

Essex



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Volume 18 • Quarter 1 • 2014



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Resident Mae Gaudio with her son Bud, and wife Marge.

This winter, we have peace of mind knowing Mom has the comfort and care she deserves.

Mom is enjoying her new home at The Saybrook at Haddam, the region's premier assisted living and retirement community. Mom's days are filled with social activities, cultural events, and great meals, which she enjoys with friends and family.

We know Mom is receiving the care she needs because we worked with the nurses and caregivers to prepare her individualized care plan. Her apartment is large and bright, she's getting lots of exercise, and she's baking again in the Country Kitchen.

And with so much included in the monthly fee, we know she's getting unmatched value with quality care. Also featuring *Safe Harbor*, a special care program for residents with Alzheimer's or dementia.




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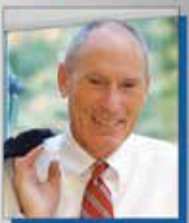
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Rachel Thomas



860.767.8635

5 Essex Square, Essex, CT 06426

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Ivoryton: NEW PRICE! New England four bedroom Colonial. Custom quality built home, one owner 42 years. Four bedrooms, 3 1/2 bath, 4 FPs. Huge Sunroom, 3 car detached garage with office above. Tranquil setting overlooking babbling brook and pond. Attached legal apartment with living room with FP, bedroom and kitchen. Room for the whole family. Situated on 2.9 acres \$330,000 Joann Stone 860-767-8635 x 24



Centerbrook: Classic Cape Cod. Delightful 3 bedroom home with first floor master, screened porch, detached garage and central A/C. Located on a charming side street of comparable properties. Bright and cheery and lovingly cared for. Make this your forever home. \$319,500 Joann Stone 860-767-8635 x 24



Waterford: Exceptional. Originally built as a summer estate in a family compound. Located on 2 pastoral acres in a highly prized area. Extensive outdoor living space including 3 covered porches as well as 2 patios. The interior includes 4 bedrooms, all wood flooring throughout, 2 fireplaces and large gourmet kitchen. Private beach rights included. \$675,000 Maureen & John O'Grady 860-767-8625 x 16



Essex: Quintessentially New England. Located on a quiet Village lane close to shops, galleries, museum, and restaurants this ca. 1800's Cape Cod style home has been lovingly maintained and updated throughout time. Three bedrooms, 3 baths and 3 fireplaces. New kitchen and wonderful enclosed wrap around porch in rear overlooking specimen plantings, and stone patio. \$499,000 Maureen & John O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Essex: Compound ca. 1766 David Williams Homestead. Private compound of guest houses and office. Located on 1.16 acres of prime real estate the main home features 3 bedrooms, 3 fireplaces and 2 baths. A stunning example of original antiquity. Multiple "cottages" dot the grounds including a large barn with 3 garage bays and a wonderful workshop/studio. \$699,000 Maureen & John O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



East Hampton: This Iconic home is being offered for the 1st time in 57 years. Lovingly maintained throughout the years. Original charm intact from glass door knobs to bead board in fabulous 2-story barn. 4 Bedrooms, 3.1 baths. Perfect for in-home business or in-law situation. Wood flooring throughout, 2 fireplaces, oil heat and central A/C are just a few of the amenities in this much admired executive home. \$359,000. Maureen & John O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16



Guilford: Waterfront! Rooms with a view: Contemporary cottage on serene Lake Quonnipaug. Redone from studs in, and "sealed" for economy. First floor windows and sliders with thermal blinds surround this two bedroom 1 and 1/2 bath waterfront home. Hardwood floors with step-up tiled sunroom off living room with fireplace. Master bedroom has walk-in closet and en suite bath. First floor laundry. Two car detached garage. Wraparound decks access gravel path gardens and stone stairway to lake. Curved dock over water ends in quaint gazebo. Think Golden Pond. \$629,000 Deb Pach 860-767-8635 x 20



Waterford: Move right into this pristine ranch on nice street. Totally updated with new windows, newer roof, central air, and central vac. Hardwood floors throughout. Clean dry basement and 1 car garage. Wonderful large yard. \$214,900 Call Deb at 860-608-7199



Chester: Gorgeous piece of property in a great location. Pastoral 2 acre building lot with a large barn, new 4 bedroom, septic, new well, and 200 amp underground service. The shell of the original home is standing and can easily be reconstructed or build something new. \$189,000 Maureen & John O'Grady 860-767-8635 x 16

rachelthomas.com

First Selectman's Corner

Dear Essex Friends & Neighbors,

This year the Town is honored to dedicate the 2012-2013 Annual Report to Mr. John Schumacher. John not only has devoted many years working at the Town Hall keeping it tidy, safe, and inviting for all – but is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. You can read more about John in the Town's Annual Report. We thank John for all his years of service to this Town and our country.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude, both personally and on behalf of the Town, to several of our fellow Townspeople who are retiring from Town service this year. Robert Dixon – Treasurer (10 years), Francis Nolin – Town Clerk (15 years), and Keith Nolin – Building Official (9 years). Each of these individuals has been committed public servants and has provided the community with many years of skills and experience. The Town will miss their dedication and professional contributions. They have all worked hard to move the Town forward in their respective areas of responsibility.

We also welcome several others to their newly elected roles with the Town: Bruce Glowac will once again be serving the Town as a Selectman. James Francis will step into the role of Town Treasurer after serving on the Board of Finance. Joel Marzi, a former Selectman, will be taking over the duties of the Town Clerk in early January. The Town has also recently appointed David DeLeeuw as the Building Official.

The Town formed a Building Committee for 2013/14. This Building Committee will prepare and present a report of the Town's capital needs in preparation for a 2014 Bond issue. Areas of focus are: Town infrastructure (including bridges), Essex Elementary School roof, and Town Hall renovations. Selectman Glowac will be assisted in this work by Leigh Rankin



First Selectman Norm Needleman

continued on page 10

Stay Informed

Signing up for the Essex News e-mail list will provide you with information and updates on events from the First Selectman's Office. (Your address will be used solely for this purpose.) To add yourself to the list, email your contact information to essexnews@essexct.gov with the subject **Town Email List**.

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Page Taft

RealLiving



Delightfully designed custom Contemporary in a lovely Essex village setting. Open living spaces, granite Kitchen, great loft area. Just steps to river access. Walk to shopping and restaurants.
\$749,900
Gigi Giordano Taylor, x13



Barn-style Cape in Essex with spacious open floor plan. Sun-drenched rooms, 3 BRs, 2.1 baths, FR w/fpl. Private village setting. Short walk to restaurants, shopping and marinas.
\$695,000
Joe Votto, 203-868-1879



Beautifully maintained Essex Contemporary. 3 bedrooms 2.1 baths, first floor Master, Living Room with vaulted ceilings, skylights, gable-end windows w/ever changing light patterns.
\$559,000
Barbie Bryant, x22



Cozy Essex Cape with views of Sunset Pond. Wonderful studio/Great room with fireplace. Convenient in-law suite. Private setting. Short walk to village, restaurants, shopping and marinas.
\$345,000.
Mick Marsden, x38

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TOTAL SALES: \$47,436,500

2013 Connecticut Sales \$29,686,500 2013 Rhode Island Sales \$17,750,000



330 Watrous Point, Old Saybrook \$3,700,000



40 Watrous Point, Old Saybrook \$3,450,000



2 & 6 Red Bird Trail, Old Saybrook \$3,200,000



150 Joshuatown Road, Lyme \$2,165,000



8 Catbriar, Old Lyme \$1,995,000



7 Little Point Street, Essex \$1,950,000



51 River Road, Essex \$1,950,000



Riverview Street, Essex \$1,150,000



183 Joshuatown Road, Lyme \$995,000



11 Riverview Street, Essex \$930,000



1 Mill Pond, Old Lyme \$795,000*



21 River Road, Essex \$779,000



105 North Main Street, Essex \$775,000



40 Main Street, Essex \$749,000*



4 Turnstone, Essex \$735,000



15 Gould Lane, Old Lyme \$695,000*

* Indicates representation of both buyer(s) and seller(s)

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226 Hamburg Road, Lyme \$695,000*



75 Pinnacle Lane, Chester \$614,000



4 Otterbrook Drive, Old Saybrook \$599,000



10 Hamburg Road, East Haddam \$575,000



3 Lookout Hill, Essex \$535,000



47 South Main Street, Essex \$499,000



99 Sill Lane, Old Lyme \$450,000



25 Partridge Lane, Essex \$469,900

* Indicates representation of both buyer(s) and seller(s)

With thanks to our wonderful and loyal clients, we experienced a remarkably successful 2013 and we continue to be optimistic as we move into 2014! If you have been waiting to enter the real estate market, let our winning team help you take your first step to realizing your dream. We offer comprehensive service and experience for both prospective purchases or sales.



