



In this issue
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... and much more





Timothy C. Siegrist, M.D., Urology

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First Selectman's Corner

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season. We survived yet another winter in the northeast, a little snow, not too cold, just what the doctor ordered. Now as we approach spring, we look forward to continued upgrades to our infrastructure, the opening of the new Town Beach building and Town Marina snack bar. The turf field at Indian River will be going non-stop with Lacrosse and Baseball and Softball in full swing.

The center of Town will be getting a facelift with work beginning on the Indian River bulkheads and upland improvements, (250K state grant), a phase of our revitalization project from the river to Post Office Square, (400K state grant), renovations to the Old Police Station and Town Hall, (450K in state grants), and town funded sidewalk replacement from Route 81 to the Train Station. We have been working hard to improve our town in the worst of economies and due to grants, much has been accomplished. I promise to continue to pursue all opportunities.

We will be voting this Spring on two hugely important issues: the Town and Board of Education budgets. This will be brought to referendum on May 9th. Again all involved have worked extremely hard to present to our residents a bare bones budget that continues to provide the basic, already reduced, services while minimally increasing expenditures. The Town budget includes 530,000 in fixed cost increases due to the contributions to the State Retirement fund, Police Pension and a

three year retroactive police contract. No new services or personnel, it is strictly a continuation of current operations. The Board of Education budget is similar, no new staff, no new programs, bare bones. I hope you will support both budgets. The Town and Schools have been continually improving so let's not take a step back.




The Morgan Building Committee will present to the Town at referendum (sometime in early April) a proposal for a "New" Morgan School. This will replace the existing 50 year old school and be built on the Clinton Nurseries property just up the road. This property abuts the Peters/Joel School complex and is connected by an existing bridge. If passed Clinton will regain pride in its high school, create a campus-like facility and make available a property which could potentially be sold for 5 to 10 million dollars and generate between 350 to 500 thousand per year in tax revenue. This is the most significant opportunity the Town has for substantial Grand List growth and economic stimulus since the Crossings were built, truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Continued on page 2

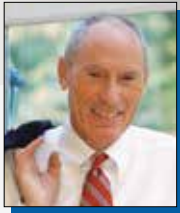
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Saturday Appointments Available

Selectman ... continued from page 1

Please attend the presentations when scheduled and be part of the decision.

I love that the town has so much going on, so much potential and I'm proud that our community is trying to pull together and achieve great things for our Clinton. Enjoy spring, maybe we'll see you on the ballfield.

- William W. Fritz, First Selectman

Tax Collector

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012

This year's town budget requires the tax office to collect **\$37,437,464** for real estate, personal property and motor vehicle taxes, and to collect **\$160,000** for motor vehicle supplemental taxes for the October 1, 2010 Grand List.

Current Year Taxes for 2010 Grand List

outstanding as of February 7, 2012

Real Estate: \$898,434

Personal Property: \$ 58,267 = Total due: \$1,085,845

Motor Vehicle: \$129,144

Motor Vehicle Supplemental Total due: \$56,725

- Tax Collector Melanie Yanus

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Families Helping Families

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to all segments of the Clinton community (families, businesses, churches, civic organizations, town government) who helped support our mission in 2011. The generosity, compassion, and willingness to help others continues to define the character of our home town. During this past year we were able to help The Clinton Food Pantry keep their shelves filled with needed food and fresh fruits and vegetables through our "Fresh Produce Program" we were also able to continue our "Energy Assistance Program" which helps provide needed resources to Clinton families to heat their homes. These past few years have been challenging ones for many Clinton families and without the support of many Clinton residents they would be even more difficult. We remain committed to our mission to provide food and warm homes for Clinton families.

We plan to have a full schedule of events during 2012. We started out this year by having the Clinton Lions Club host their annual "Pancake Breakfast to benefit Families Helping Families in late January. This is the sixth year that the Clinton Lions Club has hosted this event. It started off

with very modest beginnings with 75 people in attendance. This year The Clinton Lions Club served breakfast to 231 people. Thousands of dollars and thousands of pounds of food have been raised by this event. All the food and money raised remain in Clinton to help Clinton families.

This year on Saturday April 28 we will again be partnering with the Clinton Police Department and having our second annual "Stuff The Cruiser" food drive at Stop&Shop from 10:00-2:30. We hope everyone will help so that we can insure that the shelves at The Clinton Food Pantry are full. We again cannot thank everyone in Clinton who has joined with us to help provide food/energy assistance to Clinton families facing difficult times. If you have any questions about Families Helping Families or our mission please feel free to contact us at: Families Helping Families 248 Cow Hill Road Clinton, CT. 06413 or 860-669-5592.

*- Miner T. Vincent, President,
Families Helping Families*

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Notes from the Clinton Tree Committee



Spring with warm sunshine and abundant rain fall is the perfect time to plant trees, and the Clinton Tree Committee will be busy this year. Clinton lost many trees last year due to storm damage, and the committee has targeted some areas in town that need replacement trees. While we will be busy planning and planting, we would like to offer our assistance to town residents and communi-

ty organizations by serving as a resource of information on tree planting and tree maintenance.

I've bought a tree, now what do I do?

Look for the Clinton Tree Committee at the Clinton Expo on March 24! Members will be present to answer your questions about proper planting and mulching techniques, as well as how much water to provide that new tree. At the 2011 Clinton Expo, the committee distributed 150 seedlings and this year plans to distribute seedlings to the first 150 interested residents. If you received a tree from us last year, stop by and tell us about your tree.

In April we will be planting a tree for our 12th annual Arbor Day celebration. We encourage local organizations to take an active role in this celebration and in future tree plantings. The Committee is always interested in working with town groups, private and public, who want to become involved in preserving our valuable urban forest.

As a way to highlight the beauty of our local trees, the committee holds an Art Show at the Henry Carter Hull Library each November. Last year the theme of the show was Trees of Connecticut, and artists from all along the shoreline exhibited their work. Denise Casey of Guilford was the "People's Choice" winner. Congratulations! Plans are already being made for the 7th Annual show to be held in November at the Henry Carter Hull Library. Keep your camera in the car, as you never know when you'll be driving along and see a magnificent tree! Take your easel outside and paint the lovely tree that is in your backyard. We encourage artists of all abilities and ages to participate!

Remember, trees are an important resource that we can all care for. Open your eyes and look around and enjoy their beauty. Breathe deep and appreciate the clean air that surrounds you. Both are possible because of the trees that grow strong throughout our town. The Clinton Tree Committee works hard to ensure that they will continue to be strong and grow tall for the future generations of Clinton.

Keith Lyke, R.Ph.

Steve Vegliante, R.Ph.



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Sunday: Pharmacy Dept. Closed
General Merchandise 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Henry Carter Hull Library Programs

Monday, March 5, 2012 · 6:30 pm

Fishing in Montana - Resident angler John Springer will be giving a talk and slideshow on his experiences fishing in Montana and other Western locales for the past 25 years. Come share experiences about the big one that got away and listen to some terrific tales! No registration is required.

Monday, March 12, 2012 · 6:30 pm

Movie Mondays / Senna - Join us for free screenings of some of Hollywood's best on Movie Mondays! Registration is not required. *Senna* is a documentary on Brazilian Formula One racing driver Ayrton Senna, who won the F1 world championship three times before his death at age 34. (106 min. PG-13).

March through May 2012

Ways to Wellness Series - It is time to focus on health! A number of health, exercise, and nutrition experts will be at the Henry Carter Hull Library sharing their knowledge. Highlights include a talk on mindfulness by Dr. John Carbone of Middlesex Hospital, yoga classes by Meredith Dow, a swing dance instruction by Sharyn Farrell, and a class on nutrition by holistic health counselor Emrys Tetu. Check out our Ways to Wellness brochure or visit hchlibrary.org for details!

Monday, March 26, 2012 · 6:30 pm

Movie Mondays - The Muppets - Join us for free screenings of some of Hollywood's best on Movie Mondays! Registration is not required. With the help of three fans, The Muppets must reunite to save their old theater from a greedy oil tycoon. Starring Jason Segel and Amy Adams. (103 min. PG)

Thursday, April 5, 2012 · 6:00 pm


Thomas Kinkade: The Artist in the Mall - It is estimated that there is a Thomas Kinkade image in one in twenty American homes. Yet this commercial success and popularity has not resulted in critical acceptance or acclaim in the art world. Love him or hate him, Kinkade inspires intense reactions but his art also suggests some interesting questions about the art world, contemporary definitions of beauty, and the function of art. Alexis Boylan, editor of a new collection about Thomas Kinkade, will lead a discussion about the artist and controversy surrounding his art. Please register at hchlibrary.org.

