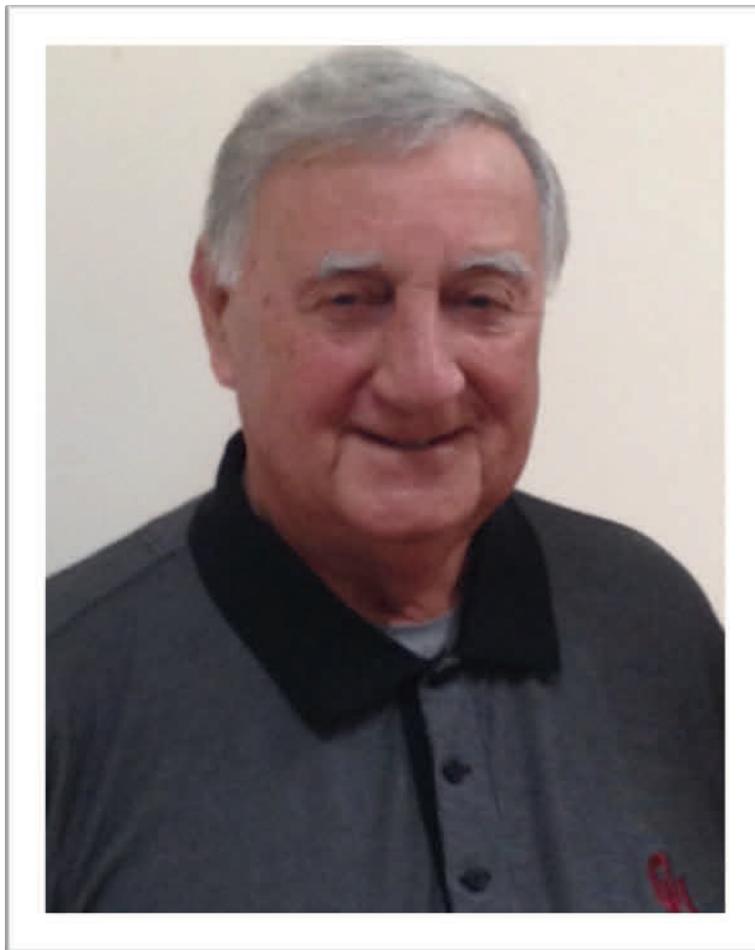




**2013-2014**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**



*Carl W. Ellison Jr.*

## Dedication

# Carl W. Ellison Jr.

In 1956 a young teacher, newly discharged from the Army, settled in Essex with his wife, Janice after deciding that the town was the “nicest” community he had ever seen. That decision, nearly 60 years ago, would soon reap untold benefits for the town as well as begin a career of public service that continues to this day.

That young teacher was Carl Ellison, a man who has served the town in almost every capacity from First Selectman, to Board of Finance member to Grand Marshal of the Ivoryton Independence Day Parade.

“Carl always works for the good of the town in everything he does,” says Lois Ely, a close friend of Ellison’s who has worked with him on many town issues over the years. “He is always a very good listener which, I think makes him very effective in everything he does.”

The teaching career soon gave way to a career in the insurance business but Carl continued to get involved in public service. Early on, he says, he was bitten by the “political bug” which may have been a foregone conclusion for him since his father, Carl Ellison, Sr., was a State Representative from Windham

County in the early 1940’s. Carl continued that family tradition when he was elected First Selectman as a Democrat in 1973 at a time when the town was heavily Republican and there had not been a Democratic First Selectman since before anyone could remember. “It was a big change for the town,” says Ely, “the town had never had a Democrat as First Selectman.”

Carl was elected to a second term in 1975 and proved to be a very effective First Selectman and one who exhibited a unique ability to bring people of opposing viewpoints together for the good of the town, a tradition which continues to this day. “Carl is always gracious and

always a diplomat which is why he was so effective,” Ely says.

During his four years in office, Carl assisted in starting a town recycling program and working on the town’s Bicentennial Commission in 1976. Perhaps his most significant accomplishments while in office was assisting in protecting and creating town open space. Two of the projects he worked on were the Bushy Hill Nature Preserve and the Canfield Meadow Woods Nature Preserve. He was one of the first town executive officers to begin thinking about preservation of open space as a vehicle toward enhancing the quality of life in town.

After leaving office, Carl served as minority selectman and sat on the Board of Finance for 20 years,

one of the longest tenures in anyone’s memory. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Essex Veterans Hall and currently serves on the town Retirement Board and the Democratic Town Committee.

Today, Carl lives in Ivoryton with his wife Janice, the young bride he brought to town so many years ago. Carl and Janice raised their children in town including son, Todd, a musician and Broadway



Carl and wife, Janice

director whose credits include Spamalot and Annie. Carl has not slowed down at

all, continuing to work 3 days a week at Whelen Engineering in Chester along with son Tom, part time for the L. C. Doane Company, and finding time for his other interests.

Carl can still be seen these days sitting quietly in the back of the room during town committee meetings or offering his years of insight to the Retirement Board or even attending the Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival or the farmer’s market. All the while, thoroughly enjoying the town he did so much to make the “nicest” town around.

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Death Certificates .....	Town Clerk’s Office
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### Essex At A Glance

**Town Hall**  
**29 West Avenue**  
**Essex, CT 06426**  
**www.essexct.gov**



**Middlesex County**  
**2nd Congressional District**  
**33rd Senatorial District**  
**36th Assembly District**

### Hours of Operation:

**Town Hall**  
Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm  
**Transfer Station & Recycling Center**  
Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7 am to 3 pm



### For Your Information:

**Ambulance Association** ..... 860-767-7677

**American Red Cross** ..... 860-347-2577

**Animal Control** ..... 860-767-3219

**Connecticut River Estuary**  
**Regional Planning Agency** ..... 860-388-3497

**Education:**  
Essex Elementary School ..... 860-767-8215  
John Winthrop Junior High ..... 860-526-9546  
Valley Regional High School ..... 860-526-5328  
Region 4 Central Office ..... 860-526-2417

**Estuary Council of Seniors** ..... 860-388-1611

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**  
Hazardous Waste & Consumer Electronics  
Collection, for more information and dates, call  
860-581-8554 (Lower Connecticut River Valley  
Council of Governments) or [www.essexct.gov/  
departments/waste.html](http://www.essexct.gov/departments/waste.html)  
or [www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org)

**Libraries:**  
Essex ..... 860-767-1560  
Ivoryton ..... 860-767-1252

**Police Services** ..... 860-767-1054

**Post Offices:**  
Centerbrook ..... 860-767-8730  
Essex ..... 860-767-8476  
Ivoryton ..... 860-767-8515

**Probate Court** ..... 860-510-5028

**Public Works** ..... 860-767-0715

**Town Hall**  
Telephone ..... 860-767-4340  
General Fax ..... 860-767-8509

**Transfer Station & Recycling Center** . 860-767-1926

**Visiting Nurses, Lower Valley** ..... 860-767-0186

*A complete by department phone  
number and email directory for  
Town Government is printed on the  
inside back cover.*

## ***History of Essex***

The lower Connecticut River Valley was originally occupied by semi-agricultural indigenous people who enjoyed the bounty of the land and the Connecticut River. The area we call Essex today was referred to as Potapoug originally and for the first two hundred years or so of its history. Although the earliest colonists arrived from Old Saybrook to farm what is today known as Essex village, the earliest English population actually grew in Centerbrook. Centerbrook possessed two attractive features which captured the attention of settlers, a natural waterfall along the Falls River (ideal for the construction of several mills) and the richest farmland in the area. Hence, the construction of the first meetinghouse (1722) can be found in this section of town along Main Street.

As the seventeenth century passed, however, riverfront activity increased in importance. It was during this time that shipbuilding began to dominate the local economy. Ancient maps reveal a ropewalk, several blacksmiths, wharves and other businesses associated with the construction of ships. During the American Revolution, Essex's Captain Uriah Hayden constructed the state's first battleship, the "Oliver Cromwell", which went on to see significant action during the war. Shortly thereafter Essex developed into a regional leader in the construction of sailing vessels, building over 600 ships over the next century. Not surprisingly, Essex became a British target during the War of 1812 for its associations with privateering. While the town was spared, the burning of the fleet (a total of 28 vessels) on April 8, 1814, ranks among the most costly defeats of the entire war.

The nineteenth century brought about substantial changes to the already ancient town. While steamboat technology mounted a growing challenge to the traditional wooden sailing ships constructed along the riverfront, other industrial innovations led to the rise of a third village in the small town. The interior of Essex, marked by the steep hills threaded by the Falls River, proved ideal for the construction of mill ponds for water power. Under the innovative and entrepreneurial mind of Samuel M. Comstock, who later partnered with George A. Cheney, the village of Ivoryton grew into a national leader in the manufacture of piano actions and keyboards (among other ivory products). As the employer of thousands of immigrants, Ivoryton developed into a prototypical "company town". WW II allowed the factory to escape the throes of the Great Depression; however the decline in popularity of the piano shortly thereafter began the passing of yet another era. Since the departure of piano manufacture, Essex has in essence made its long history the center of its economy. The natural beauty of the land and water, coupled with the architecture and stories of the past have led to the development of Essex as a popular tourist destination in the state. The tourist industry supplements the base of small businesses and retail establishments in town.

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### ***Battlesite Essex 1814***

On the evening April 8<sup>th</sup>, on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British Raid on Essex our community gathered around a bonfire on the waterfront on the grounds of the Connecticut River Museum. The story was told of the night when the British came up the river to burn the privateers of Pettipaug, the shipbuilding village we now call Essex. The destruction of 27 vessels represented the largest single maritime loss of the war of 1812. As the bonfire lit the night, the names of the ships were read off as 27 wooden replicas were reverently placed into the fire.

A month later, on May 10<sup>th</sup> over 3,000 people gathered for the largest Commemoration Day in Essex history as 14 corps of fife and drums marched down our historic Main Street lead by the Sailing Masters of 1812. As speeches were being given our militia re-enactors shouted out the alarm. The British were in the river again! Red coated marines and sword brandishing sailors stormed the boat landing and before he knew it, first selectman Norman Needleman was being confronted by Captain Richard Coote informing him that further resistance was futile.

It was all part of the impressive array of bicentennial events and projects marking this dramatic moment in our local, state and national heritage. For decades the raid had been left out of the history books yet as the bicentennial approached, new research on both sides of the Atlantic led to Essex being named the state's first War of 1812 battle site in 2012. Extensive archeology along the river in the summer of 2013 resulted in federal recognition of the British raid on Essex.

A year ago, a bicentennial committee was formed, chaired by Geoff Paul and Herb Clark, including the Essex Historical Society, the Connecticut River Museum, the Griswold Inn and the Essex Library Association. In addition to staging the community bonfires and Commemoration Day events, projects have included the creation of a dedicated website, a battle site heritage corridor complete with historic markers along the river, a special publication for schools and libraries, bicentennial banners throughout the village, new exhibits, 1812 nights at the Griswold Inn, a YouTube music video and a mini documentary. It has been an exciting year and finally, Battle Site Essex is on the map! To learn more visit [battlesitessex.org](http://battlesitessex.org).