Please join our award-winning team as we set ever higher goals for 2014.

Jennifer Caulfield
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Jane Macy Pfeffer
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Jpfeffer@wpsir.com

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COMMANDING VIEWS

Essex: Commanding views of North Cove, the CT River and Essex marinas from this historic Main Street home completely renovated in 2008. Dream kitchen/great room, 3BRs, 3.1 baths. Master suite w/balcony, walk-in closet, spacious master bath.
MLS: M9144638 \$1,500,000
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



ICONIC VILLAGE LANDMARK

Essex: Water views from this iconic Essex Village landmark! Offering the best of both eras; character preserved and updated with spacious prof. cooks kitchen, library, FR & LR w/fpls, master suite w/fpl, 3-car garage, in-law suite, screened porch, C/A.
MLS: M9144045 \$1,495,000
Kathy Shannehan 203.247.0020



TRULY UNIQUE

Essex: Light & Power building c.1905 completely remodeled in 2007. A truly unique and fascinating mixed-use residential and commercial property with spectacular water views in the heart of Essex village. Balconies, tower room, patios, generator.
MLS: M9144529 \$1,200,000
Rick Weiner 860.227.3191



CUSTOM BUILT HOME

Essex: Sited on beautifully landscaped lot, this fabulous, like new home features impeccably done open floor plan with large bright interior living spaces as well as screened porch and large deck to include the outside as a comfortable living space.
\$624,000
John Garufi 860.510.6804

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EXPANDED CAPE

Essex: This fully renovated and expanded cape offers an exciting open floor plan, perfect for today's living. Superior craftsmanship coupled with the excellent use of stone, wood, and glass has created a dramatic home in a traditional facade.
M9134488 \$624,000
Jennifer & Jane Associates 860.227.6634



PRIVATE VILLAGE COLONIAL

Essex: Lovely LR w/fpl & built-ins. Spacious kitchen w/granite & stainless. Formal DR. First floor study & mudroom. Bonus room up & lower level FR with half bath. Quick walk to town, shops and CT River.
MLS: M9143612 \$524,500
Kathy Scheilens 860.395.4441



CAPE COD GEM

Ivoryton: Remodeled Cape Cod gem on 1.45 acres! Open floor plan, cathedral LR with fireplace & skylight, kitchen w/ granite, breakfast bar & SS appliances, remodeled baths, 1st floor MBR w/walk-in closet. Central air. Newly painted inside & out. Move right in!
MLS: M9144470 \$298,000
Sydney Anderson 860.510.3449



HERITAGE COVE

Essex: Drop dead water views from this recently refurbished ranch. Footsteps to the dock to launch your canoe or kayak and a short walk to the pool. Easy access to Essex Village, shopping and highways.
MLS: M9144691 \$218,000
Linda Hicks 860.391.1269

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Fenwick - \$3,150,000

SOLD



Fenwick - \$2,850,000

SOLD



Essex - \$1,250,000

SOLD



Old Lyme - \$775,000

SOLD



Haddam - \$650,000

SOLD



Essex - \$589,000

LISTED & SOLD



Deep River - \$595,000

SOLD



Essex - \$535,000

SOLD



Madison - \$429,000

SOLD



Lyme - \$415,000

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East Haddam - \$285,000



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Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut is Connecticut's leading source of information for the thousands of people who have epilepsy. Founded in 1982, the Foundation works to ensure that people with epilepsy are able to participate in all life experiences through information, education, recreation, advocacy and support.

"There are approximately 60,000 people in Connecticut who have epilepsy and an estimated 50,000,000 worldwide. Epilepsy is the most common neurological disorder in the United States and is equal in prevalence to cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease combined," said Linda Wallace, Executive Director.

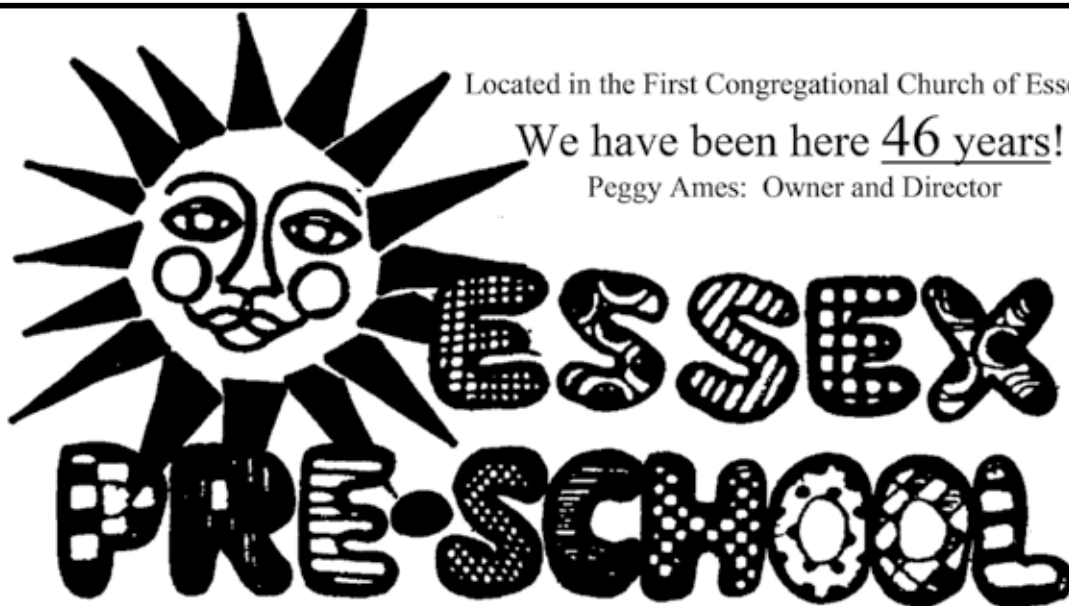
A seizure is an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain. Seizures can be caused by head injuries, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumors and other health condition. People often think of seizures only as jerking and shaking uncontrollably; however, not all seizures are convulsions. There are many different symptoms of seizures, which can include eye fluttering, staring and laughing. Recurring seizures can be a sign of epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut has many programs to offer those living with epilepsy. In particular, we offer 7 support groups throughout the state. Those interested in attending meetings are asked to please RSVP, to the Epilepsy Foundation

of Connecticut by calling 800-899-3745 or emailing Allison at Allison@epilepsyct.com. For more information visit <http://www.epilepsyct.com> or call 800-899-3745. Offices are located at 386 Main Street, Middletown, CT.

Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a network library of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. We lend books and magazines in recorded formats along with the necessary playback equipment, and materials in braille, for FREE, to any Connecticut adult or child who is unable to read regular print due to a visual or physical disability. Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am-3 pm, Rocky Hill 860-721-2020. In-state: 1-800-842-4516. www.ct.gov



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• *Selectman's Corner continued from page 3* •

(current member of the Sanitary Waste Commission and the Water Pollution Control Authority) and Kelly Sterner, Finance Director. A presentation of the Committee's recommendation to the Town is expected to occur in the Spring, 2014. The exact dates will be communicated when decided.

I am excited to tell you that the Town saw tremendous achievement on its Essex Civic Campus Enhancement this year. Come by and see the renovated parking lot, handicapped parking, sidewalks, cross walks, and park playscape. The Town is on schedule to complete the remaining work by Spring, 2014: reinstalling tennis courts, project lighting, and landscaping.

The Town was awarded a grant by the State of Connecticut in September to enhance Ivoryton Village's Main Street: the Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) grant. MSIF will fund work to enhance a shared "Village Center" around Main, Ivory and Summit Streets. MSIF will focus primarily on funding infrastructure work such as: intersection improvements (Summit Street and Main Street) and the installation and renovation of cross walks. The Town will continue to assess other improvements that may be identified to help in the continued renewal of Ivoryton as a robust economic center.

The annual work of preparing the Town's 2014/2015 budget has already begun. The Town's goal is to continue to meet the needs and expectations of our residents while seeing as little increase in spending as possible. Town schools, boards, commissions, and departments will soon begin compiling and submitting their requests. The schedule of budget meetings has been posted on the Town website. The budget meetings are public meetings and as members of the Town you are encouraged to attend. The Board of Finance has overall responsibility for the budget process and will submit a final budget to a Town meeting, currently scheduled for May 12, 2014, for the approval of Town residents.

