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# First Selectman's Corner

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we reflect upon the painful losses and struggles brought on by this unprecedented public health emergency, I want to thank everyone for being respectful of the guidelines put in place to protect the public. This has been a difficult year and it is impressive to see how we have come together as a community to protect and support each other. We all look forward to a return to normalcy.

Many businesses and restaurants have adapted and have been able to survive and even thrive due to the outpouring of local support. Sadly, there are some businesses that have not been able to make it. We are still in the midst of a pandemic so if you are able, please shop and dine locally to help support local businesses.

The Town Hall departments and essential services remain fully operational with safety procedures in place. Masks and sign-ins are mandatory. However, I encourage you to do your Town Hall business by mail or virtually. Many services can be done online, by phone, fax, or email. Most boards and commissions continue to meet virtually with Zoom meetings. Links to the meetings are posted on the website calendar.

The Re-open Essex Advisory Committee meets weekly and has done a great job re-opening Essex safely. If you have a question or concern contact Mary Ellen Barnes at 860-767-4340 x110 or [mbarnes@essexct.gov](mailto:mbarnes@essexct.gov).



Norm Needleman  
First Selectman

Despite the negative effects on personal finances caused by the pandemic, Essex residents have exceeded expectations in their tax payments to the Town for the first half of the fiscal year 2020-2021. The current fiscal year's property taxes paid through August 2020 totaled \$12,680,707 which is a collection rate of 54.8% of the 2020-2021 budget. The town is currently working with FEMA and the State of CT to be reimbursed for COVID-19 related expenditures.

I'm proud to report that we continue to have one of the lowest mil rates in the state. We've been able to do this while delivering improved services and enhancing the quality of life in our three beautiful villages. To keep our taxes low and remain a beautiful, safe and desirable destination, we rely on residents to be actively engaged in what's happening in our villages. We encourage  
**continued on page 5**



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## First Selectman... continued from page 3

citizens to call 860-767-4340 x145 if they see vegetation overgrowth on poles, trees that need attention, any sidewalk damage, or anything else that just doesn't seem right. We operate with a small dedicated crew on a small-town budget and rely on every resident being our eyes and ears.

With the hurricane season still upon us, I encourage all residents to prepare an emergency supply kit and have an emergency plan in place. The Town has an Emergency Preparedness Guidebook on the website and a link to sign up for the Safer Essex Emergency Alert Program to ensure you receive important community news.

Lastly, I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to our first responders, police and fire departments, Town Hall staff, Park and Recreation Department, Health Department, and the Re-open Essex Committee, for their collaboration, teamwork and outstanding service to the community throughout the pandemic.

We couldn't get through this without you!

All the Best,  
Norm Needleman,  
First Selectman

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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 2020 are:** Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer, Dana Hill, Driver Recruitment, Leo Zavatore and Jack Frost, Directors. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Tony Carrano.

With the onset of the coronavirus, and after much reflection and discussion, the FISH Board decided to suspend driving starting March 17, 2020. As of the end of August 2020, our driving service continues to be suspended. The FISH Board closely monitors Connecticut state and local laws in hopes of resuming our free driving service when it is safe for our riders and drivers.

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, the Town of Essex, Smith Brothers Insurance and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers, riders and friends.

Any grant requests for future funding will depend on our resuming driving service.

Henry May, Driver and President

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# Essex Board of Trade

Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) continues its mission to market the three villages of Essex - Essex, Centerbrook, & Ivoryton - as one cohesive community. Our goal is to encourage residents and visitors alike to Experience Essex - its specialty shops, restaurants, galleries, museums, events and Connecticut River waterfront - and to reinforce Essex as a great place to live, work, play and thrive in.

During these challenging times, like all businesses and organizations, we've endured the endless curveballs of the pandemic. Through it all, EBOT has stayed on task by offering a variety of fun community activities, most recently the Scarecrow FestiFall organized by EBOT Secretary, Dana Barlow. We've also expanded our lamp post decoration program - American flags during the summer and garlands for the holidays - from Main Street Essex Village to the main streets of Centerbrook and Ivoryton.

EBOT has pivoted events in accordance with Covid guidelines, providing socially-distanced accessibility for all and encouraging visitors to explore and return again. We successfully expanded Alfresco Thursdays, coordinated by board member Susan Dee, from a monthly event to a weekly one in July and August. Creative thinking from participating EBOT members gave way to new business models for the event: Olive Oyl's patio became a stage for live entertainment with box dinners served in the adjacent parking area; The Griswold Inn expanded alfresco dining with "The Terrace" behind the Hayden House; retailers joined together and supported Alfresco Thursdays by offering evening hours until 8:00 pm.

Centerbrook Village continues its growth with the addition of the beautifully restored property that houses Swanky's Cookout Supply, a new and exciting retail experience. The Cheese Shop of Centerbrook, Scotch Plains Tavern, The Essex, and Los Charros have all reimaged their business offerings to continue serving through the pandemic. In the meantime, Ivoryton Village is about to dazzle us with Ivoryton Illuminations - a magical display of holiday lights, only after Mary Ellen Barnes, Essex Park & Recreation Director, pulls off a one-of-a kind Pumpkin Festival (with no pumpkins!).



Essex residents enjoying Alfresco Thursdays at Olive Oyl's!

Overall, EBOT can say, with pride and strength, that while 2020 has been a rollercoaster year, we'll continue to move forward. A special thank you to all retail shops for coming together and supporting the extended business hours on Alfresco Thursdays; your efforts will see future returns from boaters and day visitors who got a first time look at Essex this summer with its laughter, joy, and activity. Due to the hard work and efforts of all members in our organization, we find the phrase, "Experience Essex...we're Open for Business," resonating in our community, neighboring towns and beyond. Thank you for doing your part and we look forward to another magical holiday season in one the most charming towns in America!

Chef Colt Taylor  
 Presiden, Essex Board of Trade



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# Public Works Department

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## Essex Elementary School Foundation Adjusts Grants Distribution During Covid

Like many other organizations this year, the Essex Elementary School Foundation (EESF), supported by the residents and community of Essex, has had to pivot from the normal grants application, approval and announcement process due to Covid. For the 2020-2021 Essex Elementary School (EES) year, the Foundation is adjusting the grants process to accommodate a more flexible application timeline in order to meet the needs of the students, teachers and school. This change will allow for teachers to apply for grants throughout the school year as unique programs are identified.

To kick off the school year, the Foundation has committed to over \$10,000 to enrichment programs and technology upgrades offered at EES that would otherwise not be available through traditional funding by the school system and budget.

