East Haddam



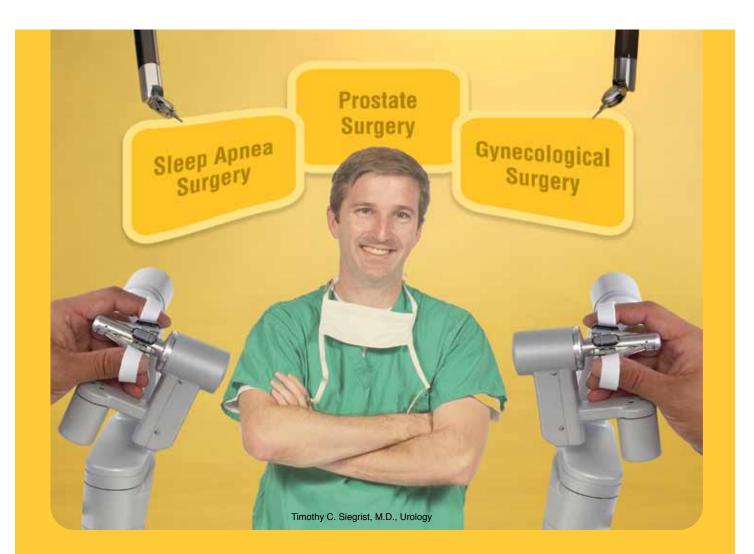


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In this issue: First Selectman's Corner Little League Registration Who are the Leos? Green Committee Garden Club News and more!



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First Selectman's Corner

Thank you for the vote of support in the management of our town with my third term as your First Selectman. I can say with enthusiasm that the time in office is truly a gift which I plan to use wisely. We have navigated thru some of the worst economic times and weather disasters in decades with the help of countless volunteers and talented employees. Our goals and actions always answer the question "Is it in the best interest of our town?" My decisions have to answer the guestion "Is it fair?" A focus I want to emphasize with many of our boards and commissions will be to prepare our town to be in the best condition to control our own destiny. This has been proven over and over by the great results of our emergency management and emergency service departments every time we have a storm or 9-1-1 call. Due to the preparation and skills of our citizens we have fared better than most other towns.

Our financial controls have set our finances in great shape with improved bond ratings for lower borrowing costs and great reserves so that we have options to borrow from ourselves to complete many of the capital projects on the drawing board. Thank goodness our town stands on firm financial ground because our coming decisions will be clouded by the uncertainty of the state, federal and international economies. After a meeting I recently attended with Governor Malloy and our State Representatives, I can assure you that we will be squeezed with no increases in state or federal aid, continued reduced revenues and an increase in the cost of living. It will not just be in Connecticut; all 50 states will feel the pinch of declining federal support for state programs. Massachusetts just legalized casino gambling further cutting into the state funds that flow back to our community.

So how do we protect ourselves in this new norm? Our Economic Development Commission will use the new jobs bill to help advise companies with less than 50 employees on new financial assistance thru loans, grants and job creation incentives. Our Agricultural Commission will pursue aid from the jobs bill to get grants to convert some of our best land back into agriculture. We just approved at our town meeting the creation of a Council of Government of the Lower River Valley with 17 neighboring towns. This will give us increased leverage on seeking Federal and State funding as well as a continuation of sharing the costs of our services with neighboring towns.

Needs and wants will continue to be an important measurement when making decisions this year. To help you become an informed decision- maker please visit our town web site www.easthaddam.org. We now display our monthly financial reports and we achieved a very clean audit for last fiscal year.

We just had a great send off party for three young men about to serve our armed forces: our son Drew Walter - Army National Guard, Luke Newton - Navy and Eric Cooley -Marines. Two men who have recently left to serve our armed forces are Dylan Carter and Paul Huot. This is a great reminder of how grateful I have always been to all those that have served our country.

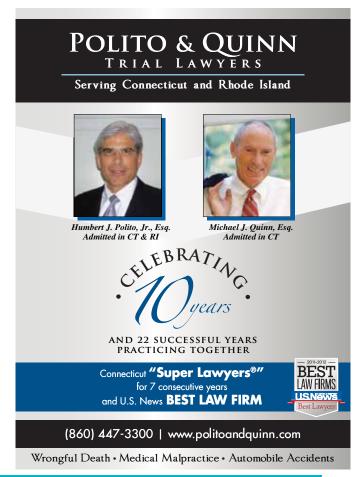
We recently won a grant to build a floating dock at the town easement on the Connecticut River next to the Goodspeed Airport runway. This will give boaters the chance to dock



for lunch or water taxis the opportunity to run tourists back and forth from the Haddam shore.

Finally, the holiday season was kicked off by a great "Family Night" on the Moodus green with carol singing from our students and direction from Mrs. Mazzafero and Ms. Alfano. The green was decorated courtesy of Michael Gilroy and the Family Night on the Moodus Green Committee lead by Beth Lunt. Organization was also provided by Toni McCabe and Kaitlin Besier from Youth and Family Services. Lastly the Moodus Drum and Fife Corp made it a memorable night.

Continued on page 3





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Selectman ... continued from page 1



Eric Cooley, Luke Newton and Drew Walter; leaving to serve in our armed forces.

East Haddam proves over and over that ordinary citizens can achieve extraordinary things! I will proudly continue to serve you for the next two years.

- Mark B. Walter, First Selectman

Who are the Leos?

The East Haddam Leos are teens from the local community who have joined together to make a difference in East Haddam. Their advisors are members from the East Haddam Lions and Community Lions.



L-R back row: Leos Brenden Lucas, Etban Lucas, Lion Michael Gilroy, Sarah Manstan, Lion Tim Curtis, Grace McLean, Brittany Cassella, Josbua Lake, Kara Izzo, Owen McLean, Gillian Hoover (Leos not pictured: Jack Feeley, Natalie Navoodi, Bennet Treat Perry, Ariana Prichard, Kara Prichard, Libby Ryan, Jeff Soboleski, Kate Soboleski)

What do Leos do? Leos create and volunteer at fundraisers or "fun-raisers" as they like to be called. Last year, the Leos handed out candy during Project Safe Halloween, hosted a bake sale, and helped the Lions sell Christmas Trees. The money the Leos raise goes to local community organizations.

What's next for the Leos? This year, the Leos are planning all sorts of awesome community events like dances, carnivals, food drives, and more. All teens (ages 12-17) are invited to join. The Leos meet on the first Thursday and third Tuesday from 7:00-8:00 at the East Haddam Free Public Library. For details, email Leo Advisor Michael Gilroy at MGilroy@ehfpl.org or follow the East Haddam Leos on Facebook.

Who are the Leos? They are the Pride of East Haddam.

"Stuff A Cruiser" Toy Drive Thank You



Officers Mark Creighton, Craig Mansfield and Karl Karabeinikoff

On Saturday December 10, 2011 the East Haddam Police Officers and Resident Troopers held our 6th annual Police Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive. Toys and monetary donations were collected at the Moodus Plaza to help provide for children within East Haddam and Moodus.

Even in these difficult economic times, the community's generosity continues to be amazing. Donations were received not only from hundreds of individuals but from many of our local community groups and businesses. At the end of the day, over \$1200 in cash/gift cards and car loads of toys were collected.

According to Toni McCabe, Director of East Haddam Youth and Family Services and Youth Activities Coordinator Kaitlin Besier, this year there were 50 families and approximately 110 children in need of assistance within our community. The toys were distributed based on requests received from the kids and the families. The money and gift cards were used to purchase gifts for the older children.

The East Haddam Resident Troopers and East Haddam Police Officers would like to thank Youth and Family Services for their hard work and coordination to ensure these toys get to those in need but most importantly would like to thank the community for their continued support of this event.

Volunteer of the Month

Please join us in congratulating our most recent volunteers of the month: Drew Daniels, Allison Purdue and Chloe Vigue.

If you would like to nominate someone, please do so in a letter to the First Selectman.