On behalf of all of us here working to serve you at the Town Hall, our sincere wishes that the New Year brings you much health and happiness.

All my best,

Norman Needleman, First Selectman

Attention Seniors

It is again time to file for the Homeowner's Tax Credit Program. The filing period begins on February 1st and goes through May 15th. If you or anyone you know is 65 years old or older and had an annual income in 2013 of \$34,100 (for singles) and \$41,600 (for couples) you may be eligible for this program

You may call the Assessor's Office at (860) 767-4340, Ext. 123 for more detailed information and to see if you qualify.

Town Clerk's Office

Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

- Richard & Margaret Whitehead**, 37 Donald Road, Essex
Jared & Kristen Coles, 20 Curiosity Lane, Essex
Carol Knuth, 59 Dennison Road, Essex
Michael Baskin, 25 Partridge Hill Lane, Essex
Jason T. Raney & Nicole M. Cambria, 16 Mill Road, Essex
Paige E. Lescure, 36 Mack Lane, Essex
Christopher South & Lorraine Carbonaro, 70 Lynn Road, Ivoryton
Leif & Kristen Owens, 21 New City Street, Essex
Andrew J. & Lauren J. Keating, 14 Mitchel Terrace, Ivoryton
Daryl Baker & Karen Thomas, 52 Pond Meadow Road, Ivoryton
Jes Hupkau, 25 Heron Pond Road, Essex
Brian Isacson, 17 Parker Terrace, Essex
Edward Tedeschi, 9 Book Hill Road, Essex
Joseph & Carrie Comerford, 17 Oakledge Drive, Ivoryton
Randi Bradbury, 85 River Road #1-3, Essex
Christopher Reims, 27 Northwinds Drive, Ivoryton
Michael Shashok & Adrienne Kiel, 44 Westbrook Rd, Centerbrook
Richard & Jean Mazzarella, 4 Turnstone Road, Essex
Robert Cipolla & Mary Higgins, 105 North Main Street, Essex
Bradford Carpenter & Katherine McSpadeden, 26 Hemlock Drive, Essex

Loss of our Residents and Friends

September

- Selina Black
 Peter Shanley
 Nicolina Falivene
 Patricia Smith
 Stratton Barclay
 Hormidas Tavernier
 Philip Martin Quinn, Jr.

October

- Spirit T X
 Hilton Andre Caviness
 Pearl Atcheson
 Russell Laird

October continued

- Jeffrey Peloquin
 Carlene Lauber
 Ann Pritchard
 Carroll Johnston

November

- Elisabeth Stahlbush
 Arthurs Hooper, Sr.
 Edwin Pape, Jr.

December

- Mildred P. Marshall
 John Bartek

Essex Town Hall

29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426

Ph: 860-767-4340 • Fx: 860-767-8509

ESSEX TOWN HALL

767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

THE ESSEX TOWN HALL
 is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
 THE LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER
 is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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 Maria Lucarelli x112 mlucarelli@essexct.gov

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 860-388-7082 jwolf@essexct.gov

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 Nancy Berryman x123 nberryman@essexct.gov

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 Darcy Roper x144 droper@essexct.gov
 Dave DeLeeuw, Building Official x117 ddeleeuw@essexct.gov

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Lisa Fasulo, Director of Health x143 lfasulo@essexct.gov

LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

860-767-1926
 Mike Birner, Supervisor
 Bill Armstead

PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Richard Audet, Park & Rec. Director x148 raudet@essexct.gov
 Mary Ellen Barnes x110 mbarnes@essexct.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

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 William Angier, Boris Churyk,
 Richard Gallacher, Ryan Welch

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 John Heiser x142 lely@essexct.gov
 jheiser@essexct.gov

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ESSEX POLICE
 Kerry Taylor, Resident State Trooper ktaylor@essexct.gov
 Russell Gingras, Corporal rgingras@essexct.gov
 Paul Kenefick jkenefick@essexct.gov
 Scott O'Donnell sodonnell@essexct.gov
 Todd Belcourt tbelcourt@essexct.gov

SOCIAL SERVICES

Mary Ellen Barnes x201 mbarnes@essexct.gov

TAX COLLECTOR

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

TOWN CLERK

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

TOWN HALL OPERATIONS

Mark Hiatt x136 maintenance@essexct.gov
 Joe Donofrio
 John Schumacher

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Kelly Sterner, Director of Finance x122 ksterner@essexct.gov
 Dana Novorio x116 dnovorio@essexct.gov
 James Francis, Treasurer x127 jfrancis@essexct.gov

ZONING ENFORCEMENT

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

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Assessor's Office

As you may be aware, the town of Essex is completing its statutorily required revaluation for 2013. The last one was completed for 2008. For 2013, we were able to do physical interior reviews of about 50% of properties.

The purpose of a revaluation is not only to set property values but to recognize that values of different types of properties or different neighborhoods within towns fluctuate differently and at different rates. A primary function of the Assessor is to establish a reasonable market value for the properties within our jurisdiction. Unfortunately, the financial status of individual owners cannot be taken into consideration when establishing market values. Also, the Assessor's Office does not set the amount of taxes that an individual will pay.

In this recovering real estate market some neighborhoods within the town saw their values increase or remain the same, however, overall the town will see a decrease in the total Grand List for 2013. The decrease to the total real estate grand list was not unexpected considering the status of the general real estate market in Connecticut. Since the informal hearing process is not yet complete, we do not have a firm percentage of decrease to report.

Typically declining values result in a lower grand list and a higher mill rate to offset that decline. Therefore, if your assessment is lower it does not mean that your property taxes will decrease or remain the same. Property owners should **not** take their new assessments and apply the current mill rate to figure

out their new taxes because that calculation would produce an incorrect amount. The town will need to increase the mill rate in order to raise the needed revenue to fund the budget. The town budget will be released and voted on sometime in May, 2014, and the Board of Finance will then set the mill rate.

Taxes equal the assessment times the mill rate. As an example, if an assessment was \$100,000 and the mill rate 50, the tax amount would be the same as an assessment of \$1,000,000 and a mill rate of 5.

The majority of revenue Connecticut towns receive comes from the real estate grand list. This usually makes up somewhere between 75% and 90% of the total Grand List.

It is very important that each homeowner review the data for their particular property, checking for accuracy of information, i.e. room count, number of baths, all finished living area is accounted for, etc. The information is available for review at gis.vgsi.com/EssexCT.

If you would like to appeal your new assessment, please file an application for a hearing with the Board of Assessment Appeals prior to February 20, 2014. Forms are available on the Board of Assessment Appeals web page www.essexct.gov/board-of-assessment-appeals. This will be the last opportunity to appeal before the tax bills get mailed in July, 2014.

We greatly appreciate the continued cooperation of the citizens of Essex during this process.

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The Essex Garden Club Brings Holiday Spirit to Essex

The beautifully decorated merchant window boxes and doorways of the villages of Essex as well as the town park gazebo were completed with enthusiasm by the Essex Garden Club using a variety of evergreen cuttings provided by members and other generous donors from the community. The Silent Policeman was decorated this year by Sheila Gleason, Lumie Han, Susan Senning, Kathleen Laundry and Joan Todd. Rick Audet, Director of the Essex Park and Recreation Dept. helped turn on the lights of the Silent Policeman. Thank you to Goody LeLash and Bette Taylor for organizing the decorating done by the members.

During the Club's annual holiday festivities at Essex Meadows, Club members collected 511 lbs of food for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and delivered it to the Westbrook Food Pantry. A hearty thanks to Phyllis Graf and her volunteers for their efforts in collecting the donations. The Essex Garden Club's contribution to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen to be matched by the Gowrie Challenge totaled \$1665 and included the Club's donation as well as many individual members' donations.

The Essex Garden Club also contributed monies to the Essex Tree Committee which selected two Red Sunset Maple trees planted this fall at the entrance to Clark Pond in Ivoryton. A special thank you to Augie Pampel, Chairman of the Tree Committee and the Fred Weber Tree Experts for planting the trees.



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

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CT Clean Energy Options Program-Winter Update

Essex has 275 Clean Energy points. Currently about 9% of the residents are involved in the program.