The to-date funding has begun with the approval of a Virtual Scientist in Residence Program for Grades K-6 teachers and students. The Program is offered by the CT Audubon Society's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (CAS/RTPEC) and is taught by Audubon Society Science Instructor, Heather Kordula. The program plans to guide teachers through hands-on, inquiry-based activities that relate to earth and life sciences, ecology, conservation, and citizenship. The teachers are offered classroom and field-based investigations where they can learn by doing and provide examples of meaningful assessments of student learning. Classrooms will connect through Google Meets and work virtually. The Scientist-in-Residence will conduct experiments with students and will provide data sheets and other needed materials to classroom teachers prior to the lesson. Teachers will then be able to continue the experiment in the classroom. In the case

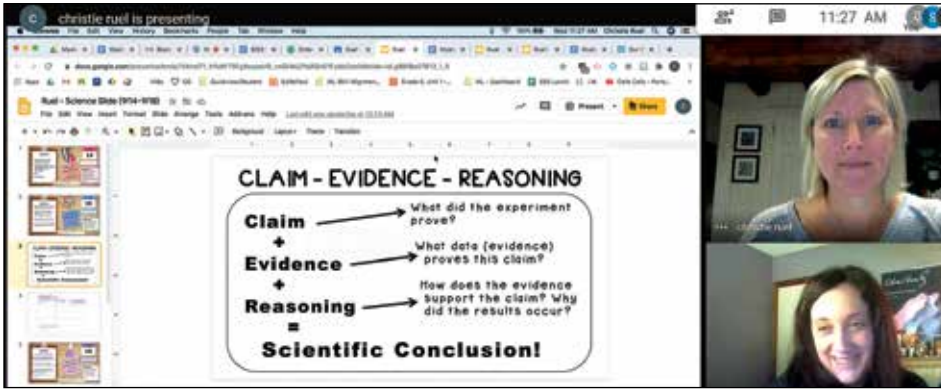
students must return to their homes, the Scientist-in-Residence program will continue, with students working virtually on designed projects which each student can conduct individually.

The goal of the Scientist-in-Residence program is to build teachers' skills and knowledge in adapting current classroom science curriculum to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with Common Core math and literacy standards and in blending outdoor learning experiences with classroom science lessons. "The Foundation is trying to stay as nimble as possible to be during this challenging time," says Bill Jacaruso, President of EESF. "There are so many unknowns this year, we just want to support the students and teachers at EES the best way that we can. We are grateful for the ongoing, generous support by so many members of our community. Thank you to everyone who

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6th Grade Science Teacher, Christine Ruel meets virtually with CT Audubon Society Science Teacher, Heather Kordula to review the new Virtual Scientist in Residence program.

contributes to the foundation each year to help make these grants possible.”

Additional grants approved early in the school year include the purchase of wireless headsets to ease the virtual teaching experience for 40 EES teachers, and a smart tv with protective accessories to help with virtual learning for the physical education program. The Essex Elementary School Foundation welcomes you to visit [www.essexesf.org/about](http://www.essexesf.org/about) to view a new video produced this summer that shares the EESF mission, student and teacher expe-

riences and a thank you to the community for your support. The annual appeal for EESF begins in November.

“This year the EESF has reached out to me on numerous occasions to offer their support to our staff and students. Their generosity and flexibility are very much appreciated,” says Jennifer Tousignant, Principal at Essex Elementary School. “Though the current state of school is different than ever before, our school is fortunate to have the unwavering support and collaboration of the Foundation.”

Since its inception in 1996, the Essex Elementary School Foundation’s primary goal has been to create a significant endowment that can support the school’s strategic vision to engage all students in a rigorous and collaborative educational program. Each year, at least 5% of the EESF endowment is allocated for supplemental enrichment programs and projects proposed by the Essex Elementary School administration that would otherwise not be available through traditional funding by the school system and budget. Programs funded include the Justus W. Paul World Culture Program, literacy support materials, equipment for musical and physical education, playground improvements, logical thinking games, audio/visual equipment, 3D printer, an iPad lab, and an Engineering with Legos program. For more information visit [www.essexesf.org](http://www.essexesf.org).



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## Essex Community Fund

Essex Community Fund (ECF) has a long history of positive commitment to our community as evidenced by almost seven decades of consistent community-based support and service. While we support a broad range of locally based non-profits, our primary focus has always been on the health of our residents, youth and adult enrichment programs, in addition to addressing emerging needs.

**The impact of COVID-19** on the local non-profits that serve our community has substantially increased the need for the critical services they provide. They have been doing everything they can to assist our residents in need. Our support of their work, through your donations, is more important now than ever as they battle the challenges the pandemic has inflicted.

**Fuel Assistance Challenge** is an on-going program available to residents who meet the funding criteria. This year is already seeing an increase in requests for assistance. Please consider joining this year's challenge. Donations can be mailed to the Essex Community Fund (PO Box 614, Essex 06426) with a note that it is for FAP. Thank you for helping us keep our neighbors warm and to Mary Ellen Barnes, Social Services Director at Essex Town Hall, for administering this important program.

**Becoming A Volunteer** with 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 is a great way to give back to your community. ECF has many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact us to learn more; we welcome your time and talent.

### SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual Cheers For Charity. March 27th, 2021, depending on pandemic status.

*Grant applications for local non-profits serving Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton residents can be submitted beginning October 15, 2020. Visit our website for more information: [essexcommunityfund.org](http://essexcommunityfund.org).*

## Lead, Is It Still a Problem?

Most of us are aware that lead (mostly from lead-based paint) has been a problem implicated for a long time in cases of childhood lead poisoning. We don't hear as much about it in recent years because inroads have been made in lessening the problem. Unfortunately, as childhood blood lead levels have dropped, there has been an increased awareness that lead is a problem at lower levels than earlier thought. We now know that effects can be demonstrated at levels > 5 ug/dl (micrograms per deciliter). Lead in a child's blood can cause

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developmental delays, abdominal pain, neurologic changes, irritability and even death (at high levels).

Lead has been eliminated from new paint since 1978, but it is still present in many homes that were built previous. Essex is fortunate to have many lovely historic homes, but owing to their age, there is often lead present. Lead has many other sources as well such as soil adjacent to houses where lead paint has flaked off, soil along roadways where lead from leaded gasoline has settled out of the air, industries that use lead like battery manufacturing, hobbies like making fishing sinkers and stained glass windows, as well as some ethnic remedies and spices and certain pottery glazes.

The problem with lead is preventable! The Federal EPA has a "Renovation, Repair and Painting rule" that must be followed by contractors (who must be RRP certified). Activities covered by the rule include remodeling and repair/maintenance, electrical work, plumbing, painting preparation, carpentry and window replacement. There has been a trend toward many do-it-yourselfers not being aware of lead, and poisoning their own families inadvertently. Your local Essex Health Department can help. Just call us at: 860-767-4340 (extensions 151 or 118) and we can provide you with critical information for your project. Let's work together to "Get the Lead OUT!!"

## Combined Essex & Chester Veterans Day Ceremony

*Freedom Isn't Free*



*Thank You, Veterans*

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 – 1:00 pm  
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Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov

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Dana Novorio, Assistant	x116	dnovorio@essexct.gov
James Francis, Treasurer	x127	jfrancis@essexct.gov

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health	x118	lfasulo@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov
Don Mitchell	x151	dmitchell@essexct.gov

## LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Bill Armstead, Supervisor	860-767-1926	baarmstead@essexct.gov
Sabine Nyenhuis	x163	barmstead@essexct.gov

## PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Barnes, Director	x110	mbarnes@essexct.gov
Tim LaChance	x148	tlachance@essexct.gov

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

	x150	planner@essexct.gov
--	------	---------------------

## PUBLIC WORKS

Ryan Welch, Director	860-767-0715	rwelch@essexct.gov
Richard Gallacher, David Martin, David Massey, Paul Mackenzie	x161	

## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Caitlin Riley	x142	criley@essexct.gov
John Heiser	x142	jheiser@essexct.gov

## RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

ESSEX POLICE	860-767-1054	
Mark Roberts, Resident State Trooper	x130	mroberts@essexct.gov
Paul Kenefick		jkeneffick@essexct.gov
Todd Belcourt		tbelcourt@essexct.gov
Christopher McCarthy		cmccarthy@essexct.gov
Karen Reilly		kreilly@essexct.gov
Robert Hart		rhart@essexct.gov
Judson Howes		jhowes@essexct.gov