From the Assessor

The October 1, 2011 Grand List of all real and personal property is anticipated to be certified on January 31, 2012. Assessment notices will be mailed for all personal property and only real estate which had increases due to improvements on the property. Any persons who wish to appeal their assessment may appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals in March, 2012. Requests to the Board are due by February 20, 2012. Written requests should include the property owner's name, name and address of the person appealing the assessment, type of property being appealed (real estate or personal property), reason for the appeal, and opinion of value. Although any written request is accepted, forms are available at the East Haddam web site: www.easthaddam. org. The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is P.O. Box K, East Haddam, CT 06423.

The Assessor's Office will begin taking applications for the Homeowners Credit Program and Additional Veterans Benefits on February 1, 2012. To qualify, total income must not exceed \$32,300 for a single person, and \$39,500 for a couple (joint income), including Social Security and Medicare. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2012. Applications for the Homeowners' Local Option Program will be accepted from February 1, 2012 until May 15, 2012. The age and proof of income requirements are the same as for the state programs but the income limit is \$50,000 per household.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31, 2012 to receive exemption benefits. Qualifying income for Additional Veterans Benefits is the same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted until October 1, 2012.

Any person or entity starting a new business in town should notify the Assessor's Office so that we can send a personal property declaration in the fall. Personal property assessments are based on the declarant's filing. These assessments can be appealed to the Board of Assessment Appeals in March, 2012. Please note that recent legislation has raised the assessment limit for appealing to the Board from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Assessment appeals over \$1,000,000 will be tried in the Superior Court.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessor's Office at (860) 873-5026.

Occupy the Green Committee!

Consider becoming a member of the East Haddam Green Committee! Our demands are few – be willing to attend our meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, and participate in helping East Haddam to become a more eco-friendly town. Since our beginning in 2008, the Green Committee has, with the help of grants and private donations (not taxpayer dollars):

- Offered home energy audits to town residents at reduced prices.
- · Created carpooling and Green Tips flyers.
- Brought reusable "Blue Bags" to local merchants. Over its lifetime, one reusable bag can replace 1,000 plastic bags.
- Organized the Food Bank Victory Garden, which has provided nearly 300 lbs. of fresh, organic produce to

Moodus Sportsmen's Club Calendar

Ice Fishing Derby ~ January 22. Pre Registration required. If there is no ice on the 22nd, the Derby will be postponed until January 29th. Earth Day Clean Up on April 7.

the Food Bank.

• Do you have an idea for a "Green" initiative to benefit the community, but don't know how to get started?

Are you interested in reducing your carbon footprint, trash, or dependence on fossil fuels (and saving money in the process)? You are invited to share your suggestions with likeminded individuals.

Join the conversation at a Green Committee meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the River House (located behind Town Hall). All of our meetings are open to the public. Please contact Town Hall or email the Green Committee at easthaddamgreencommitte@ gmail.com if you are interested.

Park and Recreation

Up to date information about East Haddam Parks and Recreation can be obtained by going to the website www.easthaddam.org; under Town Departments, choose "Parks and Recreation"; you will see the program information listed on the right side of the page.

East Haddam Historical Society

The Directors of the East Haddam Historical Society thank everyone who helped make 2011 successful. There were generous donations from Shagbark Lumber and R.A. Parady & Sons as well as much appreciated support from our business partners -Chris Saltus Builder, Moodus Electric, Maus & Son, Ballek's Garden Center, Staehly Farm and Garden, Grist Mill Market, Bridge Street Market, Hayden's Liquors, Moodus Package Store, Carlson Construction, Goodspeed Opera House, Gelston House Restaurant, All Waste Control, Jansky Rubbish, Rob's Auto, Artworks Framing, Nathan Hale Pharmacy, Elgart Pinn Gordon Elgart Optometrists, and Charity Creations.

The Museum is open to the public only by appointment until Memorial Day, when the 2012 season starts. The entire facility is available for rent and can accommodate 125 guests. Check our Facebook page or online news-papers for these possible winter activities; a men's support group, an art history series, and presentations by Franklin Academy Students.

Volunteers are needed to re-organize the shop and large display room.

To take part, call 860-873-3944 or email museum@easthaddam history.org.



This leather child's shoe, donated by Sandy Borden, Hadlyme, was found inside a wall during renovations. Unlined, two-eyed, cotton string laced, the likely left shoe has dried to a porcelain toughness. The stitching places it at about 1875 in origin.

Annual Town Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 are available now in the Town Clerk's Office. This book is filled with valuable information regarding meeting dates, Boards and Commissions, reports from all Town Departments, the current 2011-2012 town budget, and the 2010-2011 summary financial report. The full 2010-2011 year-end audit can be viewed on line at www.easthaddam.org. This year's cover features one of the three open space parcels approved at referendum in March. Feel free to stop in for your very own copy of the Annual Town Report.



Pequot/Sherwood Day Camp Ivoryton, Connecticut Running in one week sessions for boys and girls ages 6 to 13, local families can enjoy a day program very similar to our overnight camps. Every day, campers choose from a range of activities, spend two full hours at the waterfront and get American **Red Cross swimming and boating** lessons. Lunch is provided and transportation is available. Fransportation Available 860-767-0848 www.pequotsherwood.org

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Events

MAGAZINES



East Haddam Events

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News from Events Magazines

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

Sand for Winter Ice

Residents of East Haddam are reminded that they may take only a small amount of sand from one of the municipal sand piles for their personal use in sanding steps, walkways, or ice patches in driveways. Piles are located at the corner of Haywardville and Early Roads, and at the Town Garage, off Mt. Parnassus Road near Shagbark. For safety reasons, residents should not obtain sand during storm conditions when operators are loading trucks and entering and leaving the site.

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

It's Coming Back! (snow, that is)

We hear frequent complaints about the dangerous road conditions that result when people push driveway snow out into our public roads. We actually have an ordinance prohibiting this practice, which states, "No person shall plow, throw, put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from any private property or from any area in the rear of said private property or in area between a private dwelling house or structure and the legally laid out sidewalk into any public highway in the town of East Haddam." Please keep this in mind this winter. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

Award for Lifesaving



East Haddam Corporal Karl Karabeinikoff

At a ceremony held on November 17, 2011 at the Connecticut State Police Academy the following award for lifesaving was awarded to Corporal Karl Karabeinikoff:

On January 24, 2011, at approximately 12:04 p.m., Troop K received notice of an unresponsive male locked inside a vehicle at a residence in East Haddam. Temperatures were well below zero and it had snowed overnight.

East Haddam Corporal Karl Karabeinikoff and Trooper First Class David Southworth responded and found an unconscious male in the driver's seat and locked inside the snow-covered vehicle. Entry to the vehicle was gained by breaking out the right rear passenger side window and unlocking the doors. Large amounts of snow had to be cleared away from the vehicle before the driver's door could be opened.

Trooper Southworth found the victim to be cold to the touch, without a pulse, breathing shallowly and barely able to open his eyes. Corporal Karabeinikoff began administering oxygen to the victim. Trooper Southworth and Corporal Karabeinikoff kept the victim alert until medical services arrived. The victim was transported to a medical facility where it was learned that he was suffering from hypothermia and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Thanks to the intervention and quick response, the male victim was saved and made a full recovery. The actions of East Haddam Corporal Karl Karabeinikoff are in the highest tradition of the Connecticut State Police.

Holiday Closings

The Town Office Building and Transfer Station will be closed on the following holidays:

Monday, January 16- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, February 20 - Presidents' Day Friday, April 6 – Good Friday



East Haddam Business & Visitor Info.

Attractions, Recreation, History

www.EastHaddam.org



Look on the Municipal Website

Business Directory—over 250 town businesses, browse general categories, website links

Community Calendar—*find or suggest* upcoming special events at town businesses

Municipal pages—*Town Departments/Staff, Boards/Commissions, Agendas & Minutes*



Pellet stove, deck to spacious yard, partially finished basement, vinyl siding, newer roof. A quiet corner to enjoy year round or as a weekend retreat.