Wednesday April 11, 2012 · 1:30 pm

iPad Salon - Are you the lucky owner of an iPad or iPad 2 and don't feel like you are getting the most out of these wonderful Apple products?

Continued on page 6

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Nonprofit Organizations Invited

Middlesex United Way is inviting local nonprofit organizations to post volunteer opportunities through its free online matching system; Volunteer Solutions. Volunteer Solutions can help local nonprofit organizations meet the increased demand for services by matching more than 500 registered users to opportunities that align with their interests, skills, and time availability. Visitors to the site will find the organization and cause to donate their time to and truly make a difference.



United Way volunteers take action to create lasting change in their communities.

“Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is proud to be a partner with Middlesex United Way Volunteer Solutions” said Jack Doyle, Volunteer Coordinator, Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity. “We get many referrals which turn into great volunteers for both ReStore and at construction sites. The system is easy to work with and provides great results.” Nonprofit organizations looking for volunteers can use Volunteer

Solutions to create one-time or ongoing opportunities, manage referrals, and record volunteer hours. Volunteers can also register and search the site by keyword, agency, or length of volunteer commitment.

Some examples of the opportunities that are currently available include: American Red Cross, seeking Blood Drive volunteers; Estuary Council of Seniors in Old Saybrook, seeking volunteers to sit on their board of directors; Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, searching for individual & group volunteers for build projects; St. Luke’s Eldercare Services in Middletown, looking for volunteers to assist their clients with weekly grocery shopping.

To register, visit www.middlesexunitedway.org and click the ‘volunteer’ link. For information, call Matt at 860.346.8695 or email: matt.plourde@middlesexunitedway.org.

Middlesex United Way is a locally-based organization serving the towns of Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook.

Town Clerk’s Office

- Presidential Preference Primary - April 24
- April 3 - Absentee Ballots become available
- First day of Fishing: April 21
- Budget Referendum: May 9
- Dog Licensing: Month of June for 2012 fiscal year

Please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk’s office for any questions: 860-669-9101

- Karen Lee Marsden, MMC, Town Clerk

Henry Carter Hull Library Programs ... continued from page 5

Come to our iPad Salon and learn about apps, basic functions, and reading ebooks. Share your knowledge and pick up a few tips and tricks along the way. Please register at hchlibrary.org.

Thursday, April 19, 2012 - 6:30 pm

Duo Dickinson presents: Love The Home You Are In Author and architect Duo Dickinson’s new book, *Staying Put* takes on the brutal reality that many families cannot move to a better place to live, and are returning to the tried-and-true vision of The Family Home - one that evolves to reflect the values of its occupants. Join us for a lively slide show that shows solutions amid the depressing real estate market and how our houses are responding to “The New Economy.” Please register at hchlibrary.org.

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Surgeon Treats Sleep Apnea

Middlesex Hospital Surgeon Treats Sleep Apnea with da VINCI Robotic Surgical System

According to Middlesex Hospital Ear, Nose and Throat physician, Mark D'Agostino, M.D., statistics for sleep apnea show that it affects 4 to 9 percent of women and 9 to 25 percent of males and a lot of it is under-diagnosed. In post-menopausal women, the incidence tends to catch up with that of males. Sleep apnea can also lead to serious health problems, such as heart disease and stroke.

Sleep apnea is obviously a common problem. For some time, the standard treatment for sleep apnea has been use of a CPAP machine. But many people find the machine uncomfortable and do not tolerate it well.

Dr. D'Agostino has developed a revolutionary new technique to treat sleep apnea using da Vinci technology, called transoral robotic surgery, in which the base of the tongue is surgically "trimmed." Up until now, a typical surgical technique to treat sleep apnea was to trim the palate. The success rate of this type of procedure is about 45 percent. With transoral surgery the success rate goes up to about 70-80 percent and sometimes even higher. Although there is no guarantee with the success of sleep apnea surgery, transoral surgery has shown significantly positive results.

In the past, there had been no easy way to surgically address the tongue base for sleep apnea surgery. The da Vinci surgical system has offered a breakthrough in this particular surgical technique. The da Vinci allows surgeons to get down to the base of the tongue and shave it off going through the mouth, without making any incisions on the outside of the jaw. Dr. D'Agostino has pioneered this new type of surgery, along with only a handful of surgeon colleagues throughout the country.

As with any surgery, there are risks associated with transoral surgery and most patients have some problems swallowing immediately afterwards, which normally resolves itself. Overall, Dr. D'Agostino has seen positive results with the new surgical technique.

For further information about transoral robotic surgery using the da Vinci, you can contact Dr. D'Agostino directly:

Mark A. D'Agostino, M.D.

Southern New England Ear, Nose & Throat Group
51 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-0055

669 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT 06437

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MAGAZINES



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Legislative Update



Representative
Jim Crawford

The 2012 legislative session began the first week of February. In even numbered years, its length is just twelve weeks. However, what this session lacks in longevity, it will more than make up in debate.

Governor Malloy has determined that the primary focus for lawmakers will be on education issues. Addressing the achievement a gap and funding inequities will top the agenda.

I am particularly pleased that results have been made available on a major investigation of Special Education. Delivery systems, state and federal commitments to funding program costs, identification of special needs students, and the effectiveness of current services are the key components of the report.

It has been my position that the state and federal governments must step up their contributions to this critical segment of towns' education budgets. Increased cost sharing would ensure consistent and appropriate availability of resources to all children. Our towns are far too vulnerable to sudden spikes in special education costs due to unanticipated placements or newly identified needs. These children, and their parents, deserve the best we can offer. With current state and federal funding at their lowest levels (under 38%), the burden falls unfairly on local taxpayers.

I also anticipate considerable debate on proposed changes to Education Cost Sharing (ECS). This is the state's contribution to each town for education. The property tax cannot continue to be the sole source for school expenses. This burden stretches our citizens' budgets beyond acceptable levels. It's my hope that the state government assumes the responsibility required to deliver quality education by reallocating its spending priorities.

Expect to see, additionally, news about teacher evaluation accountability, enhancement of the state technical schools and colleges, early childhood availability, and the length of the school year. It should be a very busy few months.

As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, and feedback. Please contact me whenever you feel I can be of assistance.

- Representative Jim Crawford

Support Our Local Merchants!

Project Graduation

The Annual Morgan Tag Sale - April 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event benefits Project Graduation, a wonderful all night celebration to honor the graduating seniors of 2012. Please help by donating any items you may have around your home or business. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! For more information contact Sally O'Brien at obrien18@comcast.net

Donations may be dropped off at The Morgan Tag Sale trailer which is located in the parking lot of Morgan High School. Starting on Saturday, March 20th donated items may be dropped at the following times. Tues & Thurs - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturdays - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sundays - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Sorry! We're unable to accept any computer equipment, mattresses, televisions or large appliances!

We are also looking to sell some baked goods before the doors open at 8 a.m., so please let us know if you can help out with some goodies.

- Julie Mendez
2012 Morgan Project Graduation Committee

Thank You!!

As we approach the end of 2011 and look forward to what will come in 2012, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients over the past 12 years who have let us help them buy, sell, rent and starting this year -- build their homes. We appreciate the confidence and trust you put in us when we all work together. We really feel that TeamJermaine isn't just Brian and Leslie, but each client becomes a member of the team that is needed to get the job done.



The market certainly has changed over the past few years, and we're pretty sure it will continue to change in the future. We'll keep on top of it, so we understand what is going on out there, and how it will affect all our clients. Our motto for the future is "Keep It Simple". We want to make sure that we understand the needs of each client and that each client understands their options and their transaction fully and simply. We're sure it will be another interesting year, and we hope to see you!

