) and access to borrowing puzzles and books. In October, began Medicare Open Enrollment assistance, Energy Assistance and limited Senior Bus usage was scheduled to begin at the time this article was written.

Your safety is of primary concern. While circumstances dictate, everyone is required to wear a mask, sanitize hands and have their temperature taken upon entry to the building. Sanitation is consistently and thoroughly practiced, and sanitizer and masks are available to all. Social distancing is required for activities such as Pilates and Thai Chi and currently, only 2 people are permitted in the computer and exercise rooms at a time.

Please do not hesitate to call us during our normal business hours (8:00 am - 3:00 pm) at 860-873-5034 with any questions, or to reserve your bag lunch for pick up. If we cannot pick up and you leave a message, we will get back to you as soon as we can. Our monthly newsletter is expected to have resumed by the time this article is published, so do not forget to look there for updates and announcements. If you do not have the newsletter emailed to you and wish to be included in the email list, please call us. We are here for you.

The East Haddam Leo Club

The East Haddam Leos are a group of 12-18 year olds who want to make a difference in the East Haddam community. During these difficult times, it is important to work together to make things better. If you are looking for something to do, a way to help your neighbors, and do not mind a little hard work mixed in with a lot of fun - the Leo Club is for you. This club is sponsored by the East Haddam Lions Club and the East Haddam Community Lions Club. The Leo meetings are held via Zoom on the 1st Thursday and 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more details, email Leo Advisor Michael Gilroy at gilroy@gmail.com - or stop by the Lions Christmas Tree Lot on Thanksgiving weekend and meet the Leos for yourself. As we like to say, the Leos are the pride of East Haddam.

East Haddam Lions Club



The Lions will once again be selling Christmas Trees every Friday evening and Saturday/Sunday in December. The first tree sale dates will be Saturday & Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend (with some help

from the EH Leos). Stop in for freshly cut trees at the cheapest prices around. The club will also be sponsoring food baskets at the East Haddam Food Bank in December. If you would like to donate to the club and help serve our community (or become a member,) please contact Lion Michael Gilroy at GilroyM@gmail.com.

If you or your family require aid or assistance during these difficult times, even just someone to speak with, you may contact any member of the East Haddam Lions Club or our President Dan Ballek at: easthaddamlions@gmail.com.

If you prefer, contact the East Haddam Selectmen's or Youth & Family offices with whom we are coordinating to best serve our community.

Part 1: Why Should We Preserve History in East Haddam?

For over 350 years, many people helped shape the East Haddam community we know today. The three Indian tribes: the Wangunks, the Mohegans, and the Nehantics called our town home up until 1650. They named the area "Machimoodus," the place of noises. For 286 years (1638 and 1899,) the loud rumblings known as the "Moodus Noises," could be heard and felt for miles. The epicenter of the quakes is located near Mt. Tom where Machimoodus State Park is located today.

In 1673, Robert Chapman built a house along Creek Row. In 1685 the Bates, Cone, Brainerd, Gates, Ackley, and Spencer families from Haddam became the first permanent residents of East Haddam along Creek Row. The Isaac Ackley farm on Maple Street (present day Ballek's Garden Center) is owned and operated by the same family since the 1660s.

In 1695, Captain John Chapman started a ferry service across the Connecticut River. Ecclesiastical government was established in 1704. East Haddam was incorporated as a town in 1734.

During one winter semester in 1773-1774, Nathan Hale taught school in the little red one room schoolhouse now located on the Nathan Hale Green above the East Haddam Village overlooking the Connecticut River.

continued on page 18



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Historical Society... continued from page 17

Venture Smith, abducted from West Africa and last enslaved in Stonington, bought his freedom from his master and moved to East Haddam in 1774. Son of an African king, Venture Smith became the first Black man to document his capture from Africa and life as an American slave and successful Black freeman in Connecticut. Well-known and respected, Smith spent the majority of his freedom years in East Haddam and Haddam Neck, Connecticut. He died on September 19, 1805 and is buried First Church Cemetery on Town street. This is one of the original sites on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. His life has been celebrated at the Cemetery each September since 1996.