Jerry Roberts  
Battlesite Historian

## *Elected Officials*

### **Town of Essex**

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman  
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman  
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Joel Marzi

#### **TREASURER**

James D. Francis

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Megan D. Haskins

#### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Keith M. Crehan, Chairman  
W. Campbell Hudson, Vice Chairman  
Donald Mesite  
Mary-Louise Polo  
Frederick M. Vollono  
Jeffrey D. Woods

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY**

Lon J. Seidman, Chairman  
Adam Conrad  
Don G. Fitton, Jr.  
Loretta T. McCluskey  
Carolyn Rotella  
Mark Watson

#### **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**

John Ackermann  
Anne J. Dougherty  
Coral L. Rawn

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4**

Christopher D. Riley  
Jennifer A. Clark  
Leigh Rankin

#### **JUDGE OF PROBATE**

Terrance Lomme

#### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Lois Ely  
John Heiser

### **State of Connecticut**

#### **GOVERNOR**

Dannel P. Malloy

#### **LT. GOVERNOR**

Nancy Wyman

#### **STATE COMPTROLLER**

Kevin Lembo

#### **STATE TREASURER**

Denise Nappier

#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

George Jepsen

#### **SECRETARY OF STATE**

Denise Merrill

#### **SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT**

Art Linares

#### **REPRESENTATIVE 36TH DISTRICT**

Philip J. Miller

### **Federal**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Barack Obama

#### **UNITED STATES SENATE**

Richard Blumenthal

Chris Murphy

#### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Joseph D. Courtney

## **Town Officials and Services** *(as of September 30, 2014)*

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Jae Wolf

### **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Jessica Sypher, Assessor  
Nancy Berryman, Administrative Assistant

### **AUDITORS**

Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP, Glastonbury

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

David DeLeeuw, Building Official  
Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

### **CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Jerry Roberts

### **COMCAST CABLE T.V. ADVISORY BOARD**

Richard Stebbins

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kathleen Tucker, Chair  
Pamela Bernardini  
Adrienne Forrest  
Richard Helmecki  
Jeffrey Lovelace

### **CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION**

Claire Matthews

### **CONSULTING ENGINEER**

Robert Doane, Jr.  
Doane-Collins Engineering Associates, LLC

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Lon Seidman, Chairman  
John Beveridge  
Edward Cook  
Elizabeth D'Amico  
Robert Laundry, Planning Representative  
David Sousa  
David Winstead

### **EDUCATION—REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 4**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Ruth Levy, Ed. D Superintendent of Schools  
Joanne D. Beekley, Ed.D, Asst Superintendent  
Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services  
Garth Sawyer, Business Manager  
Pam Murphy, Director of Technology

#### **ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Scott Jeffrey, Principal  
Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal

#### **JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL**

William Duffy, Principal  
Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

### **VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Kristina Martineau, Principal  
Matt Talmadge, Associate

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

William Buckridge

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Judith Reynolds

### **ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

Judith Reynolds

### **ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1**

Paul Fazzino Jr, Chief

### **ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair  
Dawn Boulanger  
David C. Gephard  
Richard W. Stebbins  
Rosemary A. Willis

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director  
Dana Novorio, Assistant to the Director of Finance

### **FIRE MARSHAL**

Keith Nolin, Fire Marshal  
Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

### **HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Jeffrey Going, Chairman  
Walter Schieferdecker  
John Senning  
Walter Wiegert  
Joseph Zaraschi  
Terry Stewart, alternate

### **HARBOR MASTER**

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

### **HEALTH DIRECTOR**

Lisa Fasulo  
Kerry Berardinelli, Administrative Assistant

### **INLAND WETLANDS AND**

#### **WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

Daniel Lapman, Chairman  
John Ackermann, Planning  
Nancy Arnold  
Charles Corson  
Jim Hill, Zoning  
Jeffrey Lovelace, Conservation  
Fred Szufnarowski  
Jim Leo, alternate  
Stephen Knauth, alternate

## Town Officials and Services

### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Susan W. Beckman .....860-767-9755  
 Matthew P. Cooper.....860-767-8462  
 Ann S. Dixon.....860-767-1339  
 Linda K. Dwyer .....860-767-8381  
 Earl Fowler .....860-767-2764  
 David W. Galligan .....860-767-1860  
 Bruce M. Glowac .....860-767-0650  
 Jean R. Hanor .....860-767-1962  
 Donna M. Hyde .....860-767-0061  
 Shelley H. Mack .....860-767-7812  
 Philip J. Miller .....860-767-7837  
 Norman M. Needleman .....860-767-9176  
 Vincent A. Pacileo III .....860-767-8153  
 Douglas W. Paul.....860-767-3094  
 Raymond A. Rubenbauer.....860-767-2514  
 Daniel J. Stypa.....860-767-2075  
 Kathleen McKinney Tucker .....860-767-0397  
 William P. Veillette .....860-767-8519  
 Frederick M. Vollono .....860-767-7665

### LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Michael Birner  
 Wilbur Armstead

### LIBRARIES

#### ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Richard Conroy, Library Director

#### IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

### LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Alan Kerr

### LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

William Buckridge  
 Keith Nolin  
 Judith Reynolds

### PARK AND RECREATION

Rick Audet, Director  
 Mary Ellen Barnes, Recreation Coordinator

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Robert Russo, Chairman  
 Thomas Clerkin  
 Anthony Mosa  
 James Rawn  
 Douglas Senn  
 Virginia Willetts  
 John Bauman, alternate  
 Edward Burleson, alternate  
 Peter Sarner, alternate

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Danyliw, Chairman  
 Carla Feroni  
 Linda Herman  
 Alan Kerr  
 Ralph Monaco  
 John Ackermann, alternate  
 Robert Laundry, alternate  
 Claire Tiernan, alternate

### PUBLIC WORKS

David Caroline, Director  
 William Angier  
 Boris Churyk  
 Richard Gallacher  
 Ryan Welch

### REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Winifred Olson

### REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Lois Ely  
 John Heiser

### RESIDENT STATE TROOPER & ESSEX POLICE

David Tretter, Resident State Trooper  
 Russell Gingras, Corporal  
 Todd Belcourt, Police Officer  
 James Paul Kenefick, Police Officer  
 Scott O'Donnell, Police Officer

### CROSSING GUARD

William Westerman, Crossing Guard

### HARBOR PATROL

Thomas Hogarty, Boat Operator  
 Mark Walter, Boat Operator  
 Richard Varricchio, Boat Operator  
 Wayne Vetre, Jr. Boat Operator

### RETIREMENT BOARD

Ellen Whaley-Wexler, Chair  
 Carl W. Ellison  
 Ethan Goller  
 Stacia Libby  
 Frederick Vollono

### SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Norman Needleman, First Selectman  
 Stacia Libby, Selectman  
 Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman  
 Maria Lucarelli, Assistant to Selectmen

## ***Town Officials and Services***

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mary Ellen Barnes

### **TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE**

Megan D. Haskins, Tax Collector  
Lynne Skinner, Assistant Tax Collector

### **TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

### **TOWN COUNSEL**

Attorney David M. Royston, Old Saybrook

### **TOWN HALL OPERATIONS**

Thomas Fitzgerald, Supervisor  
Joseph Donofrio  
Mark Hiatt  
John Schumacher

### **TREASURER**

James Francis,

### **TREE COMMITTEE**

Kenneth Bombaci  
Nancy Hudson  
Susan Malan  
John Molloy  
Mark Pratt

### **TREE WARDEN**

August Pampel

### **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Susan Malan, Chair  
Randel Osborne  
Leigh Rankin  
Mark Reeves  
Robert Van Hutten  
Alvin Wolfram, alternate

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Paul Greenberg, Chairman  
Michael Noto, Vice Chairman  
Alexander Daddona  
William Timothy Furgueson  
William Veillette  
Peter Decker, alternate  
Ward Feirer, alternate  
Barbara Sarrantonio, alternate

### **ZONING COMMISSION**

Larry Shipman, Chairman  
Jim Hill  
William Reichenbach  
Larry Shipman  
Susan Uihlein  
Alvin Wolfgram  
Adrienne Forrest, alternate  
Jeffrey Lovelace, alternate  
Barbara Zernicke, alternate

### **ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

Joseph Budrow, Zoning/Wetlands Enforce. Agent  
Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

## *Animal Control Officer*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jae Wolf, Essex Animal Control Officer as of November 2013.

Please remember rabies vaccination and licensing your pet are the first steps toward responsible pet ownership. Dogs are considered personal property and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dogs.

I am here to assist you with any animal issues you may encounter. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions. Office: (860) 767-3219 Mobile: (860) 388-7082



*Some Four-legged Essex Residents*

## **Board of Finance**

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members who are elected to serve six year terms. The current Board consists of W. Campbell Hudson and Mary Louise Polo whose terms expire in 2019, Keith Crehan and Jeffrey Woods whose terms expire in 2017, and Donald J. Mesite and Frederick M. Vollono whose terms expire in 2015.

The Board of Finance meets the third Thursday of each month. It is the responsibility of the Board of Finance to consider the financial aspects of Town Government as a whole, to restrain wasteful and extravagant expenditures, to exercise care for a properly balanced budget, to establish the mill rate and to oversee the annual financial audit.

The Board of Finance works closely with the Board of Selectmen, the Town Treasurer and Finance Director, the Essex Board of Education and the Region 4 Board of Education in financial matters.

Keith M. Crehan  
Chairman



*Seen down the street from Town Hall  
admiring the new Civic Campus*

## **Board of Selectmen**

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the First Selectman for the Town of Essex. Our efforts during the 2013-2014 fiscal year have focused on providing the best Town services possible while being careful stewards of the resources residents have entrusted to us. I would like to thank my fellow members of the Board of Selectmen, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac, for their efforts this year as well as all our local elected and appointed officials.

Of note in this past year, the Town underwent a detailed, once every ten years, property revaluation. Fiscal year 2014-2015 is the first budget year that the impact of the revaluation results will be felt in the calculation of the mill rate and property tax bills. A Town Meeting vote to appropriate \$200,000 towards the planned \$8.1 million purchase of the 1,000-acre Preserve property that includes 70 wooded acres in Essex was passed. This property is a vastly important coastal forest that we can now protect from future development for the generations to come. The Town completed the Civic Campus Enhancement Project which expanded Town Hall parking, replaced the Grove Street Park playscape and tennis courts, and provided connectivity to the library campus.

The Village of Ivoryton has been placed on the National Parks Service National Register of Historic Places in recognition of the number of historic structures in the village and it's role as a "well preserved company town" from the Industrial era of New England. Selectwoman Stacia Libby is chairing a committee who will oversee the work related to a \$435,000 Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) grant for project work to enhance a shared "Village Center" around Main, Ivory and Summit Streets in Ivoryton in the continued renewal of Ivoryton as a robust economic center.

Selectman Bruce Glowac is leading a capital committee focus group for the Town as we are examining a number of capital projects that may go out to bond in the near future. The projects are mostly for repairs to the school and Town Hall buildings, as well as necessary bridge repairs.

In an effort to promote business and commercial growth in Essex, we created a new Economic Development consultant position to strengthen our position in increasing business opportunities in Town. A number of initiatives will lead us into the next year including: striving towards an increase in our clean energy and instituting new fees and procedures at the Essex transfer station, among others.

Town staff and elected officials are working diligently to improve Town services and infrastructure. A large number of civic-minded individuals and organizations, including our board members, commissioners, community groups, and economic organizations contribute equally in our Town's success. In Essex, we appreciate and enjoy our rich and deep history while striving to be a progressive and livable twenty-first century community.

Norman Needleman  
First Selectman

## ***Building Department***

Building permits are required for all new construction, foundations, additions, swimming pools, demolition, woodstove installation, structural alterations and/or renovations to existing buildings.

Building permits are also required for plumbing, heating/air conditioning, solar panels, electrical and mechanical work done to both new and existing residential and commercial buildings. Driveway approach permits are required for new and/or relocated driveways.

Note that building permits are not required for such improvements as painting, shelving, and decorating.

If applicable, all required Zoning and Health Department permits should be obtained prior to applying for a building permit.

In order to obtain a building permit, the applicant should submit the following to the Building Department:

- \* A completed building permit application with sign off from the Tax Department
- \* Copies of Zoning and Health Department permits, when applicable
- \* Two sets of blueprints (for new buildings, additions, interior renovations)
- \* Proof of contractor licensure
- \* Proof of contractor worker's compensation coverage or appropriate waiver form, if applicable
- \* Permit fee (fees are based upon building costs: current fee is \$20 for the first \$1,000 plus \$10 for each additional \$1,000 or any part thereof)

The Building Official reviews all submitted building plans to ensure compliance with current state building codes. All approved plans are marked with pertinent code information, dated with the review date and signed by the Building Official. One set of plans is returned to the applicant with the Building Permit and one set is retained in the Building permit file. Once all permits have been obtained and construction has begun, there are a number of inspections required during construction. A list of required inspections is available in the Building Department.

The Building Department issues a Certificate of Occupancy or Completion once all construction is completed, inspection requirements are met, and all required documents are received by the Sanitarian, Zoning and Building Departments.

From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, a total of 641 (550 residential, 91 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$11,753,719.37. Eight permits were for new home construction. Four driveway permits were issued. A total of \$120,880.00 in permit fees was collected. Two Demolition Ordinance Fees were collected for a total of \$150.00.

On February 28, 2014 the 2013 Amendment to the Building Code went into effect changing the applicable residential and electrical code versions.

David R. DeLeeuw  
Building Official

## ***Central Services Town Hall Operations***

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Town Hall has hosted over 500 events in the three meeting rooms. These rooms have been set-up and taken-down, cleaned, and maintained by the custodial staff of one full time and two part time employees. Additionally, our staff helps to maintain the Town Garage facilities and the Town public restrooms. This past year we have maintained our Town Hall building during construction of the Civic Campus renovation, the renovation of the ground floor kitchen and the installation of two new energy efficient boilers. It is the goal of the maintenance staff to maintain a clean and safe Town Hall Facility. Citizen suggestions are always welcomed.

Tom Fitzgerald  
Custodial/Maintenance Services Manager



*John and Ruth Schumacher*

## Clean Energy Task Force

Report on FY 2013-14 Town of Essex Sustainability Goals:

Reduce electric consumption by 8% from the baseline year of 2010.

Results: Using the 2010 CY baseline of 872,489 kWhs, during FY 2013-14, 815,733 kWhs was consumed by the municipal buildings and streetlights including the elementary school. This was a 7% decrease from 2010.

Increase purchase of Clean Energy for town buildings to 16% for FY 2013-14.

Results: During FY 2013-14, 16% of the municipal building energy was purchased from clean, renewable energy sources (Community Energy).

Reduce heating fuel oil consumption by 5%.

Results: Using the 2010 CY baseline of 37,960 gallons, during FY 2013-14, 39,667 gallons of fuel oil was consumed by municipal buildings including the elementary school. While the number of gallons consumed increased, the actual use per degree-day declined 9%. In CY 2010, 7.43 gallons were used per degree-day while in FY 2013-14, 6.75 gallons were used per degree-day.