Brian Jermaine, ABR, ASR, CRS, ePRO, GRI, SRES, SRS
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Brian@TeamJermaine.com

Leslie Jermaine, ePRO
Realtor
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Estuary Council Regional Senior Center

Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. has been serving seniors in the nine-town Estuary region for 37 years. Call us to receive our Gazette Newsletter or go to www.ecsenior.org for our online newsletter, events calendar, menu, and more. Estuary Council Regional Senior Center, 220 Main Street, Old Saybrook.

Donate Your Car or Boat to the Estuary Council - turn your car or boat into a tax deduction by calling: 1-800-716-5868. Vehicle does not have to run. Proceeds benefit the vital services we provide in the nine-town Estuary Region.

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Antique Appraisal Day - Saturday, March 31st, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your antiques and treasures and have them appraised by a professional. Several local experts will join us to appraise your treasures. \$5 each item or 3 items for \$10. Mark your calendar and bring your treasures in.

Interested in Scrabble? Call Deb at 860-388-1611.

Stan Greimann Estuary Medical Outpatient Transportation - For medical appointments, to any medical location beyond the nine-town estuary region. Call Judy at 860-388-1611. Suggested donation of \$35.

Cafe Meal Sites - Clinton, Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, Chester and Westbrook (Thursdays). Reservations required; call 860-388-1611 by 11 a.m., 24 hours in advance.

Clinton Cafe - Line Dancing - Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Free!

Saturday Family Breakfast - at the Old Saybrook Café, 8 a.m. - noon. Join us on Saturdays for made-to-order breakfast - just \$5.00 per person! Menu choices include the Estuary Omelet, Pancakes, Oatmeal, or Eggs-any style. All served with home fries and bacon or sausage, juice or fruit, coffee and milk.

Meals on Wheels - hot meals delivered to your home. Call Diane at 388-1611. A \$3.00 donation request for those aged 60+ ; otherwise cost is \$6.25. Meals are supported by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds available under the Older Americans Act.

Classes and Activities: Board Games, Billiards, Ping Pong, Yoga, Exercise Classes, Mah Jongg, Wii, Cribbage, Writer's Group, Book Club, Quilter's Group, Dominoes, Needlecrafters, Hand and Foot, and more.

Estuary Thrift Shop: Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Clothes (men, women, and children), kitchen items, crafts, and more available! Donations are accepted and volunteers always needed!

*Volunteer Opportunities: Call Judy at 860-388-1611
Estuary Council Regional Senior Center
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Public Transportation for Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook & Westbrook

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Events Magazines is under new management. With this change comes the opportunity to bring fresh ideas and new features to our advertisers and business partners. We plan to offer new magazine features including special events focus pages, business spotlight pages and merchant/group ad pages. We will add website advertising and client links. You can look forward to the same outstanding service, hard work and strong business relationships we have already developed.

Sincerely, Bill McMinn

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Stream Flow Standards and Regulations

In early December, regulations concerning the flow of water in the state's rivers and streams became law. These regulations were promulgated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) following several years of often contentious debate between various stakeholders that included state agencies, water companies, business and industry groups, and watershed organizations, to name a few. All stakeholders supported the intent of the underlying statute (improving and/or ensuring the long-term health of our river and stream ecosystems, while simultaneously providing for such public imperatives as agriculture, economic development, public water supply, fire protection, and the like), yet struggled to find agreement on the "how". Agreement was eventually reached, however, and as a result all river and stream segments in the state will undergo a classification process. This will in turn dictate releases from certain reservoirs and inform decisions on future activities that have the potential to impact our waters.

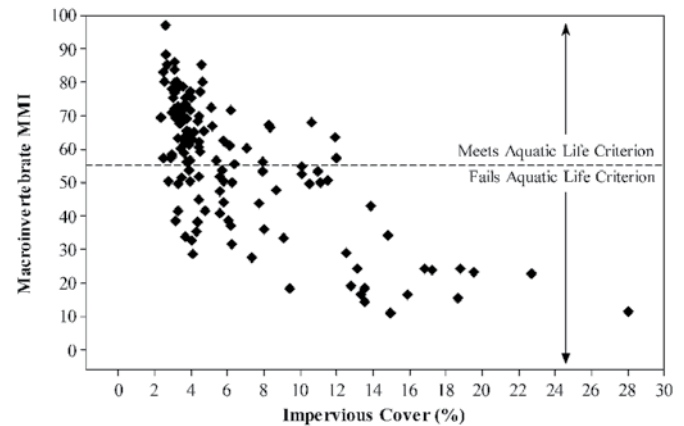
With adoption of the regulations comes implementation, which presents its own set of challenges and opportunities. As mentioned, all river and stream segments will be classified. Classification will be based on the current state of the waterway as well as its future, or prospective, use, with DEEP assigning a value of 1-4 for this purpose. Class 1 streams will be those that are free-flowing with minimal, if any, human alteration. Conversely, Class 4 streams will be those watercourses where flow has the potential to be significantly altered by human activity. Class 2 and 3 streams will obviously reside within these bounds.

The immediate impact of this classification process will be on dams, whose operation will be dictated by the class of the river or stream segment immediately downstream. In essence, water will need to be released from a dam or otherwise allowed to pass over it such that the receiving waters see a quantity and variability of flow specific to that classification. Because the regulations provide for an extensive public participation process, DEEP anticipates it will be a multi-year effort to complete the entire state. Ample notice will be provided to chief elected officials and the public via print and electronic media to ensure interested persons have sufficient opportunity to weigh in before any classifications are finalized.

When considering which classification to assign a given river or stream segment, the DEEP commissioner must consider a host of factors enumerated in the regulations. These include the presence of dams and other diversions (the hammonasset and Kelseytown reservoirs, for example); fisheries data such as wild and/or managed trout areas and anadromous fish runs (the lower hammonasset, Indian River and Menunketesuck Rivers all support alewife runs); and even things like the presence of stream gages operated by the U.S. Geological Survey (the Indian River at Hurd Bridge Road).

The classification process will also consider existing land cover and even planned land use in the upstream watershed. This is critical, as the percent of impervious land cover in a

watershed - which results from paving, building, and similar land use activities - can directly impact the aquatic health of a river or stream by affecting natural run-off processes to the point where stream degradation occurs. One study undertaken in Connecticut found that "no segment of stream in CT with > 12% Impervious Cover upstream of the sampling location was able to meet CT Water Quality Standard for aquatic life." (see graph)



From DEEP website <http://www.ct.gov/deep>

In theory, then, we will have a unique opportunity to influence the classification of our local river and stream systems through our municipal Plan of Conservation and Development (which will shortly undergo its decennial updating). In turn, those same classifications should help drive local land use decision-making. As an example, that 12% impervious cover threshold ought to be a consideration when local decisions are made, depending on stream classification. And linking a minimum vegetative buffer width to stream classification would go a long way toward ensuring consistency with the regulations' goals (a vegetative buffer is an undeveloped strip of land directly adjacent to a body of water and reduces the flow and velocity of surface runoff, promotes infiltration, and removes pollutants).

Such interplay between the streamflow regulations and local land use would be quite progressive. It may also require a change in the state's zoning statutes to require that stream classifications be considered by local land use agencies so that future development activity is truly appropriate for a given watershed. At a minimum, the process of classifying a stream as a 1 or 2, versus a 3 or 4, will afford communities the opportunity to provide valuable local input and consider, perhaps for the first time, just what it is we expect from our rivers and streams and the value we place upon them.

The streamflow regulations are far-reaching and potentially impactful, and the fact that they were able to pass with widespread acceptance, if not tacit support, is a testament to DEEP's willingness to eventually support a consensus-building approach toward resolving some thorny issues.

Continued on next page

A Synopsis of Progress of Clinton Public Schools

Mission Driven Progress in a Difficult Economy

It is often touted that adversity brings innovation, creativity and a renewed sense of purpose. The current economic conditions have created an opportunity for the Clinton Community to examine priorities and purpose. This has been especially true for the school community as we enter the fourth year of unsettling economic conditions. The school community - the faculty and staff, building administrators, board of education, and parent groups - has worked hard to insure that our drive to prepare independent and collaborative learners empowered to embrace the future remains fundamental to all our efforts and decision-making, especially when it comes to the budget.

Flow Standards ... continued from previous page

Such an approach will stand us in good stead as we eventually grapple with the nitty-gritty of the classification process, and especially if we utilize the standards to their full potential.