Kathie DeVeau has joined our Team!

The Cushing Group Real Estate Services is pleased to announce that Kathie DeVeau has joined their team of Realtors. Kathie has been a resident of E. Haddam for 20+ years. She provides her knowledge and expertise of Lake and Shore properties. She continually strives to educate herself and her clients in Real Estate, and finds ways to provide her clients with excellent customer service so as to create a smooth transition when purchasing or selling their property. Her focus also extends to



first time home-buyers, Stepping up to a larger home or Downsizing for Seniors. The Cushing Group is located at 56 Plains Road, Essex, CT 06426, Kathie DeVeau can easily be reached at 860-305-6719.

Why all the fuss about children from birth to age 5?



Every year about 80 or 90 children enroll in our public kindergarten program at East Haddam Elementary School. These boys and girls enter the front doors with more than just new backpacks and crayons. Each child also enters with different strengths, weaknesses, skills and

needs. Some of this diversity is due to the normal differences in development, however, much of it depends on the experiences the child has had in the first five years of life. Current science has shown that these early life experiences actually influence brain development by establishing neural connections. These connections provide the foundation for language, reasoning, problem solving, social skills, behavior, and emotional health. Research shows that children who enter kindergarten "ready" are more likely to become economically productive and engaged citizens and those who do not are likely to continue struggling even into their later years. We can't wait. Success in school and later life begins before a child even enters a kindergarten classroom. Learn what the East Haddam Early Childhood Council is doing to support school readiness for children ages birth to 5 at http://www.ehyfs.org/Early_Childhood_Council.html.

East Haddam Garden Club News

Garden Club featured Speaker: Nancy Ballek MacKinnon. The next meeting of the East Haddam Garden Club, open to the public, will be Wednesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. (preceded by a members-only business meeting at 7 p.m.) at the East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus. The speaker will be club member Nancy Ballek Mackinnon of East Haddam, well-known to area



residents who visit Ballek's Garden Center on Maple Avenue. She also presents horticulture programs throughout Connecticut. The focus of her presentation will be "Conservation." Refreshments will be served.

Recent Club Projects

In November, members created an estimated 100 Thanksgiving arrangements for the East Haddam Food Bank. This is an annual club project requiring a lot of planning: members provide all the plant materials (mostly from their own gardens), as well as containers, decorations, etc.

Club members, in cooperation with the Economic Development Commission, decorated the Goodspeed Green for the holidays. The decorations in the planters at Shagbark triangle were also created by garden club members, who hope residents and visitors enjoyed both festive displays!

Club Information

The East Haddam Garden Club was established more than 80 years ago, and currently has 43 members. New members are always welcome! For more information about the EHGC, contact Betty Gross at (860) 873-8732.



Pictured creating Thanksgiving arrangements for the East Haddam Food Bank are East Haddam Garden Club members Berry Honore, Bonnie Zwernemann, Jane Zirlis, Nancy Borge, Susan Reiter, Lyn Cavanagb, Sbea Jezek, and Dora Lyman.

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Being Prepared for a Medical Emergency

From the East Haddam Ambulance Association

Any person, regardless of age, can experience medical emergencies. They can also occur at any time - often when you least expect it. The East Haddam ambulance crew, made up almost entirely of community volunteers, is ready 24/7 to respond to any such emergencies. They can provide temporary medical assistance and transportation to the nearest available hospital. But to be most effective, they need some advance preparation from you.

First, it is critical that the street number on your house be clearly visible. Go outside and check to see if your current house number is:

- · Large enough to be seen easily from the road
- Positioned so that it can be seen regardless of what direction your house is approached
- Posted by all entrances, particularly if there are entrances on different streets (for example, if your house is on a corner lot)
- Close enough to the road that it can be illuminated by headlights
- · Reflective or otherwise easily visible
- If your street number fails any of the above conditions,

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Visit us at www.nathanhalepharmacy.com PH: 860 873 1481 FAX: 860 873 2490 please purchase and post new numbers. Many members of the ambulance crew can recount stories of stumbling in the dark, sometimes in deep snow, knocking on doors at 3 in the morning trying to find a particular house. This kind of situation is what you want to avoid.

Second, make sure you have a list of current medications in an easy-to-find location in your house. Some people keep such lists posted on their refrigerators. Remember that in an emergency, the person who has this information could be unconscious or otherwise unable to provide this critical data to the emergency personnel. So make sure the information is written down and readily available.

If you fulfill these two simple conditions, it could make a difference between life and death.

Rathbun Memorial Library

Break the winter doldrums and come to the Rathbun Memorial Library as we host another WinterFest during the blustery weeks of winter:

WinterFest for Kids will kick off with a Fantasy Party on January 24 (snow date: January 31), 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Come dressed as your favorite princess, knight, fairy, elf or dragon! Snack and games planned. The CT Audubon Society will present Jan Brett's "The Mitten," with special guests Mr. Owl, Mrs. Bird and Ms. Gerbil, on February 15, 2:30 p.m.; other programs are planned for that week (tba). Later in April, several programs are planned for the Spring Break Week (April 9-13), so stay tuned for more details. The Children's Department will resume Storytimes in early January: Preschoolers Storytime on Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.; Baby Booktime on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.; and the American Girl Club will meet on January 11, February 1, March 7 and April 4, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Please pre-register for these programs by calling 860-873-8210.

WinterFest for Adults will include Java & Biscotti Evening Book Discussions (January 26; February 23, March 22), 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.; Focus On sessions that explore hot topics, such as coping with the credit card crunch, coupon-swap sites and more; Patron Tutorials for a variety of software programs, as well as One-on-One Tutorials; monthly Job & Career Assistance sessions (tba). Please check our blog at www.rathbunlibrary .blogspot.com, or friend us on Facebook for updates.

Don't forget to sign up for our Enewsletters, delivered right to your email inbox for quick information, links and news about upcoming programs at the Rathbun.

New Benches Grace Museum Entrance

Thanks to Ethan Damuck, East Haddam's Boy Scout Venture Crew #169, Troop #22, family and friends, visitors to the East Haddam Historical Society Museum now have outside benches for sitting, relaxing, and picnicking.

Ethan, who is working toward his Eagle Scout designation, designed, raised the necessary funds, organized the work crew, and built the five, splinter-free, all-weather benches.

The toughest part was setting the 6X6 pressure-treated piers. Medicine ball-sized rocks lay just below the ground's surface. Then there was the measuring, leveling, and adjusting of the various components. More than thirty individuals contributed labor over the course of the sunny Saturday, the oldest being Ethan's grandmother, Mary Flynn.

The Historical Society is deeply appreciative of Ethan's work and of all those who volunteer to make the Museum a vital part of the town's landscape.



1st row: Owen Dodd, Ellie Damuck, Ethan Damuck, Molly Dodd 2nd row: Trisba Damuck, Mary Flynn, Adam Lavoie, 3rd row: Evan Damuck, Eric Dodd, Steve Lavoie, Nic Damuck

Earth Day - April 7

Town-wide Clean-up and Picnic to follow!

The Moodus Sportsmen's Club, and the East Haddam Scout Troops are sponsoring the Annual Town Wide Clean Up Day to be held on Saturday, April 7. The goal of these organizations is to coordinate an annual effort to pick up the streets, lakes, streams, and other public access areas in the Town of East Haddam. Would your organization or individuals in your organization be willing to participate? We are still in search of families and groups to pick up sections of the streets in which they live. Is there a section of town that you or your group would like to take over the stewardship? Could you and your neighbors adopt a street?