Increase the amount of recyclables in tons.

Results: Using the FY 2010-11 baseline of 691.31 tons, there was an increase of 4% to 718 tons in FY 2013-14.

Increase amount of household hazardous waste collected from FY 2010/11.

Results: There was a decrease of 20% in the number of households from 411 to 330 for the report period. There was a 20% decrease in the estimated number of pounds from 8220 to 6600. One household is estimated to be 20 pounds of HHW.

Other Accomplishments: The Solarize Essex program has helped 15 residents install solar power on their homes at discounted prices. Through this program, the amount of residential solar power has increased from 44 kW to 144.5kW. In addition, a Big Belly Solar Trash Compactor will be installed adjacent to the athletic field at the Valley Regional High School soon.

Sources of Data: Electric- CL & P, Clean Energy Purchase-Community Energy, Fuel Oil- East River Energy, Recyclables-CRRA and HHW-River COG.

Frank B. Hall  
Chairman

## Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission manages Bushy Hill and Viney Hill Brook Passive Preserves, and, with the Essex Land Trust, a portion of Canfield Meadow Woods. In addition, the commission inventories the town's conservation easements and makes recommendations to other agencies on the status of conservation, development, and easements for the town.

Throughout the year it is the Conservation Commission's responsibility to maintain the three preserves and the trails running through them. This is accomplished by the members and volunteers when possible. This year's heavy spring rains flooded trails at Bushy Hill Preserve causing pedestrian footbridges along the Falls River to dislodge. They will be re-anchored and repaired. In the interim, a temporary trail has been opened and marked. A clogged pipe, installed in 1989 for drainage, was cleared of roots, vines, and decades of accumulated debris by commission members. Members also cut back overgrown vegetation beside the trails at Viney Hill Brook Preserve and relocated the bog bridges there.

Ongoing maintenance at Viney Hill Brook Preserve required the use of professionals who applied herbicide to the invasive species Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed, used a brush-hog to widen Broadwalk, and mowed the Spruce Tree Meadow adjacent to the town right-of-way road. Old perc-test pipes, installed by a former owner, were removed. The commission also continued with tick control measures and some wood-chipping of dead-fall trees.

At Bushy Hill Preserve, in response to an unusually heavy mosquito infestation, commissioners authorized application of approved chemicals in mosquito breeding areas to make trail use more tolerable. This treatment reduced the insects this season; a second application to help mitigate the problem for next spring is planned.

The Conservation Commission endorsed the use of state funds to purchase the 1000 Acre Coastal Forest known as The Preserve. This has been an ongoing discussion for over fifteen years, and finally this year, the land will be purchased and protected as open space. Approximately seventy acres lie within Essex.

January 1 was the Conservation Commission's 8<sup>th</sup> annual New Year's Day hike. Open to anyone, ten hikers toured the trails in Viney Hill Brook Preserve then enjoyed a tailgate breakfast of homemade trail mix, warm bread, and cheese.

The current Conservation Commission roster includes Kay Tucker, Chair; Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice-Chair; Pamela Bernardini, Adrienne Forrest, and Richard Helmecki. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

# Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) continues our work and advocacy to help attract, grow, and retain businesses that are appropriate for our community. The EDC Commissioners are John Beveridge, Ed Cook (Vice Chair), Betsy D’Amico, Bob Laundry (Planning Commission Representative), Lon Seidman (Chair), David Sousa, and David Winstead.

Last year Essex became a member of the Main Street Center, a non-profit quasi-public agency dedicated to developing and maintaining small town centers. Last fall The Main Street Center facilitated public meetings of the EDC and land use commissions; the outcome of the meetings was to establish a working group to look at ways to improve Centerbrook Village.

In partnership with the Planning Commission the EDC obtained a grant from The Main Street Center to create a working group and visioning study for Centerbrook Village. The group met multiple times over several months to develop a plan for improving the aesthetics and mobility for autos, bicycles and pedestrians and calm traffic in and around Centerbrook Village. The group submitted their report to the Planning Commission for consideration in the current revision/update of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Last year the EDC authorized a small consulting position (Economic Developer, ED) to help small businesses navigate the sometimes complex process of establishing a company or growing in our town. The ED meets regularly with the Zoning Official and the Health Director, when working with new tenants and/or commercial building owners. The ED keeps a list of available commercial space and properties that is maintained with the RiverCog. The ED attends regular meetings of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and other economic impact groups. The Middlesex County ED’s have formed a group that meets monthly to work together to improve economic development in and around Middlesex County.

EDC worked to obtain another grant for the Ivoryton Farmers Market which continues to grow bringing many people to Ivoryton Village each Saturday morning in season.

Currently EDC is working closely with Planning and Zoning on a new signage ordinance, the updating of the Plan of Conservation and Development as well as any proposed text amendments to the Zoning Regulations.

EDC meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. – we welcome visitors and appreciate hearing residents thoughts on furthering Economic Development in Essex.

Please visit our section of the EssexCT.gov website and send us a message. Our meeting minutes and agendas are posted there as well.



## Education

### Our Mission

We, the schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous challenging and cohesive educational program. As a community of learners, we foster individual student achievement and empower students to excel in an environment of collaboration, responsibility and mutual respect. We prepare our students to be knowledgeable, involved citizens in a rapidly changing world.

### Our Vision Statement

Our schools endeavor to develop an educational program of excellence where all students achieve at high levels and best instructional strategies are pursued in an environment of inquiry, collaboration, support and trust.

## **Education**

### **Essex Elementary School**

The Essex Elementary School serves students from Kindergarten through grade 6, and the Collaborative Preschool for Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Essex Elementary has high expectations for all students. The focus on student learning and growth is a direct result of the district's efforts to enhance instruction by focusing on individual student needs. Continuous improvement is essential to providing increased student performance and quality results. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of all students in reading, writing, math, social studies and science, we offer other programs to enrich our student's elementary experience. Physical education, art, music, library, and World Language/Spanish are among the classes offered. Chorus is offered to students in grades 3-6 and instrumental music lessons and ensemble for students in grades 4-6 are important components of our enrichment program. Each of these programs is crucial in the development of the whole child. Technology is purposefully integrated into classroom instruction with state of the art desktop, laptop and iPad computers. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance student learning.

Our Social Development Program promotes a culture, climate and curriculum that encourage the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. The Social Development Book of the Month program embeds our core values into the general curriculum in each classroom at each grade level. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) providing enrichment for students with cultural arts programs, field trips and an assortment of opportunities for family involvement. The Green Team, Student Leaders and EBT Broadcast Team are examples of the extracurricular offerings we have available to our students.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation has generously funded 3 mini-grants in Kindergarten, Music, and Library; as well as support of the Mathematician in Residence program for grades K-4. In addition, the World Cultures Program continues for grade 3 students.

At Essex Elementary School, we strive to provide a strong academic program and create a positive environment that fosters a love of learning and a sense of community.

Scott T. Jeffrey  
Principal

## **Education**

### **Superintendent of Schools**

The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools enjoyed a wonderful and productive 2013-2014 school year. Our districts have been engaged in the analysis of data and its impact on teaching and learning throughout all aspects of curriculum, instruction, and budget preparation in order to meet the changing needs of our students. During our year, we engaged parents in events such as a community dinner to discuss our progress with regard to our strategic plan, mission, vision, and goals. Multiple opportunities were offered to parents at all grade levels focusing on mathematical instruction and student homework.

Technology has grown in our district, with more emphasis on computer skills, Internet safety and etiquette, and the utilization of technology in the instructional and learning process. iPads have been included as an active part of student learning and research skill development. Meaningful professional development has been helping teachers meet the changing needs in educating and challenging our children to be their best.

Each of our schools has social skills curriculum designed to teach and model important interactive skills and values. The collaborative efforts between the schools, towns, and Tri-Town Youth Services are evidenced in the awards and recognition that our students have received whether in academics, athletics, or the arts. School climate plans are articulated and available to see on the Region 4 website. The plans are revised based on surveys that are sent out annually.

Accomplishments for the 2013-2014 school year were plentiful. Environmentally, green efforts were made by each of our schools through recycling, composting, and conservation initiatives. John Winthrop Middle School was recognized once again, as a Spotlight School by the New England League of Middle Schools from 2014-2017. Recognition and awards were received in such areas as the Mock Trial Team, Lego Team competitions, Music and Art competitions both in New England and on a National level. Valley Regional High School was named one of the top 500 high schools across our country once again for the fourth year, by Newsweek Magazine. Our High School and Middle School musicals, bands, choral groups, and art departments have produced exceptional results and multiple awards across our district. Athletics awards were multiple across all competitive areas, supported by a loyal community of three towns that cheer them on win, lose, or draw. Whether socially, in athletics, the arts, or in academics, our students consistently demonstrate excellence.

We look forward to providing rigor, focus, and accountability across all curricular areas during the 2014-2015 school year. The combined efforts and positive communication between our schools, homes, and our communities combined with our collective commitment to improvement, will move each of our students toward personal excellence.

Ruth I. Levy, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Chester, Deep River, Essex & Region 4

## Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Department continues to put safety and well-being of residents as its highest priority. In FY 2013-14, the Town's Emergency Operation Plan was reviewed and updated to incorporate improvements and modifications as a result of lessons learned during the 2012 Super Storm and 2013 Blizzard.

On June 21, 2014 the Emergency Management Department and essential community partners participated in a Statewide Hurricane Exercise led by the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection – a Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The goal of the Exercise was to assess the Town's Municipal Mass Care readiness plan with emphasis on addressing functional needs issues and local sheltering plans. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened and Unified Command convened which included Emergency Management Director, HAM Radio operators, town Selectmen, Essex Citizen Emergence Response Team (CERT), Essex Health Department, Region 4 School District's Superintendent and staff at John Winthrop Middle School, CL&P, State of CT EOC, and others. The After Action Review of existing plans for evacuating and sheltering residents with functional needs is ongoing and will be completed in FY2014-15.

The department also expanded its Citizen Evacuation Registry database to include additional residents who submitted their forms after past year's severe weather events. Also, new Volunteer Registration Form for the EOC was created. During a severe weather event, disaster or major incident, the EOC may be activated and run 24 hours a day for several days. Additional volunteers are needed to help with HAM Radio operation, administrative support (type reports & answer phones) and supply distribution. Both the Citizen Evacuation Registry and the Volunteer Registration form are located on the Town of Essex website at [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) under forms and documents.

You are encouraged to review the Essex [Emergency Preparedness Guidebook](#) which contains essential information that you and your family needs to know for BEFORE an emergency happens. The Guidebook is a key resource for preparing a home shelter kit, locating local resources, emergency phone numbers, websites and radio station information. This document was created to help you understand the need to plan and prepare for you and your family's health and safety. Please take the time to review your plans and restock essential items at least annually and definitely before an impending storm. Guidebooks are available online and at the Essex Town Hall.

As a reminder, please register for emergency notifications and citizen alerts at [SaferEssex@essexct.gov](mailto:SaferEssex@essexct.gov) or call the Emergency Management Office at 860-767-8139 and leave a message.

Stay Safe and Be Well.  
William Buckridge  
Emergency Management Director

## Essex Housing Authority

Essex Court is an affordable public housing complex for elderly and disabled residents located at 16 Main Street in Centerbrook, under the responsibility of the Essex Housing Authority (EHA). Residents live independently in our 36 garden-style apartments and enjoy social time and monthly events in the Community Room, which houses a full kitchen, a laundry room, a staff office and bathrooms. This room is backed by a generator should we have a power outage.

Our residents are fortunate to have on-going support from the community. The Essex Community Fund continues to provide financial support to keep the Resident Services Program. The Essex Rotary Club provides Thanksgiving meals to some residents. Essex Garden Club donates plants, after their May Market, to beautify our property. Coldwell Banker Essex generously gave to Essex Court, which allowed us to have a major meal and music event. It also gives each resident a birthday remembrance. The residents are very thankful for all the kind grants. Many other businesses and individuals also donate to the residents. The Valley Regional High School again held a Community Day and sent a team to our facility to help the residents with miscellaneous chores for which everyone was very grateful.

It's been over a year since EHA hired the new management company, DeMarco Management they are a very experienced company, and the staff continues to provide excellent support. EHA, our Site Manager, and DeMarco Management strive to make Essex Court desirable for residents, financially viable, and an asset to the community. Housing applications are accepted year round and we continue to have a wait list.

The EHA continues to move along with plans for the new development of Essex Place, which will take place here on our vacant lot on our present campus. This will be more affordable housing for the elderly here in Centerbrook.

Commissioners: Janice Atkeson, Chairperson; Dawn Boulanger, Vice President; Rick Stebbins; RoseMary Willis, Secretary, and David Gephard. Site Manager; Tammy Mesite.