Our inland and coastal wetlands and watercourses will no doubt benefit from implementation of the regulations. Yet in a broader sense, so shall we all.

- David Radka, Chair, Inland Wetlands Commission

I am happy to report that we continue to make progress and am extremely proud of the advances made in the last three years.

As we prepare the budget for the 2012 - 2013 school year, I would like to share some highlights of programs, initiatives and advances in the Clinton Public Schools. While improvement is a continuous process, we have made major strides in redefining the essential focus for students in the 21st century.

Curriculum Renewal - Curriculum expectations provide the roadmap for teaching and learning in schools. Four years ago the district embarked on a comprehensive review of the existing curriculum expectations for students in kindergarten through high school. This analysis led to a complete redesign of the way the district identifies the learning expectations for each discipline. Our new model brings teacher representatives from every grade level together to review current research and state and national standards to develop a coherent, sequential and comprehensive curriculum for each discipline. The process is time consuming, but has significant benefits for students, including greater fidelity of implementation, increased continuity among teachers, and reduction in repetition and redundancy.

Continued on page 14

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Clinton Public Schools ... continued from page 13

Despite the arduous nature of this initiative, the assistant superintendent, Maryann O'Donnell, has eleven curriculum renewal teams operating in various stages of redesigning the K-12 curriculum. In August 2010 the Board of Education adopted the new K-12 English/Language Arts, Math and Social Studies curriculums. These are all in early phases of implementation. Last August (2011), the Board of Education adopted the district Guidance and World Language curriculums. All of these documents are published in their entirety on the district web site under Staff Resources. Three additional curriculum areas are on slate for adoption later this year. As each curriculum area is implemented, the curriculum renewal teams are then responsible for developing assessments that will be used to monitor student progress and achievement in core expectations of the discipline.

Foundation Skills and Competencies - As each of the curriculum renewal teams engaged in their work, it became evident that there were a number of overlapping learning expectations. As part of the overarching work the district has embraced to redefine expectations and to shift the discussion about teaching and learning from annual state assessments to what we want students to really know and understand and be able to demonstrate, we have extracted eleven Foundation Skills and Competencies that cut across all disciplines and shape the essence of what we believe a Clinton Public School graduate should embody. The eleven Foundation Skills and Competencies can be seen on the district web site. As you review them you will see that the first five are very clearly core skills that students need to be successful in school. You might call them the "basics." The last six are focused on making sure students extend their learning beyond the basics and apply the core learning to new and different circumstances. It requires that students use their knowledge and understanding to communicate to others, to demonstrate their understanding, and to expand their learning.

The district is currently working on identifying how each of these eleven skills and competencies is being supported at each grade level. The goal is to establish grade-level benchmarks for the foundation skills and competencies. As this work progresses, assignments, projects and assessments will be organized at each grade level for students to have many opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each of these skills and competencies. Work has already begun at the high school to incorporate these skills and competencies into graduation requirements.

Literacy Development and Support - Developing literacy skills is a fundamental charge of all public schools. As one of the district's driving forces and unifying principles, literacy development is seen as being more than just learning to read and write; rather, it is defined to encompass fundamental understanding in all core disciplines, the ability to read, comprehend and communicate concepts in language arts, math, science and social studies. As outlined above, curriculum renewal and development has been a major focus for insuring that the district delivers a coherent and comprehensive development of learning

expectations in each curriculum area. This begins in kindergarten. Clinton Public Schools clearly stands as a leader in this area as we are one of six districts in our reference group (DRG) of twenty-four districts to offer full-day kindergarten. Moreover, of the 163 school districts in the state, there are only sixty-five districts with full-day kindergarten provided to all students.

In addition, the school system has developed a systematic support and intervention system for students who appear to be struggling in developing core literacy. Based on the state's guideline and research in the field, we have developed a district Scientific Research-Based Intervention (SRBI) program in each school. The primary focus of this intervention program is to provide intervention early, before students get frustrated. Multiple screening tools are used to identify students whose skills are not on par with grade-level expectations in order to provide additional instruction and practice with these skills.

The goal is to identify and intervene early to prevent struggles and frustration. At the elementary level, kindergarten through grade five, we have a well-established program led by literacy specialists who work with teachers on intervention strategies, oversee instructional assistants who work with small groups of students, and work with students with the most deficient needs. This model is being expanded to include support in math as well. The middle school intervention in math and reading is delivered in the "Lit Lab" and "Math Lab." Students receive a targeted, blended approach to reinforcing skills. Using a combination of teacher-directed and computer-supported instruction, lab teachers are able to focus on specific skill needs and provide guided practice on the computer. The high school has incorporated a similar model in the "Academic Lab." The academic lab is designed to support any student in any subject, again using a blend of computer-assisted practice and reinforcement with teacher directed instruction.

Raising the Bar For Teachers and Students - Clinton has a tradition of quality educators committed to providing excellent educational experiences for students. Critical to continuing this fine tradition are three integral systems: teacher selection, mentor support, and evaluation. The process for selecting and hiring teachers has been refined over the last several years to include an extensive screening and interviewing process that includes having finalists teach students in a demonstration lesson. The selection committee then sends two finalists to the superintendent for interviews. Comprehensive reference checks are completed for the finalists. Following the superintendent interviews, the superintendent meets with administrators to finalize the recommendation to the Board of Education. The results of this process can be seen in recent hires at all levels. Once hired, all new teachers are assigned a trained mentor for up to two years. The mentor's role is to support and reinforce instructional practice, as well as to assist in navigating school routines and procedures. During the first four years, the building administrator has a critical role in insuring that the teacher performance expectations outlined in the teacher evaluation plan are met.

Continued on next page

Clinton Public Schools ... continued from page 14

The Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development Plan, recently overhauled and approved, requires increased involvement of teachers to provide evidence of how they are meeting professional expectations and improving student learning. This step goes well beyond the traditional administrator observation-based evaluation. The new model engages both the administrator and teacher in a professional dialogue and analysis of instructional practices that are leading to improving learning for students.

Expectations for students are also being raised. Outgrowths of the high school of the future study, the accreditation process and Connecticut's outline for secondary school redesign have all impacted changes in expectations in the district. Student Success Plans, Freshman Seminar and the Junior Portfolio exhibition are examples of steps to engage students in taking greater ownership of their own learning.

Technology Advances - It has taken four years, but the district has made a concerted effort to bring the technology infrastructure and tools in line with the work we are expecting of teachers and students. Four years ago, the schools were operating with at least ten different ages and types of computers and versions of software, making it very difficult to provide consistent learning experiences and nearly impossible for a three-person technology department to keep hardware working. With the support of the Capital Expenditure Committee (CEC), the district put forth a multi-year plan to establish a four-year life cycle of computers, to upgrade the infrastructure including connecting all schools to fiber, and to infuse interactive technology systems in classrooms with training and support for teachers. The plan worked! All district computers are covered by a four-year, on-site maintenance and repair contract. Teachers are now incorporating a variety of technology tools and strategies to enhance learning and engage students. At the elementary schools teachers have ready access to online curriculum resources like EnVision Math. The middle school uses Discovery Learning and Study Island to support and reinforce instruction. The high school also provides teachers and students access to Study Island and other curriculum resources like OdysseyWare, JStor and Noodletools for instruction and research. On a district level, we converted the student information software to PowerSchool.

This year we have added the parent portal affording parents the ability to keep track of their child's academic progress.

The district technology department has been reorganized to better support teachers and students. The final step of the plan is underway. Schools are being retrofitted to become wireless environments to enhance the use of web-based instructional resources. By the opening of the 2012-2013 school year we will be activating fiber connections to all schools, effectively eliminating connectivity issues.

Student Achievement - The driving force and fundamental design of the district work in curriculum renewal, professional learning for staff, and advances in technological resources are continuous improvement in student learning, performance and

achievement. This work is paying dividends. On the most recent Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), the state's annual assessment for all students in third through eighth grade, 90% of our fourth through eighth grade students met or exceeded the state's proficiency criteria in math and 85% met the state's proficiency criteria in reading. We are particularly excited by improvements from the previous year's results in math and reading and the relationship to changes in the new math and language arts curriculums. The percentage of Morgan 10th grade students meeting the proficiency criteria on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), the state's assessment of high school students, has improved over the last three years in all four areas of the test. In math, the percent of students meeting the proficiency criteria increased by more than 10% in the three-year period. During that same three-year period, the percent of students meeting the proficiency criteria in science increased by 8%.