We plan to start the pick-up at 8:00 a.m. If you wish to join our groups, meet us at the East Haddam Town Hall on Town Street at 8:00 a.m. or start from your own street. At the conclusion of this pick-up day, an invitation is extended to all participating to a picnic at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club starting at 12 noon to 1 p.m. Traditional picnic items such as hot dogs, baked beans, coffee and iced tea and lemonade will be served along with the seasonal bounty only a sportsmen's club could serve. At this time we can inventory the items collected and

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EAST HADDAM EVENTS IS MARCH 20 FOR APRIL ISSUE discuss solutions to reduce these problems. We also will have educational information about the Town's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities that are available to all.

MARK REEVES, BUILDER 860-388-3825

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The Master Gardeners' Corner

With streets lined with snow and ice and as we shiver with cold temperatures, it's unlikely any of us are thinking about planting a garden come Spring. But what better time to contemplate growing vegetables in our own gardens! If you've never had the joy of planting your own delicious veggies, now is the time to begin. It is amazing what rewards a few seeds or plants from your local garden store will provide.

To begin, make the decision to create a plot. Start small, with a few easy growing vegetables of your choice. Order seed catalogs from reputable seed companies and get a soil sample test kit from the Middlesex Cooperative Extension office. The easy-to-do soil test will tell you the condition of your soil and instruct you regarding soil needs for a great garden. To expand your garden knowledge, you can utilize the Internet or pick up a general gardening book. There are so many opportunities to learn what to do once you make a

RAY FFA Chapter Update

The FFA Chapter had a successful Welcome Back Barbeque in October. Deb Purdell, who retired this year, was honored at the barbeque. She had been an aide for the agriculture department for over 20 years. Mrs. Purdell will be missed, but we wish her a happy retirement!

During the months of November and December, FFA students; Nikki Gilgoski, Heather Johnson, Holly Pokrinchak, and Rebecca Pease went to an Advanced Leadership Conference at the University of Connecticut where they learned about leadership, environmental awareness, and diversity.

Kevin Sarrazin, Tyler Rand, Sam Ballek, and Jake Roczniak participated in the State FFA Forestry Career Development Event held at the University of Connecticut. Hannah Palmer, Nikki Gilgoski, Rebecca Pease, and Heather Kwasowski participated in the State FFA Floriculture Career Development Event.

FFA reporter, Dan Mather, Mrs. Matthewson and Mrs. Pease attended the East Haddam Conservation Commission monthly meeting and updated the committee on the FFA's progress on the trails at the Nichols property. The trails are ready and waiting to be used by the public.

A FFA wreath making night was held on December 8th with students and their families. Students held a potluck dinner prior to making the wreaths.

The FFA Chapter had a very successful fruit and wreath sale. We thank the community for all their continued support.

The chapter is preparing for future leadership training workshops, degree completions and public speaking contests in the spring! For more information, please visit rayffa.org.

commitment to planting a vegetable garden. If you wait until Spring to follow these steps, you might find yourself too busy for the preliminary research. Make it a family endeavor and everyone wins when you enjoy the delicious taste of your own home grown fresh vegetables. Always remember, you have help with all your garden needs from your Master Gardeners' office located at the UConn Extension office on Saybrook Road in Haddam, tel. 860-345-5235.

The effort of planting a seed today might grow into an exciting venture filled with new experiences and acquaintances. So, this winter, don't be a couch potato, prepare to plant potatoes instead. In the next *Events* issue, I'll be talking about all the opportunities with the local 'Farmers' Market' in East Haddam and how to eradicate 'invasive plants' on our property.

- Linda Stuhlman, Certified Master Gardener

Project Graduation 2012 Fundraisers

Nathan Hale-Ray High School

The NHRHS 2012 Project Graduation committee has planned a variety of exciting community events in order to finance a safe and entertaining all-night event for all graduating seniors. Our Winter fundraisers are:

Every Tuesday evening, Hilltop Barbecue Steak House is generously donating 10% of their dining room proceeds to Project Grad. Stop by, have a great meal and support the senior class of 2012.

Blingo! Play bingo, have fun and win stunning jewelry! Friday, February 24, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Our annual Surf & Turf Dinner will take place in the High School cafeteria in March. Prime rib & stuffed shrimp, beverages and dessert, expertly created by Jim Ventres. More information available soon. You may buy tickets in advance!

An ongoing fundraiser is our stunning blue and white glass Hale Ray Chamilia Bead. Perfect for your graduating senior or favorite teacher! See www.edline.net for an order form.

For more information on any/all these events, please visit: www.edline.net and use the dropdown menu under "Parents" and click on Project Graduation. NHRHS Project Graduation 2012 is affiliated with the East Haddam Youth and Family Services.

Rebecca Pease, RAY FFA Chapter Secretary

Hale-Ray Seniors Honored



Dr. Ellen Solek, Superintendent, Lydia Walter and Erin Bernard

Two of Nathan Hale-Ray High School's seniors were honored on November 28 at the annual Connecticut Association of School Superintendent Luncheon held at the Saybrook Point Inn. This prestigious award goes to two seniors who are selected from each school district in the Middlesex Shoreline area high schools. This year's Hale-Ray honorees are Erin Bernard and Lydia Walter (pictured above).

These students are selected by school staff and administrators based upon their high academic performance, significant community involvement and service, and participation in numerous extra-curricular clubs, sports, and other activities. Congratulations to both of these talented students and to their families on their accomplishments.

Senior News

January 23rd will be our annual "souper bowl party".

The annual blood drive will be held on January 26th from 12:30 to 6:00. We will be serving our "famous" homemade soup so make your appointment early.

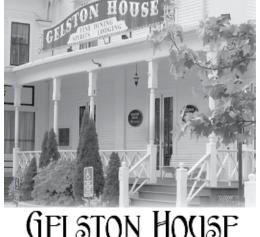
February 4th we will be having our second intergenerational dance class and dance. Professional dance instructors will give us a 1 hour lesson which will be followed by a dance. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the center. The event starts at 7:00 p.m.

Income tax help will be available at the center on February 15th, 22nd, 29th, March 7th and March 15th. Call early for an appointment.

March 11th is the annual pancake breakfast from 8-11. Chef Parker will again be doing the cooking.

March 16th is the St. Patrick's Day Corned beef lunch with entertainment. Reservations are REQUIRED for this event. A donation of \$5.00 is requested.

Be on the lookout for our 2nd annual Turkey dinner for the Park. The date to be announced. It will be dinner and a penny auction, so start collecting your change for a fun evening.



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HOURS: Monday thru Saturday ~ 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.



Town of East Haddam

7 Main Street ~ P.O. Box K East Haddam, CT 06423

Administrative Office Building

Fax: (1st floor) 860-873-5042, (2nd floor) 860-873-5025 Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Selectman's Office Mark B. Walter, First Selectman Linda Zemienieski, Administrative Assistant	860-873-5020	admin@easthaddam.org admin@easthaddam.org	
Assessor's Office Loreta Zdanys, Assessor Patty Veselak, Administrative Assistant	860-873-5026	assessor@easthaddam.org	
Building Department Keith Darin, Building Official Carolyn Hart, Administrative Assistant	860-873-5024	building.dept@easthaddam.org	
Chatham Health District Liz Davidson, Sanitarian	860-873-5101	liz.davidson@chathamhealth.org	
Finance Department Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Administrator Dawn Snow, Administrative Assistant Kathy Klinck, Treasurer	860-873-5022 860-873-5020 860-873-5022	financeadmin@easthaddam.org finance@easthaddam.org	
Land Use Offices Jim Ventres, Administrator Jim Puska, Zoning Enforcement Officer Janet Lombardo, Administrative Assistant	860-873-5031	admin.landuse@easthaddam.org zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org landuse@easthaddam.org	
Tax Collector's Office Denise Dill, Tax Collector Sharon Kuhn, Assistant Tax Collector	860-873-5033	taxcollector@easthaddam.org tax@easthaddam.org	
Town Clerk's Office Deb Denette, Town Clerk Beverly Christopher, Assistant Town Clerk	860-873-5027	townclerk@easthaddam.org	
	Works Departmen	t	
Tax: 000-073-0014 <u>Town Garage</u> - Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. <u>Transfer Station</u> - Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.			
Elizabeth Lunt, Public Works Administrator Richard Toolan, Public Works Superintendent Shirley Dill, Administrative Assistant Don MacKenzie, Transfer Station Foreman	860-873-5023 860-873-5030	pwadmin@easthaddam.org pwsuper@easthaddam.org publicworks@easthaddam.org	
Other Departments			
Don Angersola, Fire Marshal Tiffany Quinn, Parks & Recreation Director Michael Olzacki, Animal Control Officer Economic Development Coordinator Craig Mansfield, Emergency Management Director	860-873-5004 860-873-5058 860-873-5044 860-262-0347 860-873-5103	admin@easthaddam.org parkandrec@easthaddam.org animalcontrol@easthaddam.org edevcoordinator@easthaddam.org ehaddamemgmgt@easthaddam.org	
Resident State Troopers Jeff Rhoades	860-873-1226	police@easthaddam.org	
Probate Court Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate Linda Neal, Clerk	860-295-6239	Ineal@ctprobate.gov	
Registrars of Voters Holly Cummings & Laurie Alt Senior Services - 15 Great Hillwood Road	860-873-5029	registrars@easthaddam.org	