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Mary Ellen Barnes	x201	mbarnes@essexct.gov
-------------------	------	---------------------

## TAX COLLECTOR

Megan Haskins, Tax Collector	x120	mhaskins@essexct.gov
Lynne Skinner, Assistant	x121	lskinner@essexct.gov

## TOWN CLERK

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk	x129	jmarzi@essexct.gov
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant	x128	yroziak@essexct.gov

## TOWN HALL OPERATIONS/ MAINTENANCE

Andrew Harrington	x136	aharrington@essexct.gov
-------------------	------	-------------------------

## ZONING ENFORCEMENT

Joe Budrow, Enforcement Agent	x115	jbudrow@essexct.gov
Kerry Berardinelli	x119	kberardinelli@essexct.gov

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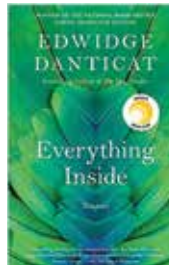
# Sister Cities Essex Haiti 10 Year Anniversary

Sister Cities Essex Haiti honors its 10 Year Anniversary with internationally acclaimed author Edwidge Danticat.



On September 26, 2020, Sister Cities Essex Haiti was thrilled and honored that award-winning author, Edwidge Danticat, joined professor Chantalle F. Verna for a special virtual conversation on Haiti: The Healing Power of Storytelling via RJ Julia Booksellers to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of

SCEH. The authors shared an intimate conversation about the transformative power of storytelling, which highlighted their life journeys as Haitian Americans and their commitment to ensuring more equitable access to the reading, crafting and telling of stories in and about Haiti. The authors spoke of the importance of sharing family stories, especially during this time when many families feel isolated during the pandemic. Essex resident and co-founder of SCEH, Terry Parkinson, introduced the event with a video, produced by Essex resident Brenda Floyd, about the Deschappelles Community Library. A portion of the book sales went to SCEH.

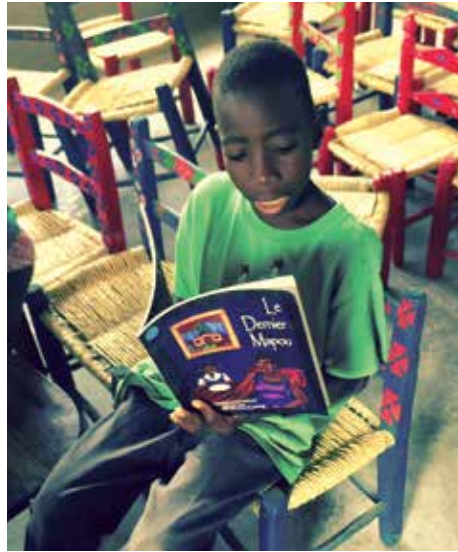


Edwidge Danticat is the author of several books, including *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, an Oprah Book Club selection; *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist; *The Farming of Bones*; *The Dew Breaker*; *Create Dangerously*; *Claire of the Sea* *Light*, and, more recently, *The Art of Death*, and *Everything Inside*, an August

2020 Reese Witherspoon Book Club selection. Ms. Danticat's memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying*, was a 2007 finalist for the National Book Award and a 2008 winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. She is a 2009 MacArthur fellow, a 2018 Ford Foundation "The Art of Change" fellow, and a recipient of the 2018 Neustadt International Prize, the 2019 St. Louis Literary Award, and the 2020 Vilcek Prize in Literature. Ms. Danticat is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* magazine.

Chantalle F. Verna, Ph.D. is the co-editor of *The Haiti Reader: History, Culture, and Politics* (Duke, 2020) and author of *Haiti and the Uses of America: Post-U.S. Occupation Promises* (Rutgers, 2017).

During its 10 years, SCEH has built, with the people of Deschapelles, Haiti, a beautiful, well-lit library, through the expertise of Essex architect, Hope Proctor, and supported award-winning robotics and tennis teams, a thriving music program, and cross-cultural exchange programs. To support the work of Sister Cities Essex Haiti, or to get involved, please visit our website at [www.sistercitiesessex-haiti.org](http://www.sistercitiesessex-haiti.org).



Haitian boy reading Edwidge Danticat book in 2016.  
Photo Courtesy: Jenifer Grant

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**Carolyn DiPietro**  
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**Sharon Linder**  
860.460.8862

  
**Vicki Leeds**  
860.966.8788

  
**Angela Ruel**  
860.575.0754

  
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# Essex Foundation Helps Veterans Hall by Awarding Grant for Standby Generator

The Essex Foundation helps power up Veterans Hall by awarding a grant for purchase and installation of standby generator

Long before the arrival of COVID-19 and Storm Isaias, The Essex Foundation Board of Directors approved a grant request from Essex Veterans Memorial Hall (EVMH) for the purchase and installation of a standby generator. Members of the Hall's house committee detailed the need for backup power for the entire facility in case of prolonged power outages, and the opportunity for the Hall to be used as a comfort station by members, their guests, and the greater community. The generator was purchased and installed in March while the Hall was closed (until recently,) following state health and safety guidelines.

The generator project is one of several initiatives undertaken by the Hall's 200 members to improve the building's interior and exterior over the past few years. In 2017 The Essex Foundation provided funding support for the paving of the onsite parking lot. Located at 3 Westbrook Road in Centerbrook, the building was once the Centerbrook Schoolhouse. It became Essex Veterans Memorial Hall in 1946 and is the last known stand-alone, 501(c) (19) nonprofit veterans organization on the East Coast. It now serves as a resource for veterans, their families, and the greater



The Essex Foundation President Bruce Glowac (front left) presents a ceremonious check to Essex Veterans Memorial Hall President Art Davies as fellow House Committee members Tim Comstock (back left) and John Pianta stand behind the new standby generator.

community, including free hall usage to area nonprofit organizations and scout groups.

*Supported by donations from the community, The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. Grants are awarded for projects that are of benefit to Essex residents, are somewhat unique, and require relatively quick action. More information can be found online at [www.theessexfoundation.org](http://www.theessexfoundation.org) or by emailing [contact@theessexfoundation.org](mailto:contact@theessexfoundation.org).*

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# Essex Foundation Awards Grant for Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Essex Foundation receives Sustainable Essex Project over fundraising goal and awards grant for purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging station.

Essex's first electric vehicle charging station is coming to a parking space near you thanks in part to grant support from The Essex Foundation. The project was conceived by the Sustainable Essex committee, a group of volunteer residents who strive to balance environmental protection, economic development, and social objectives to meet the needs of today without compromising the quality of life for future generations. The group received permission from the Town of Essex to place a charging station in the town-owned parking lot located next to the Essex town green and post office. The charging station will be a single pole, dual Level-2 charger that can be used for most types of electric cars, by residents and visitors. The Foundation's grant of \$1257 put the community crowd-funded initiative over its \$7042 goal, triggering another \$7042 in matching funds from Sustainable CT, and the ability to proceed with purchasing and installation before the end of this year.