Submitted by Tammy Mesite, Site Manager and Janice Atkeson, Chair

## **Fire Marshal**

The Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for investigating all fire related incidences that Essex Fire Engine Co. No. 1 responds to, as well as any follow-up inspections. The Office is also responsible to submit the mandated National Fire Incident Reports (NFIRS) to the Bureau of the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Annual inspections of all buildings and facilities of public service, all buildings and facilities used for manufacturing and all occupancies regulated by the Fire Safety Code are required by the Fire Marshal in order to determine the degree of compliance with fire safety requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 541 as authorized by Section 29-305.

Annual inspections by the Fire Marshal are also required for all establishments who wish to obtain and/or renew their liquor licenses. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact the Fire Marshal's office in order to set up an appointment for this inspection.

A permit and inspection is required from the Fire Marshal's office for the removal of an underground fuel storage tank. There is a \$30.00 fee for this permit and it may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. Upon removal of the tank, the Fire Marshal looks for any soil contamination and completes a report stating the results of the inspection. This report then becomes a permanent part of the property file. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, there were 11 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

Tent events require a permit and inspection from the Fire Marshal. There is a \$30.00 fee for each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed at the tent for all social events; except those tents on the property of one and two family residences where no admission is charged. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 there were 35 tents permits/inspections.

The Fire Marshal issues blasting permits to licensed blasting contractors. There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, there were 3 blasting permits issued.

The open burning of residential brush (limited to 2" and under in diameter) requires a burning permit signed by the Fire Marshal. There is no charge for this permit; however there are specific terms and conditions under which this permit is issued. Information on open burning/burning permits is available in the Fire Marshal's Office. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, 61 burning permits were issued.

For any of the above permits please see Darcy Roper or Kerry Berardinelli in the Fire Marshal's Office.

Total income from permits issued by the Fire Marshal's office from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 was \$1,770.00.

Keith C. Nolin  
Fire Marshal

## **Harbor Management Commission**

The primary responsibility of the Harbor Management Commission is the maintenance of the anchorage areas in Essex Harbor -- the main anchorage off the village, the Meadows anchorage off the Great Meadows and the coves. Private, commercial and support moorings are managed according to the Harbor Management Plan and working with the Harbor Master under the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Permit applications are available from the Town web site, [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov). Permit holder lists and wait lists are regularly updated and available both online and posted in the Town Hall.

The HMC currently has a permit to remove the two old fish piers (rock piles) in the southern part of the main anchorage, but funds are not available to remove these derelict structures.

Maintenance and improvements to the Town's Public Access points is another HMC responsibility. The popular Bushnell Street Access was expended with the addition of another small craft storage rack. Bushnell is the only access that permits storage of small craft.

Individual craft storage permits are available from the HMC at a cost of \$25 each covering the period April 1 thru November. All craft must be removed by November 30 and are not allowed at Bushnell until April.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (Third Thursday in November and December) in the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. Public is invited.

Jeff Going  
Chairman



## Health Department

The Health Department is empowered by the CT Public Health Code (PHC), and other laws, to enforce public health regulations and to fulfill the core functions of public health and essential services outlined by the CDC and defined in CT General Statutes. Toward that goal, the Essex Health Department is committed to improving the health and well-being of its residents in the three villages of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton. In addition to the number of Environmental Health activities shown below, the Health Department investigated numerous public health nuisances including indoor mold and indoor air quality, radon in air and in drinking water, uranium and arsenic in drinking water, asbestos, lead based paint, blighted properties, and abandoned swimming pools. The Director of Health reviews physician and laboratory disease reports for all CT mandated reportable diseases and applies appropriate control measures and public health education when needed.

The Health Department is also very active in Public Health Emergency Preparedness and works with regional partners to develop plans and coordinate activities to protect the health and safety of residents during natural or manmade disasters. In the Fall of 2013 the Essex Health Department partnered with Health Departments in CT Mass Dispensing Area 39, which includes Essex and its 7 neighboring towns, to plan and prepare for a Regional Point of Dispensing Drill. The Drill, held on April 14, 2014 at John Winthrop Middle School in Deep River, provided an opportunity to rehearse plans to dispense medications/vaccinations to all 50,000 residents in the 7 towns including 6,700 Essex residents. On June 21, 2014, the Essex Health Department participated in a Statewide Hurricane Drill the goal of which was to assess the Municipal Mass Care readiness plan with emphasis on residents with function needs. Each drill provided an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of existing Emergency Preparedness plans and to identify areas of improvement.

### Public Health By the Numbers:

- 120 Food Service Establishment Inspections at restaurants, bars, grocery stores, schools & long-term care facilities.
- 85 Plan Reviews for compliance with PHC Sec. 19-13-B100a for proposed building activities including building additions, expansions, change or intensification of building use, construction of accessory structures such as swimming pools, decks, patios, detached sheds, garages, pool cabanas, etc.
- 31 Soil Tests as required for the design of new septic systems & septic system repairs and for compliance with proposed land use activities (B100a)
- 27 Permits and Inspections of Temporary Events such as the Shad Bake, Lobster Bake, RiverFare, Thomas the Tank Engine, Hot Steamed Jazz Festival, etc.
- 26 Septic System Repairs
- 12 New Well Drilling permits
- 10 New Septic System Installations
- 10 Salon Inspections
- 7 Ticks Tested for Diseases
- 6 Public Pool Inspections
- 4 Child Care Inspections
- 2 Animals Tested for Rabies

## Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission is chaired by Dan Lapman. With Mr. Lapman are Charles Corson, Vice Chairman (member at large), Nancy Arnold (member at large), Fred Szufnarowski (member at large), Jim Hill (Zoning Commission liaison), Jeff Lovelace (Conservation Commission liaison), John Ackerman (Planning Commission liaison), Jim Leo (alternate), and Stephen Knauth (alternate).

The Commission, along with its enforcement official, regulates all proposed activities within a wetland, watercourse, or waterbody and on the land within 100 feet of those areas.

Wetlands are defined in the regulations in accordance with CT General Statutes. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Commission conducted one site inspection and issued twelve inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued six permits for activities within upland review areas.



Joseph Budrow  
Wetlands Enforcement Official

## **Park and Recreation Commission**

Essex Park and Recreation's mission is Creating the Essex Community Through People, Parks, and Programs. Each year we strive to offer a wide variety of community -building special events and beneficial recreation program offerings, and FY 2013-2014 was no different. This year, we offered 64 youth and adult programs, 16 special events, and processed just under 1,000 registrations. Our new programs this year included archery, field hockey, and theatre.

Essex Park and Recreation installed new tennis courts and a playscape at Grove Street Park as part of the Civic Campus Enhancement Project. This project was funded mostly by a STEAP grant from the state along with funds from the Park & Recreation Capital and Sinking Fund. The new playscape is approximately 8,000 sq. feet with equipment and design from Landscape Structures. The tennis courts were rebuilt below the ground up with new drainage, court surface, fencing and lighting. The Main Street Park Embankment Project is to be completed this fall, funding was secured from FEMA combined with Park and Recreation Sinking Funds. This project entailed an engineered plan to strengthen the embankment and beautify this area of Main Street Park with new, native plantings. The Essex Foundation completed an improvement project at Clark's Pond for which we were very grateful. Lastly, construction began on a new awning at Viney Hill Brook Park in coordination with Bogaert Construction and the Essex Lions Club, which will provide shelter and a nice new area for picnicking.

We thank the Rockfall Foundation for their grant we received supporting our Essex Outdoors Program. Also, over \$6,000 was collected from our community partners for our camp scholarships ensuring that no Essex child would be left out of our summer camp program. We are grateful for the dedication and service from our Park and Recreation Commissioners: Bob Russo (Chair), Tony Mosa, Jim Rawn, Doug Senn, Cathy Bishop, Ed Burleson, Tom Clerkin, Ginny Willets, John Bauman and Peter Sarner.

Essex Park and Recreation looks forward to continuing its service to the community and we hope our residents take advantage of the benefits our programs and facilities have to offer. Our goals for FY 2014-2015 include completing a strategic plan related to our Special Revenue Fund, refining our Capital Improvement Plan, and installation of a new sponsorship program while we continually improve our parks and program offerings.

Rick Audet, CPRP  
Park and Recreation Director

## **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission is responsible for the development and implementation of the municipal Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) and for the review of subdivisions. The Planning Commission also advises the Board of Selectmen regarding municipal projects and the Zoning Commission regarding changes to zoning maps or regulations.

The Planning Commission is composed of five regular members and three alternates. Thomas Danyliw was re-elected as chairman in December, and Linda Herman was re-elected Vice-Chairman. Carla Feroni, Alan Kerr, and Ralph Monaco are the other full members. John Ackermann, Robert Laundry, and Claire Tiernan serve as alternates to the Commission.

During the fiscal year 2013-2014, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

- Began the process of updating the Town's 2005 Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission held a number of Public Forum sessions focused on the key development nodes of Essex Village, Centerbrook Village, Ivoryton Village, Bokum Center, and "Essex Junction" at the Route 9 Gateway area. The updated Plan is anticipated to be completed in FY 2014-2015;
- In furtherance of the Transportation Study, began implementation of Main Street Investment Fund grant to develop a "Shared Street for the Arts" in the center of Ivoryton Village. This project should be constructed in 2015.
- In collaboration with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG), completed an update of the Essex Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and had Plan approved by FEMA.
- Through grant funding from the Connecticut Historic Preservation Office, prepared nomination of Village of Ivoryton to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Parks Service added Ivoryton to the National Register in April, 2014.
- Undertook, through funding from Connecticut Main Street Center, a Visioning exercise for Centerbrook Village. The study was completed in July, 2014 and will be incorporated into the new PoCD.
- Continued progress on Phase I of sidewalk improvement design for new sidewalk and repair sidewalk near Essex Elementary School funded through Safe Routes To School program. Construction will occur in FY 2014-2015.

Thomas Danyliw  
Chairman

## Probate Court

It is hard to believe that it has been almost four years since the merger of the previous nine Probate Courts into the Saybrook District Probate court. This court serves the nine towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. The total population served by the Court is over 62,000 citizens.

In July of 2013, Probate Court Administration instituted an extensive set of new rules. The purpose of these new rules is to give the courts more consistency and to make the court process more user-friendly. The new rules also modernize and streamline some of the procedures. In addition to new rules, we also have new forms. Most of the forms are online and fillable, so they can be completed on your computer.

One aspect of the Court operation that most people are not familiar with, is the number of children's matters we handle. The Court determines visitation, custody and guardianship of minors whose parents are not properly caring for their children. Thanks to the efforts of the chief



clerk Valerie Shickel, and the clerks and assistant clerks, Sharon Tiezzi, Marjorie Calltharp, Stella Beaudoin, Helene Yates, Peggy Schroeder and Jackie Craco the court continues to handle a large number of matters efficiently and operate smoothly.

Terrance D. Lomme  
Probate Judge

## Public Works

It is the responsibility of this department to maintain much of the Town's infrastructure and keep our streets safe, attractive and people-friendly. This includes weather-related responses, roadway clean-up, citizens' concerns, and special event support.

The highlight of the 2013-2014 fiscal year was the successful start of the Civic Campus Project! The Public Works department was instrumental in this project with the demolition of sections of the old campus and the preparation of the site in order for the new campus construction to begin.

As the fall arrived our crews were spread about town performing the annual fall cleanup of our town roads. During the Winter season, the significant snowfall kept our crews busy with snow plowing, sanding, and keeping our town roads as safe as possible.

As many residents have noticed, new street signs have been going up around town. The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) issued the "Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" for municipalities to replace all road signs by 2018.

Hence, the Street Sign Replacement Project was started this year to replace all street signs with the new bigger and more visible signs required. These new, larger signs are retro reflective which makes them easier for drivers to read at night during all weather conditions. This improves safety for Emergency Responders, residents and visitors. Many street signs have already been installed and we are anticipating the completion of this project in the near future.

Other special projects accomplished this year include:

The engineering and design services for the Walnut Street Road Bridge Project was put out to bid and successfully awarded

to the engineering firm of Wengell, McDonnell & Costello, Inc. We are expecting work to begin in the fall of 2015. Federal aid for this project will reimburse the Town 80% of the bridge replacement costs. The reconstruction of 1,800 feet of road on Ingham Hill Road. The reconstruction and finish of the cul-de-sac on Industrial Park Road.

We are always on the lookout for ways to keep our costs down while continually striving to improve the services we deliver in a prompt, courteous manner.

David Caroline  
Director of Public Works

## Pumpout Boat Program

The area pumpout boat program is based here in Essex. We operate two pumpout boats regularly and have a spare. Our area of coverage is the Connecticut River from the East Haddam Bridge to Old Saybrook. Recreational boats served are in marinas, yacht clubs, in front of residences and on moorings.