Essex Citizens for Clean Energy (ECCE) want to thank the Town Officials and employees and all of the residents, businesses and organizations that have chosen to participate in this program. You have made a choice for a cleaner environment, and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. We will all benefit by reducing the impacts of climate change. For more information go to: www.essexcitizensforcleanenergy.com.

To those people who have not yet enrolled, please consider joining the program.

- Each household can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 7400 pounds annually.
- You can help increase our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign fossil fuels and increasing the diversity of our energy resources.
- Be patriotic and strengthen our economy by investing in it.
- You can reduce pollution from coal; natural gas and oil fired power plants.
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HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS. Also, check out Home Energy Solutions at www.cl-p.com or call 1-877-947-3873 for more information. For the price of \$75 electric or \$99 for oil/propane, Home Energy Solutions will perform an energy assessment, make on the spot improvements including caulking and sealing of critical air leaks, provide and install energy-saving lighting and provide rebate coupons for appliances, HVAC systems and insulation.

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

Mission Statement: Creating the Essex Community through People, Parks and Programs.

Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival. Park and Recreation is planning the fourth annual Essex Go Bragh Irish Parade & Festival, to be held March 15. The event will feature an Irish-themed parade down Main Street into the heart of Essex Village followed by the Festival. All Essex residents and community organizations are encouraged to get involved. Full event information will be posted on our website.

Essex Outdoors. Sponsored by the Rockfall Foundation, *Essex Outdoors* is a cooperative effort between the Essex Land Trust and Essex Park and Recreation to bring the families of Essex together through positive and healthy outdoor endeavors, while increasing the presence and awareness of our local parks, open spaces, and preserves. Please see the list of our events, we hope to see you there!

- Boating Certification Course (P&R): January 28
- Vernal Pool Walk at The Preserve (ELT): March 15
- Arbor Day Tree Planting (ELT): April 19
- Kayak Trip, Concert, and Picnic (ELT): June 1
- Ivoryton Library Run Local, Read Local 5K: October 18
- Hike of the Month – Get to Know Essex Outdoors: First Saturday of every month 9 am (ELT)
- Youth Fishing Clinic (P&R): Date TBD
- Geo Caching (P&R) : Date TBD
- Archery Clinic (P&R): Date TBD

Essex Eggstravaganza. Our annual egg hunt will be held on Friday, April 18, 2014, at 10:00am, location to be determined. The Eggstravaganza is open to children pre-school ages to second grade. Join the Easter Bunny for story time at Essex Library at 9am, and plan to arrive for the egg hunt 15 minutes early as we will begin at 10 am sharp.

Grove Street Park Playscape & Tennis Courts. The new Grove Street Park playscape opened in December, 2013. Work will continue in the spring as we will perform grounds remediation and repair, shift benches and picnic tables back into place, and install a new entrance pathway from the parking lot to the playground.

We hope everyone enjoys the new playground and we thank you for your patience during this process. The tennis courts will be finished in the spring as well, as soon as conditions permit.

Clark's Pond. In the Fall of 2013, the Essex Foundation completed a park improvement project at Clark's Pond Park in Ivoryton. The project involved the planting of many beautiful trees in the park, beautification of the grounds, and installation of a culvert and rebuilding of the park driveway. The foundation prepared the plans for the project, provided the funding and oversaw all work performed. The Park and Recreation Commission extends a sincere thank you to the Essex Foundation. We are also grateful for the Essex Garden Club and Essex Tree Committee who saw to the planting of two Red Sunset Maples as part of the project as well. The park is a popular location for fishing and ice skating and a great place to have a picnic or just sit and relax...residents of all three Essex villages will enjoy these improvements for many years to come.

Park & Recreation Programs. Park and Recreation always has a great offering of recreation programs to choose from. Our Winter 2014 brochure is available online and has been distributed through the school. Please see our brochure for full program information.

Come Clay with Me, Tuesdays, Jan 28-Mar 25 (skip 2/18). **Karate Kids,** Mondays, Jan 27-Mar 24 (skip 2/17). **Kindergarten Basketball,** Wednesdays, Jan 8-Feb 12. **Cartwheels, Etc.,** Thursdays, Jan 9-Feb 6. **Dodgeball Mania,** Tuesdays, Jan 21-Feb 25 (skip 2/18). **Indoor Girls LAX Clinic,** Mondays, Jan 29-Mar 5. **High School Girls Lacrosse Clinic,** Thursdays, Jan 30-Mar 6. **Adult Drop-In Basketball,** Wednesday evenings at 7:30. **Boating Certification Course,** Jan 28,30 Feb 4,6 (course). Stay tuned for our 2014 Spring/Summer Brochure in April.

Park and Recreation Commission. The Park and Recreation Commission welcome the opportunity to help you with issues involving the Department and our Community. The public is invited to attend our meetings, held the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the Town Hall. Our members include: Tony Mosa, Jim Rawn, Doug Senn, Bob Russo, Cathy Bishop, Ed Burleson, Tom Clerkin, Ginny Willets, John Bauman.

Department Staff: Director: Rick Audet, CPRP, (860) 767-4340 x148, raudet@essexct.gov. Recreation Program Manager: Mary Ellen Barnes, (860) 767-4340 x110, mbarnes@essexct.gov.

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the community that Essex Savings Bank is a strong financial institution that will be able to fulfill their banking needs for years to come.

Essex Savings Bank is a FDIC insured, state chartered, mutual savings bank established in 1851. The Bank serves the Connecticut River Valley and shoreline with six offices in Essex (2), Chester, Madison, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Financial, estate, insurance and retirement planning are offered throughout the state by the Bank's Trust Department and subsidiary, Essex Financial Services, Inc, Member FINRA, SIPC. Investments in stocks, bonds, mutual funds and annuities are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not a deposit, have no Bank guarantee and are not insured by any Federal Government Agency.

• *Park & Recreation continued from page 16* •

Contact Us. We welcome hearing from you on our programs, parks, and the operations of our department. Remember to visit our website for updated announcements, program information, online registration and to view our brochure: go to the Town website www.essexct.gov, click "Government" "Departments" "Park and Recreation."... and ... "Like" us on Facebook!

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Essex Tree Committee

The Essex Tree Committee reported at the end of 2013 that it had planted 15 new trees in Essex making a total of 243 trees planted since 1994. Two of these trees planted on Arbor Day include a White Oak on Teal Lane sponsored by the Rotary Club and a Valley Forge Elm on Main Street sponsored by the Essex Garden Club. Other trees planted this fall were 3 Red Sunset Maple – one planted on the corner of Kings Lane and Maple Ave and two at the entrance of Clark Pond in Ivoryton. Two Eastern Red Bud trees were planted on Mack Lane extension. Two English Oak and three Liquid Amber were planted in front of the Piano Factory in Ivoryton. Two English Oak were planted on Dennison Road, at #7 and #46. Another English Oak was planted at the corner of Melody and Walnut in Ivoryton.

These plantings could not have been done without the help of Ken Bombaci who assisted in the purchase of the trees from Northeast Nurseries in Cutchogue, NY and Fred Weber & Associates.

The Essex Tree Committee was established in 1990 to inventory, preserve and replace our priceless resource of street trees. Funding for the plantings comes from the town, grants (such as the America the Beautiful or ATB) and private donations. For example, in the case of those trees planted this fall, the English Oak at #7 Dennison was sponsored by the Essex Community Fund and the two Red Sunset Maple at the entrance to Clark Pond were sponsored by the Essex Garden Club.



Delivery of trees from Northeast Nurseries, Cutchogue, NY. Root balls are 600 lbs. each.

The Essex Tree Ordinance which governs the tree warden and his committee, promotes and protects the public health, safety and welfare by providing regulations for planting, maintenance and removal of trees and shrubs within the town of Essex. It applies to all trees and shrubs planted on public areas and to all trees on private areas which may endanger the life, safety or health of persons or property.

continued on page 19

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• *Essex Tree Committee continued from page 18* •

It should be noted that the ordinance includes protective orders against damaging trees and shrubs in public areas (including cutting limbs) without authorization and against fastening materials such as signs, advertisements etc. to trees, shrubs or poles. Violations carry fines up to \$250. Any individual or corporation wishing to cut or remove a tree or shrub in part or completely may apply in writing to the tree warden.

The warden, therefore, is responsible for the care and control of all trees and shrubs in whole or in part (including limbs and roots) within the limits of any public road or grounds of the town of Essex except those along State highways. Public parks or grounds which are under the jurisdiction of the park commissioner are not included.