*Supported by donations from the community, The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making*

*a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. Grants are awarded for projects that are of benefit to Essex residents, are somewhat unique, and require relatively quick action. More information can be found online at: [www.theessexfoundation.org](http://www.theessexfoundation.org) or by emailing [contact@theessexfoundation.org](mailto:contact@theessexfoundation.org).*



Sustainable Essex Committee Member Mark de Jongh (left) accepts a ceremonial check from The Essex Foundation Vice President Jay Tonks for the purchase and installation of an electric vehicle charging station to be located in the parking lot adjacent to the town green in Essex Village.



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# Connecticut River Museum News

The summer season is always lively at the Connecticut River Museum; even during these interesting times, our campus was, safely of course, filled with energy! Our new Shanties and Sails programming and our annual Thursdays on the Dock concerts kept the waterfront animated with music and laughter! The Onrust plied the waters of the Connecticut River. Even though current health protocol limited us to 15 passengers per sail, guests were able to safely take in the beauty of our historic River.

Jennifer L. Carlson joined the Museum as the Executive Director on August 4, just in time for Tropical Storm Isaias! We look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish. Jennifer was most recently the Executive Director of the Wyck Association, an historic house, collections, and garden in Philadelphia. If you see her around town, stop and say hello!



Jennifer L. Carlson, Executive Director, Connecticut River Museum.

## COMING UP

Don't miss the annual Holiday Train Show at the Connecticut River Museum. Opening on Tuesday, November 24, Steve Cryan is back for his 27th year creating holiday fun for all ages. Events are a bit different this year. We are

requiring timed entry to ensure a safe atmosphere for all who attend. Please check our website for information.

We are again hosting the "Wreaths of the River Valley" auction. Area businesses, organizations, and families may donate handmade, non-natural wreaths. If you are interested in donating a wreath, please contact Phyllis Stillman at [pstillman@ctrivermuseum.org](mailto:pstillman@ctrivermuseum.org). Wreath auction bidding opens in the beginning of December.

## 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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# 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..... (781) 483-2021  
 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) 388-7209  
 Essex Historical Society..... (860) 767-0681

Essex Lion's Club..... (860) 767-8072  
 Essex Land Trust..... info@landtrust.org  
 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  
 Ivoryton Village Alliance..... info@ivorytonalliance.org  
 Lower Valley Visiting Nurses..... (860) 767-0186  
 Republican Town Committee..... (860) 262-0226  
 SCORE Mentors..... (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

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



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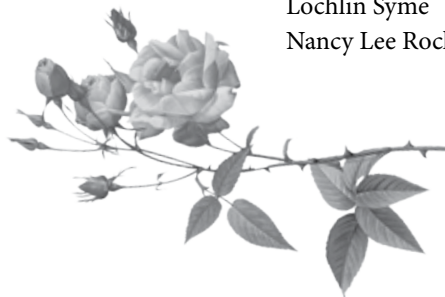
## WELCOME TO CENTERBROOK, ESSEX AND IVORYTON

Carl R. Thompson	52 So. Main Street	Essex
David & Ellen Platt	9 So. Main Street	Essex
Constance Rice Brown	73 Lynn Road	Ivoryton
Ryann Carpentier	11 Blake Street	Ivoryton
Michael & Lisbeth Bickford	39 Prospect St.	Essex
Peter B. Fleischer	85 River Rd., Unit H-8	Essex
Michael Rice	47 River Road	Essex
Patricia & George Calkins	85 River Rd., Unit J-8	Essex
Kathleen S. Sullivan	85 River Rd., Unit B-5	Essex
Cathy Stieg & William Inglis	12 Carriage Lane	Essex
Abbe L. Maclise	18 Highland Terrace	Ivoryton
Huntington S. Welch	9 Cedar Grove Terr. Ext.	Essex
Brian Shirey & Jill Schwartzman	21 Charles Street	Centerbrook
Luisa M. Peschiera Odell	32 Highland Terrace	Ivoryton
William & Theresa Tesler	50 Bokum Rd., Unit 8	Essex
Gary Neidle & Andrew Laidlaw	15 Harbor View	Essex
Maximo & Jennifer Muniz	27 So. Main St., Unit 8	Essex
John & Judith Ravenna	68 No. Main St.	Essex
Shannon & Steve Papadogiannis	39 Eagle Ridge Dr.	Essex
Benjamin M. Barstrom	68 Main Street	Ivoryton
Angela Brower	23 Ridge Road	Centerbrook
Pamela Ridder	49 So. Main Street	Essex
Cary Meyers & Kristie Wolf	18 Mallard Point Rd.	Essex
Noreen & Joseph Rowe III	21 River Road Dr.	Essex
Frank Hrbek & Bonnie Collins	61 West Avenue	Essex
John & Vanessa Quagan	18 Old Dobbin Lane	Ivoryton
Michelle L. Dennis	24 Bushy Hill Road	Ivoryton
Ava Albert Schnidman	42 Crosstrees Hill Road	Essex

## LOSS OF RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

<b>June</b>	Dolores O'Brien Dowe	<b>August</b>
Anne Mahnken Domenie	John F. McNamee	Leslie McGrath Taylor
Katharine J. Noland	William Murphy	Charlotte P. Barringer
Janet H. Daman	Victor Angelini	Bruce O'Brien
John L. Loehr		Barbara S. Coby
Kevin M. Duggan	<b>July</b>	Robert A. Florio
Boynton M. Schmitt	Ronald A. Lavoie	Elizabeth I. Spearrin
Dorothy H. Osborn	Carl Ebmeyer	Robert L. Van Houten
Neil Johannessen	Barbara D. McMahon	Kim M.S. Birch
Priscilla M. Lovell	Lesley W. Bosnak	
Walter A. Gagne	Donald F. Handberg	<b>September</b>
Paul Helenek	George C. Flynn	David B. Ward
Connie Schuman		Lochlin Syme
Michael Birner Sr.		Nancy Lee Roche

Respectfully submitted,  
Yvonne Roziak,  
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### DRIVE-THROUGH TRICK OR TREATING

October 31 @ 9:00 am

Families can drive up to the library to show off their costumes, have a photo taken, and get a free treat bag.

### TRIVIA NIGHT

November: Disney trivia, December: TBD

Trivia for the whole family! Hosted by the library using Zoom and Google Forms.

### MAKER MONDAY: GIFT EDITION

Monday, December 7 at 4:00 pm

Learn about several gifts that can be made using materials at home.



Christina Carpino, our new Children & Teen's Librarian

## Teen One-Time Programs

### ANIMAL CROSSING COSTUME PARTY

October 29 at 5:00 pm

Teens are invited to visit the library Animal Crossing island and show off your virtual costumes! Participate in games and contests to earn in-game prizes.

### GIFT MAKING PARTY

Tuesday, December 8 at 4:00 pm

Join Miss Christina as she demonstrates a few crafts that make great gifts and shares resources for handmade gift-ideas from our collection.

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## Children's Repeating Programs

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### ZOOM STORYTIMES

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

All ages, live Zoom story times with a music and movement focus. Registration required.

### TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT KITS

Every other Thursday

Take home crafts are available every other Thursday for families with pre-school age children.

### FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

every other Friday at 4:00 pm on Zoom

Miss Christina reads the first chapter of a book and allows time for children to share what they're reading. For school-age children and families.

### MAKER MONDAY


Fourth Mondays at 4:00 pm starting in November

Engineering and complex crafts using household materials.


continued on page 24



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## Library... continued from page 23

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### Teen Repeating Programs

#### VIRTUAL GAME NIGHTS

every other Thursday at 5:00 pm

Every other week join us for a Zoom game night to play Jackbox Games or participate in trivia.