Dr. Karl P. Stofko, East Haddam's Municipal Historian/Venture Smith family genealogist stands next the new Venture Smith sculptor, which is part of the Venture Smith exhibit at The East Haddam Historical Society and Museum.

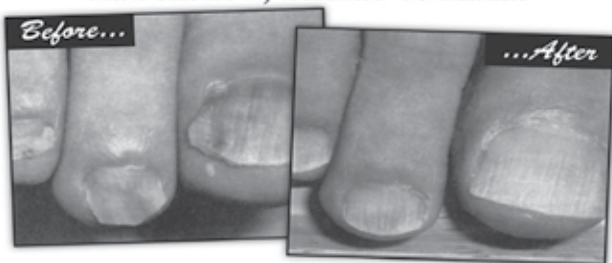
More than 350 men from East Haddam served in the Revolutionary War. East Haddam's population grew to about 3,000 in the mid-1800s. Green, Warner, Hayden, and Goodspeed shipyards built over 400 ships on the Connecticut River from the mid 1700s – 1877. Thirteen cotton twine mills were in operation along the Moodus River. Retail shops, taverns, and hotels sprung up. In the 1800s the town had six post offices.

By 1796, children attended one of 19 district schoolhouses. In 1888, the East Haddam Public Library and Reading Room Association was established in Moodus. The second town meeting hall (on Town Street) was built in 1857. The Grange began in 1877. In October 1877, over 600 theatergoers attended the opening night of the Goodspeed Opera House. The swing bridge that connects the Town with Haddam today was built in 1913, over 107 years ago. The Nathan Hale School (the present East Haddam Municipal Building) was built in 1923. All children attended this school until 1963 when the East Haddam Elementary School was opened. The Rathbun Free Memorial Library was built in 1935.

American Actor, William Gillette completed building his retirement home officially called the “7th Sister Estate” in 1919. Gillette is best remembered for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes on stage. Today residents and visitors are welcome to explore the grounds year-round daily from 8:00 am until sunset. Although

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the Castle Interior & Visitor Center are presently closed because of the pandemic, you can visit the Castle at: <https://www.gillettecastle-friends.org/plan-your-visit>.

Understanding our community's past helps us to shape a better community for present and future generations. The East Haddam Historical Society and Museum, founded over 50 years ago, has a fine collection of local and Lower Connecticut River Valley historical objects. Permanent and changing exhibits are on display.

If you would like to become a member of the East Haddam Historical Society and Museum, please visit www.easthaddamhistory.org or contact Annlee Sortland at annleesortland@gmail.com. You can also keep in touch with the Museum through Twitter @EHHS Museum; Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/ehhsmuseum/>; Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ehhsm/>.

Susan R. Waide

Community Lions Serve

A cheerful group of Community Lions gave their annual ice cream social a new twist — making it a drive thru event. On the evening of September 4, the parking lot of the Senior Center became the scene of a treat for all.

Cars full of excited kids and cars with adults only came by to get a cup of ice cream and pre-packaged toppings. 170 cups of chocolate, vanilla, cookies n cream, cotton candy and raspberry sorbet were served. Along with the ice cream came friendly, smiling eyes and a few moments of happy chatter.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Moodus Ice Cream Parlor, Two Wrasslin' Cats and Hillside Sweet Shoppe for providing the ice cream and some of the toppings. These businesses have been generous supporters over the years.

Liberty Bank and Community Lions are teamed up for Liberty Bank's annual Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. From now through November 21 the Liberty Bank Foundation adds 25 cents to every dollar raised. All money raised through the Moodus Branch of Liberty Bank goes to

benefit the East Haddam Food Bank. Buy a Turkey Leg or give as much as you can, and your gift grows by 25%.