Joanne Roczniak, Municipal Agent 860-873-5034 seniors@easthaddam.org

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

Eagle Scout Project

My name is Randy Holmgren and I am a Boy Scout from Troop 22 East Haddam. My Eagle project is a war memorial for all the soldiers who lived in East Haddam/Moodus and were killed in combat from the Revolutionary War up to the present conflicts. This memorial will give those soldiers their due respect and will make sure that they will not be forgotten as protectors of our country. They will always be remembered. I am researching the names of these soldiers who may have been family to you. These names will be engraved on a piece of brass and bolted to a piece of granite that will be dedicated on the Moodus town green on Memorial Day, 2012. The total cost of this project is going to be around \$3,000. If you have any questions about this project or want to know more you can contact me at (860) 873-1570 or e-mail me at boloho@att.net. Donations are needed to finish this project. You can make your check out to Troop 22 East Haddam CT and mail it to Troop 22 War Memorial, P.O. Box 697, Moodus, CT 06469.

> Thank you for you generosity, Randy Holmgren

East Haddam/Moodus Little League Registration

East Haddam/Moodus Little League Registration for the 2012 Little League season will be held on Saturday, January 28th from 10 a.m. - 12 noon at Nathan Hale Ray High School in the Cafeteria. Mailing option: please be sure forms are properly filled out and that all forms are sent in. There is a \$15 discount for any registration filed and postmarked on or before January 28th 2012.

Children who will be between the ages of 5 - 16 as of April 30, 2012, for baseball or December 31, 2011 for softball, are eligible to play. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required for first-time registrants.

Registration forms will be sent home with children attending the Elementary and Middle Schools. We encourage you to attend Registration or mail in your registration forms quickly.

Registration forms will also be available on our website at www.eteamz.com/easthaddammoodus. It is EHMLL's policy that ALL children who desire to play are able to regardless of finances.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Bryan Perry 873-9240.

Second Intergenerational Ballroom Dance

Come and learn to dance like the stars! Swing, Foxtrot, Waltz, and more! Dance class instructor is from the Fred Astaire Studio of Glastonbury. Class at 7 p.m. and Dance at 8 p.m.

Dance to follow class at the East Haddam Senior Center 15 Great Hillwood Road, Moodus, CT

Saturday, February 4

Sponsored by the East Haddam Commission on Aging Tickets are \$10 and available at the Senior Center, from members of the Commission on Aging, and at the door.

For More information:

Call the Senior Center (860) 873-5034 Or Dr. John/Alexa Pagnani (860) 537-6679

Update from the Tax Collector's Office

The Tax Office would like to remind everyone that the second payment on Real Estate and Personal Property taxes is due January 1, 2012. To avoid interest, payment must be received on or before February 1, 2012. Motor Vehicle Supplemental bills were mailed in December and are also due January 1, 2012, payable by February 1, 2012. Payments can be made in person, by mail or on-line. To pay by mail, send to: Tax Collector, P.O. Box 376, East Haddam, CT 06423-0376. To pay on-line, go to easthaddam.org and click the link to "Pay Taxes Online".

This office is for the collection of taxes only. Any adjustments to your bill must be made by the Assessor. The Assessor can be reached at 860-873-5026 or assessor041@easathaddam.org.

You may contact the Tax Office at 860-873-5033 or tax-collector@easthaddam.org.

Denise Dill, Tax Collector



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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 7pm Friday 9am - 5pm Saturday 8am - 1pm

Check out our website: www.newimagesalon.org

The East Haddam Community Lions

The East Haddam Community Lions (EHCL) has had a high profile over the last few months with many of our members who are also part of the East Haddam Emergency Management Team providing countless volunteer hours supporting the town during the aftermath of "Irene", power outages and the search for East Haddam resident Robert Masci; as a result, it comes as no surprise to us that our club is growing; we have inducted six new members this year... we must be doing something right! Our members are proud to serve at the heart of this community. Our upcoming events include:

District Humanitarian of the Year: Nomination of a non-Lion Humanitarian of the Year from this town... Who would you have selected? Our membership's nomination was unanimous... but I'm not telling just yet as it is a surprise for the recipient who will be honored at a special celebration dinner in January where many of the 56 Lions Clubs from around the district honor their town's nominee, and the District Humanitarian of the Year is announced and honored. We know that our nominee is a worthy recipient and we will share with you all of their accomplishments when the presentations have been awarded.

Peace Poster Contest: For the past 20 years, the EHCL has sponsored the Lions Club International Peace Poster contest in our town; children from across the globe are invited to depict their vision of world-wide peace in a work of art that is based on a particular theme. The theme this year was "Children Know Peace". This year, students at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, under the guidance of art teacher Claudia Mazotta, submitted 78 posters. EHCL members chose the poster submitted by 8th grader, Bethany Powell; her poster was one of only 8 from around the district that met the criteria; and was judged to be the best entry submitted to the district. Her poster now moves to the next stage, the judging of the 3 district of CT winners; Bethany, her family and her art teacher will be invited to the join the Connecticut Lions for lunch at their Midwinter Conference in Farmington on February 4th when the State winner will be announced, we are all rooting for her. We wish to thank all the young people who participated in this year's contest and their teacher Claudia for their hard work and creativity. Learn more, go to www.lionsclubs.org and search "Peace Poster Contest".

Pediatric Eye Screening: The EHCL will be performing pediatric eye screening of pre-school children, ages 2 through 5, at their respective pre-schools in late March. Children not enrolled in a preschool can be screened through the Early Childhood Center in the Elementary School. This service is being offered free of charge by the Community Lions under the Lions Eye Health Program administered by the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation. Check our website www.ehcl.org for exact dates. The PediaVision scanner is capable of screening for



Peace Poster contest winner Betbany Powell (left) with runners-up Jeff Soboleski, Courtney Lanning and Nate Kiley. Lions Club representative Lion Linda Bradsbaw (back row, left) and NHRMS art teacher Claudia Mazotta presented the artists with their awards.

astigmatism, nearsightedness, farsightedness, lazy eye, misalignment of the eyes and pupil size anomalies in a 20 second scan. Nearly 20% of children between the ages of 2-5 are found to have a problem and need to be referred for treatment. The earlier the child's problem is diagnosed the chance to return to normal or near normal vision by age 7 is possible. Lions work world-wide to help the visually impaired and to eliminate preventable blindness by diagnosing and treating eye disease and diabetes. Local clubs schedule eye screenings, collect old eye glasses, sponsor diabetes clinics and do whatever they can to serve their communities. For further information, please contact Sherry at sllangan@comcast.net.