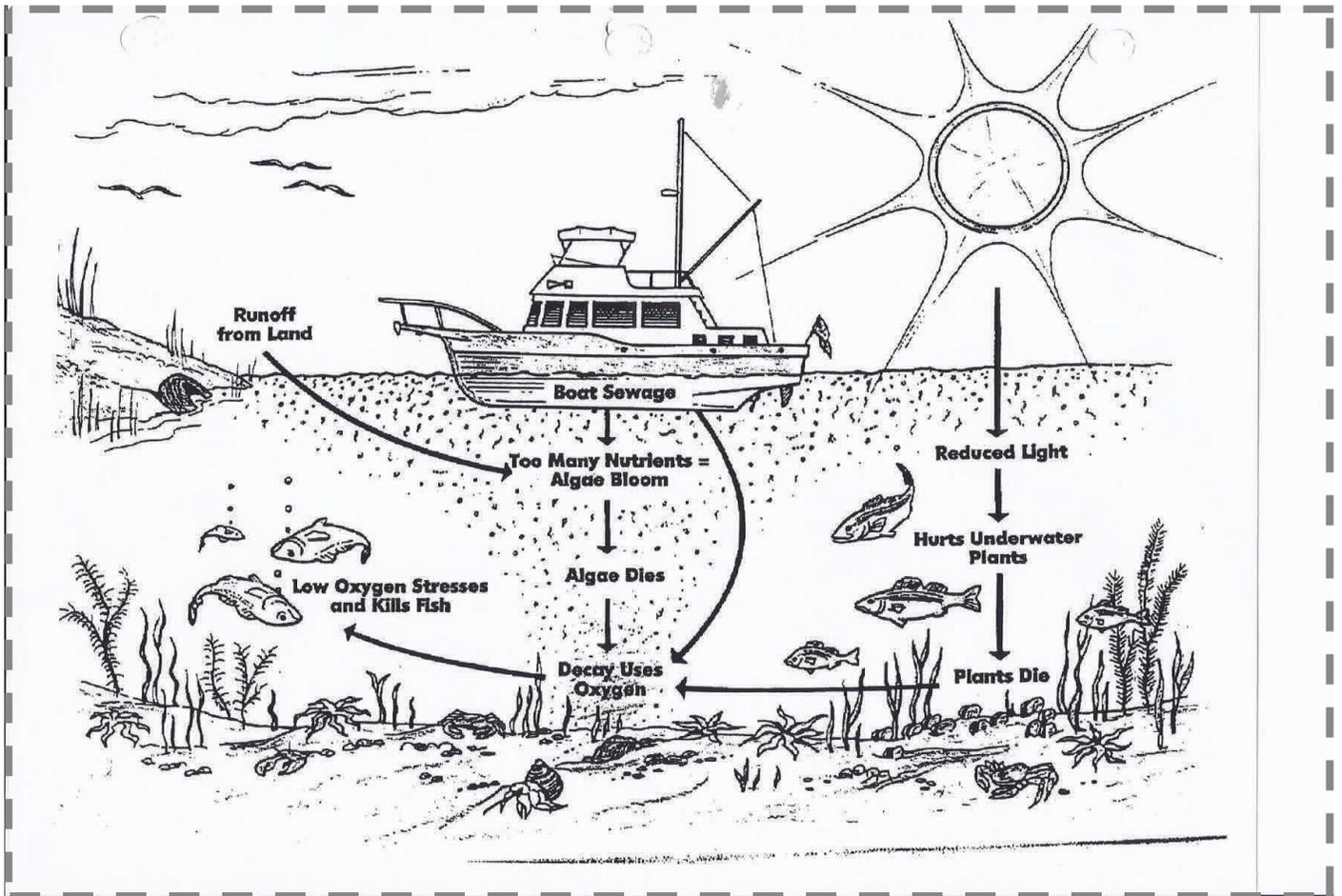
The boat crews safely remove thousands of gallons of sewage from boat holding tanks annually. This sharply reduces the discharge of untreated waste and disease-carrying organisms into our local waters and harbors. They in turn off-load into shoreside facilities. Brewers Dauntless is one of three receiving sites on the River.

The 2014 boating season has been one for the record books. We started two weeks early (we normally start-up Memorial Day Weekend). After Labor Day, we historically have run one boat during weekends, thru the end of October. This year we ran two. If the demand is there, we may operate after the end of October.

At the beginning of October we are at 72,053 gallons of material handled. That's 6% over last year and there are four weeks to go.

The most significant event this year is the sale of Essex Island Marina to Brewers. The Schieferdecker family has co-managed the program for eleven years. They will be missed. The service will continue out of Essex.

Wally Schieferdecker & Joel Severance  
Program Mangers



**Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat**  
**Why it is important to off-load to a Pumpout Boat for**  
**off-loading into a landside sewer system**

## Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters are elected officials of the Town, whose duty is to administer the election process according to State Statute and under the direction of the Secretary of the State.

The Registrars have the responsibility of keeping the Registry List current at all times. They receive applications from new voters, admit those who qualify and add their names to the Registry in a timely fashion. Removals from the list are made due to deaths and electors moving out of town.

The Annual Canvas is required by State Statute and was carried out January thru April. Changes of address, removals and other corrections were made. The help of all electors in this process is greatly appreciated. As of September 3, 2014, there were 4,551 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats-1,392, Republicans-1,323, Unaffiliated-1,801, Other-35.

This past year was a quiet year for us and the voters of Essex. On November 5, 2013 we held the Municipal Election and in May 2014 we held the Region 4 District budget referendum. Conducting these elections, primaries and referendums in an efficient and smooth manner is the responsibility of the Registrars.

Essex has always been know for its high voter turnout, especially in comparison to the statewide averages. However, we have noticed lately that our turnout numbers have been declining! We encourage all eligible voters to get out and vote—it is your civic duty! If you are not registered, please register to VOTE—it is easy and there are various options available to register, including in person at the town hall, by mailing a registration card and on-line thru the Secretary of the State’s site.

<https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/>

The Registrars wish to thank all of the electors of the Town of Essex for helping to make the election process work as required. We are indebted to our Deputy Registrars, Ruth Schumacher (Dem) and Ginny Bliss (Rep) for their tireless effort and support. We also wish to thank and commend the moderators and poll workers for their dedication and effort in conducting the election process. Working together the election process has been efficient and with good spirit.

Lois A. Ely  
John V. Heiser  
Registrars of Voters

## Resident State Trooper Essex Police

Policing and public safety in the town of Essex is the responsibility of the Essex Resident Trooper’s Office. The Resident Trooper’s office is located in the Essex Town Hall, and consists of three full time certified Police Officers, and one part time certified Police Officer. In addition there a three part time boat operators who are responsible for the operation of the Essex Police boat. It can be found patrolling the Connecticut River, Essex shore line, Friday through Sunday during the boating season. Supervision of personnel is the responsibility of the Resident State Trooper. The Resident State Trooper is provided to the town by the Connecticut State Police. The State of Connecticut supplies a certified sworn Trooper and patrol vehicle. In addition it provides the use of the State Police infrastructure and state facilities to the Town. The Essex Animal Control Officer also falls under the supervision of the Resident Trooper.

For the reporting year 2013-2014 the Resident Trooper and Essex Officers have been responsible for a variety of task not limited to motor vehicle and criminal complaints. It has been a priority to maintain an active role in the community, providing personnel to public events such as parades, fun runs and organized town events. The department, in conjunction with other Town Agencies has taken part in Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), safety talks and car seat inspections. For the reporting year the Resident Trooper’s Office and State Police have responded to 7,788 calls for service. Below is a list of calls personnel responded to. The Resident Troopers Office is committed to addressing public safety issues, and police related concerns as quickly as possible, in turn making Essex a safer community to live and work.

TFC David Tretter, Resident State Trooper

Statistic	Total
Total Calls for Service	7788
Total Accidents With Report	101
Total Accidents Without Report	9
Total Fatal Accidents	0
Total Fatalities	0
Total Serious Injury Accidents	0
Total Minor Injury Accidents	7
Total Noninjury Accidents	93
Total Accident Dwis	2
Total Onsite Dwis	5
Total Dwis	8
Total Other Reportables	92
Total Nonreportables	5846
Total Motorist Assists	137
Total Citations Primary Charge	1352
Total Citations All Charges	1353
Total Warnings Primary Charge	104
Total Warnings All Charges	394
Total Seatbelt Citations Primary Charge	51
Total Seatbelt Citations All Charges	83
Total Seatbelt Warnings All Charges	18

## Retirement Board

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary administrator of the Town's three retirement plans: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan, and the Town of Essex Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firefighters. The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town's retirement plans in order to ensure effective and fair oversight of the plans, their investments, funding and distribution of benefits to eligible employees.

The ERB is authorized to consist of at least three (3) members but not more than five (5) and they are appointed by the First Selectman for the purpose of administering the Plans. The current members are serving five year terms. The current Chairperson is F. Ellen Whaley. Current members are: Carl W. Ellison, Ethan Goller, Stacia Libby, and Fred Vollono. Their terms expire November 2015.

The ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Town Hall in the early evening. Annual schedule, agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's website.

The fund balances at the close of the 2013-2014 fiscal year were: \$2,749,272 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees and \$785,938 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen, and \$620,568 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Police. This included an annual Town contribution to each plan of \$229,403, \$75,741, and \$70,872 respectively. The Plans in 2013-2014 currently cover 145 total participants which includes 49 retirees.

The ERB was notified in February, 2014 by Bank of America that they would be exiting the municipal pension services sector and presented notice of termination to the Town. The ERB reached agreement with Bank of America to effect the full transition no later than 12/31/2014. The ERB commenced a thorough Request for Proposals (RFP) for Investment Advisory, Custodial Banking and Actuarial Services for the Town's pension plans. By unanimous vote of the ERB, an RFP Working Group was established to oversee the RFP process and vendor selection. The RFP Working Group members were: F. Ellen Whaley, Ethan Goller, Stacia Libby, Kelly Sterner and Peter Decker. The ERB expects to complete the vendor contracting and transition to the selected service providers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of calendar year 2014. ERB expects to undertake a review and pursue updates of administrative procedures for the Plans as part of the transition process in the 2014-2015 period with the new service providers.

The Town of Essex Retirement plan was amended (Amendment no. 4) on August 7, 2013 to reflect an added retirement option allowing In Service Commencement of retirement benefits. The change was effective as of July 1, 2013.

Copies of the Town plans, amendments, investment portfolio, RFP's/proposals, Board minutes, audit and actuarial reports are available to the public for inspection either on the Town website or at the Town of Essex – Finance office upon request.

Ellen Whaley- Wexler  
Chair

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## Sanitary Waste Commission

The Essex Transfer Station/Recycling Center located at 5 Dump Road, off Route 154 Exit 4 from Route 9, continues to serve Essex residents on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7 am to 3 pm

The Sanitary Waste Commission worked diligently over the last year to modify both collection options and create new fee based programs to make the facility more efficient and reduce operational risk. Residents must purchase either an annual permit (in the form of a sticker affixed to the vehicle's windshield) or a pre-paid punch card before disposing household garbage and trash at the transfer station. Annual permit stickers are valid from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. Punch cards are valid for disposing 10 bags of household garbage and trash.

Both the annual sticker and punch cards are available for purchase at the Town Clerk's office at Essex Town Hall. The Town Clerk's office accepts cash and checks as forms of payment. Punch cards can also be purchased at the transfer station however the only payment options available at the transfer station are a check, debit or credit card – no cash is accepted. The annual permit sticker for residents is \$125, and for senior residents (65 & over) the sticker is \$75. Punch cards are \$25.

Beginning on Monday, August 18, 2014, annual permit stickers are available for purchase at the Town Clerk's office. Residents can also download the Transfer Station Resident Pass Application Form from the front page of the Town website, [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov), under News & Announcements. *NOTE:* Residents who purchase their annual sticker now can begin using it immediately and will benefit by using it a few extra weeks before the effective date of October 1, 2014.

Once the new procedures were scheduled to be rolled out the commission felt their work had been completed and unanimously voted to disband.

Susan Malan, Former Chair, Former Commissioners: Ken Bombaci, Randel Osborne, Leigh Rankin, Mark Reeves, Robert Van Houten, Alvin Wolfgram.

## Social Services

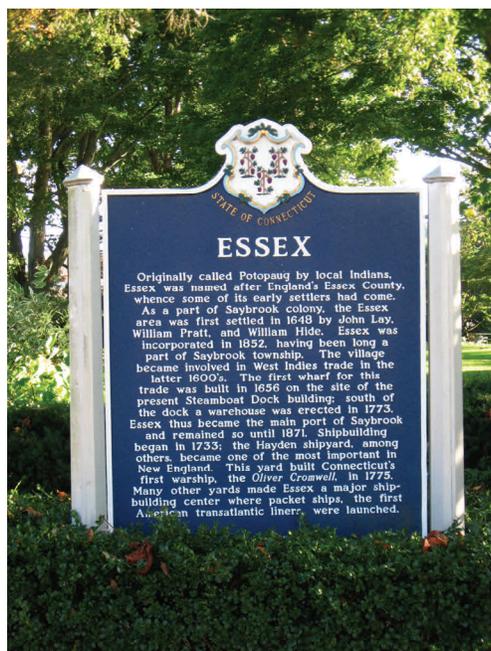
Town of Essex Department of Social Services mission is to enhance the quality of life and self-sufficiency of people in need of financial and social services. We provided leadership, advocacy, planning and delivery of many services in partnership with public and private organizations.