#### BOOK SOCIETY

every other Monday at 4:00 pm

Literary fun for teens on Zoom. Miss Christina shares new book titles. Participate in some fun games and share what you're currently reading.

#### NANOWRIMO WRITING CLUB

Wednesdays in November at 3:00 pm

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design through May. We also have a financial literacy series that kicks off on October 29th with a Social Security Benefits 101 workshop. The series continues with workshops offered by the UConn Extension Financial Education Program in December, continuing into 2021.

Other programs this fall include help getting your print photos organized and decluttered with Cathi Nelson, learning how to trace your Colonial Revolutionary roots with genealogist Bryna O'Sullivan, and expanding your scientific interests with the Yale Science Communication team. See our website for specific dates and times. All programs are on Zoom, with registration required.

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For more information, contact us at:

**Essex Library**

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## Friends of the Library

Back in March when COVID-19 arrived in Essex and everything that we do as citizens and volunteers in our 3 villages changed, most of us did not think we would still be so "stifled" this far into the fall, but here we are.

These days the Friends of the Essex Library organization is struggling at times to live up to its mission which is, "To promote and enrich the services, programs and facilities the Essex Library provides to our community through: volunteer services, fundraising and advocacy."



Thanks to the fabulous staff at the library and a small cadre of volunteers we still have books, CDs and more for sale at the library as well as these terrific canvas totes. They are just \$10.00 cash or check made out to FRIENDS OF THE ESSEX LIBRARY. They can be purchased at the library or email [friendsbags1@gmail.com](mailto:friendsbags1@gmail.com) and arrange for an outdoor pickup. (Gift-giving season is just around the corner!)

And remember to check the library's website often to see what's new at the library and with the Friends! [www.youressexlibrary.org](http://www.youressexlibrary.org)

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Ivoryton Library

150 Our Story Continues

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860-767-1252 | [staff@ivorytonlibrary.org](mailto:staff@ivorytonlibrary.org)

When the Governor announced his Sector Rules for reopening in Phase 2, we received 7 pages of guidelines and, luckily, were easily able to comply. We've been open to the public for 4 months now. It's wonderful to have you drop by, browse the collections and catch us up on your news! (We love the pictures and videos of your grandson, Kathy!)

**For those of you who are staying home, we totally understand! We still offer our virtual and digital services:**

- Call to have us put a book or movie out on the porch for you to pick up without entering the building.
- Enjoy digital downloads through our subscriptions to Hoopla, as well as the catalogs available through LION and SimplyE. Links to these can be found on our website.
- Be sure we have your email to get notices of our virtual programs. In the last few months we've hosted journalist Susan Campbell and poet Luisa Caycedo-Kimura. We have more virtual events planned.

- If you have young children, I hope you've been enjoying storytime and grab-and-go craft activities with Miss Elizabeth on Facebook Live! Our website has details on these activities, too.

Our book clubs have been meeting on Zoom, with occasional outdoor, socially-distanced get-togethers. We've even held a few outdoor storytimes and music mornings.

We have a few spots for indoor studying, tutoring or very small group meetings (2-3, max.) Let us know if you'd like to reserve a time. We also have two public computers available. Reserve a time or drop in and take a chance one is available.

**HOW ELSE CAN WE HELP YOU?**

Contact us at: 860-767-1252, [staff@ivorytonlibrary.org](mailto:staff@ivorytonlibrary.org) and through social media [@ivorytonlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/ivorytonlibrary). Our website is [ivorytonlibrary.org](http://ivorytonlibrary.org).

**OR? JUST DROP IN AND TELL US.**

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm,  
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We look forward to catching up with you.

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# Fall & Winter at Essex Historical Society

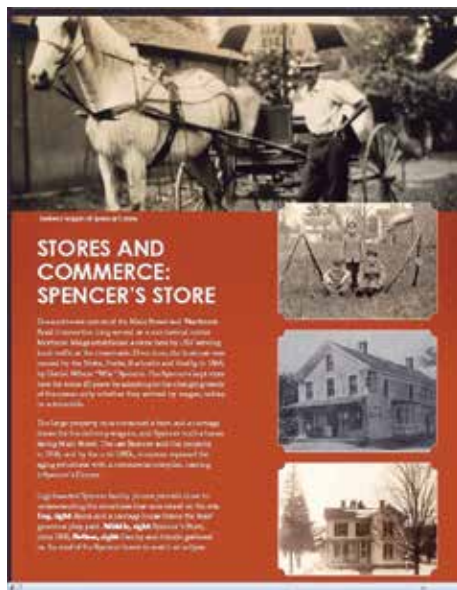


Just because we are all safely practicing social distancing, does NOT mean you need to be a stranger to local history.

Essex Historical Society (EHS) offers plenty of opportunities to connect lifelong-learners with our dynamic past. As we stay safe this year, please continue to connect with us to receive firm dates and times.

EHS's Drive-By Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, October 18, from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. At selected sites in Centerbrook, from the safety of their own cars, participants received a history 'goody bag' and enjoy refreshments in sight of the Great Falls. It was a fun and safe way to enjoy local history.

The historical societies of Chester, Deep River and Essex announce a new online initiative in honor of the Women's Suffrage Centennial in 2020. Entitled, "Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Achievements," the



[Essex Historical, Spencers Page]  
Visit EHS's new online booklet on the history of Centerbrook, through our website, <http://www.essexhistory.org/follow-the-falls/>  
Photo of web page courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

organizations are soliciting photographs of women from these three towns over the

past 100+ years who have made a difference in their communities in some way. The end result will be a free slide show presentation, publicly hosted on Nov. 15 via an online platform. If you know of a notable woman from 1900 to 2000, please contact us with a high resolution photo, its approximate date and a concise description of this woman's importance in the community. Please note that these women do not need to be publicly famous or leaders. They can be mothers, factory workers, military personnel, teachers, shopkeepers, volunteers - as long as you consider them "notable." By compiling these photographs and brief histories, the historical societies hope to create a meaningful presentation during this suffrage year, and also seek to expand their collections about women's history, which often goes undocumented. Please note that these photos will become part of the societies' archives and will be visible online, posted on their websites and shared **continued on page 30**

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## Historical Society... continued from page 29



[Essex Historical, Diz Callender, c.1966]  
Essex's Elizabeth "Diz" Callender served her community through most of the 20th century as a naturalist and philanthropist, bequeathing land for the Osage Trails Preserve on Falls River Cove. Photo courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

through social media. Please contact EHS Director Melissa Josefiak for more info, [mjosefiak@essexhistory.org](mailto:mjosefiak@essexhistory.org) or 860-767-0681.

You can connect with our theme of Celebrating Centerbrook in 2020 by visiting the Follow the Falls tab on our website, [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org). Look for our detailed and richly illustrated Centerbrook booklet (both in print and online) and a new online, feature - a virtual 'flyover' of what this historic village looked like in 1910. EHS thanks presenting sponsors Overabove and Centerbrook Architects and ongoing sponsor, Essex Land Trust.

Our popular Winter Lecture Series will return this January in an online format. Stay tuned for more details.

For the latest info, please visit EHS's website at: [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Each weekend, hundreds of people enjoy playing "Find It Friday!" with our historic photos. EHS brings local history to you!

## Garden Club Announces Officers



From Left to Right Front Row, Phyllis Graf, MyLan Sarner. From left to right back row, Kirsten Wendell, Pam Peters. (Absent from photo is Barbara Muhlfelder and Pat Mather.)