The 13th annual EHCL April Fools 5k & 10.5 mile Road Race: This will be held on Saturday, April 7. The race starts at the Nathan Hale-Ray High school at 10:00 a.m. Free t-shirts are given to the first 100 registrants; pre-registration is encouraged. The cost is \$15 prior to the event and \$20 the day of the race. More information and registration forms can be found at www.ehcl.org. We solicit sponsorship for this event; please contact us if you would like to help us.

East Haddam Leo's Club: (for 12-18 year olds) This collaborative effort between the town's 2 Lions clubs, came to fruition in September 2011. The club has 17 members, who have already been actively involved in fundraising activities, supporting the EH Lions club with sales of Christmas trees. More details of the LEO's can be found on page 3, and our website, www.ehcl.org. Applications for students ages 12-18 are also available in the high school, middle school, and the Haddam Free Public Library. This club offers the opportunity to participate in, and also initiate service projects in this community, building confidence, leadership skills, camaraderie and the satisfaction of "giving back", that are so vital is nurturing well rounded individuals.

Tree Planting Campaign: Lions Clubs International President this year has a goal to plant a million trees. the

Community Lions ... continued from previous page

mission statement (www.lionsclubs.org/treeplanting) is inspiring, as can be seen from the worldwide interest; in the first 3 months of the project, Lions had planted over 3.5 million trees. EHCL have also pledged to plant trees in our community and our Tree Planting Chairman is searching areas of town that can be helped by our project in April. We know our town has many, many trees but the judicious planting of certain trees can help prevent soil erosion near river beds, provide screening or shading to areas. If you know of any areas of public land that could benefit from this project please contact us through our website so we can add it for our considerations.

On behalf of the EHCL, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Town's residents and businesses for their generosity as we strive to improve the lives of those who are in need of our support.

> Lion John Bradshaw, President P.O. Box 328, East Haddam, CT 06423 www.ehcl.org

East Haddam Welcomes New and Incumbent Elected Officials

Several new faces joined some already familiar names in the town government after the November 8th elections. Mark Walter was re-elected as First Selectman; also re-elected to the Board of Selectmen was Emmett Lyman for his third term. John Blaschik joins the board as a Selectman for his first term. These three will be principally responsible for overseeing the affairs of town government and administration of its budget.

Deb Denette retained her position as Town Clerk, as did Kathy Klinck as Treasurer and Denise Dill as Tax Collector. Harvey Thomas will join returning members Bruce Dutch and Susan Link on the Board of Finance. Tracey Gionta was returned to the Board of Education, where she will join William Barney and Laurie Alt.

The Board of Assessment Appeals welcomes new member Justin Kennedy. New member Ed Gubbins and returning members Jim Curtin and Louis Salicrup will take their places on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Patrice Veselak, Barbara Kiley, Louise Pear, William Denny, Celina Nelan and John Bielot were elected to serve as Library Trustees.

The Town of East Haddam recognizes the service and dedication of all its citizens who put themselves forward for the demanding work of public office in our community.



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The Law Office of SCOTT W. JEZEK

Scott W. Jezek, Esq. Terrance D. Lomme, of Counsel

31 W.F. Palmer Road P.O. Box 376 Moodus, CT 06469

Tel: (860) 873-1449 Fax: (860) 873-1113 E-mail: swjezek@sbcglobal.net



Registrar of Voters News

On November 8, 2011, 2,548 voters of our 5,651 active registered voters, or 45%, voted in our Municipal election. The results in detail are posted on our East Haddam website.

At this time, our next scheduled vote, will be on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at the Nathan Hale-Ray High School for the Presidential Primary. (There will be another primary vote on August 14, 2012 for state federal positions).

Please be aware of the following calendar if you wish to vote in the Presidential Primary: If you are switching parties for the purpose of voting in a primary you must do so 3 months prior to the primary, or by January 24, 2012.

New voters, or current unaffiliated voters, may register up to noon of the day before the primary, or Monday, April 23, 2012. (Please note that a designation of Independent on your voter card, does not mean you are unaffiliated, an Independent is a registered minor party affiliation.)

Also, if you will be 18 years of age, by November 6, 2012, you may preregister in a political party, and vote in the presidential and federal office primaries of the party in which you registered.

It is important to check the East Haddam website regularly for Town meetings, and Referenda dates and times, as they become scheduled.

Please don't hesitate to call the registrars at 860 873 5029, and leave a message, or come to visit on Wednesdays between 1 and 4 p.m., if you have any questions or concerns about voting. Secretary of State's Office: Legislation and Elections Administration Division 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106 Mailing Address: Secretary of the State ATTN: LEAD PO Box 150470 Hartford, CT 06115-0470 Toll Free: 1-800-540-3764 Phone: 860-509-6100 Fax: 860-509-6127 Telephone Device for Hearing Impaired: 860-509-6191 Email: lead@ct.gov Business Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday Peggy Reeves, Assistant to the Secretary of the State for Elections, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs or, in East Haddam: Debra H. Denette, Town Clerk Beverly R. Christopher, Assistant Town Clerk PO Box K, 7 Main Street East Haddam, CT 06423 860-873-5027 phone 860-873-5042 fax Townclerk@easthaddam.org Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-4, Tuesday 9-7, Friday 9-12

Other resources for information are the Ct

Heartfelt Thanks from Ray of Light Farm

Through the generosity of patrons, business owners and the hard work of staff and volunteers, Ray of Light Farm continues to be a presence in your community.

2011 marks our fourth year of rescuing Premarin foals otherwise slated for slaughter. Eight foals were rescued and participated in a Gentling Clinic in November. Based upon Natural Horsemanship techniques, world-renown equine specialist Anna Twinney brought horses and humans to a closer understanding, paving the way for future adoptions.

Children of all ages thoroughly enjoyed our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Hoedown Showdown Fundraiser (and chili cook-off!), Not-So-Scary Halloween Hay Rides and Winter Wonderland events. For all those who participated, we are infinitely grateful and cannot do it without you!

Our instructional program continues to grow as does our relationship with Colchester Special Olympics. We expect to collaborate on several events in 2012 and beyond. Please log on to our website, www.rayoflight farm.org to learn more about upcoming events and programs.

Over the years, our animal population has become more and more diverse. From song birds and guinea pigs to turkeys, sheep, donkeys and horses; we love them all. They come to us with varied backgrounds and unique personalities. Ray of Light Farm welcomes visitors to visit with the animals six days a week (closed on Wednesdays) between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Ray of Light Farm, Inc. A non-profit 501(c)3 public charity 232 Town Street East Haddam, CT 860-873-1895/www.rayoflightfarm.org

Storm Preparation Tips

As we have learned over the past few months, there is a need to be prepared for all kinds of weather emergencies from tropical to winter storms. While the dangers from these storms vary based on time of year there are things we should be doing to prepare ourselves for a storm anytime of the year.

Develop a Family Emergency Plan - Your family may not be together when a storm occurs, so you need to develop an emergency plan for your family in advance. Discuss how your family will contact one another or where you will meet in different situations. It may be easiest to designate a friend or relative that lives out of the area for each family member to contact in the event of an emergency. This person can then help communicate among separated family members. Be sure each person knows the phone number of the emergency contact.

Create an Emergency Kit - Be sure you have a simple storm emergency kit easily accessible when you are preparing to shelter from a storm. Residents should store enough supplies and be prepared to shelter in place for 72 hours. Consider storing some of these items in advance in a plastic tote or similar sealed container:

Flashlight with extra batteries Candles & matches/lighter Bottled water (one gallon per person per day) First-aid kit Spare cell phone charger Battery-powered or hand crank radio / TV with extra batteries Necessary prescriptions / medications Canned, ready-to-eat meats, fruits/vegetables; energy bars (3 day supply per person) Non-electric Can opener Paper and pencil/pen Important paperwork / Documentation (medical information, ID, etc) Cash and change Paper and sanitation products including toilet paper and plastic bags with ties Soap and disinfectant

Blankets or sleeping bags for each person Special-needs items, such as diapers, formula, contact lens supplies, glasses, etc.