Businesses or community organizations, if you are planning a donation to the East Haddam Food Bank, now is the time to make that gift through the Liberty Bank/Community Lions Food Drive. You will see it enlarged by 25%. Gifts can be made directly at Liberty Bank in Moodus. In 2019 over 30 service agencies throughout Connecticut received \$565,089 through this effort.



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Eco Harvester Delivery in the Spring



We are expecting the Eco Harvester delivery in the spring. This is the most effective and environmentally safe method for removing and controlling the invasive aquatic plants that are threatening swimming, boating and fishing. The lake is home to the town's only public beach, two state boat launches and much wildlife.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We have had to cut public events due to the COVID-19. We need to raise additional funds to cover the purchase and delivery costs. Going forward, we will need to raise funds annually to cover fuel, insurance and maintenance. Please consider a tax-deductible donation. Also see our website to become a family member. The Harvester will be operated by trained volunteers. If you are available to help, contact Gary Christopher at: 860-638-9518.

TIPS FOR A CLEAN AND HEALTHY LAKE:

- 1 Do not rake or blow fallen leaves into the water; they decay and become fertile soil for invasive aquatic plants.
- 2 Always mow in "mulch" mode and continue mowing as leaves fall to help your soil and minimize raking.
- 3 Last lawn mowing should be done at 2 inches for the best wintering and strong spring growth.
- 4 For yard/lawn/garden tips, go to www.ladybug@uconn.edu.

Tax Deductible Donations: The Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group, Inc. (MRPG) is a non-profit, 501(c) 3, community membership organization working to improve and protect the health of Moodus Reservoir. To donate online, go to: www.moodusreservoir.org/, using debit card, credit card or PayPal. Or send your check to MRPG, c/o Tim Varriale, 76 Falls Bashan Rd, Moodus, CT 06469.

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Tuesday at the East Haddam Sportsmen's Club, 7:00 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME. We are holding meetings safely.

Connecting Land Conservation and History

East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) and East Haddam Historical Society (EHHS) joined forces to develop the "Saving Land, Saving History" series of mini-documentaries and museum display illustrating how land preservation often preserves our town's history.

Local award-winning producer/director Ken Simon created five mini-documentaries from historical archives, current video takes, and the knowledge of historians and conservationists recounting how the land and rivers fit into the life of Moodus and East Haddam during the 1700s and 1800s. The documentaries feature the Bernstein and Hammond Mill Preserves, Patrell Preserve/Chapal Farm, and the histories of EHLT and EHHS. The mini documentaries can be viewed online at the Land Trust website, ehlt.org, and the Historical Society website, easthaddamhistory.org, making them accessible on mobile phones for hikers visiting one of the three preserves. Directions to the featured preserves and all the Land Trust's hiking opportunities can be found at ehlt.org/preserves.

continued on page 22



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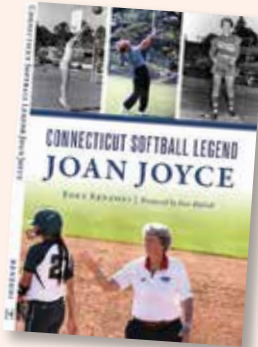
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The book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Signed copies can be found locally at: RJ Julia Bookstore (Madison); Griswold Inn's "Goods and Curiosities" store (Essex), and Seaside Homes and Gifts (Branford).

Land Trust... continued from page 20

EHHS created a multi-media exhibit on "Saving Land, Saving History" that can be visited at the Museum when it museum re-opens after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The "Saving Land, Saving History" project was supported by grants from Connecticut Humanities, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Watershed Coordinating Committee. EHHS and EHLT further funded/supported the series with hours of volunteer effort.

EHLT is honored to receive a 2020 Tom Odell Distinguished Service Award from The Rockfall Foundation. The award honors long-term accomplishments in environmental conservation and preservation.

Lefebvre Reserve-Connecting Land to its History



Edith LeFebvre

Thirteen years ago, I was blessed to become a resident of East Haddam. As I ascended Jones Hill on the steep dirt road rising above the Eightmile River, I said out loud, "When did we get to Vermont?"