The district has continued to evaluate and refine internal common assessments of reading, writing and math. All students in kindergarten through eighth grade are tested using district designed and adopted assessments three times a year to evaluate progress. In the past two years, full implementation of the Scientific Research-Based Invention (SRBI) model has added an early identification process for students not meeting grade-level expectations. At the high school, we have designed an assessment comparable to the CAPT for all incoming freshman.

Continued on page 16



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Clinton Public Schools ... continued from page 15

Current freshman will be required to complete the Junior Portfolio exhibition in the fall of their junior year. The purpose of this exhibition is to have students demonstrate how they have met the expectations outlined in the high school academic expectations and the district's foundation skills and competencies.

The district is also proud of its efforts to support students' efforts to graduate in four years while maintaining high expectations for the high school diploma. In 2010, 87% of our students graduated in four years. It is also notable that the dropout rate remains low, less than one percent. Clinton students pursue college in significant numbers. Last year, 88% of the class was accepted to and attended college. While students selected a wide range of schools to attend including all of the state universities and community colleges, Morgan graduates are attending outstanding schools as far away as Stanford, Arizona State University and Baylor. Regionally, our students are also attending Barnard College, Clark University, Fordham University, Providence College, Quinnipiac University and Stonehill College. In the last several years, we also have students who received appointments to the four military academies.

District and Staff Recognition - There are a number of individuals and groups that have received acknowledgements in the past year including: Clinton's 2012 Teacher of the Year, Kathleen St. Germain, and the Connecticut Educators' Computer Association award recipients, Leslie Chausse and Heather Iverson. Recently, the district was notified of the selection of Joel Elementary Principal, Claudia Norman, as the NEAG School of Education Alumni Society's 2012 Outstanding School Administrator. The University of Connecticut's School of Education Alumni Society is very active in supporting and promoting excellence in education around the state. The award is based on Mrs. Norman's exemplary contribution to the profession and the community. In addition to individual recognitions, the district

has also been notified that Jared Eliot Middle School has been selected as the New England League of Middle School's (NELMS) 2012 Spotlight Middle School. NELMS is the leading regional middle level educator association in the country and has designed the Spotlight process around nationally accepted criteria for middle school education. Principal Linda Tucker and her staff participated in a rigorous application process and a site visit by members of the NELMS organization to evaluate the faculty and programs at Eliot.

Looking Forward - Clinton Public Schools are on track and making progress! The district's Driving Forces and Unifying Principles and Foundation Skills and Competencies provide a clear roadmap for the work necessary for ongoing improvement. The district's aggressive curriculum renewal plan is proving to be a positive influence for raising expectations for the entire school community, and our students are stepping up to those expectations. Teacher evaluation and professional learning are focused on building greater collaboration, reflection and implementation of "best practices." We have redoubled our efforts to provide intervention and remedial support for struggling students. Technology in the district is current and effective in engaging students in learning. The district and our faculty are being recognized around the state and throughout the region. While we still have much to do, we have established a solid foundation, and we are proud of our accomplishments. Truly, it is a privilege to be entrusted with the stewardship of the Clinton Public Schools.

*Jack Cross
Superintendent, Clinton Public Schools*

The Essex Winter Series

The Essex Winter Series mission is to bring the finest music, in live performance, to the Connecticut River Valley and Shoreline Region and to cultivate its appreciation to the widest audience. As an exciting new dimension to the Series, Artistic Director Mihae Lee, will present the second annual Emerging Artists Community Outreach Program on April 2, with three exciting young artists, flutist Kelli Kathman, oboist Carl Oswald and bassoonist Adrian Morejon of the prize-winning Sospiro Winds. In addition to performing at the "Fenton Brown Emerging Artists Concert" on April 1 with distinguished artists clarinetist David Shifrin and French hornist William Purvis, the next day these young musicians will give two 45-minute concerts with an open forum at Old Saybrook Goodwin Elementary School; a 30-minute concert at Essex Meadows Retirement Community; and a two-hour wind master class at the Community Music School.

The remaining concert this year is March 4 with Vince Giordano & the Nighthawks ... the annual jazz concert.

For ticket and additional information, please visit the Essex Winter Series website: www.essexwinterseries.com.

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Clinton Events Calendar

MARCH 2012

March 6 - The Choral Club of Clinton Spring Season Rehearsals. The Choral Club of Clinton begins its Spring Season with rehearsals beginning March 6th, 7:20 pm, at the Andrew's Memorial Auditorium, Route 1, Clinton, CT. Registration begins at 6:45 pm with rehearsals starting at 7:20 pm - 9:30 pm. The Choral meets every Tuesday evening with the concert on Friday, June 1st @ 8 pm. The non-auditioned chorus is open to anyone high school age or older. For more information contact Gail Carlisle 860-669-2702.

March 11 - Marti Delvecchio Medium & Healer - 1 to 4 p.m. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce presents an afternoon of Readings with renowned Medium and Healer Marti Delvecchio at the Indian River Complex, Route 81, Clinton. All welcome. Must be prepaid. \$65 p/p. Check, cash or credit cards accepted. For more information call 860-669-3889 or email chamber@clintonct.com.

March 24 - 21st Annual Clinton Expo. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce 21st Annual Expo at Andrews Memorial Town Hall, Route One in Clinton from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 50 local businesses, restaurants, and civic groups will be represented. Exhibitors will display, advertise, and promote their businesses, while those attending can discover resources available to local residents. The event includes a visit from the Easter Bunny and a food court offering modestly priced tastes from area restaurants. Families Helping Families will have an on-site nonperishable food collection. The event is family oriented and is open to the public. Clinton Rotary will host ID Amber Alert program. Special guests this year, compliments of Pumpkin Patch Pre-school and Child Care Center, are the cast of characters from Star Wars, including Yoda, Darth Vader, Storm Trooper, Princess Leia, Chewbacca and Han Solo. Another added feature is the Passport to Expo. Guests who visit each booth and have their passport signed by the exhibitor will be eligible for a prize at the close of the event. Admission is free. For information about participation in the Expo, call 860/669-3889 or email chamber@clintonct.com.

March 29 - Morgan Musical at 7:00 p.m. Morgan Musicals presents *"Fiddler on the Roof"*, Gagnon Auditorium, Morgan School, Rte. 81, Clinton. Tickets are \$12. Reservations 860-664-6547.

March 30 - Morgan Musical at 8:00 p.m. Morgan Musicals presents *"Fiddler on the Roof"*, Gagnon Auditorium, Morgan School, Rte. 81, Clinton. Tickets are \$12. Reservations 860-664-6547.

APRIL 2012

April 1 - Morgan Musical at 2:30 p.m. Morgan Musicals presents *"Fiddler on the Roof"*, Gagnon Auditorium, Morgan School, Rte. 81, Clinton. Tickets are \$12. Reservations 860-664-6547.

April 3 - Joint Business After Hours at Water's Edge Resort & Spa. The Clinton, Old Saybrook, Madison, Guilford and

Branford Chambers of Commerce will hold Business After Hours at Water's Edge Resort & Spa, 1525 Boston Post Road, Westbrook. The event is hosted and sponsored by Water's Edge Resort and Spa and includes light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. There will be a cash bar. The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Business After Hours is a regularly scheduled chamber networking function open to all local businesspeople and their staff members, whether or not they are chamber members. The get-together is intended to assist local businesspeople in making new contacts and working relationships. Admission for Business After Hours is \$12 prepaid, \$15 at the door and \$20 for nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or directions call the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at (860) 669-3889 or email chamber@clintonct.com.

April 21 - Clinton Chamber Shredding Project. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce has arranged for the public to shred unwanted documents. A truck from The Shredding Source of Guilford will be parked at the old police station on Route One next to the Clinton Chamber of Commerce office at 50 East Main Street. The Shredding Source personnel will destroy personal and legal documents on site and issue a certificate of destruction if requested. Cost is \$6 per box. Staples and paperclips do not have to be removed. In addition to unwanted paper, Shredding Source can destruct hard drives for \$10, with an additional fee of \$5 if the hard drive needs to be removed from a laptop. Payment will be accepted by check or cash. The Shredding Source truck will be on site from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited to participate. It is not necessary to be a Clinton resident or chamber member to participate. Questions can be directed to the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at (860) 669-3889 or emailed to chamber@clintonct.com.