Food, water, medications, leash and carrier for pets

Stay informed of Approaching Storms - In our world of technology, the National Weather Service and our local media are able to provide us with adequate warning in most cases of an approaching weather situation. It is our responsibility to continue to monitor the media and heed the watches and warnings as they are issued. Additionally, residents should enroll in the East Haddam Alerts system to receive local alerts and information before and during weather emergencies. By enrolling in the system you can receive messages to your cell phone, email or any other phone numbers you choose. Residents can sign up for the East Haddam Alerts system by visiting the main page of the Town of East Haddam Website at www.easthaddam.org and clicking on the enrollment link.

For additional information on preparing for all types of emergencies visit the FEMA website at www.ready.gov, call the East Haddam Emergency Management Department at 860-873-5103, or email us at

ehaddamemgmgt@easthaddam.org.

Submitted by Craig Mansfield Emergency Management Director





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East Haddam Newcomers' Guide

WELCOME TO OUR TOWN!

On behalf of Events Magazines, welcome to East Haddam. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just to East Haddam, you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town. Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference. Events Magazines and Essex Printing support local businesses.

Please use this guide and "Buy Local"

CHURCHES

Christ Community Church860-87	73-1187
First Church of Christ Congregational860-87	73-9084
Hadlyme Congregational Church860-52	26-9628
My Father's House	73-1906
St. Bridget's of Kildare	73-8623
St. Stephen's Episcopal860-87	73-9547
Moodus United Methodist860-87	73-8491

CILIRS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion	860-873-8042
Boy Scout Troop 22	860-873-1098
Cub Scouts Pack #28	860-873-1872
East Haddam Ambulance Assoc	860-790-0575
East Haddam Community Lions Club	860-873-9282
East Haddam Lions Club	860-873-2822
East Haddam Democratic Town Committee	860-873-3787
Fast Haddam Education Foundation	

www.eheducationfoundation.org
East Haddam Free Public Library
East Haddam Garden Club860-873-8732
East Haddam Lakes Association
East Haddam Republican Town Committee860-873-9240
Friends of Gillette Castle State Park
Friends of Rathbun Library860-873-8310
Rathbun Library
Friends of East Haddam Public Library
Hadlyme North School Society
P.O. Box 328 Hadlyme CT 06439
Middlesex County Community Foundation
Moodus Fife & Drum860-873-8837
Rotary Club of East Haddam860-873-2284
St. Bridgets of Kildare Knights of Columbus Council 9358

EAST HADDAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT www.easthaddam.org

CONSUMER PROTECTION	860-566-2294
CT STATE LEGISLATORS	
Linda Orange	
Eileen Daily	860-399-7342
East Haddam Senior Center	
Youth and Family Services	
,	

SCHOOLS

East Haddam Elementary	860-873-5076
Nathan Hale-Ray High School	860-873-5065
Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School	860-873-5081
Superintendent	860-873-5090

MUSEUMS & ATTRACTIONS

East Haddam Historical Society	
Nathan Hale School House	
Amasa Day House	
PARKS	
Devil's Hopvard State Park	

Gillette Castle State Park	
POST OFFICES	
East Haddam	
Moodus	
Hadlyme	

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

AUTO BODY

Eddie's Auto Body Specialists

ATTORNEYS

Polito & Quinn, LL	C860-447-3300
Peter Charbonnier	

BANKING

Liberty Bank 29 W.F. Palmer Rd., Moodus

BUILDER Mark Reeves......860-388-3825

CAMPS

Bushy Hill Nature Center

Pequot Sherwood Day Camp

CRUISES

RiverQuest860-662-0577

DENTIST **Higganum Dental Associates**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

.....www.EastHaddam.org

FLORIST Village Florist860-345-3658

GENERAL CONTRACTING R.A. Parady & Sons, Inc.1-800-569-1440

HOSPITAL Middlesex Hospital

.....1-855-643-6271 Or visitwww.middlesexhospital.org KENNEL New Inn Kennels, LLC860-873-8149

OIL COMPANIES Moroni & Son860-388-2298

PACKAGE STORE Moodus Package Store

PHARMACY Nathan Hale Pharmacy860-873-1481

PODIATRIST Haddam Foot Care Specialists

PRINTING Essex Printing Company....860-767-9087

REALTY

Century 21 Root Agency Coldwell Banker / Dee Hasuly

RESTAURANT

RETIREMENT LIVING The Saybrook at Haddam

SALON

New Image Salon	860-873-3494
salon154	860.322.4448

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Budget B	linds	.860-399-6442
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YMCA

Valley Shore Y860-399-9622

East Haddam Free Public Library

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In addition to free books, movies, magazines, and more, the library offers printing, photocopies, and faxing at the lowest prices in town. We also have free Wi-Fi, and seven public computers equipped with the latest Microsoft & Microsoft Office software.

Did we mention Video Games? Starting this spring, EHFPL will have games for the Nintendo Wii with PlayStation and Xbox games soon to follow!

Don't forget about all the wonderful events available at Your Friendly Neighborhood Library. Below is only a handful of what's going on:

Leap Year Amnesty Day: Got late fines? February 29th is your lucky day. Instead of paying fees, simply return your late items, make a small donation, and all is forgiven. All day, Wednesday, February 29.

Climate Change: Join noted expert, Professor Laurence Davis, Ph.D., and learn the truth about our changing climate. Monday, March 12 at 6:00 - 7:00.

Duck Day: Meet everyone's favorite web footed friends, and library mascots – Driveby Duck and Guthrie Duck (no relation). Learn all about the ducks and the things they do with Wildlife Expert Maureen Heidtmann. Friday, March 23 at 4:30 - 5:30.



Turtle Time: Meet real live turtles! What's the difference between a Turtle and a Tortoise? What do turtles eat for breakfast? Why aren't turtles in such a hurry? Find out the answer to these questions and more on Friday, April 27 at 4:30 - 5:30.

Visit the library's blog (http://blogspot.ehfpl.org) for our complete offerings including book clubs, video games, writing groups, story times, and more!

Friends of East Haddam Free Public Library

What are friends for? The Friends of the East Haddam Library are the fundraisers-in-chief for the East Haddam Library. The Friends provide the library with the support it needs to host the best programs, as well as purchase books, DVDs, and video games for the collection.

In December, the Friends hosted Mrs. Claus during the annual Family Night on Moodus Green holiday event. The event was attended by over 300 citizens, and toy gifts were gladly given to gleeful grade-schoolers. The Friends would like to thank German Toymaker Schleich for donating hundreds of dollars' worth of collectibles for the event.

The Friends would like to give a giant THANK YOU to all the wonderful patrons and businesses who have donated to their cause. Thanks for making East Haddam a better place!

The Friends of the Library meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6:00-7:00 at the East Haddam Free Public Library. Join and be a Friend.



A Visit with Mrs. Claus

Nonprofit Organizations Invited



All Nonprofit Organizations Invited to Post Volunteer Opportunities to Free Online Matching System

Middlesex United Way

Middlesex County, CT – 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 perfect organization and cause to donate their time to and truly make a difference.

"Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is proud to be a partner with Middlesex United Way Volunteer Solutions" said Jack



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

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, email Matt at matt.plourde@middlesexunitedway.org or call 860.346.8695.

Middlesex United Way is advancing the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income, health and housing – the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way recruits people and organizations that bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. You are invited to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. That's what it means to Live United.

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.



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Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

Temporary Family Assistance is the name for the cash assistance program for basic and special needs which are paid to recipients of Jobs First. This replaced what was known as the AFDC program.

Previous welfare programs provided little incentive to find employment as most earnings (after some small disregards) were deducted from the cash benefit. Recipients were not allowed to have or accumulate any savings to plan for future emergencies. Jobs First was designed to reward work by providing incentives to self-support. The program is intended to be transitional assistance and to supply individuals with the tools they need to become self-supporting within twentyone months.