Officers for the Essex Garden Club for 2020-2021 are Pam Peters - President, MyLan Sarner - 2nd VP/Program Chair, Kirsten Wendell - Recording Secretary, Phyllis Graf - Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Muhlfelder - Treasurer, and Pat Mather - Asst, Treasurer.

In a Letter from the President, to the members of the Essex Garden Club, Pam shared the Club's history of almost 70 years. Beginning in 1954 to the present the EGC has always looked for ways to beautify the community now and tomorrow. In addition she shared that 25% of our members have been with the Club 20 plus years. She wished a Happy Anniversary to all of them. The Club has started a presence on Social Media, so make sure to check out on Facebook, Essex Garden Club.

# Ivoryton Playhouse

*"I am waiting for the light to shine.  
I'm waiting for the light to shine.  
I have lived in the darkness for so long  
I am waitin' for the light to shine."*

Huck Finn from the musical *Big River* by Roger Miller  
(Ivoryton Playhouse – 2005)

The Ivoryton Playhouse has been that light, shining in our community and making folk feel welcome since 1930. Katharine Hepburn first set foot on our stage in 1931 and ignited a spark that has burned brightly ever since. 90 years of good times and bad times, feast and famine, the Ivoryton Playhouse has been an artistic beacon, shining its light and lifting the spirits of our family, our community and our visitors.

We have spent most of 2020 in darkness and soon it will be time to turn those lights back on, and, with the help of our wonderful community, they will blaze brightly to welcome people home once again. Please check our website for the latest news on what will be happening at the end of this year and into 2021 at Ivoryton Playhouse. [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org)

In the meantime, we would like to shine a spotlight on everyone who helped to keep the theatre going through the darkness of



Ivoryton Playhouse.  
Photo courtesy of Brian J. Wilson Photography.

2020 – all of our corporate sponsors, our Playbill advertisers, our loyal subscribers and our generous donors. Thank you! You have also struggled during this confusing time and yet you were there for us. That means the world to us.

Thank you, also, for continuing to support the Ivoryton Playhouse into 2021. We need your financial support and encouragement now more than ever as we plan our 2021 season. We will do all we can to produce a high quality professional season, the Fifth Annual Women Playwrights Festival, a Summer Children's Theatre series and many special events. We can't wait to welcome you back!



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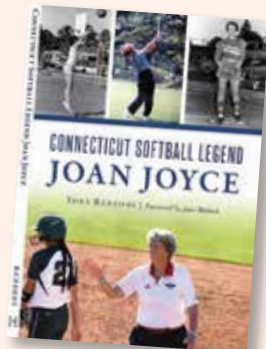
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and Seaside Homes and Gifts (Branford).

## Sustainable Essex Committee

During fiscal year 2019 - 2020 the Sustainable Essex Committee has implemented projects that will have a long lasting impact on improving the sustainability of the Town of Essex.

During February 2020 Sustainable Essex launched our Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussions (SEED) series. Each yearly series consists of individual sessions grouped by common themes (waste reduction, sustainable management of water resources, etc.) that align with the focus action areas proscribed by Sustainable CT. The 2020 series focused on the environmental impacts of Municipal Solid Waste (“MSW”) and ways to mitigate those impacts at a household and community level. SEED Sessions are generally scheduled every 30 to 60 days. The initial two sessions were held at the Essex Library - delivery of all subsequent sessions transitioned to Zoom meetings due to COVID-19 social-distancing requirements. The Zoom platform has allowed attendees to participate safely from their homes using their computers or cell phones and has enabled us to reach a far wider audience. The SEED Series has been attended by a total of more than 100 participants.



This summer Sustainable Essex spearheaded a project to bring an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station to our town. After working with potential vendors to evaluate various locations in the Town’s three villages, the Sustainable Essex Committee recommended the parking lot next to the park on Main Street in Essex Village which was approved by the Board of

Selectmen. The total cost of the project was \$14,084. The Sustainable Essex Committee raised 50% (or \$7042) of the total cost within 5 weeks and the Sustainable Connecticut Community Matching Fund provided the other half. The installation project will commence this fall.

The Committee implemented two other notable projects. These include the design and planting of a ‘Pollinator Pathway’ garden behind the Pratt House in Essex in collaboration with the Essex Historical Society, the Essex Land Trust, the Essex Garden Club, and River COG.

The Committee also completed a survey of the Town’s residential communications platforms and provided recommendations to enhance the equity, and broaden the reach, of these communications.

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year the Sustainable Essex Committee will focus on several projects aligned with waste reduction and recycling, among other areas. This includes implementing and supporting programs targeting more available composting programs.

### INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Contact Betsy D’Amico (Essex Town Hall), 860-767-4340 x 145. Zoom Committee meetings are held at 7:00 pm, on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Visitors welcome - please request Zoom access information from [sustsxt@gmail.com](mailto:sustsxt@gmail.com). Follow us at:// [sustainableessex.com/](http://sustainableessex.com/).



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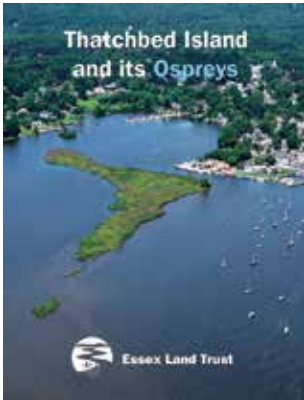
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# Thatchbed Island and its Ospreys



The Essex Land Trust has recently published Thatchbed Island & its Ospreys, a booklet commemorating the return of Ospreys to its Thatchbed Island property and the lower Connecticut River. The booklet celebrates the successful recovery of this iconic raptor, one that practically disappeared from Connecticut. The 45-page, full color booklet features a

brief history of Thatchbed Island, the experience of building the platform and installing the camera, recounts the breeding season through pictures taken from the OspreyCam live stream and details the causes of Ospreys decline and eventual recovery.

The publishing of the booklet and the cost of installing the Osprey camera were facilitated by grants received from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. The booklet was spearheaded by board member Jim Denham who coordinated and edited the project. It is a lasting contribution and serves as a reminder of the land trust's mission: Caring for our world here at home. All land trust members and supporters receive a free copy. A downloadable version is available on the Essex Land Trust website or can be purchased for \$7.50 (postage included) by sending an email to [info@essexlandtrust.org](mailto:info@essexlandtrust.org).

## Essex Land Trust Calendar of Events

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

### NOVEMBER PROPERTY CLEAN-UPS

**Saturday, November 7, 9:00 am - Osage Trails, Foxboro Point Road, Essex.**

Rain Date: Sunday, November 8.

**Saturday, November 14, 9:00 am Cross Lots, 40 West Avenue, Essex.**

Rain Date: Sunday, November 15.

Please bring rakes, blowers and tarps.

Families are welcome. Dress warmly.

Refreshments provided.

continued on page 34



*my listings*



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## Land Trust Calendar ... continued from page 33

### YEAR-END HIKE AT WINDSWEPT RIDGE

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 am  
Plains Road Entrance (Route 153)  
behind Essex Financial

Revisit this unique and expanded property which has gone from a neighborhood property to a large preserve stretching 47 acres from Ivoryton to Essex. Trails



traverse the ridges, ravines and wetlands of this very special property. All ages

welcome. Boots are recommended. Rain cancels the hike.