April 24 - Business After Hours at Aqua Restaurant. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce will hold Business After Hours at Aqua Restaurant, 34 Riverside Drive, Clinton. The event is sponsored by Enterprise Computers and includes light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. There will be a cash bar. The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Business After Hours is a regularly scheduled chamber networking function open to all local businesspeople and their staff members, whether or not they are chamber members. The get-together is intended to assist local businesspeople in making new contacts and working relationships. Admission for Business After Hours is \$10 prepaid and \$12 at the door. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or directions call the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at (860) 669-3889 or email chamber@clintonct.com.

MAY 2012

May 5 - Chamber of Commerce Tag Sale. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce will hold a tag sale on the Pierson School Lawn, Main Street, Clinton. The sale will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Limited vendor space is available to individuals as well as civic and non-profit groups for a prepaid nonrefundable fee of \$20 per space.

Continued on page 18

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Clinton Events Calendar ... continued from page 17

Rental space arrangements can be made by calling the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at 860/669-3889 or emailing chamber@clintonct.com.

May 8 - Business After Hours at the Abel Buell House. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce will hold Business After Hours at the Abel Buell House, 33 Commerce Street, Clinton. The event includes light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Beer and wine will be served. The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Business After Hours is a regularly scheduled chamber networking function open to all local businesspeople and their staff members, whether or not they are chamber members. The get-together is intended to assist local businesspeople in making new contacts and working relationships. Admission for Business After Hours is \$10 prepaid and \$12 at the door. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or directions call the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at (860) 669-3889 or email chamber@clintonct.com.

May 23 - Business After Hours at Peregrine's Landing. The Clinton Chamber of Commerce will hold Business After Hours on Wednesday, May 23 at Peregrine's Landing At The Shoreline, 91 East Main Street, Clinton. The event is hosted and sponsored by Peregrine's Landing At The Shoreline and includes light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Beer and wine will be served. The event runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Business After Hours is a regularly scheduled chamber networking function open to all local businesspeople and their staff members, whether or not they are chamber members. The get-together is intended to assist local businesspeople in making new contacts and working relationships. Admission for Business After Hours is \$10 prepaid and \$12 at the door. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or directions call the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at (860) 669-3889 or email chamber@clintonct.com.

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CLINTON NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

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The Morgan School860-664-6504

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Parks & Recreation Department Spring Programs

DRAWING CLASSES: Grades 3 - 7. Classes held at the Art at Murray Hill Pond, 59 Rte. 148, Killingworth, CT. Tuesdays: April 24 - May 29, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. \$85.00 (\$90 Non-residents). Call Joan Levy (860-663-1169) for a list of materials. 10% discounts for Joan's students at the Saybrook Art Emporium.

CT COMPUTER EDUCATION: Robotics and Solar: (Ages: 5 and up). We investigate different theories of how solar energy affects cars, windmills and Ferris wheels. Children will work in groups & create solar projects. Please bring small snack. Wednesdays: April 4, 11, 25, and May 2, 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the P & R Building. \$80.00 (\$85 Non-residents).

JR. ENGINEERING: (Ages: 5 and up). We explore, investigate and solve problems while learning about the building blocks of engineering - simple machines. Students enjoy hands-on activities with levers, gears, wheels, axles, and pulleys that incorporate math, science and creativity. Wednesdays: May 16, 23, 30, & June 6, 4 - 5:00 p.m., at the P & R Building. \$80 (\$85 Non-residents).

YOUNG CHEFS OF CLINTON: Grades: 4 - 6, \$23 per class. P & R Building. Instructor: Joanna Siciliano. At the end of each workshop the Young Chefs will leave with a packet on how to recreate what they made in class, and tasty treats for their families. **April 5th:** Spring - we'll be making edible book worms and snake bites! We'll be using rice crispy treats to put together our book worms. Our snakes are made out of crescent rolls and lots of good treats inside. **May 9th:** Cinco De Mayo! We will make homemade tortillas and salsa that will be used to make homemade quesadillas. **June 7th:** We'll be making treats that give us great energy for all of our outdoor activities; smoothies, blueberry muffins and summer trail mix.

ZUMBA LESSONS: Zumba is exercise in disguise! A Latin inspired dance fitness class that uses international music and dance rhythms together for the ultimate exercise experience. You do not have to know how to dance! We create a non-competitive party atmosphere; fun, easy and effective. Classes at the P & R Building. Mondays: February 27 - April 2, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. \$48 for 1 six-week session or \$9.00 for drop-ins. (Non-Residents must add \$5.00). Students bring water. Nansi Rice, Instructor.

MARTIAL ARTS: Martial Art Classes are available through Madison Academy, 32 Wall Street, Madison, CT. Classes meet twice a week for eight weeks. Various days/times are available. Available: Taekwondo (ages 3 to adult), Cardio-Kickboxing (ages 10 to adult). \$65 per session. (\$70 for Non-residents). Uniforms are required for all Taekwondo classes. Martial Arts Classes are held throughout the school year. Session II: Feb. 27 - April 20. Session III: April 23 - June 15. Session IV: June 18 - August 10. **Gentle Yoga:** A restorative class focusing on wellness of the mind and stretching the body. No experience necessary: Saturdays: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. or Thursdays: 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. OR **Vinyasa Flow:** A class to connect movement and breath, linking the mind and body: Mondays & Wednesdays, 12 - 1 p.m. or Tuesdays & Fridays, 8 - 9 a.m. 8 weeks, once per week: \$100.00; twice per week \$200.00. **Guided Meditation & Tea:** Stretch

moves and guided meditation followed by a cup of green tea. No experience necessary. Sundays: 12- 12:45 p.m., 8 weeks, once a week, Fee: \$100.00, Yoga Instructor: Petra Axlund Stegman.

PEE WEE TENNIS: Saturdays: May 12 - June 9. Ages 3-5 years. This class introduces Pee Wees to the forehand, backhand and volley. Held at the Peters Complex. Minimum of 4 Pee Wees, maximum 30. Time: 9:15 - 10 a.m. or 10:15 - 11 a.m. \$79 (\$84 Non-residents). Make-up rain date is June 16th.

CHILDREN'S TENNIS CLINIC: Saturdays: May 12 - June 9. Instructs players on all tennis strokes, footwork and etiquette. Ages 6-8 yrs: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ages 9 -12 yrs: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Min. of 4 children per age group, max. of 15 per age group. \$89 (\$94 Non-residents) Make-up rain date is June 16th.

TENNIS TEAM: Saturdays: May 12 - June 9. Ages: 13-17 yrs. This tennis clinic will instruct players on all strokes, as well as point playing strategies and match play situations. Minimum of 3, Maximum of 15. 12:30-2 p.m. \$129 (\$134 Non-residents) . Make-up rain date is June 16th.

ADULT TENNIS: Saturdays: May 12 - June 9. Clinic instructs players on all strokes, as well as point playing strategies and match play basics. Min. of 3, Max. of 8. Beginners: 2 -3 p.m. \$129 (\$134 Non-residents). Make-up rain date is June 16th.

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL: (Adults Only) Its open gym! Games on Monday evenings from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. March and April at Morgan Gym; February and May at the Eliot Gym.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: (Adults only) Open gym! Stop in for a quick pick-up game of basketball. Games played from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays: Ages 18 to 28 and Thursdays: Ages 29 and Older. March: Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Morgan, Gym A. April: Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Morgan, Gym A. May: Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Morgan, Gym A.