Essex Social Services is dedicated to providing services with respect, compassion and accountability, committing to not only the delivery of integrated social services but focusing on meeting basic human needs and promoting services that foster self-sufficiency and economic independence. We serve as your bridge. We connect you to the essential resources of the community. These resources provide the support you may need, such as food, shelter, educational and employment opportunities, personal safety and access to health care services. The available services are diverse and support all ages.

Essex Social Services has long-standing tradition of collaborating with community partners to enhance services to town residents. Our partners, along with many others, include the Shoreline Soup Kitchen, The Community Renewal Team, The Salvation Army, The Estuary Council, FISH, Child and Family Services, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Operation Fuel, along with the Essex Community Fund, who is a major donor to our Essex Emergency Assistance Fund, which assists local residents with fuel, food, shelter and other emergency services.

The Department of Social Services will continue strive to seek out new ways to improve and enhance operations and to expand activities to better meet the needs of the community while maintaining a positive, compassionate, and cost-efficient environment.

Mary Ellen Barnes  
Social Services Representative



## Town Clerk's Office

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex had seven Public Hearings, sixteen Town Meetings, a Region 4 district Budget Referendum; and a Municipal Election.

The following is a list of recordings for the 2013-2014 fiscal year for the Town of Essex:

Birth Certificates	25
Death Certificates	96
Marriage License	71
Dog License	633 – 5 Kennels
Sportsmen's Licenses	220
Survey Maps	26
Trade Names	32
Land Records	1,477

Monies disbursed by the Town Clerk to the State of Connecticut:

Dog License Fees	\$ 3,010.00
Marriage Surcharge Fees	1,060.00
Sports License Fees	2,724.00
Preservation Fees-State Library	2,728.00
State Treasurer Fees	69,845.00

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax	\$139,396.32
Town Clerk Fees	140,809.00

This office issues the following: Dog License, Sports License, Marriage License and Trade Name Certificates.

The following request forms may be printed off our website: Absentee Ballot Applications, Birth Certificates, Marriage License and Death Certificates, as well as a list of our Justices of the Peace.

### VETERANS

Please note that by September 30<sup>th</sup> you need to file your DD-214 (Discharge) with this office in order to receive the Veteran's exemption.

Our office is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

## ***Tree Committee***

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 and private donations. During the period of 2013-2014 we have planted sixteen trees.

The tree type and location are as follows: Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') Corner of Kings Lane and Maple Avenue, two Eastern Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*-clump) at Mack Lane extension, three English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) at the Piano Factory, three Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Moraine') at the Piano Factory, English Oak (*Quercus robur*) at 7 Dennison Road, English Oak (*Quercus robur*) at 46 Dennison Road, English Oak (*Quercus robur*) , Two Red Sunset Maples (*Acer rubrum* 'Franksred') at Clark Pond in Ivoryton and two Eastern Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) at the corner of South Main Street Essex Village and Collins Lane.

The Essex Tree Committee is composed of the Town Tree Warden as an ex-officio member and a minimum of two to a maximum of six members appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve without pay for terms of three years duration. The Essex Tree Committee has six meetings per year.

Augie Pampel, Chairman



*English Oak, Dennison Road*

## **Water Pollution Control Authority**

The WPCA completed the internal work necessary toward developing a new town-wide Wastewater Management Plan. Working with the Economic Development Commission, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen, we now have a sinking fund of \$100,000 to help fund a new Wastewater Management Plan. The development of a new Wastewater Management Plan will provide valuable information about our current and future needs/requirements and will also avail the Town to understanding what types of technological advancements have been recently developed that may aid in localized, community based systems, if necessary in our more densely populated areas.

The Water Pollution Control Authority meets the third Monday of each month at 5:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Essex Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Susan Malan, Chair, Commissioners: Ken Bombaci, Randel Osborne, Leigh Rankin, Mark Reeves, Robert Van Houten, Alvin Wolfgram.

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## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals is chaired by Mr. Paul Greenberg. With Mr. Greenberg are Alexander Daddona, Michael Noto, Tim Furgueson and William Vielllette. Alternate Members are Peter Decker, Ward Feirer and Barbara Sarrantonio. Attorney Michael Wells serves as legal counsel for the Board.

There are times when residents propose activities such as building expansion, shed placement, pool location or uses of buildings that do not comply with the zoning regulations. The Zoning Board of Appeals has the power to grant variances to those regulations. It is the hope that the variances are granted because of a true land-based hardship that would make development in full accordance with the zoning regulations extremely difficult. Variances granted should allow development to be in harmony with their general purpose and intent, after due consideration for conserving the public health, safety, welfare, convenience and property values.

There were a total of twenty-seven public hearings held before the ZBA this year. The Board granted twenty-six variances and denied four others.

## **Zoning Commission**

The Zoning Commission is chaired by Larry Shipman and has eight seats. With Mr. Shipman are Susan Uihlein, Alvin Wolfgram, William Reichenbach and Jim Hill as regular members with Jeff Lovelace, Barbara Zernike and Adrienne Forrest serving as alternates. The Commission meets on the third Monday evening of each month. Attorney Peter Sipples serves as legal counsel for the Commission.

The Zoning Commission is responsible for the continuous review, updates and administration of the Essex Zoning Regulations. Revision updates to the Zoning Regulations are made periodically to conform to State Statutes and to changing concerns regarding development in Essex. In addition, the Commission reviews applications for Special Exceptions and Coastal Area Management site plans. The Commission can also modify past approvals.

During the 2013 – 2014 year the Commission held seventeen public hearings. It approved six special exceptions and eight petitions to amend the zoning regulations and/or change a map boundary. Two modifications to previous Special Exceptions were approved. A site plan review was approved.

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## **Zoning Enforcement**

The zoning and wetlands official carries out a multi-faceted position within the Land Use department. With the zoning and wetlands regulations as guidance this individual administers the daily activities that pertain to the various land use boards and commissions in Town. Also, all questions, concerns and requirements of the Town's residents regarding their properties are handled.

The official performs inspections, investigations, enforcement and administrative duties to assure that residential, commercial, industrial and other properties comply with the Town's zoning and wetland regulations as well as State and Federal statutes. The enforcement official serves as a conduit to the land use boards and commissions. Staff will guide all applicants through the process of getting their plans and ideas heard in hopes of getting the necessary approvals. Supervision is given to administrative staff as necessary.

The official coordinates activities with other Town departments such as engineering, public works, the building and health departments.

During the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 133 zoning permits and six wetland permits.

Joseph Budrow  
Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Official

## Connecticut River Gateway Commission

In 1973, the Connecticut Legislature recognized the Lower Connecticut River Valley as one of the State's most important natural, recreational and scenic areas, and authorized establishment of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Operationally with eight eligible towns, two regional planning agencies and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection participating.

The Gateway Conservation Zone is about 30 miles long and includes those portions of its eight member towns (Chester, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook, including the Borough of Fenwick) within view of the river. Since 1973, this area has been recognized as a unique area by The Nature Conservancy, the international Ramsar Convention and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior. In 1999, the River was designated as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers by President William Jefferson Clinton.

The Commission has concentrated much of its attention on the protection of key lands along the river that contribute to the valley's scenic qualities. Since its inception the Commission has worked with others to protect well over 1,000 acres of land through over \$1 million in gifts or purchase of scenic easements, development rights and fee simple titles. The Commission is in the process of donating their last two fee-owned properties in East Haddam and Chester to conservation organizations for stewardship.

A role assigned to the Gateway Commission by the legislation is establishment of common zoning standards for height, setback, lot coverage and the like, which member towns have agreed to adopt and enforce within the Gateway Conservation Zone. The Commission reviews and acts on zone changes, regulations changes and variance applications affecting land within the Conservation Zone referred to it by local boards and commissions. No zone change or change in regulations affecting land within the Conservation Zone can become effective without the Commission's approval, a statutory responsibility that gives the Commission a great deal of authority and say over land use along the river in the lower river valley. It's a responsibility that the Commission takes very seriously.

Gateway has agreed upon new standards that will allow each of the eight member towns more flexibility in administering the Gateway mission. The Commission is in the process of reviewing those changes with the eight member towns. The Commission anticipates that the new standards will be adopted by all eight towns in 2014 or early 2015.

For more information, contact River COG Senior Planner and Gateway staff J. H. Torrance Downes at (860) 581-8554 or at [tdownes@rivercog.org](mailto:tdownes@rivercog.org).

## Connecticut River Museum

The Connecticut River Museum (CRM) wishes to thank the community, our members and the thousands of visitors who have helped to make the past year so successful. During this year the Museum:

- Hired a new director who has forged new partnerships, increased attendance, expanded membership and inaugurated programs.
- Renovated the grounds of the Samuel Lay House and used them to host the hugely successful, sold-out 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Shad Bake with the Rotary Club of Essex, a croquet tournament, a Shakespeare play with Flock Theatre, weddings, corporate and non-profit meetings, environmental education programs for young people and historic Tavern Night programs for grown-ups.
- Welcomed nearly 20,000 visitors to the Museum and held classes for more than 2,400 school children from throughout the state and as far away as New York City to the South and Springfield to the North.

The Museum's significant activities included the ever-popular Holiday Train Show, the Privateer's Bash, the Antique and Classic Boat Show, the American Society of Marine Artists exhibition, *Reflections: 40 Years Along the River* (an exhibit celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum), Dogs on the Dock, Cruises on the *Mary E.*, environmental paddles, Thursdays on the Dock, and a variety of lectures and educational programs. Many of these accomplishments would not have been possible without community support and critical collaborations.

For the upcoming year, CRM is looking to expand its partnerships and community impact. New environmental and cultural exhibits and programs are currently being planned that will help celebrate the history, people, and nature of New England's most influential and picturesque river. The Museum is also reviewing and building long range plans for its waterfront and campus. Together, these projects will help CRM become a greater asset to local communities as well as a vital cultural force along the River.

Membership and volunteerism is essential to CRM. If you are not a member, but enjoy the unique place of the Connecticut River and want to support the Museum, then please join today. There are also numerous volunteer opportunities for people who are interested in teaching, assisting with special events, preserving and constructing boats, or who are just looking for ways to meet people interested in maintaining our cultural heritage.

For more information on upcoming events, exhibits or to get involved please contact CRM at 860-767-8269 or via the web at [www.ctrivermuseum.org](http://www.ctrivermuseum.org).

## **Essex Ambulance Association**

At our Appreciation Dinner in November we honored a long standing member of our Corps, Sabra O'Donnell, for her many years of service with our organization. Sabra, known to her friends as Sam, was one of our founding members. She served as an EMT for many years and then joined the Board of Directors currently holding the position of President. Sam's commitment to our organization is without equal and her guidance has been invaluable to the success of our organization.

We would like to thank our residents and businesses for their unwavering and continued support. Equally important we thank our members and their families for their continued commitment to their community. Our members spend many hours training to achieve and maintain essential skills. They readily accept the risks and challenges that come with providing emergency medical services to the community. We are grateful for their commitment.

Our members responded to 682 emergency calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests, psychiatric emergencies, fire stand-by's, police stand-by's and requests for mutual aid assistance to our surrounding communities. We also assisted at many local civic functions; it has been a busy year.

This year our continued focus has been on training. Our members commit many hours to skills training and mandated safety training. Those efforts will continue as we meet current requirements. Our members are also required to complete refresher training to maintain their State of Connecticut certifications on a regular basis. We owe thanks to the families of our members, their support is crucial and much appreciated.

Funding is acquired through donations, memorial gifts and billing. We receive assistance from the Town to help offset rapidly rising worker's compensation insurance costs, and we are grateful for their assistance. The members of the Board of Directors and Corps would like to thank everyone for their support, without your assistance we would be unable to continue to operate.

We are always looking for exceptional people to join us. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact us. Training will be provided through area class offerings. The satisfaction of helping a neighbor is immeasurable. Once again, special thanks to all our supporters and best wishes for a healthy and safe year.

Judi Reynolds, Chief of Service

## **Essex Art Association**

The Essex Art Association, a non-profit gallery located at 10 North Main Street has been serving local artists since 1946. Located in a historic, unheated building the gallery is seasonal but very active during the warmer months. The association was founded as a place for artists to show and share their work, "From Traditional to Edge", with each other and the public. This practice has continued and the EAA is known as a friendly place where all are welcome to the shows and openings free of charge.

EAA traditionally starts in April with a very exciting and inspirational show by the Valley Regional High School, the season continues with five more shows. Two are juried accepting only 80 pieces from many submissions. Two open shows where all work is accepted and hung "salon style" from chair rail to ceiling and one show is for Elected Artists only. Every show is juried for awards where much of the entry fees collected are given back to the artists in that form. October featured rentals of the building by various artists' members presenting their own shows.

The 2013 to 2014 season included three special events. A collaboration between Essex Art Association and the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat. This art show ran from mid November until the end of December 2013 in the Oliver O. Jensen Gallery in the River Valley Junction building at the Valley Railroad Company. Also an ongoing show at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club and participation in the "House Tour" sponsored by Child and Family Services during which EAA has a one day show called "Chili, Cheap & Chilly".