To accomplish the task of maintaining Essex's healthy trees, Augie Pampel and his committee survey areas which need attention and develop annual plans for planting. These plans are coordinated with the Planning and Zoning Commissions as well as other interested boards, such as the Essex Land Trust, the Rotary Club, the Essex Garden Club and others. Individuals can and have approached the Tree Committee with ideas for tree planting and can actively participate in the planting of trees.

Trees have also been planted as memorials or simply as donations to the town. Those who give a tree to the town of Essex are recognized on the Tree Committee's list of donors posted in the Town Hall: "Trees Given to the Town of Essex".

The success of the Tree Committee in maintaining the beauty of our streets and public areas continues to depend on the support and interest of the Essex community, its organizations and individual residents. Additionally, the expertise of our local arborists is essential to the committee's work. Given this ongoing community collaboration, we can look forward in 2014 to new trees being planted to further enhance the lush green beauty of our streets.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Essex Tree Committee or arrange for a Memorial Tree, please contact members of the Tree Committee: Augie Pampel, Tree Warden, Susan Malan, Deputy Tree Warden, Nancy Hudson, Treasurer, John Molloy, Secretary, Mark Pratt, Ken Bombaci, and Judy Saunders.



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Saving the Preserve – What it all means

Just off Ingham Hill Road in Essex lies a hidden gem known as The Preserve. This 1,000 acre coastal forest is located mostly in Old Saybrook, but 70 acres of this unique forest are part of the town of Essex. Forested properties of this size are rare in coastal Connecticut and present an opportunity for developers and conservationists alike. For many years the property was the subject of development applications and lawsuits over its potential future as a housing development with 221 homes and an 18-hole golf course. More recent proposals involved carving the land into development “pods” around the perimeter of the property. All proposals to develop the land would have a significant impact on the towns in which the land is located.

The downturn in the real estate market presented an opportunity for conservationists to protect the property forever. In June of 2013, The Trust for Public Land reached an agreement with River Sound Development, LLC, to purchase the property. In order to complete the purchase, the Trust and its partners need to raise \$10 – 12 million by June 2014.

If the fundraising campaign is successful the land will be permanently protected from future development and open to the public to enjoy for passive recreational activities such as hiking and wildlife viewing. The Essex Land Trust will likely own the 70 acres in Essex, while the Town of Old Saybrook will most likely own the 930 acres in Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

The forest includes 38 vernal pools, 114 acres of wetlands and more than 3,100 linear feet of watercourses. The land contains the headwaters of three watersheds and protects public and private drinking water supplies. Migratory birds use the area as a stop-over, and the forest’s many vernal pools support amphibian species such as the northern dusky salamander, spotted turtles, and box turtles. Bobcats and fisher cats have also been spotted on the property, along with rare plant species such as the eastern prickly pear.

A broad coalition has formed to take on the huge task of raising funds to acquire The Preserve. The Essex Land Trust has joined The Trust for Public Land, The Old Saybrook Land Trust, The Town of Old Saybrook, the Town of Essex, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the



*Phil Miller speaks to young hikers at The Preserve.
Photo by Robert Lorenz.*



Vernal pool in The Preserve. Photo by Chris Cryder.

Connecticut Fund for the Environment / Save the Sound, the Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Audubon, and many others, to raise both public and private funds for the purchase.

continued on page 21



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• *Saving the Preserve continued from page 20* •

The Essex Land Trust will be involved in providing information to the public and will assist in collecting private donations to achieve permanent preservation and stewardship of the land. Efforts will also include tours of the property for interested parties, potential donors and residents who will be voting on funding referenda. One such public walk in November brought out 200 people interested in seeing the property.

State Representative from the 36th District, Phil Miller, who also served as Essex First Selectman, continues his opposition to the development of the Preserve, and often refers to the land as a "wet rocky sponge," which helps to drain surface waters on the property to important watersheds: the Oyster River, Mud River and Trout Brook and then on to Long Island Sound.

The area's unique geology also serves to absorb and release more slowly large excess water from storms such as Super Storm Sandy, preventing flooding in lower-lying areas.

The Preserve borders 500 acres of permanently protected land including Great Cedars East and West and Clark Community Park.

The months ahead are critical to the future of land protection in Essex. An active and engaged community will help to make the permanent preservation and stewardship of this important property a reality. For more information on The Preserve, or the Essex Land Trust, contact Jim Denham, President at info@essexlandtrust.org. For information of future public tours of The Preserve, contact Kate Brown, at kate.brown@tpl.org.



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A Brief History of Nott Island

It may not look like much today, but Nott Island, across from Essex harbor, was a long-time hub of local economic activity that made a good living for the families that owned it over the years. It also served as a place for recreation and spiritual renewal and the reminiscences of those who lived or played there are full of descriptions of nature's beauty. There were sandy beaches for swimming, abundant bird life from ducks and rail to songbirds and migrating species, and one could fish off the shore or catch "crabs by the bushel."

The island apparently got its name in the late 19th century when a Mr. Nott, a well-known farmer who lived on the Westbrook Road, owned it. (Note that it has also been referred to as Nott's, Knott and Knott's Island over the years.) Nott appears to be the first to fully develop the island as a money-making proposition. Fishing piers were built and he rented out the rights for as much as \$20,000 – a sign of how lucrative the fishing industry could be on the lower Connecticut River in the late 1800s.

He also used the island as a base for growing and harvesting hay. The conditions were already close to ideal, but Nott designed and built a series of ditches and dikes that controlled the river's tidal flow, irrigating extensive hay fields. The moist soil was ideal and haying became a staple of island industry. Nott built what was touted as "the largest barn in the valley" to store the hay and added a cement dock on the island's north end for shipping it to the mainland by barge.

Around the turn of the 20th century, a family from Chester, the Harwoods, bought the island and raised prized Devon cattle there for a brief number of years. By 1910, the island had passed into the hands of the Comstock family of Essex, who built on Nott's successes. The Comstocks not only pastured sheep on the island but also developed the haying even more. A short rail line was built from the barn to the pier for easier handling. There, the hay was loaded onto a barge in warm weather months or skidded across the frozen river in winter. The primary customer for Comstock's hay? The Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus!

Floods were a constant problem and one in 1936 did considerable damage to the island and its buildings. In the 1940s, the MacWhinney family acquired the island, and it saw its last "golden age" of habitation and productivity. MacWhinney had a "mainland" farm on Stone Pit Hill (today's Grandview Terrace neighborhood in Essex) and pastured his 20 head of cattle on the island in the summer, bringing them over by barge. Family members often stayed on the island in the spring and summer, living in a comfortable 10-room house. They grew corn, tomatoes, squash and melons. They roamed the island, went swimming and fishing, built bonfires in the evenings and watched the sunsets. It was "an idyllic life" and family members left in the fall only reluctantly.

The MacWhinneys sold out in the late 1950s and the island fell into disrepair. The house burned down after the MacWhinneys sold it in the 1950s and by the late 1960s, Nott Island became a Wildlife Area owned by the State of Connecticut. It is part of the Town of Lyme.

Steve Knauth



Editor's note: There are many blanks in the history of Nott's Island, and we at the Essex Land Trust would welcome any stories, anecdotes or facts from readers. Many thanks to the Essex Historical Society for their help in researching this article.

Dear Community,

The Town of Essex Department of Social Services and the Essex Elementary School Goodwill Committee thanks all of the friends and supporters of our Holiday Change for Change Campaign. Your generous giving allowed us to serve over 90 children this holiday season. We distributed retail gift cards for each child to assist parents with their holiday shopping. We also distributed grocery store gift cards to over 50 families to help offset the cost of food.

Your cherished donations assisted with providing some financial relief during this holiday season to our local families in need of support. On behalf of the families of Essex, we offer our deepest gratitude. Thank you again for supporting those less fortunate. Our campaign's success was only possible because of the donations from our kind hearted community.

Mary Ellen Barnes, Town of Essex,
Department of Social Services

Essex Land Trust Events Calendar

Winter Raptors Field Trip. Saturday, February 8, 12 pm at Essex Town Hall Parking Lot. Eagles, Hawks, and Owls: an afternoon outing to search for the charismatic birds of prey that winter in our estuarine region. With luck, we may see good numbers of these majestic species as well as other wintering birds. Both novice and advanced birdwatchers are welcome. Our guides will be two experienced birders, Andrew Griswold, Director of CT Audubon's EcoTravel program, and Jim Denham, Essex Land Trust President. Bring a bag lunch, binoculars and warm clothes. Two vans are available to seat the first 14 people who sign up. To reserve a van seat, please call Jim Denham at 860-876-0306 or email info@essexlandtrust.org by February 6. Bad weather cancels.