Under Jobs First, recipients who get a job are allowed to keep all earnings up to the Federal Poverty Level as well as their cash assistance for the remainder of the 21 months. They are also eligible to receive medical assistance, child care and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Formally Food Stamp Program). Child support payments from an absent parent are sent directly to recipients and all but \$50 is counted as income to calculate the amount of their public assistance grant.

To provide for future emergencies, recipients are allowed to have up to \$3000 in a bank account. All life insurance policies and pension plans are excluded, and bonds are excluded as long as the combined face value of all bonds owned by the assistance unit are less than \$1,000.

Understanding the need to have reliable transportation for work, one non-luxury car, with an equity value up to \$9500, is excluded from consideration in determining eligibility for assistance.

Other program simplifications have been instituted to allow workers to concentrate their efforts on helping recipients to become employed and eventually self-supporting.

> Department of Social Services 25 Sigourney Street Hartford, CT 06106-5033 Toll-Free: 800-842-1508



Winter Heating Safety Tips

Staying Warm in an Unheated House

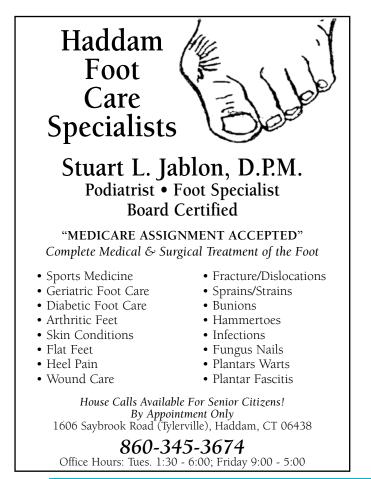
During severe winter storms, your home heating system could be inoperative for as long as several days. To minimize discomfort and possible health problems during this time, conserve body heat by dressing warmly; find or improvise an alternative heat source, such as a fireplace or electric space heater; confine heating to a single room; and keep safety a foremost consideration. While chances of freezing to death in your home are small, there's a greater danger of death by fire, lack of oxygen or carbon monoxide poisoning.

Think "Safety First"

Safety is critical in a heating emergency. Follow these precautions:

 \cdot Do not burn anything larger than candles inside your home without providing good ventilation to the outside.

• Any type of heater (except electric) should be vented. Connect the stove pipe to a chimney flue if at all possible. (Many older homes have capped pipe thimbles in rooms once heated by stoves.) Or hook up your stove to the flue entrance of the non-functioning furnace pipe. If no other alternative exists consider extending a stove pipe through a window. Replace the window glass with a metal sheet and run the temporary stove pipe through the metal.



• If you chose a catalytic or unvented heater, cross-ventilate: open a window an inch on each side of the room. It is better to let in some cold air than to run the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

• Do not use a gas or electric oven or surface units for heating. A gas oven may go out or not burn well, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning. An electric oven is not designed for space heating.

 \cdot Do not burn outdoor barbecue materials such as charcoal briquettes inside - even in a fireplace.

• Do not try to use bottled gas in natural gas appliances unless you have converted the appliances for such use. Also, flues and piping made for gas-burning appliances may be unsafe for use with higher-temperature oil, coal or wood smoke.

• Have one person watch for fire whenever an alternative heat source is used. One person should also stay awake to watch for fire and make sure ventilation is OK. If you feel drowsy or have a headache, it may be a sign of poor ventilation.

• All homes should have battery-operated smoke and CO (carbon monoxide) detectors with alarms installed. Check batteries regularly.

• Keep firefighting materials on-hand. These include: dry powder fire extinguishers, a tarp or heavy blanket, sand, salt, baking soda, and water.

Conserve Body Heat

Put on extra clothing. If cold is severe, your bed may be the warmest place. Use extra blankets and coverings to trap body heat; this is an especially good way to keep children warm. Farm families might consider taking refuge in a warm livestock barn.

Find or Improvise an Alternative Heat Source

You may have alternative heating resources around your home. Possibilities include:

- · fireplace, space heater, catalytic camp stove
- wood, gas or oil heater
- · gas-fired hot water heater

Make sure you have a backup plan if you can't find a safe way to stay warm. Staying with relatives or going to a designated shelter might be an option.

Provide Fuel

Some common materials that could be used for fuel in an emergency include:

- · firewood, newspapers, magazines
- kerosene
- woodchips, straw, corncobs

You can burn coal in a fireplace or stove if you make a grate to hold it, and allow air to circulate underneath. "Hard-ware cloth" screening placed on a standard wood grate will keep coal from falling through.

Continued on next page

Heating Safety Tips ... continued from previous page

Tightly rolled newspapers and magazines can be used as paper "logs." Stack them as you would firewood to allow for air circulation. If the heating situation becomes critical, consider burning wood, including lumber and furniture.

Select a Room to be Heated

Close off all rooms except the one to be heated. When choosing a room, consider the following:

 \cdot If you're using a vented stove or space heater, select a room with a stove or chimney flue.

 \cdot Confine emergency heat to a small area.

• Choose a room on the "warm" side of the house, away from prevailing winds. Avoid rooms with large windows or uninsulated walls. Interior bathrooms probably have the lowest air leakage and heat loss. Your basement may be a warm place in cold weather because the earth acts as insulation and cuts heat loss.

· Isolate the room from the rest of the house by keeping doors closed, hanging bedding or heavy drapes over doorways, or putting up temporary partitions of cardboard or plywood.

Courtesy of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension www.ct.gov

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Score in the "Paper Bowl"

Help the Moodus United Methodist score in the annual Spring "Paper Bowl" on the fourth Sunday of April (April 22)!

The church is always in need of copy paper (white and color), to publish the monthly newsletter as well as the meeting notes. The church can forever use postage stamps (needed when the previously mentioned newsletter is mailed

and to send payment for bills), everyday napkins, paper plates, cups, and bowls. Donations are tax deductible and are accepted anytime, and are always greatly appreciated and immediately put to use.

Thank you, to all, for your previous donations. Please call the church at 860 873-8481 if you have any questions.

New 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 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" (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 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.

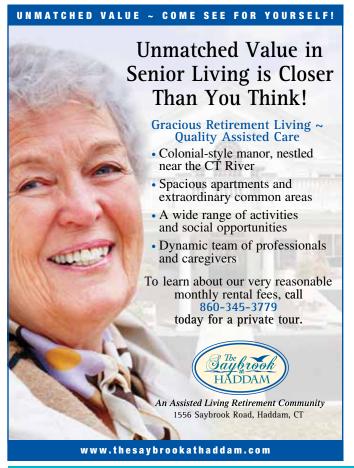
Kathy Ryan is executive director of The Saybrook at Haddam, (www.thesaybrookathaddam.com), a 74-apartment assisted living retirement community located in the heart of the Connecticut River Valley region. The community provides independent retirement living services as well as assisted living services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

> By Kathy Ryan Executive Director, The Saybrook at Haddam

High School Music Department

The Nathan Hale-Ray High School Music Department has been celebrating outstanding student achievement in the Music Program this year. It began with *Hale-Ray the Musical* in October, which was a musical rendition of life at our high school. The show even included an appearance by our Baseball Coach, Mr. Gable! The concert was the conclusion of a wonderful community evening of Fall Festival events that included a Music Booster sponsored taco dinner (artfully prepared by Chef Jim Ventres), a Tri-M Music Honor Society sponsored haunted walk, moon bounce, coloring table, guitar hero, and Halloween costume parade and much more. Many school clubs and organizations participated in sponsoring activities that helped fundraise for their membership.

Upcoming concerts will be the Jazz Band Concert in January, and the Chamber Music Concert at the Goodspeed Opera House on February 6 and 7 (tickets will be \$5.00 at the door). The free Spring Concerts will be at the high school on May 15 and 22nd. Watch the newspapers, Fishwrapper, and the Patch for more information and updates about these, and more, exciting high school music events.







happy new year!

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