EAA relies on volunteers from its members and the community with operating revenue generated from bequests, membership dues, sales, rental income and donations. The support of the community is gratefully recognized and appreciated.

[www.EssexArtAssociation.com](http://www.EssexArtAssociation.com)

## **Essex Board of Trade**

The Essex Board of Trade is a local business organization comprised of representatives from the following industries: manufacturing, banking/financial management, real estate, legal, health & wellness, food & beverage, lodging, and retail, as well as a multitude of professional services. Our membership, now totaling over 90, is comprised primarily of "for profit" businesses, but also boasts a number of "non-profit" organizations in the membership. From its inception, first as the Essex Merchants Group, then incorporated in the mid 90's as the EBOT, the mission was to bring businesses together from all three villages to "engage in comradery throughout the township".

Both membership and special events committees meet regularly to plan member networking opportunities, as well as coordinate seasonal events. The purpose of the EBOT events and group advertising is to consistently build public awareness both on the state level, as well as throughout New England and the tri-state area of our shoreline town, and thus increase economic traffic throughout the three villages.

The Board of Directors meet monthly, and the General Membership meet the third Friday of every month at The Essex Corinthian Yacht Club. At these meetings the membership receives updates of our events and promotions, receive updates from our town elected officials on plans within local government, discuss the business climate and trends, as well as occasionally hear from guest speakers on their areas of expertise, who offer information on topics of importance to our membership. The EBOT events, both in the past and those ongoing include, The Essex Ed Parade, The Winter Eagle Festival, Potted Garden Tour, Sidewalk Sale Days, Town Wide Tag Sale, Evening of The Villages, Scarecrow Festival, Dogs on the Dock, the decorating for the holidays, as well as the Holiday Stroll.

We rely primarily on the volunteerism of our membership in making the events we have successful. Through our work on special events, many in collaboration with our non-profit members, we consistently try to promote the importance of the sense of community and doing business locally. Regarding our visitors to the area, we strive to give a picture of small town life with its history and traditions, thus prompting many visitors to move to our town to enjoy this slice of "Americana" for themselves on a daily basis.

Our work and contributions to EBOT are all on a volunteer basis, all while maintaining our own businesses and keeping them viable.

As my tenure as President comes to a close the end of 2014, I'm very proud of the many business owners and their employees, as well as non-profit groups and their members who I've had the pleasure of working with. Their dedication in making Essex the "Best Little Town" have been unmatched.

Jim D'Alessio, President

## **Essex Community Fund**

The Essex Community Fund has been making your donations matter more since 1949 and celebrates its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of the residents of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. This is accomplished by identifying community needs, providing financial support and forging partnerships with local non-profit organizations. Our focus is on the collective good of the community and programs and organizations that keep us healthy, safe and vibrant. We invest in all areas that make a community great: education, basic needs, health, wellness and community programming.

ECF highlights for the year include co-sponsoring with the Essex Police, two Stuff-A-Cruiser events in both November and December successfully netting 5,600 lb. of food for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries that, along with our Gowrie Group matched donation totaled \$17,600, producing the Fuel Assistance matching fund challenge which was exceeded by St. Johns Episcopal Church keeping 23 Essex homes warm. ECF granted donations for; domestic violence, health services, senior housing, F.I.S.H. and education and learning opportunities for Essex children. The Fund was able to give back \$52,780 to non-profits and programming for Essex as well as supporting community events.

Fall and Spring mailings and our annual fundraiser generate donations. Grants are distributed annually in the spring. ECF a public charity exists solely thanks to the ongoing generous financial donations made by Essex citizens and business. The Funds volunteer board is made up of nine local residents keeping expenditures to a minimum while allowing the fullest extent of your contributions to be distributed to local non- profits and programming in our community. The board reviews these organizations annually and works diligently to stay abreast of the changing needs of our villages.

Jacqueline D. Doane, President  
Essex Community Fund

## **Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1**

The fiscal year 2013 – 2014 proved to be a very busy year for your still completely volunteer fire department. In the past year members responded to more than 800 emergency incidents and requests for assistance. These incidents included structural fires, rescues, medical emergencies, marine emergencies, hazardous materials emergencies and yes, even a few cats stuck in trees.

Our volunteers continue to go above and beyond, not just meeting but exceeding the required levels of training. Members this year completed certification courses in Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2. Some members received qualification as fire service instructors and fire officers. We trained in specialized rescue techniques and advanced firefighting skills and tactics designed to better prepare us for today's modern firefighting environment. Many of the volunteers became certified Emergency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians. In addition to all of these trainings our members have broken ground on a state of the art training facility being totally funded by private donations. This facility will allow members a consistent location to practice and hone the skills required to provide you with the best possible emergency service.

Today all of our lifestyles have become more hectic than ever before and combined with the added pressures of the economy, the demands placed on our volunteers is often overwhelming. We need help. We are looking for firefighters, vehicle operators, emergency medical responders or even folks to help with office administration tasks. I implore you to help us by volunteering some of your time. If you are unsure if it is the right fit for you, please stop by to see us. We are at the fire station every Wednesday evening starting at 7:00 p.m. Our ranks are made up of people from all walks of life. We have mothers and fathers, teenagers, business owners, tradesman, doctors, accountants and clergymen. No previous experience is needed. We will happily train you.

Joining me this year as the officers of the department are Douglas Harreys – Deputy Chief, Jed Perkins – 1st Assistant Chief, Steven Olsen – 2nd Assistant Chief, Andrew Kressley – Captain, Don Schumacher – Captain, Rich Astles – Lieutenant, Aron Schumacher – Lieutenant, Archie Leonardis – Lieutenant and Paul Phoenix – Chief Engineer. The deputy engineers are Cliff Ward, Andrew Unghire, Paul Fazzino Sr. and Peter Lempicki. Our EMS coordinator is Matt Herman, Penny Mack – Secretary and Dennis Giroux as Treasurer. This dedicated group is working hard to lead this organization strongly into the future.

Paul Fazzino Jr.  
Fire Chief  
Essex Fire Engine Co. # 1

## **Essex Garden Club**

The Essex Garden Club is a non-profit organization whose mission is civic beautification, conservation and education. Its membership is open to residents of Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton.

During this past year, the Garden Club helped maintain Main Street Town Park, Dickinson Park, the Foot of Main Street Island, and South Main Street Island. Our members divided perennial plants to fill in various beds, pulled many, many weeds, and pruned plants. We paid to have all beds edged and mulched, among other jobs. EGC cut many different greens and then decorated the town for the winter holidays. Annual plants were purchased and delivered to various places in Essex and Centerbrook, including Essex Fire Department, Essex Landfill and Recycling Center, Centerbrook Post Office, the Ancient Order of Weeders to plant on the islands on Rt. 154. Four planters in front of Town Hall, four planters around the Silent Policeman, and two large pots at the entrance to Main Street Town Park were planted and maintained throughout the summer. A monetary gift was given to the Ivoryton Village Gardeners for plant material to support their planting in this community. Several members assisted the Essex Historical Society with maintaining the kitchen garden at the historic Pratt House.

The Essex Garden Club awarded three scholarships for college students majoring in Environmental Studies for \$1,100 each. For Summer Youth Programs, three camperships to Bushy Hill Nature Center were awarded for a total of \$1,500 (each was a two week program) and thirteen camperships for Park and Recreation programs were awarded for a total of \$1,525 (each was a one week program). Recipients for both camperships were anonymous and all were residents of Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton.

Our club also sponsored programs for the our two libraries, assisted and funded many junior activities, donated books and DVD's to Essex Library, and provided weekly flower arrangements to Essex Library. This year we donated \$500 to Essex Land Trust for their special project to clear invasive plants and plant trees at Cross Lots. The Campus Project gardens in front of and behind Town Hall were designed by EGC.

This was all made possible by the community supporting our annual May Market and by purchasing our garlic salt made with a secret recipe.

Linda Newberg  
President

## Essex Historical Society

The past year has been a busy one at EHS. In September, we played a vintage baseball game against the Lyme Taverners in front of an enthusiastic crowd of 250. The annual foliage tour with the Belltown Automobile Club took fifty cars over the river and through the woods before returning to Pratt House for lunch.

Our Fourth Annual Preservation Award was presented during the Strawberry Social to the Old Firehouse on Prospect Street. We were fortunate to be able to use this building for a program in March where we featured *The Houses of Essex* books written by Don Malcarne. Ivoryton Library partnered with us for presentations by four owners of houses featured in the books.

In November, Essex Meadows hosted our Annual Meeting. Jerry Roberts gave an overview of his research into the British Raid on Essex in 1814. This was an apt way to start our year because EHS played a significant role in celebrating the bicentennial of that event. We partnered with CRM and Essex Library Association in presenting "Light Up the Night" on April 8, and then worked also with the Sailing Masters of 1812 to hold a re-enactment of the raid in May. During that gala day, Pratt House was full of visitors and also had tea and conversation in a tent on the grounds.

As an important permanent part of the Raid commemoration, EHS erected four outdoor display signs: (1) at the foot of Main Street in Essex, (2) at Osage Trails overlooking the sight of the burning of the *Osage* at William's shipyard, (3) at Gardiner's Landing at Saybrook Point, where the raid began, and (4) on the DEEP dock at Ferry Landing in Old Lyme looking upriver through the "Gauntlet".

We received a generous grant to create and install a timeline of Essex history in panels that will be displayed in the Pratt House barn. In addition, we have secured a grant that will help significantly with the costs of painting Pratt House.

EHS is pleased that our membership has increased this year. For the first time ever, we sent out an Annual Appeal and have had a substantial response. We are grateful to all who support us and hope that we will see that grow moving forward.

Three Villages. Two Rivers. One Successful Year

Sherry Clark  
President



## Essex Land Trust

2013 marked the Essex Land Trust's 45th year in operation. The Land Trust acquires open space by gift or purchase in order to protect the environment, to preserve the small town character of Essex and to provide the community with passive recreational and educational opportunities. The Land Trust conserves wildlife habitats, forests, fields, rivers, wetlands and scenic views by maintaining properties in a natural state now and forever. The Essex Land Trust is an independent non-profit organization supported by donations and managed by volunteers. Key highlights for 2013 follow.

**Finance:** 2013 was an active and good one financially. Expenses were \$93,000 and income of \$118,000. It was a successful year in qualifying for grants from: Essex Savings Bank, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Essex Community Fund, Rockfall Foundation and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Generous local businesses provided donations in kind and sponsorship: Essex Printing, Bartlett Tree Experts, Landscape Specialties, Ann Penniman Associates, A.J. Shea Construction, Forbearance Tree Services and The Lee Company. The Trust's investment portfolio at year-end 2013 was \$1,107,000, achieving a return of 18% while generating \$25,000 in dividends and interest.

**Membership:** total individual and family memberships reached 357, with 130 Conservators, 20 new members in 2013 and 22 Corporate.

**Volunteers:** 85 active volunteers supported many activities including helping with events, trail maintenance, photography and administration.

**Programs & Events:** 15 events were held in which more than 1300 participated. The Land Trust continued to support various programs at Essex Elementary School, notably Arbor Day, and Bat & Osprey programs.

**Departing board members:** three board members retired after logging many hours in helping the Land Trust achieve its mission. Goody LeLash was on the ELT board for more than 10 years, computerized the membership list for the first time and subsequently became Secretary and more recently was involved with events, particularly annual meetings. Linda Levene took over the

Membership chair from Suzy Burke in 2009. Since taking this function, over 123 new members were signed up – nearly 35% of our current membership. Peggy Tuttle, on the board for 6 years, greatly increased the number of events offered annually, ensuring relevance to the Land Trust mission while seeking to increase the number of family-friendly events.

**Officers:** President, Jim Denham. Acting Vice-President, Bob Nussbaum. Treasurer, Mike Carlucci. Secretary, Nancy Rambeau. Jim Denham, President

## **Essex Lions Club**

The Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 50 years. During this past year, in keeping with the Lions support of vision-related organizations, contributions were made to the CT Lions Eye Research Center, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the CT Low Vision Center. We also paid for eye exams and eyeglasses for Essex residents who could not afford them. During the past year, the Club made donations to various organizations including the Essex and Ivoryton libraries, the Essex Fire Department, and the Essex Ambulance Association, as well as donations to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and the Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau.

During the year, we hold three major fundraisers. The always popular Essex Lions Lobster Bake is held on the first Saturday of August. We have our annual Thomas the Tank Engine food concession at the Valley Railroad. Finally, we send out the Essex Eye Charities letter to the community and, as always, get an excellent response. The Club looks forward to another year of service, and thanks all who so generously donate in many ways to help us in our continued efforts to support our community.

The Essex Lions Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Oliver's Tavern. The public is welcome to join us at anytime. The Club does not meet during the months of July and August

Bruce Lawrence  
President

## **Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc.**

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a non-profit regional senior center located at 220 Main Street in Old Saybrook with café sites in Essex, Westbrook, and Old Lyme. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote senior's quality of life, community involvement, and independent living. Last year the ECSI provided over 72,000 nutritious meals including nearly 56,000 home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 16,000 congregate meals, 500 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 650 individuals received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs too numerous to count. We are pleased to have brought back our "Choices" senior counseling position that helps seniors connect with other services available to them in the community as well as navigate the Medicare/Medicaid and Prescription Drug programs.