Lecture: The Preserve. Wednesday, March 12, 7 pm at Essex Town Hall. The Human and Natural History of The Preserve: what makes this 1,000 acre forest so special and its protection so essential? Ecologist Judy Preston from the Tidewater Institute and Chris Cryder, Special Projects Coordinator with Save Our Sound will show slides and share their enthusiasm for this mini-wilderness in our midst. The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion about the future use and protection of this land.

Vernal Pool Walk at The Preserve. Saturday, March 15, 9 am at Essex Town Hall Parking Lot. Search for breeding frogs, salamanders and other early spring life in some of the dozens of vernal pools that dot this property. Vernal pools are critical contributors to the diversity of our forests. We will explore how they function and witness their vibrancy and abundance at this peak period in their ephemeral season. Rain or shine. Bring boots. Co-sponsored by Essex Outdoors.

Essex Land Trust Property Spruce-Up. Saturday, April 5, 9 am – 12 noon at Essex Town Hall Parking Lot. Join your neighbors in a convivial gathering that also helps maintain our beautiful preserves. Come out for some exercise after a long winter indoors. Help clear streams and trails; pick up brush and rake leaves. Families welcome. Bring rakes, clippers, blowers, etc. Refreshments will be served. Rain or shine.

Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting. Thursday, April 17, 5:30 pm at Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road. Join us for the ELT's festive Cocktail Party and Annual Meeting. Light food will be served. Special guest and presenter will be Steve Gephard, a globally recognized expert on the restoration of salmon, shad, herring and other sea-run fish. As the head of CT DEEP's Anadromous Fish Restoration group, Steve will speak to us about plans to build a fishway on the Falls River in Essex with the aim of restoring its historical runs of river herring, a project supported by the ELT and others. Tickets (\$30) for the cocktail buffet (5:30-6:30) will be available at the door. The business meeting and speaker's presentation that follow are free to all. Members will automatically receive invitations. Non-members are welcome.

Arbor Day Tree Planting. Saturday, April 19, 10 am at Cross Lots Preserve, 40 West Avenue. Come and join Tom Rutherford, ELT's Chief Property Steward as we celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees and shrubs at our Cross Lots Preserve.



This will be followed by a short tour that will highlight our upcoming plans to re-landscape some sections of the property by clearing invasive species and replanting with native specimens. Rain or shine. The Essex Garden Club and the Park and Recreation Department will also be planting trees in different town locations.

Hike of the Month – Get to Know Essex Outdoors



The Essex Land Trust is pleased to announce a new program to encourage enjoyment of our special outdoor open spaces. Hikes are planned for every month on the first Saturday, starting at 9 am and lasting approximately one hour. Meet at each property's entrance. Hikes will be canceled in the event of bad weather.

Explore Essex's outdoor open space by visiting many of the special sites that have been preserved for the benefit of all. For directions please refer to the Essex Land Trust Trail Guide, or

on line at www.essexlandtrust.org. This activity is being co-sponsored by the Essex Park and Recreation Department as part of their Essex Outdoors program, which encourages families and people of all ages to experience the natural beauty of our community.

Upcoming hikes are: **February 1** – Canfield Preserve – Park at the Book Hill Woods Road entrance. **March 1** – Heron Pond Preserve – Heron Pond Road, off Route 154. **April 5** – Tiley-Pratt Preserve – On unmarked Kreis Lane, off Laurel Road.

Gruyere, A Versatile Cheese!

Gruyere is one of my favorite cheeses and it ranks on my top 10 list. The reason is simple: few cheeses come close to the versatility of Gruyere. It gives fondue its body, onion soup its elegance, and Quiche Lorraine its flavor. In fact it can handle any task when it comes to cooking. It has great melting capabilities, it doesn't get stringy, nor does it solidify. Heat enhances its flavor and its keeping quality is longer than most other cheeses.

Gruyere dates back to the twelfth century and is named after the town of Gruyere, Switzerland that boasts a valley and castle of the same name. The cheese is manufactured with the finest raw milk from cows that graze only on fresh, lush, green pasturage. Milk from silage fed cows will never make its way into Gruyere production.

Gruyere is a natural cheese produced in 60-80 pound wheels. It has almost no eye formation (holes) and, most often, 'blind' (no holes) forms are the rule. The cheese is approximately thirty inches in diameter. Gruyere is more aromatic than Emmenthaler and usually sharper. This is due to a longer aging period and its size being less than half the weight of an Emmenthaler. All cheeses ripen from the outside in so a smaller cheese will ripen faster than a larger cheese. You can buy Gruyere at many different stages along the way. I prefer a longer cave aged cheese with much greater flavor. As a side note, Gruyere is occasionally confused by some as

a processed cheese found in little cubes or wedges. Though some of the lesser quality natural Gruyere cheeses make their way into processed cheese it should not be confused with the natural greatness of true Swiss Gruyere.

Gruyere has a wide range of culinary uses. You can make a great meal by just slicing Gruyere on dark bread with a little raw onion, mustard, and smoked sausage. Add a crisp white wine such as Chenin Blanc, Riesling, or Chardonnay, and a fresh salad and a simple, appetizing meal awaits you. Pan-frying this cheese dusted with a little flour is a great snack as well.

I mentioned earlier that Gruyere has a great keeping quality. The cheese can keep for weeks if not months. Should the cheese show any surface mold just scrape or cut it off. If the cheese is covered in cling film for a prolonged period of time you might develop what I call a plastic taste similar to cheeses often found pre-cut and cryovac packaged. Although this packing technique helps for mass marketing shelf life it does little to protect the integrity of the cheese. Just remove the surface layer with a cheese slicer to regain the fresh taste. As always, its best to buy smaller amounts more often and, of course, freshly cut.

*Paul Partica, The Cheese Shop,
The Cheese Shop Of Centerbrook*

How to Avoid a Facelift

No one enters into young adulthood expecting to have a face-lift one day. Unfortunately, many of us do not care for our skin when we are young and find ourselves in a bit of a predicament at a certain age.

Even though aging is inevitable, there are a few things you can do to slow it down and a few tricks in the beauty bag to reverse some damage

The most important step when you are young is to protect your skin from the sun. The sun is not your friend. It may be warm and comforting, but it is not your friend. If you didn't wear a sunscreen when you were younger, I suggest you start today. Not my moisturizer has an SPF of 15, but a separate sunscreen. If you have young girls in your life, children, grandchildren, etc. please pass along the message.

If you smoke, it's time to stop. Smoking robs your skin of oxygen and nutrients by constricting the blood vessels in your skin, resulting in skin with no vibrancy and even a grayish hue. Smoking also breaks down collagen which is the support system in your skin, leading to wrinkles and sagging. And if that wasn't enough, the physical act of puffing on a cigarette and having smoke rise up into your eyes can cause deep set wrinkles around your eyes and mouth.

If you're still slapping on a moisturizer and running out the door in the morning, it's time to re-evaluate your routine. That

barely worked when you were twenty. A mature woman needs serums, eye creams, night creams and a separate sunscreen. That includes morning and night – ok not the sunscreen at night. The point is, you can't keep falling asleep on the couch with the day's make-up on your face.

Thankfully, there are a lot of non-surgical options to keep you looking your best, even when you reach that magical age where something needs to be done. There was a time when your only option was surgery.

And that may be fine for you if that's your choice but if it isn't...consider Botox to relax your worry lines and forehead wrinkles; Juvederm to fill in lost volume in your flattened cheeks or nose to mouth lines; and finally do some research on machines to help you build collagen. Radiofrequency is a favorite of mine...it's been around for a long time, there is no down time and your under eye area can be treated safely and effectively.

If you are not happy with your appearance, there are a variety of surgical and non-surgical options available but these guidelines are a great place to start. It's never too late!

To learn more about procedures that will keep you beautiful without surgery or to receive more articles like this one, please visit us at www.sonasmedspa.com.

Susan O'Malley, M.D., Sonas Med Spa

Annual Spelling Bee Members Needed

The Region 4 Education Foundation is looking for three member teams to participate in its 10TH annual Spelling Bee. The Bee will be held in The Valley Regional High School Auditorium on Friday April 4th, at 7 pm. There will be prizes for the winning team, and the team with the best costumes.