Eighty-three years ago when New York City resident and world-renown horticulturalist Ethel Ely Pattison arrived at Jones Hill, this spectacular landscape--declared "one of the 40 last great places in the Western Hemisphere" by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - soothed her disappointment that she had not acquired the land in New Hampshire, which had been the original purpose of her trip. She wrote a contract with the 78-year-old owner on the back of an envelope and "Shepard Place" was hers. And now it belongs to all of us.

Mrs. Pattison's global mission as a seed expert led her to travel to six continents and sail all seven seas, so it was not surprising that in her retinue was a young French woman named Gertrude LeFebvre, aka Maëlle (Princess.) Gertrude, her son Dorian, Mrs. Pattison and others lived in a make-shift barracks in the barn across Jones Hill Road while the house was being restored. Their kitchen was outdoors. To keep the farm going while Ethel traveled, Gertrude remained at Jones Hill. She needed help and sent to France for her sister Edith. In 1957, within 2 years of her death, Ethel Ely Pattison sold the farm to Gertrude for \$1 and in 1977 it passed in like fashion to Edith.

In 2007, when I came to view the property that has now become my home, my realtor, Evan Griswold, a frequent TNC volunteer, told me that the acreage across Jones Hill Road had some interesting history. Gertrude Lefebvre and others had made their barracks there and it was part of a deal being worked on involving Edith Lefebvre, who was c. 100 years old at the time, and the Town of East Haddam, TNC, and the State of Connecticut DEP. The final property transfer from Edith's estate was completed in 2015.

Now, the dream of connecting Burnham Brook Preserve and Devil's Hopyard State Park is nearly realized. The Lefebvre Reserve will enable those connections. In anticipation of creating hiking trails, a parking lot has been installed and trail blazing has begun. The property is large, at 114 acres, and we could use your help. The East Haddam Conservation Commission invites you to help blaze new trails on this beautiful, historic property, a stellar addition to the Town of East Haddam's open space. If you are interested in helping, send an email to: CCChair@easthaddam.org.

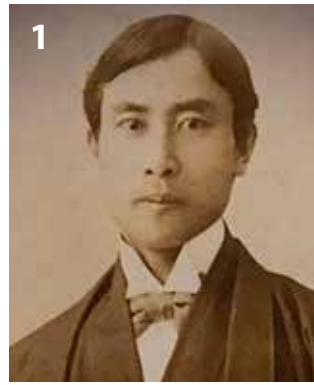
Arts Inspire Cultural Gift to State Park

Written by Masamichi Hongoh, Secretary, JSGH
 Edited by Kandie Carle

GIFT OF 7 CHERRY TREES TO GILLETTE CASTLE STATE PARK IN HONOR OF YUKITAKA OSAKI & WILLIAM GILLETTE

A gift of 7 cherry trees, in honor of Yukitaka Osaki, William Gillette's long time valet, secretary, friend, and confidante, were delivered to Gillette Castle State Park on October 1st with plantings completed on October 3rd. Trees were placed near the Castle, around the pond and at the Chester Hadlyme Ferry area where Yukitaka Osaki's house still stands. Volunteers from the Japan Society of Greater Hartford, (JSGH) the East Haddam Stage Company, (EHSCO, in residence at the park), along with park staff, and East Haddam First Selectman Rob Smith, helped to plant the young trees.

The JSGH has always wanted to plant cherry trees somewhere in Connecticut. In Japan, people visit the beautiful cherry blossoms during the spring season. For them, it is the time to share the joy of living. In Connecticut, we only occasionally see these gorgeous cherry blossoms on
 continued on page 24



From top left: Photo 1: Yukitaka Osaki, Oberlin College, Ohio, 1895 (photo courtesy the East Haddam Historical Society); **Photo 2:** Actor Taku Hirai as Yukitaka Osaki in Osaki-san, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet; **Photo 3:** On a cool fall morning, October 3rd, multi-cultural members of the Japan Society of Greater Hartford, along with First Selectman of the town of East Haddam, Rob Smith, as well as staff of the East Haddam Stage Company and park grounds crew listen to instructions from site supervisor John Hine (center right.); **Photo 4:** A cherry tree is planted in view of the Castle; All photos by Kandie Carle unless noted.