## Essex Land Trust - The Living Landscape

### NATIVE PLANTINGS FOR BEAUTY, SUSTAINABILITY AND HABITAT

Over the course of decades of development, fragmentation and urbanization, our rich and biodiverse native landscapes have disappeared at an alarming rate. Additionally, many of our conservation lands are overrun by invasive species. The combination of land development and invasive species expansion has led to excessive habitat loss

Why should we care about habitat? Habitat is critical to wildlife, bird, pollinator and insect survival as it provides essential food sources, shelter from the elements, protection from predators, places to make nests and find mates. With the loss of habitat, we are losing native wildlife species. For example, the Cornell Ornithology Lab has reported that we have lost over 3 billion birds in North America since 1970. And recently, the National Geographic reported that if insects were to disappear from our planet, “the environment would collapse into chaos.”

In his groundbreaking book, *Bringing Nature Home*, Douglas Tallamy a Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware has outlined the inherent connection between indigenous plants and wildlife species. More specifically, he demonstrates the link between our native birds and pollinator insects which have co-evolved with native plant species in a virtuous cycle; without native plants, our native wildlife has limited food sources. According to Tallamy, non-native plants and trees look like “empty bird-feeders” to our bird species – offering a place to perch but nothing to eat. And without food, our birds, pollinators and insects will fail to survive.

As a case in point, native oak species support hundreds of native caterpillar species which are a food source for multiple native bird species – the virtuous cycle is happening in our own yards!

Despite the devastating data on species loss and habitat degradation, the good news is that we, as individual homeowners and gardeners, can do something to effect positive change and reverse habitat loss. In our private gardens as well as speaking out about



and exercising influence on the landscapes of public and municipal properties, we can plant a rich mosaic of native vegetation that supports habitat and the pollinators, birds and wildlife dependent upon it. In the words of E.O. Wilson, eminent biologist and naturalist, we have it within ourselves to “reweave the wondrous diversity of life.”

This is such an exciting premise and one which is as simple as planting a blueberry bush, a flowering dogwood or an oak tree. Incorporating native plants into our gardens and landscapes can be easy as well as aesthetically rewarding. First of all, the native plants of New England want to grow here – thus reducing maintenance; they also offer a broad array of beauty, seasonal interest and the bonus of attracting birds and pollinator species into our gardens.

In the thirty plus years of designing for New England landscapes, designing with native species has been an extremely rewarding type of project for our firm. As an example, several highly invasive Norway Maples were removed from a client's property and replaced with a combination of native species: Flowering Dogwood, Eastern Redcedar, Arrowwood Viburnum, American Holly and Highbush Blueberry. As soon as the plants were in the ground, the birds arrived - finding shelter and places to nest as well as food sources from these berry-bearing species.

**continued on page 36**



William Pitt

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**Essex Village** 1+ Acre 7 Dickinson Lane  
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**Under Contract**



**Essex Waterfront** 8 Hemlock Drive  
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**Essex Village** Exquisite Antique! 37 Main St  
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**Essex Custom Built** 32 River Road Drive  
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**Old Saybrook** Walk to Town 514 Main Street  
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## Essex Land Trust... continued from page 34

Landscapes designed with native plants can be either informal and naturalistic or formal and manicured in composition. The 'bones' of the design and garden layout can be created to suit one's stylistic inclinations and then filled in with native plants that are suitable to the solar exposure, soils and hydrology of the site. We call it 'painting inside the lines.'



Our American proclivity for expansive lawns also contributes to loss of habitat. Neither birds nor pollinator insects derive habitat value from lawns. And lawns require a large input of resources – chemicals (often toxic pesticides and herbicides), water, and maintenance budgets. So, we encourage our clients to minimize lawn areas to what's needed for playing soccer and croquet or a game of toss with our dogs. Instead, we suggest planting natural buffer zones next to turf areas: low mow lawns, lush beds of pollinator perennials and grasses -all species that create beauty and interest throughout the seasons.

We can also eliminate invasive species in our landscapes – species that provide little to no nutrient value to our native wildlife but also spread into our open spaces and conservation lands while crowding out the beneficial native species. Noxious and destructive invasive plants include: burning bush, barberry, multiflora



rose, Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, privet, Norway maples and flowering pears. We can replace these species with shrubs and trees that provide flowers, fruit, beautiful fall color and winter structure while we attract and support wildlife in our gardens.

### **We can create landscapes that replicate the functions of habitats found in nature and thereby support our bird species:**

- places for birds to hide and find shelter: in dense evergreens and shrub thickets that offer structural capacity for protection from predators and weather.
- places for birds to nest: trunks of trees, plants with erect branch structure, even bird houses.
- plant species that support caterpillars for spring and early summer avian food sources; plants that provide flowers and nectar; plants that bear fruit for summer, fall and winter sustenance; and plants that form seed heads which last into the winter.

There are so many wonderful and beautiful native New England shrub and tree species available: species that provide flowers in the spring, lustrous foliage and fruit in the summer, stunning fall foliage and winter interest with textural bark and picturesque structure. Many if not all species are readily available in local nurseries; many nurseries will order plants upon request if they don't have them in stock.

### **The following list includes some of the most valuable woody species for wildlife.**

Oak species	Red cedar	Bayberry
Sugar maple	White Pine	Gray dogwood
Shagbark Hickory	Highbush blueberry	Maple leaf Viburnum
Black cherry	Winterberry	Silky dogwood
Yellow and gray birch	Arrowwood Viburnum	Huckleberry
Flowering dogwood	Red twig dogwood	Black chokeberry
Shadbush		

To quote Doug Tallamy in his recent book, *Nature's Best Hope*, "White oaks and their relatives are the very best trees you can plant in your yard for wildlife." So, 'Let it be an oak' - that is - if you want to plant a tree to support wildlife and for human benefits of shade, beauty and sustainability and lastly for future generations.

Anne Penniman

*Anne Penniman, Professional Landscape Architect, ASLA, is a registered landscape architect with over 30 years of experience in both public and private work. Since founding the firm in 1991, Anne has implemented designs that range in scale from private contemplative gardens to public park master planning. Many of her projects have received regional awards and recognition.*

# The Sailing Masters of 1812

## THE SPIRITS OF ESSEX

Elijah, an 11 year old boy, was walking along and eager to proudly show off his Halloween costume of a soldier in the War of 1812 who bravely helped defend Essex from the British. He and his mom had worked many hours to make it as realistic as possible, especially the towering shako hat. His friends had teased him about wearing such an "old fashioned" costume; but he didn't really mind. He loved the history of Essex. Elijah passed by the town cemetery under a full moon, just as dusk was falling. He was on his way to meet his friends at the annual Essex Halloween parade. He could just make out the sound of muffled fifes and drums. But, instead of coming from the center of town as expected, the music seemed to be coming from the graveyard.

Just as the Elijah stepped inside the gates to explore, a black cat with glowing yellow eyes dashed across his path. Stopping in his tracks, his heart raced until he finally convinced himself that; even if it is Halloween, fear of black cats is just a silly superstition. As he calmed down, he became aware that, while it was a warm and clear evening, it was peculiarly cold and dark inside the burial ground.

Elijah's attention was abruptly drawn to the far end of the cemetery; where glowing apparitions of men and women appeared out of the murk. They were dressed in the style he recognized from the history books as from the early 1800's; as well as a group in army uniforms from the WAR OF 1812 with their distinctive shako hats, just as he was wearing. Following in the footsteps of fifers and drummers, the

continued on page38

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## Sailing Masters... continued from page 37

phantasms promenaded through the graveyard, and approached the wrought iron gates near where the young man was cowering.