The Region 4 Education Foundation is a non-profit organization that was set up in the mid 1990's to enhance the educational, extracurricular, and athletic experience at our award winning schools, Valley Regional High School and John Winthrop Middle School.

They help fund projects, programs and materials that are not in the yearly operating budget.

For more information about The Spelling Bee or The Foundation, call Taffy at 860-767-0650 or Rick at 860-767-1948.



OPEN HOUSE



Open House Dates:

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- Feb 8, 9-12
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- Mar 1, 9-12

Interactive Tours:

- Jan 31, 9-11
- Feb 4, 9-11
- Feb 11, 9-11
- Feb 21, 9-11



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Ivoryton Playhouse

Ivoryton was the brightest village in Connecticut throughout the month of December when the Ivoryton Illuminations lit up the town. Over 200,000 lights were displayed on businesses in the village including the historic Ivoryton Playhouse. Visitors could tune to music on 101.5FM to watch the lights dance to music. It was an amazing display and a great effort presented by the members of the Ivoryton Village Alliance – a group of local business owners and volunteers whose mission is to bring the community of Ivoryton together to celebrate the holidays.

In addition to the Illuminations, a Christmas lights competition took place with a record number of entries and high quality displays. Displays were judged on number of lights and creativity and, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, over 15 prizes were awarded. The overall winner was The Grote Family from Winthrop. Thank you to everyone who participated in the competition and for making this the best competition ever.

The Ivoryton Playhouse is delighted to announce their roster of productions for the 2014 Season starting on March 19 with the swinging '60s production of *SHOUT! The Mod Musical*. Other shows in 2014 include *I Ought To Be In Pictures* (a Neil Simon classic), *Fingers & Toes* (a new musical with high energy tap routines that evoke the magic of the Fred Astaire - Ginger Rogers era), *All Shook Up* (a rockin' musical featuring the songs of Elvis Presley), *La Cage Aux Folles* (one of Broadway's all-time biggest hits!), *Comedy is Hard!* (a brand new play by Mike Reiss, the critically acclaimed writer of last year's smash hit *I'm Connecticut*) and *Say Goodnight Gracie* (the life, laughter and love of George Burns and Gracie Allen).

Other highlights for the coming year will include a special weekend in February featuring a reading of *Love, Loss and What I Wore* to benefit Women and Family Life (New Haven County) and Community Foundation of Middlesex County to support the Sari A. Rosenbaum Fund for Women & Girls and a very special VISTA Arts Center production of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Also, don't miss a great Summer Children's Theatre series and elegant tent events that will take place on the side patio June – September. For more information about the 2014 Season at the Ivoryton Playhouse, to purchase subscriptions or book individual tickets, please call (860) 767-9520 or visit www.ivorytonplayhouse.org.

For town updates & information:
www.essexct.com

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Essex Health Department

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH. Radon is an odorless, colorless gas which is the result of the breakdown of uranium in soil, rocks, and water. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. High indoor radon concentrations occur sporadically in all parts of Connecticut and so two homes right next to each other can have different indoor radon levels.

Radon is emitted from the ground and enters your home through cracks in walls, basement floors, foundations and other openings. It can also enter your private well water supply and can be emitted into the air in your home by bathroom showers and sprays. When radon gas gets trapped indoors, it can build up to dangerous concentrations. Inhaling concentrated radon in indoor air over a prolonged period damages lung tissue and increases your risk of developing lung cancer. People who smoke have an even greater risk.

THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IF YOUR HOME HAS RADON IS TO TEST FOR IT. The Essex Health Department promotes radon testing during Radon Action Month and has a limited number of passive, short term test kits available for Essex residents for FREE. These test kits measure radon in air. For measuring radon in water, contact a certified water testing laboratory.

The heating season is the best time to test for radon because your home is closed up, and radon levels tend to build up indoors. Testing is inexpensive, easy and only takes a few

minutes of your time. The EPA recommends radon mitigation in homes having an air radon level 4 pCi/L or higher and the CT Dept of Public Health (DPH) recommends radon mitigation in homes having a water radon level 5000 pCi/L or higher.

For information contact the Essex Health Department at (860) 767-4340 x 118 or visit www.essexct.gov. Additional information is available from the CT DPH's Radon Program at (860) 509-7367 or www.ct.gov/dph and search RADON. Test kits can also be purchased from local retailers, American Lung Association or EPA for approximately \$20.

What is 2-1-1?

It is Connecticut's free information and referral service. By dialing 2-1-1, a toll-free number throughout CT, callers can reach knowledgeable, multilingual staff and get information, referrals or seek help in a crisis. 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year. TDD access is available.



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- Be aware of Town Volunteering Opportunities

To register for Essex News, send an e-mail request to raudet@essexct.gov

OR

Drop off this card in the Park & Recreation Office at the Town Hall:

Name: _____

Email _____@_____

Please encourage friends and neighbors to register.

Essex - Community Listings

CHURCHES

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

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Essex Cub Scouts of America (860) 790-0681
 Essex Land Trust (860) 767-7355
 Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau (860) 526-3600
 Essex Garden Club (860) 767-2860
 Essex Boy Scouts of America (860) 767-3904
 Essex Community Fund (860) 304-2751
 Essex Historical Society (860) 767-0681
 Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers . . . (860) 767-2237

Clubs and Organizations Continued

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens (860) 388-1988
 SCORE (860) 388-9508
 Essex Board of Trade (860) 767-3904
 Democratic Town Committee (860) 767-7665
 Republican Town Committee (860) 767-3388
 Essex Little League www.essexlittleleague.org
 Ancient Order of Essex Weeders (860) 767-7628
 9 Town Transit (860) 510-0429
 Lower Valley Visiting Nurses (860) 767-0186

SCHOOLS

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



Essex Historical Society

The Essex Historical Society's mission is to preserve and to promote the awareness of the people, places and things that have shaped the history of the 3 Villages of Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton. We

are thankful for the continued support of our members and the community.

Looking back at 2013, here are just a few of the highlights:

Programs:

- School's Almost Out Strawberry Social and Preservation Award presentation
- The History and Preservation of the Dudley Farm in North Guilford, CT
- Falls River Flood of 1982

Collaborations:

- 1st Ever Vintage Ivoryton Base Ball Classic – Essex Park and Recreation Commission
- Major Disasters in the Town of Essex – Ivoryton Library and the Essex Fire Department

- 3rd Annual Fall Foliage and Antique Auto Show – Belltown Antique Car Club

Education:

- Member's only tour and history of the Lay House, a CRM recent acquisition
- Battle Site Essex Update provided by Jerry Roberts

For 2014, EHS is planning an exciting variety of programs and events. In particular, the Essex Historical Society, the Connecticut River Museum, the Essex Library Association and other interested parties in Essex are partnering with Jerry Roberts to support what will be an exciting week long historical event for our Town– the commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the British Raid on Essex. Members will have privileges.

Recognizing the importance of the past helps us to understand our present and plan for our future. If you are interested in becoming a member of EHS, please visit our website at www.essexhistory.org or send an email to ehs@essexhistory.net.

Town of Essex Calendar for 2014-2015 Budget Meetings

| Date | Time | Meeting Description | Location |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Saturday, February 8, 2014 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm | Board of Selectmen - Budget Meeting #1 | Town Hall, Conference Room A |
| Wednesday, February 19, 2014 | 5:00 pm | Board of Selectmen - Budget Meeting #2 | Town Hall, Conference Room A |
| Wednesday, March 5, 2014 | following BOS 5:00 pm mtg | Board of Selectmen - Budget Meeting #3 | Town Hall, Conference Room A |
| Thursday, March 20, 2014 | 7:00 pm | Board of Finance - Budget Meeting #1 (presentation of EES BOE budget) | Town Hall, Conference Room A |
| Thursday, March 27, 2014 | 7:00 pm | Board of Finance - Budget Meeting #2 (presentation of BOS budget) | Town Hall, Conference Room A |
| Thursday, April 24, 2014 | 7:30 pm | 2014-2015 Budget Public Hearing | Town Hall, Auditorium |
| Monday, April 28, 2014 | 7:00 pm | Board of Finance - Budget Meeting (if necessary) | Town Hall, Conference Room A |
| Monday, May 12, 2014 | 7:30 pm | Annual Budget Town Meeting | Town Hall, Auditorium |

Sister Cities Essex Haiti

Deschapelles Library Update: The walls are going up and soon we will be ready to put on the roof of the Deschapelles Library and the outbuilding where the guardhouse and pump house for the well will be located. The well is pumping water and the water is being used for construction. We have received the first installment of a \$37,000 from a grant from the Digicel Foundation (Digicel is the largest cell phone provider in Haiti) as well as funds for installing the well. We are in the process of applying for additional grants and are thankful for the generous support not only of our extended community but for the \$10,000 grant for books from the International Tri-Town Rotary as well as on-going fundraisers from the Valley Regional Schools, Essex Meadows and others. We still need to raise at least an additional \$50,000 and welcome your support.