DEP SAFE BOATING CLASSES: (Adults and children over 10) This is a 10-hour course that meets on Monday & Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. for two weeks. Last class will have a final exam. A passing grade will enable you to apply for your Safe Boating certificate. The classes will be held at the Morgan School (room TBA), 27 Killingworth Turnpike (route 81), Clinton, CT 06413. Minimum class size is 20, and the maximum is 30. Two sessions available: Session I: May 7, 9, 14, 16. \$10 per person. (\$15 Non-residents)

ONE DAY - CT SAFE BOATING & PERSONAL WATER-CRAFT COURSE: Single session, 8-hour course, taught by Professional Marine Education, provides a certificate of completion as partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain the Certification of Personal Watercraft Operation, which allows the operation of motorized recreational vessels up to 65' and sailboats 19' in length and longer. Upon successful completion of this course the student can obtain the certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation. Bring a pen or pencil to class. You have an hour for lunch (bring a light lunch with you). Dates: March 31 or May 12. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Location: P & R Building, 201 Killingworth Tpke, Clinton, CT. \$65 (\$75 Non-residents).

Continued on page 22

Safe Harbor Memory Care Neighborhood Opens

After months of planning, designing, preparation and construction, The Saybrook at Haddam assisted living retirement community is thrilled to open our new Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood. This warm and inviting neighborhood “village” is located in a one-story wing of The Saybrook at Haddam, and was created specifically for individuals suffering from Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other memory-related disorders.

We designed the Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood to be a beautiful, open and engaging environment - taking advantage of the building’s existing high ceilings, oversized windows, wonderful lighting, and open floor plan. Our common-area living room is very home-like with comfortable chairs and couches, a large television, games, and books. Residents enjoy family-style meals each day in our large, open dining area - which always has room for “one more.” Both of these rooms are available for use anytime throughout the day for visits with family and friends, for conversation, or enjoying our many social activities designed specifically for individuals with memory disorders. These areas are bright and airy, and overlook our new outdoor walking garden and patio.

Each private or shared studio apartment is also light and open, and some featuring seating areas, a small kitchenette, and a spacious bathroom. This space is perfect for quiet time or private visits with family and friends. Residents are encouraged to decorate their apartments with their own personal items, photos, and artwork to truly make Safe Harbor their home.

Entering Safe Harbor is like walking down the main street of a little village. As you stroll along the path, you pass a park and “café” setting with table, chairs and striped awnings, where you can stop for conversation or rest. You then pass a “neighbor’s house” (which is a large, engaging mural of a lovely yellow house), and finally make your way to the beach and boardwalk (another oversized mural). The doorways are decorated with wreaths and many other home-like details. Additionally, our secure entries and exits blend into the surroundings, and do not take away from the neighborhood setting.

The philosophy at Safe Harbor is that life is made up of many little touches, events, and small happenings every day, and it is our job to use these little opportunities to create happy moments. Everyone at Safe Harbor works in a kind, respectful and caring way towards each resident to bring out the essence of who they are as individuals - so they can live with dignity and as much independence as possible. Our team works closely with doctors and families to provide a personalized memory care plan for each resident - so they can be their best at every moment of the day.

It is exciting to see this vision come to life, and be able to bring this valuable living option to our region. We were able to show off Safe Harbor during a “preview” open house in December, when we invited professionals and the community to tour this newly completed specialized memory care neighborhood. Many guests told us the open spaces, inviting layout, and warm environment was ideal for anyone living with a



A “Neighbor’s House” Mural

memory-related disorder. Families and individuals are welcome to schedule their own private tour of Safe Harbor (or to request an application for residence) anytime by calling 860-345-3779.

We know many families struggle to care for a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer’s, dementia, or other memory-loss disorder, which can take a toll on everyone. We hope our Safe Harbor Memory Care neighborhood provides an exceptional solution for them.

- Kathy Ryan, Executive Director, The Saybrook at Haddam

Kathy Ryan is executive director of The Saybrook at Haddam, (www.thesaybrookathaddam.com), a 74-apartment assisted living retirement community located in the heart of the Connecticut River Valley region. The community provides independent retirement living services as well as assisted living services (provided by its state-licensed Agency).



Parks & Recreation ... continued from page 20

GIRL'S SOFTBALL PROGRAM: Girls, grades 1-3. Program held on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3 - 5 p.m. at the Peters Complex. Practice will begin April 9 (weather permitting). Games begin May 2 and the program ends June 11. Fee is \$35.00. Registration forms will be sent home after February vacation.

FALL SOCCER REGISTRATIONS: May 5. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. P & R Building, 201 Killingworth Turnpike, Clinton, CT.

SUMMER 2011 PREVIEW

We will not be taking Summer Registrations until May.

THE CLINTON TOWN BEACH: officially opens on June 23rd. Beach passes can be purchased from the Gate Keeper 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily (weather permitting). Beach Pass Fees: Clinton Residents: \$20 per vehicle, Clinton Senior Citizens: \$10 per vehicle, Non-residents: \$25 per visit (no pass issued). Our Lifeguards will be on duty (weather permitting) beginning July 1st.

CLINTON FAMILY DAY: July 21, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Clinton Town Beach. Sand Sculpture registrations begin at 8:30 am. Games, Arts & Crafts, Races, Music, Face Painting, Snacks, Prizes & more, all provided free for children between the ages of 4 - 12 and their parents. We'll be posting a schedule for all of the events on our website as the day approaches.

YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP: Boys and girls entering Grades 1, 2, and 3 as of September 2012. Joel School Gym. Focus on basketball fundamentals. Starts: July 2, 3, 5, 6. 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Each camper receives a Tee- shirt. Limited to 35 campers. (Clinton Residents Only!) Fee is \$60.00 per camper.

FUN CAMP: Come join us for fun, games, and crafts! Open to children 4 years old who are entering Kindergarten in September, and older. Six-week program; July 2nd to August 10th. Meets three days a week at the Peters Complex and the other two days at the Town Beach. The hours are Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Wednesday extension allows for more activities. \$65 per week or \$330 for the six weeks. (The week of July 2 - 6, fee is \$52).

TINY HAWK (Soccer & Basketball): June 18 - 21, at the Indian River Complex. Ages: 3-4 (parents must stay on site). 4 - 5:20 p.m. \$55 (\$60 Non-residents). Tiny-Hawk programs help fine-tune motor skills with athletics. Parents work with our coaching staff. Skyhawks staff is committed to creating a positive introduction to sports. Participant-to-coach ratio: 6:1 Bring: appropriate clothing, water bottle, running shoes and sunscreen. Included with purchase: T-shirt and merit award.

MINI-HAWK (Soccer, Baseball & Basketball): June 18 - 21, Mon. - Thurs., (Ages: 5-7), 4 - 6 p.m. \$64 (\$69 Non-residents) or July 30 - Aug. 3. (Ages: 4-7), Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Fee is \$104 (\$109 Non-residents) Held at the Indian River Complex. Multi-sport program gives children ages 4 to 7 a positive first step into athletics. Baseball, basketball and soccer are taught in a safe, structured environment with lots of encouragement and a big focus on fun. Our Mini-Hawk games and activities are designed to allow campers to explore balance, movement, hand/eye coordination, and skill development at their own pace. Skyhawks staff

are trained to handle the specific needs of young athletes. Participant-to-coach ratio: 8:1. Gear to bring: appropriate clothing, water bottle, sneakers, and sunscreen. Food to bring: 2 snacks (for camps longer than 2 hours) & water bottle. Included with purchase: T-shirt and merit award

VOLLEYBALL: July 16 - 20, at the Jared Eliot Middle School. Ages: 10 - 14 yrs. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$104 (\$109 Non-residents). Skyhawks Volleyball takes the energy and excitement of this great team sport and puts it into one fun-filled camp. All aspects of the game are taught through drills and exercises that focus on passing, setting, hitting and serving. This co-ed program is designed for the beginning and intermediate player. Our volleyball staff assists each athlete in developing fundamental skills through game-speed drills and daily scrimmages aimed at developing the whole player. Participant-to-coach ratio: 12:1. Bring appropriate clothing, water bottle, sneakers, and sunscreen. Bring 2 snacks & water bottle. Included with purchase: T-shirt and merit award.

US SPORTS MULTI SPORTS CAMP: July 23 - 27, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (5 - 14 yrs old), \$134 (\$139 Non-residents). 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (6 - 14 yrs old). \$170 (\$175 Non-residents). At the Peters Complex. Experience over 15 different sports from around the world with the US Sports Institute. All activities will take place in an atmosphere which promotes good sportsmanship, teamwork, and fun. Campers receive Technical Instruction in each sport then experience the sport in a realistic game situation. Campers receive a T-shirt and certificate.