Just when Elijah feared he was about to be discovered, the specters slowly sank into the ground as if descending indiscernible stairs into the netherworld. Though the apparitions seemed unaware of the world around them, before the last figure disappeared, he looked directly at the youngster, smiled, and winked. Elijah's blood froze. When the phantoms vanished, the music suddenly ceased, and there was only deathly silence.

It took a few minutes before he could move, and Elijah realized it felt warmer again, and the moon was brighter. He slowly backed out of the cemetery, keeping his eyes on the spot where the specters disappeared, then ran as fast as he could to join his friends in front of the Post Office. Being in the large crowd, all seemed just as it should be. Superheroes, monsters and pirates were all gathering to march down Main Street and enjoy cider and popcorn at the end of the parade. And of course, there was the serious business of trick-or-treating still to be done. Afraid they would make fun of him, Elijah hesitated to tell his classmates what he saw, or at least what he thought he saw. Maybe it all really had just been in his imagination.

Elijah jumped with a start when the fifes and drums of the Sailing Masters of 1812, who lead all of the Essex parades, and whose 1812 Naval Uniforms he absolutely loved, pierced the air to step off the parade. Once he had started walking, he and his friends found themselves near the back of the parade.

After walking only a few steps, he happened to glance behind. To his shock, Elijah once again beheld apparitions dressed in the finest styles of 200 years ago, followed by a company in their Army uniforms of the War of 1812, rising from the ground as if ascending yet another set of invisible stairs to rejoin the living. He quickly spun around to see how his friends would react to the new arrivals. But, astoundingly, nobody else seemed to see the new arrivals. His friends continued to laugh and joke as he nervously glanced behind him repeatedly to watch the spectral newcomers.

When the parade turned off Main Street to where the Sailing Masters would serenade the revelers while they enjoyed the sweet and salty treats of autumn, Elijah took a deep breath and boldly stepped out of the parade to watch the approach of the ghostly ensemble. The apparitions did not seem to take any notice of the trick-or-treaters around them, though they kept in step to the music. However, as the spectral merry-makers passed Elijah while continuing down to the Foot of Main, each of the women smiled and waved at him, and all of the men tipped their hats. Finally, the company of soldiers in the uniform of the War of 1812, just as he was, raised their muskets in unison



**"The Spirit of Essex," Sailing Masters of 1812 Fife and Drum Corps marching in the annual Halloween Parade**

with a mighty crash, in salute as they marched by. Elijah stood watching, stunned as the supernatural parade suddenly melted from view when it reached the Connecticut River.

After what felt like an eternity, Elijah slowly realized the fife and drum music in his head was coming from the Sailing Masters, and he became aware once more of the people passing by, giving him curious looks. Tentatively looking around, then down at his costume while reaching up to feel the shako on his head; a broad smile slowly spread across the youngster's face as he grasped what just happened. When his friends came up with their popcorn, asking what he was smiling about, he knew exactly what he was going to dress up as for next year's Halloween Parade. 364 more days! He couldn't wait! Elijah just needed to decide whether he should invite his friends to wear the same costume as he was.

If you would like to join in "The Spirit of Essex," there is no better way than to join the Sailing Masters of 1812 Fife and Drum Corps. The Sailing Masters are always there to help celebrate Essex events throughout the year. If you are haunted by the idea, please contact Vicki Miorelli at: 860-212-1606 or email [captainvicki1812@gmail.com](mailto:captainvicki1812@gmail.com); or Joe Diedrich at: 203-901-0945 or email [gatossn615@yahoo.com](mailto:gatossn615@yahoo.com). You can choose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard.

# Beware of Scams – 'Tis the Season...

Scams keep popping up all the time. They've become more and more insidious – and easy to fall for. Please take note of just a few below.

## COVID-19 SCAM

Over the last few months, you have heard about contact tracing in regards to COVID-19. Contact tracing is a program that tracks the people who have been in close proximity to an infected person once that person has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The Contact Tracer then tracks down those people who are at risk of infection and explains that they may have been exposed. They work to help those people get tested and isolate for a set quarantine period to limit further exposure to the community. There is no fee for this program.

Recently, scammers have figured out that they can pose as contact tracers and call you to inform you of a fake exposure. The fake scammers will run through a series of questions in order to sound authentic. They then request a credit card or debit card number for the \$50 testing fee. This is the scam... do not give your personal information or any financial information. These scammers will clear out your accounts and send the money to untraceable accounts before you can cancel the card.

## IRS SCAM

This time of year, IRS scammers are looking to steal your money.

Thousands receive letters, phone calls and emails indicating that they owe back taxes and will be penalized, both criminally and financially, if they do not pay the amount due immediately. The written correspondence appears legitimate with IRS letterhead formatting and personal information. The phone calls are equally convincing and very intimidating. The truth is, the IRS will not call, email or send a letter of that nature in a not certified fashion. The IRS will want to know if you have received a letter and document the contact via certified return/receipt letter.

If you receive some type of correspondence from the IRS or a call from someone claiming to be the IRS, contact the IRS directly via the online listed number, not the number listed in the letter, email or phone call. Do not give out your personal information. If they are calling you, they will have it. Tell them you will call them back on the number listed for the IRS online or in the phone book. Often times, the caller will hang up as they have realized that you have been educated on the scam and will not be a willing victim at that point.

Taking the extra step to determine if the IRS contact is legitimate  
continued on page 40



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## Scams... continued from page 39

will save you, possibly thousands of dollars, down the road. The IRS website has a list of known common scams associated with their agency. What you should know, is that this scam list is evolving almost daily as scammers out there seek to relieve you of your money in new ways. For more information go to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or call the New Haven office at 203-492-8609.

### COMPUTER SCAMS

Have you received the call from “Microsoft” claiming something is wrong with your computer and they need access to it to fix the “bug.” It’s a scam. Microsoft will not call you to fix anything. The caller is attempting to gain access to your computer for one of two things. Either they are accessing your computer to take information from your hard drive or they are downloading a “keystroke virus” that will document your login and password information for banks, email, or other sites that contain personal financial information. They will use this information to steal your identity and wreak havoc on your credit.

Have you ever heard of “click bait”? The scammers are hoping you haven’t and are fishing for victims with links they send in emails or videos on social media. Click bait is some-

thing as simple as an article with an interesting title that you ‘click’ your computer mouse on to view. While you are viewing the link, the virus is spreading throughout your computer. The viruses vary. Some just steal your email contact lists or social media contact lists. Others access personal information and search for usernames and passwords for online banking, insurance and tax sites. Don’t fall victim to this scam. If you don’t know who sent the email, if the email looks suspicious from someone you do know or if the article or video is not from a trusted source, DON’T OPEN IT. Just delete it or skip over it on social media. Make sure your anti-virus software is up to date on your computer and if you think your computer may have been accessed, disconnect it from the internet and bring it to a computer expert to make sure it is not infected.

There is no definitive way to protect from all viruses and scams but the most important tool for computer safety is educating yourself on the scams and viruses out there. These criminals are lurking out there and waiting for someone to fall into their trap. See the Federal Trade Commission’s website for further information on scams and computer crimes: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/> To report these types of crimes go to <http://www.ic3.gov> to make sure the complaints are tracked and investigated.

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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 Solutions<sup>sm</sup> 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.

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## 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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