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Gift to State Park... continued from page 24

private properties. There is nowhere for the public to enjoy them.

In early 2018, Ms. Kandie Carle, Producing Artistic Director of EHSCO contacted JSGH to share in the research on their upcoming production of her one-man drama on the life of Yukitaka Osaki titled *Osaki-san, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet*. The play is based on the life of Yukitaka Osaki. She had received an artist's grant from the CT Office of the Arts to produce the play, which would premiere at the park in September 2018. Yukitaka Osaki's brother was Yukio Ozaki, the famous Japanese politician and one-time Mayor of Tokyo, who facilitated the donation of 3000 cherry trees to Washington DC in 1910. No one had been aware that there was a connection between the great statesman and Connecticut.

The experience of JSGH seeing EHSCO's show onstage at Gillette Castle State Park prompted the desire to plant cherry trees at the park in memory of William Gillette and Yukitaka Osaki. When the plan to donate cherry trees to Gillette Castle as well as to Cove Cemetery (where Osaki-san is buried) was presented to members, Ms. Akiko Thompson, a senior member of JSGH, suggested that we should try to get cherry trees from Japan. But we had no experience on the importation of cherry trees from Japan.

A family member of Masamichi Hongoh (JSGH Secretary), Mr. Kazuo Takebe, a retired high school principal in Yokohama Japan, heard

about the plan and contacted the Gakudo (Yukio's pen name) Foundation in Sagamihara, Kanagawa prefecture, Japan. We learned from Mr. Takao Ohashi, secretary of a not-for-profit associated with the foundation, that the 3rd generation of the Washington D.C. cherry trees are actually grown in Sagamihara. 100 young Yoshino cherry trees were expected to be received early in 2019 from the contracted nursery there.

Exporting cherry trees from Japan to the US is difficult. In certain cases cherry trees can be imported from Japan with permission from the USDA. This includes a period of quarantine. Dr. Eric Chamberlain, USDA Plant Protection at Wallingford, CT was interested in our project and showed us how to apply for import permission. We received a response from Dr. Margarita Bateman of the USDA, who happened to be an expert in cherry trees and was quite supportive of our project. She kindly recommended that we use Dr. Joseph Foster's USDA facility in Baltimore for quarantine. This was in December of 2018.

JSGH is a small, not-for-profit organization so funding was a real concern. Fortunately, the young trees offered by Mr. Ohashi from Sagamihara were rather small and the cost was attractive. But due to the strict USDA instructions for exportation to the US, the transportation cost was the biggest unknown.

In early 2019, we received a nice surprise from Dr. Foster. Impressed by the importance of the 3rd generation of Washington D.C. cherry trees, he kindly offered to pay for the transportation. Subsequently, JSGH received donations from Ms. Emi Asano who runs an art gallery in Ginza, Tokyo, as well as from Ms. Renata Cathou from Lexington MA, to aid in getting the trees to the US. Twenty-two young Yoshino cherry trees from Sagamihara Japan arrived at Dr. Foster's facility in March of 2019 for quarantine. Dr. Foster discovered a few viruses in the trees, which would be removed, but would take time. He also suggested a graft to propagate the trees to healthy rootstocks for 2021.

JSGH went ahead with phase one of the project by purchasing additional cherry trees from Northern Nurseries, West Suffield CT, and planting them around the pond at Gillette Castle State Park, near the Castle, as well as at Osaki's house, at the bottom of the park, near the Chester-Hadlyme ferry. (Yukitaka Osaki was an avid gardener). We hope the cherry blossoms will be out for everyone to enjoy next spring! Phase two of the project will be carried out when the cherry trees from Japan will be ready. Several of those trees will also be planted at Yukitaka's gravesite, Cove Cemetery, Hadlyme CT.