For answers to some of your questions or if you would like to join in our efforts, please go to SisterCitiesEssexHaiti.org, or contact Terry Smith 860-767-7119

Sister Cities Essex Haiti wishes to thank our many local supporters, especially Essex Elementary School for hosting "Family and Friends for Haiti" on June 14, 2013 and to Kim Shea and Essex Meadows for organizing and hosting the "First Annual Essex Meadows 5K, 2K Fitness Walk and Kids Fun Run" on Aug. 10, 2013. Thank you participants of both successful fundraisers for Sister Cities Essex Haiti. (501c3)



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*Left to Right: Suzanne Spires, Director of Advertising & Operations, Events Magazines;
Kathleen Russo, Community Relations Middlesex Hospital; Sarah Moore, Director of Development Middlesex
Hospital; Fred Holloran, Vice President Marketing & Business Development, Essex Printing;
Georgi Marion EG Salon, Middletown; Ellie Gagnon EG Salon, Middletown.*

During the month of October you saw a lot of pink. Pink shirts, pink hair, pink flowers, pink ribbons; all promoting breast cancer awareness and treatment. Essex Printing and Events Magazines teamed up with the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center and goPINK Project, a local collaboration among area beauty salons and other local businesses to increase awareness about breast cancer and to support patients in our community.

For every advertisement sold in Events Magazines during the month of October a donation was made to the Middlesex Hospital Comprehensive Breast Center. Essex Printing and Events Magazines are proud to have made a \$900 donation to fight breast cancer. Over \$26,600 was raised by the thirty-three participating companies this year and \$63,393 since the goPINK project's inception in 2010.

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|  <p>SOLD</p> |  <p>PENDING</p> |  |  <p>SOLD</p> |
| <p>Essex Riverfront Serene waterfront home c.2008 with dock & 450 ft river front. Expansive private lot. Exquisite craftsmanship and architectural detail. Offered at \$2,650,000</p> | <p>Essex Waterfront Estate complete with pool, dock, barn and a gracious recently restored and remodeled c.1890 home. Secluded tranquil setting on 3.84 acres. Offered at \$1,995,000</p> | <p>Essex River Views Stunning water views are enjoyed from this classic contemporary home set above the CT river. First floor master bdrm suite, 3 bay garage, pool. Offered at \$1,875,000</p> | <p>Essex Riverfront Exceptional views from this 3400sf home set on 1.7 acres with a gently sloping lawn leading to a sandy beach and dock on the CT river. Offered at \$1,795,000</p> |
|  |  |  |  <p>SOLD</p> |
| <p>Essex Village Historic Main Street home completely renovated 2008. Dream kitchen/great rm, Master suite w/walk-in closet, spectacular master bath & balcony. High ceilings. Offered at \$1,500,000</p> | <p>Essex Village Essex Light & Power Co. c.1905. Total renovation 2007. Unique mixed-use residential/commercial property. Fascinating architectural details. Water views! Offered at \$1,100,000</p> | <p>Essex Village Amazingly bright and open remodeled Federal with a gorgeous chef's kitchen, first floor master suite, third floor office. Spacious yard with garage and patio. Offered at \$849,000</p> | <p>Essex A masterpiece of artful renovation with first floor bedroom suite set on a lush .59 ac landscaped lot. 3 bdrms, 2.1 bths, 2 fipcs, attached garage. Exquisite! Offered at \$749,000</p> |

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Historic Essex Village: Lovingly renovated 1867 Federal style. 4BR, 3baths, lovely kitchen. Price includes additional home on separate lot. Perfect guest house or rental property included. See photo below. Immaculate! \$1,100,000

Spectacular Waterfront Estate: Panoramic vistas across CT River. Grand LR bow ceilings, lge fp & wall of windows perfect for entertaining. Pool, 3 stall barn, deep water dock on 6 Ac. \$4,250,000

Exquisite Essex Village Waterfront: Impeccable 1845 Greek Revival. 3BR, 3 1/2 baths, Gourmet kitchen, elevator, wine cellar, 3c garage, guesthouse, boathouse, davits on Middle Cove. \$2,750,000

River Road: Exceptional one floor living. Superb construction. 6 rm, 3 BR, 2 1/2 baths, full basement. Attached garage, screened porch. Beautiful private setting. \$695,000

Happy New Year!









Antique Cape: Exceptional Village Cape. Sold with restored Federal shown above. Perfect guesthouse or income producing property. 5 rms, 2 BR, fp. Short walk to downtown and CT River. Both properties \$1,100,000

Spacious Village Colonial: Almost new! Wonderful home, 10 rms, 4 BR, granite & stainless kitchen, office, fireplace, lower level walkout, deck, 3car garage, circular drive. Fabulous! \$524,500

Village Cape: Charming cape with many updates. Wood floors, LR w/FP & built-ins, DR, wonderful kitchen, spacious MBR & bath. 2 c. att. garage, deck & pretty yard. \$399,900

Immaculate Classic Colonial: Beautiful formal LR w/fp, formal DR, office/library, 2 FR w/fp's, 4 BR, 2 1/2 baths, brick patio, 2 car garage. \$525,000

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Chester: Remodeled 3BR Ranch 'like new'. Guest house w/kitchenette, separate BR & FBA for in-law. House on 2.15 acs - remaining 9 acs can be purchased. \$499,000 Joel-Lucas.com 860-304-9150



Deep River: 4 family on quiet street has many upgrades & is in excellent condition. Short walk to shops & restaurants. City water/sewer, fully rented. \$465,000 Richard-Greene.com 860-395-6832



Deep River: Home w/CT River views at end of cul-de-sac has open flow, 'work at home office' w/private entrance, FP and FBA & den on 1st fl (could be used as BR). \$399,000 Joel-Lucas.com 860-304-9150



Deep River: Passive solar construction in a Vermont like setting. 2 FPs are hand cut granite from Chester. Shop w/768SF, 200 amp, 3 phase converter, woodstove, AC. \$295,000 BarbaraMcBrideDoyen.com 860-662-0271



Chester: Exciting Nantucket Cape on Jennings Pond w/walls of glass overlooking the water. Cherry cabinets, 3 FPs, oak flrs w/mahogany inlay. Walk to Village. \$995,000 Moureen-Nelson.com



Essex: Quality & Detail throughout this outstanding Georgian Colonial. Cherry floors, cook's KT w/granite. 1st Fl master suite, marble bath. Near village. \$1,075,000 Joel-Lucas.com 860-304-9150



Essex: Elegant, Warm & Inviting. Gracious Home located steps to South Cove w/deeded water access. Large formal rooms, 2FPs, sunroom, Eat-in KT. \$865,000 DianeGregory.com 860-395-8433 or RogerParkman.com 203-676-1061



Essex: Charming 4BR Cape, living rm w/FP & builtin bookcases, 1st floor BR, eat-in KT, HW floors, screened porch, move-in condition! Walk to school, shops. \$270,000 JamesLeo.com 860-227-5975



Essex: Beautiful views of No Cove & CT River from this 2nd fl ranch unit. 2 decks, new laminate flrs, freshly painted, new stove, refrigerator & A/C units. \$219,500 MaureenNelson.com 860-227-9222



Ivoryton: Exceptionally well cared for 3-4BR Colonial in Farm Hill Estates. Custom KT, C/A, generator system, built-ins, custom window treatments, fenced yard. \$549,900 PeterBonanno.com 860-227-9798 or ShaneBonanno.com 860-227-7353



Ivoryton: Stately 4BR Colonial on cul-de-sac backs up to open space. New granite counters & vanities, new stainless appliances. Open floor plan, private patio. \$495,000 PeterBonanno.com 860-227-9798 or ShaneBonanno.com 860-227-7353



Old Saybrook: Spectacular Cornfield Point beachfront home. 57' of private beach, waterviews from every room, gourmet kitchen, 3 marble baths, stunning MBR, C/A. \$1,799,000 Joel-Lucas.com 860-304-9150



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