US SPORTS SQUIRTS CAMP: July 23 - 27, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Ages: 3 to 5 year olds. \$69 (\$74 Non-residents). Introduction to a variety of sports such as Soccer, T-ball, Basketball, Tennis, Lacrosse and Hockey. Activities are designed to evoke a child's imagination in which they can find Nemo, send Shrek into a spin or capture Jellyfish with Sponge Bob Square Pants. Activities promote hand-eye coordination, movement and balance. At the Peters Complex. Campers will receive a T-shirt and certificate.

BEGINNER LACROSSE CLINIC: July 16 - 20, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. 6 - 14 yrs old. \$89 (\$94 Non-residents) Peters Complex. The program is ideal for entry level players with no experience. Stick Handling, Passing, Scooping, Dodging and shooting as well as many other fundamental Techniques. Players will be grouped by age, playing ability and experience level. No previous experience playing lacrosse is required to attend the clinic. All campers will receive T-shirt and certificate.

FIELD HOCKEY CLINIC: August 6 - 10, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Ages: 6 - 14 yrs. old. \$89 (\$94 Non-residents) Peters Complex. The USSI Field Hockey Camp is ideal for players wishing to learn or develop in this sport. All phases of the game; Ball control, Dribbling, Push Passes and drives, Shooting, Stick Skills, Flicks and Lifts, Dodging and Rules of the game. Players are grouped by age, playing ability and experience level. No experience playing field hockey is required to attend the camp. All campers will receive a T-shirt and certificate.

ENVIRONMENTAL ECOLOGY CAMP: June 25 - 29 or July 9 - 13. 9 a.m. - 12 noon, For children entering grades 2 - 6 as of September.

Continued on next page

Park & Recreation ... continued from page 22

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: Clinton Town Beach, Tuesday: Entrance of Peter's Woods, Valley Road and Thursday: the Indian River Recreational Complex Beach Days: Join local teacher & Clinton Land Trust Board Member, Dana Skidmore, for 3 mornings of beach exploration. Varying habitats: the salt marsh, sandy beach and mud flats. They will use bucket and dip nets as well as beach seines to experience the local marine life in the sound. They will get a crab's eye view of barnacles feeding, periwinkles grazing on algae, green crabs scurrying about, and ospreys flying overhead and great egrets majestically wading in the water. Peter's Woods & Indian River Complex: Spend two mornings with Mrs. Skidmore exploring local animal and plant species. Discover the mystery of a vernal pool and all of its inhabitants. Learn the difference between a red oak and a white oak tree, feel the strong bark of a tulip tree and experience the smell of a black birch tree branch. Listen to the woodland bird songs, discover many life forms that live under logs in the forest, and catch a glimpse of a painted turtle sunning itself on a log. \$125.00 (\$150.00 Non-residents).

TOP NOTCH BASKETBALL: Boys and girls entering grades 2-9 as of September 2012. This will be held at the Morgan School gym during Dates: TBA. There will be a morning and afternoon session, Session I: 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Session II: 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. If choosing both sessions, please bring a lunch. Participants receive a T-shirt. Don't forget a water bottle! \$85.00 per session, \$160.00 for both. A \$35.00 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration. (\$90 per session for Non-residents).

SOCCER CAMP: Instructor Coach Kate Healey. Date TBA, Ages: 6 - 11, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Indian River Complex. A structured environment to help young athletics focus on the fundamentals while also allowing young athletics to grow, develop and improve on the skills they have already learned. Campers receive a T-shirt. \$70.00 (\$75.00 Non-residents)

GOALIE TRAINING CAMP with Brad Jeeves. Session I: July 9 - 13. Session II: July 30 August 3, 5 - 8 p.m. Fee TBD. Coach Brad Jeeves will hold this Camp at the Indian River Complex. This Camp includes Handling, Distribution, Communication, Shot Stopping, Angles, High balls and the best thing about being a goalkeeper; The Imperfect World. All goalkeepers will be tested to their highest abilities, as you all know being a goalkeeper is more than just trying to save a ball. More and more people are realizing how important the position is. This Camp is great way to help the most experienced of goalkeepers on their toes and also to help the first time goalkeepers get the knowledge and confidence they need to get in between the sticks. You must bring the following: gloves, shin guards, soccer ball, plenty of water & a small snack.

FOOTSKILLS CAMP: With Brad Jeeves: August 13 - 17, 5 - 8 p.m. More information to follow.

ART CAMP AT MURRAY POND: The month of July (Excluding 7/4/12). Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$200 (\$205 Non-residents) per week plus material fee. Murray Pond is located at 59 Route 148, Killingworth, CT.

Please visit our website at www.clintonparkrec.com for more details.

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Getting Your Children Involved in Saving for College

The planning required to send a child to college may seem overwhelming, but parents do not have to do all the work. Getting children involved in college planning may be an excellent way to teach responsibility to young people - a lesson that could reap benefits well beyond their college years.

The Right Age - Some experts believe that if children are actively involved in planning for their future, they may be more committed when entering college and ultimately have a more successful experience than they would have otherwise. But what age is the right age to start talking to children about college planning?

The U.S. Department of Education says the best time to introduce children to college planning is the middle school years when they are in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade. At this stage you may want to start talking about college and explain the importance of developing good study habits and getting involved in extracurricular activities. When students are in the latter part of middle school, they can also start planning to make the most of high school experiences with an eye toward college. Remind your budding scholar that success in high school depends on skills and attitudes that are developed in middle school or earlier. For example, time management skills developed in middle school may eventually help a high school student manage schoolwork, a job, sports and other interests. And when the time comes to pick classes for the first year of high school, a good mix of college prep courses may be important.

Budgeting Basics - Help your child establish a savings account that could be earmarked for education expenses. You can use this experience to teach basic lessons about compounding, investing and other money management issues. And to help students gain a deeper appreciation of their family's financial sacrifices, share current college cost information with them.

Average Annual Costs, 2011-2012; Source: The College Board

	Private 4-Year	Public 4-Year	Public 2-Year
Tuition & Fees	\$28,500	\$8,244	\$2,963
Room & Board	10,089	8,887	-
Total	\$38,589	\$17,131	\$2,963

A Higher Gear in High School - Many high school students are mature enough to plan for college at a deeper level. Appropriate planning may include the following: Matching personal aptitudes with vocational interests - High school guidance counselors can help students learn about careers that utilize skills in math, science, language arts, social studies and other areas of interest, as well as postsecondary courses of study in these areas.

Maintaining high academic standards - Colleges prefer applicants that have exceeded basic requirements and taken more challenging courses in language arts, math, science, social studies, foreign languages and other areas. Many high schools permit qualified students to earn college credits by taking Advanced Placement courses. Excelling in these classes may demonstrate motivation and reduce the number of academic requirements after a student enters college.

Researching scholarships - There are numerous websites with information about sources of financial aid. For example, www.fastweb.com and www.finaid.org provide data about thousands of scholarships with varying eligibility criteria. In addition, www.fafsa.ed.gov provides an overview of federal student aid programs, including Pell Grants, campus-based aid programs, Stafford Loans, PLUS Loans and others. Also, local libraries and high school guidance offices may have information about state-sponsored aid programs and scholarships sponsored by local organizations.

Earning money - High school students can set aside a portion of their wages from part-time or summer jobs for higher education expenses. Also, students may be able to obtain jobs that build on career interests as a way of solidifying their future plans.

Getting organized - College planning involves many details, including visiting institutions that a student may want to attend, applying for financial aid, obtaining transcripts and letters of recommendation and meeting deadlines. A high school student can take responsibility for making sure that important matters are tended to ahead of time. For example, he or she can use school vacation time to help organize a family trip to visit colleges of interest or spend time completing college applications.

You and your prospective student may be able to think of more ideas that could add value to your family's efforts to save for a college education. Getting your child involved in the process - financially and otherwise - could ultimately be a pivotal lesson in responsibility that impacts his or her later success in life.

Useful Web Resources: collegeboard.org, fastweb.com, finaid.org, fafsa.ed.gov.

Tracy A. MacKinstry, CFS, is a financial consultant in Clinton, at 9 Old Post Road (rte 145). www.mackinstry.com tracy.mackinstry@lpl.com 860-669-9900.

This article was not intended to provide specific investment advice or recommendations for any individual.

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