Note from Kandie Carle of the East Haddam Stage Company:

The gift of these cherry trees and the addition of those imported from the hometown of the Ozaki brothers is a testament to the power of the arts to bolster and ignite the coming together of cultural partnerships like that of the JSGH, EHSCO and a state park.



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Fall Home Projects To Boost Your Comfort and Energy Efficiency

By: Enoch Lenge

Fall is a great time to tackle those home improvement projects that have been put off because of the summer heat. In addition to landscaping, gutter cleaning, power washing, and deck repair, here are some home improvement projects to add to your list to boost your comfort while helping save you money and energy this winter:

- Upgrade Your Lighting – Did you know that the average household dedicates about 5% of its energy budget to lighting? Now that it's getting darker earlier and your lights are on longer, consider switching your current light bulbs with LEDs. According to Energy.gov, ENERGY STAR-certified residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Insulate Doors and Windows – Air sealing, especially in an old, drafty house, can save homeowners more than 20% on their heating and cooling costs. Installing weatherstripping around your doors and windows is an easy and low-cost way to improve your home's energy efficiency and keep the cold winter wind at bay.
- Check Your Attic for Air Leaks – An unfinished, poorly insulated attic is another common area where homeowners experience significant heat loss. Adding insulation to the attic floor and sealing any air leaks can help stabilize the temperature inside your home, prevent ice dams, and save on energy costs.
- Maintain Your Heating and Cooling Systems – Be sure to add scheduling a preventative tune-up with your local



- HVAC company to your list to keep that system running efficiently and preserving air flow. A clean system that is free of dirt and debris will run more efficiently and preserve airflow.
- Install Programmable Thermostats – You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its typical setting. Programmable thermostats allow you to easily set your home's temperature in advance to avoid coming home to a freezing house. A smart thermostat takes that a step further by allowing you to set your temperature from your smart phone or tablet. Some even learn your habits and adjust accordingly – saving you even more.
- Window Replacement – While this may not be at the top of your list, replacing old windows, especially with high performance ones like triple-pane windows, can improve a home's energy efficiency and overall comfort.

Before researching various contractors or DIY-ing these improvements, take advantage of the limited time only, no-cost Home Energy Solutionssm program offered by Eversource. To get started, you can schedule an appointment with an Eversource-authorized energy expert to evaluate your home's energy efficiency needs. During in-person visits, energy experts, while following COVID-19 safety requirements, will also conduct important safety tests and install weatherization measures and energy-saving improvements, such as air sealing, LED lighting, and advanced power strips.

To help make these improvements more affordable, program participants can take advantage of 0% financing on approved energy-saving improvements, and up to 100% off of eligible insulation projects. Eversource has you covered with a wide range of energy-saving rebates and discounts, including a new triple-pane window rebate.

From now through December 31, Eversource is offering a \$100 rebate per window for each window replaced with an ENERGY STAR-certified triple-pane window.

Whether you're looking to improve the comfort of your home, save on your energy bill, or help save the environment, Eversource has several budget-friendly solutions to help you get started. To schedule your energy assessment, call 1-877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873), or visit Eversource.com to learn more about Eversource's residential offerings and additional ways to save.

Enoch Lenge is Eversource's energy efficiency spokesman and provides energy saving tips on the company's blog.

PAID FOR BY EVERSOURCE

Joan Joyce - Our Finest Athlete by Sigrid Kun

Many fondly remember going to Raybestos Memorial field in Stratford, CT. Amid chants of “Joanie, Joanie,” the softball phenom mowed down the competition. Joan Joyce dominated women’s fast pitch softball for decades - beginning her amateur career at age 13 with the Raybestos Brakettes. The Waterbury, CT native excelled at every sport she tried - a true competitor, a lifelong coach/mentor. Joyce combines an unbridled, remarkable talent with a matter of fact, humble personality. While she readily speaks about her success, there is no bragging.

Many consider her as “The Greatest Woman Athlete of All Time.” Her jaw-dropping achievements/honors take pages to list, including 20 Hall of Fame inductions, Connecticut Athlete of the Year (selected by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance), and a softball field renamed Joan Joyce Field (a part of Municipal Stadium in Waterbury).



Women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University.

A LIFETIME OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Joyce’s softball career covered 1954-1963 and 1967-1975 with the Brakettes and 1964-1966 with the Orange Lionettes. The slingshot pitcher notched 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games with a lifetime earned run average of 0.09. An outstanding hitter, her career batting average is .327. In 1974, her Brakettes were the first American team to win the World Championships.

She co-founded the International Women’s Professional Softball Association, being the star player for

and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons. The Falcons won every championship of the IWPSA’s existence (1976-1979).

She is a four-time Women’s Basketball Association All-American and three time AAU Basketball All-American. She played on the USA Women’s National Team in 1964 and 1965, setting a national tournament basketball single-game scoring record (67 points) in 1964.

She formed the Connecticut Clippers volleyball team in 1968, and competed as a player/coach. She was named to the All-East United States Volleyball Association Regional Team. Taking up golf at age 35, she spent 19 years on the LPGA tour (1977-1995). She still holds the LPGA and PGA record of just 17 putts in one round of golf.

Now 80, Joyce is the women’s softball coach at Florida Atlantic University. Starting the program from scratch in 1994, she has amassed 12 Conference Championships, participated in 11 NCCA Tournaments, and won 8 Coach-of-the Year Awards.

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS?

“I don’t know,” she says. “The only thing I can say about me is that I am very competitive. . . . I will beat you at just about everything. If you beat me, I’d shake hands. But I’d say to myself, you are not going to beat me a second time.”



Joan with her biggest fan - Dad (Joe Joyce).

Photo courtesy of Joan Joyce.

Her mother worked days. She, her father (above) and brother played sports all the time. “We would end up going to my father’s softball games,” she recalls. “We had no gloves. We’d run around everywhere while my father was playing. When they came in from the field, they’d put the gloves under the bench. We’d take them and start catching. When they went back in the field, they’d have to come and get the gloves back from us.” When her father played basketball, she and her brother would wait for the halftime buzzer and then fly onto the court to play.

SPECIAL MOMENTS - JOYCE SHARED A FEW



Striking Out Ted Williams/Hank Aaron. She calls striking out Ted Williams (left) and Hank Aaron her favorite moments. “It’s the easiest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” she relates. “They had no chance against a softball pitcher just because of the distance.” She faced Williams as part

of fundraisers in 1961 and 1966; Aaron in 1978 in a West Hartford exhibition. There were no radar guns then. A doctorate study from USC determined her pitching speed to be the equivalent of 119 mph in baseball.

Invited to China by the All-China Sports Federation (1979).

“It was the first team ever invited to China,” she recalls of the Connecticut Falcons. “When we played our last game sixty thousand people came to the game. I was looking out and it was like a flood of people just coming and coming and coming. And I’m thinking, ‘Oh, my God!’” The American team won all six games. In the final game, Joyce pitched a no-hitter to beat the Chinese all-star team.



Softball World Championships (1974).

Joyce pitched a no hitter against Australia. “Only one walk. And we picked her off,” notes Joyce. “It would have been a perfect game.” She also stymied Japan, giving up only two hits. No team wore helmets then. Japan showed up wearing them. Was it to distract her or out of fear of her? “It didn’t work,” she laughs. “You did not want to get me focused or to get my attention. Stare at me? Give me looks? I would say to myself,

keep doing that ‘cause you’re never going to beat me. I just didn’t like to lose.”

Photo of Joan coaching (far left) courtesy of FAU Athletics.

Photo of Joan pitching (left) and photo of Joan with Ted Williams (above left) courtesy of Joan Chandler.



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