In addition to our essential senior service, ECSI is a fun place for mature residents to exercise, dance, play cards, go on trips together, get a massage or facial, hear an interesting lecture, attend an art exhibit, get a haircut, take a painting class, join a book club or writers group, volunteer, shop at the Thrift Shop, or just sit and enjoy our beautiful view. ECSI has a lovely, large facility that welcomes residents of the Estuary region 50 years old or better. All in all we had over 108,000 visits to our center in the reported timeframe for meals, activities, support and fun.

During the reporting period, the Estuary served 62 residents a total of 3,414 home delivered meals to and an additional 1,253 residents joined us for congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 2 individuals with 2 rides to medical appointments. We had a total of 7,407 visits by a total of 438 people overall to the center from residents of Essex

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the generosity of the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, grants, donations, and fund raising efforts. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for your continued support of our programs. For information and schedules of our services and programs, please call 388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or visit our website at [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org).

Respectfully Submitted with Thanks  
Paul Doyle  
Executive Director

## ***Estuary Transit District***

The Estuary Transit District (ETD) was formed in 1981 by the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary region. The nine towns include Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. ETD's mission is to provide local, coordinated public transportation for all residents of the area. To meet this goal, ETD operates public transit via the 9 Town Transit (9TT) service.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints one representative, each having a weighted vote based on the population of the town he or she represents. Towns receiving contracted services appoint a non-voting member. The directors serve in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. In 2008, the board hired First Transit, Inc., a professional transit management company, to provide an Executive Director to manage the day to day business of ETD. Regular board meetings are held on the third Friday of every other month at 9:30 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public. 9TT's four deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. The routes include the Old Saybrook to Madison Shoreline Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Chester Riverside Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Middletown Mid-Shore Express, and the new Old Saybrook to New London Southeast Shuttle. Free connections are offered onto the New Haven, New London/Norwich, Middletown, and Hartford area bus services.

In addition to the deviated fixed routes, 9TT provides door-to-door service throughout all nine towns of the Estuary region as well as the towns of Durham, East Haddam, and Haddam through its Dial-A-Ride service. As with all of 9TT's services, the Dial-A-Ride service is open to all persons with no age or disability restrictions. ETD's services are subsidized by federal, state and local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of \$1.50 for deviated fixed routes and \$3.00 for Dial-A-Ride. ETD also receives a Title III grant through the area agency on aging which allows area senior citizens to ride any ETD service on a donation basis in lieu of the fare.

During the fiscal year, East Haddam began contracted demand response service with the district. Dial-A-Ride service began in East Haddam in January, and had provided 344 trips by year end. In addition, ETD began providing Dial-A-Ride service to parts of Middletown, offering improved access to medical services.

Ridership continued to grow throughout most services. Nearly 104,000 passenger trips we provided during the fiscal year, doubling the annual trips provided just five years ago. Though ETD has continued to grow senior

ridership, 80% of all trips are made by persons below 60 years of age, and over half of all trips are employment related.

Though the expansion of services slowed this year, ETD is aggressively pursuing funding to provide new deviated fixed route service between Middletown and Madison along Route 81. Funds are also being sought to extend the Shoreline Shuttle hours as well as make service adjustments to improve the on-time performance. ETD continued to grow its unrestricted fund balance, which is now at almost 12% of the annual operating budget. This has enhanced ETD's cash flow position, reducing the need for borrowing and reducing interest expense.

## ***FISH (Friends in Service Here)***

FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The FISH logo originated during the World War II bombings in London. A London household with available food and a place to sleep would place a fish symbol, a reference from the Bible, in the house's front window to let displaced people know that free food and a place to sleep were available. There are other FISH groups throughout the country, but no central organization.

Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their appointment (Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford to the west and New London to the east.

In 2013, FISH provided 795 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Of our 51 drivers, 40 are residents of Essex.

The modest budget for FISH is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Essex Rotary, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers and riders.

Henry May  
Driver and President

## ***Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc.***

The Ivoryton Playhouse has a cultural and historical significance not only for the village of Ivoryton but for the community at large. It was built in 1911 as a community hall for the workers of the Comstock-Cheney factory and, as such, holds a special place in the hearts of the residents of Ivoryton. In 1927, the hall was bought by Milton Stiefel and renamed the Ivoryton Playhouse and one of America's most popular summer theatres was born.

In December, a simple idea was brought to life by Bruce Connelly, Michael McDermott and a wonderfully talented cast of local performers in a musical called *The Bells of Dublin* written and directed by Jacqueline Hubbard. *The Bells of Dublin* was one of our most popular holiday shows ever and *Part II* is planned for December 2014. Our diverse 2014 continues to delight audiences with music and laughter and exciting new productions – even a World Premiere!



What was once a largely summer stock theatre has become a thriving year-round professional theatre. The Playhouse is owned and operated by the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation with Section 501(c)(3) status. The Playhouse produces seven professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, designers, actors, dancers and musicians from all over the country.

All in all, 2013 was a banner year. In 2013, the Ivoryton Playhouse annual revenue once again exceeded \$1million and subscriptions, memberships and sponsorships were the strongest they've ever been.

Summer 2013 began with laughter, then the music and dancing started. *Footloose* was a family favorite and the high energy cast and great music filled the month of July. In August, we opened the smash Broadway hit *Dreamgirls*, and it instantly became a smash Ivoryton hit, too, with sold out performances and people coming back for more. *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* was the runaway hit of September, and our professional season ended in November with a superb production of *The Seven Year Itch*, directed by Larry Thelen. We are so lucky to be able to share this theatre with such talented people!

In addition to producing great entertainment, the Ivoryton Playhouse prides itself on being a leader in the community. In 2013 and 2014, the Playhouse partnered with local non-profits including Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Child and Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut, the HOPE Partnership, and the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

To learn more about the Ivoryton Playhouse, please visit [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org)

Jacqueline Hubbard  
Executive Artistic Director

## Ivoryton Village Alliance

The Ivoryton Village Alliance formed in 2010 when a group of non-profits, community groups and businesses got together to revitalize Ivoryton and create a sense of community for the residents living in the village. Ivoryton was struggling to establish its own identity and attract visitors to its shops, restaurants, services, art gallery and historic Ivoryton Playhouse.

Chris Shane, an Ivoryton resident, approached the Alliance with the idea to “Light up Ivoryton” using his considerable collection of Christmas lights. Volunteers created large scale displays and decorated the Village Green with 100,000 lights, illuminations and inflatables. Over 2,000 people attended the first “switch on” event to marvel at Santa Claus flying in to land on the patio of the Ivoryton Playhouse. The event was a huge success and enormous boost for the town with visitors coming from all over the state to enjoy the brightest village in Connecticut.

Today, four years on, money donated from First Niagara, Citizens Bank, Essex Savings Bank, Essex Meadows, Guilford Savings Bank and a media sponsorship from Valley Courier allows the Alliance to produce even bigger and brighter displays with over

250,000 lights. In 2013, over 3,000 people attended the November 30 “switch on” event. Community groups (including Lions Club, Rotary Club, local churches, and Boy Scouts among others) promoted their work, businesses contributed activities such as crafts or live performances, and, of course, Ivoryton’s famous flying Santa delighted children of all ages.

Today the Alliance has over 30 members and is more committed than ever to promoting the Village of Ivoryton in positive ways. The Alliance supported three major events for the village in 2013: July 4th parade, Pumpkin Festival and the Ivoryton Illuminations. A Farmer’s Market was also a feature on the Village Green during the summers of 2013 and 2014 running every Saturday until October. Plans for the 2014 Illuminations include more displays that will be programmed to “dance” to music and offering more opportunities for community groups to perform during the “switch on” event scheduled for Saturday, December 6, 2014. This year will see the welcome return of the largest living Christmas tree in Connecticut – right in the center of Ivoryton! To learn more about the Ivoryton Village Alliance, please visit [www.ivorytonalliance.org](http://www.ivorytonalliance.org)



*Tyler, Greyson & Brodie Trojan  
A morning at the Ivoryton Farmers Market*

## Libraries

### **Essex Library Association**

The Essex Library celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> year of existence in 2014. As is the case for all American public libraries, this is an exciting time for us. We have evolved from being simply a repository for books and information to a point where we now also serve as a “community living room.” Our patrons still visit us in search of information, as well as to borrow books and other materials for both educational and leisure use. However, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people who also use our facility as a community center. Over the past five years there has been an explosive rise in the number of visits to the Library, as well as attendance at our programs. Last year, for example, over 11,000 people attended one or more of the 460 programs sponsored by the Essex Library. Other community organizations such as SCORE, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, and the Essex Garden Club also make frequent use of our meeting spaces.

The way we deliver our services has changed, as well. For example, traditional story hours have gone from being passive activities during which books are read to young people, to interactive experiences that parents use to connect with each other while their children are introduced to the joys of reading. Teens come to the library to study, attend programs designed to help them negotiate adolescence, or simply to socialize with each other in a safe, welcoming environment. Adults of all ages visit the library to attend a program, read a newspaper, or find a quiet spot to use our high speed Wi-Fi connection. They’ve also come to realize that they frequently meet old friends, or make new ones, here.

The staff of the Essex Library is deeply committed to our recently adopted mission to be “the community center for lifelong learning and cultural enrichment.” As that statement implies, we will always provide the outstanding services, programs and materials that we have offered for the past 125 years. However, we will also continue to develop new ways to better serve your needs. For instance, we have reconfigured our interior space to make it a more effective community gathering place.

As we look forward to the next 125 years our goal is to maintain our reputation as a vibrant, essential resource for the residents of all three villages of Essex.



### **Ivoryton Library Association**

This year, we were fortunate to partner with Bushy Hill Nature Center, the Florence Griswold Museum, Essex Park & Recreation, the Ivoryton Alliance, Solarize Essex, EES, John Winthrop, VRHS, the Essex Land Trust, the Essex Library and the Essex Garden Club to provide programs and services to our patrons.

The Children’s Room hosted year round weekly Storytimes, Music with Margie bi-monthly programs, Third Friday Movies, and several summer programs. This year we began Sunday afternoon Family Programs which will continue into the coming year.

For adults, we offer our language classes during the school year, watercolor classes, and Mystery Book Club. This spring and summer, Evan Haston taught several classes on the basics of computer, tablet and smart phone usage. Our meeting rooms are frequently used for tutoring and meetings of various local groups. Please contact us with inquiries on the use of these spaces.

Many thanks to our Archival Committee: Betty Austin, Mary Catherine Colburn, Jean Johnson, Shirley Malcarne, Wini Olson, Eve Potts and Doreen Schwab. This year the group organized a clippings file of newspaper articles dating back several decades. A new series has begun, An Intimate History of Ivoryton, with programs planned highlighting small interesting aspects of the area’s history, uncovered during the committee’s work.

At the Ivoryton Library, we constantly review the needs of our patrons to provide the most relevant materials, programs and services, and we analyze our small space for its most efficient use. Changes in our adult space include a new circulation desk and book return in the main room. Our DVD, audiobook and magazine collections moved to a separate room, leaving more space for adult fiction.

We are very grateful for the support shown us by the town of Essex and our patrons and members. We supplemented this support with various fundraisers, including our annual used book sale, 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Local Voices, Tag Sale, our 5K Run/Walk in October, Holiday Silent Auction, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Big Quiz Thing.

#### **Staff:**

Elizabeth Alvord (Director), Elizabeth Bartlett, Jean Johnson, Rosalie Zonder

#### **Board of Trustees 2012-2013:**

Susan Nilsen (President), Leslie Barlow, R. William Bevan, Pamela Burr, Lorraine Donovan, Donald Frazier, John Heiser, Wendy Jaillet, and Judith Saunders. In June, the board bid thank you and farewell to trustees Susan Beckman, Patricia Hurley and Chris Pagliuco and welcomed Judith Fish, Patricia Muggleston and George Penniman

## ***Literacy Volunteers—Valley Shore, CT Inc.***

Literacy Volunteers has served the valley shore area for 35 years. We have tutored over 1200 students to read, write and speak English and helped them improve their life and work skills. This year we tutored 14 students from Essex and benefitted from the good work of 32 volunteers from the town. Overall, L.V.V.S. tutored more than 204 students, spending 11,919 hours of volunteer's time to deliver 7,437 hours of instruction. This year we were fortunate to train 41 new tutors thanks to the dedication of our Workshop Leaders who devote hours and hours of time in preparing the workshop curriculum, training and acting as mentors for all tutors who complete the program.

We are also bolstered by the many hours of service provided by our volunteers who preside over our book sales, the Student Essay Contest Awards Committee. Each week this group works hard to keep our doors open, our operations running smoothly and provide the help our tutors and students need to support their efforts. No mention of our volunteers is complete without pointing out those that work hours and hours to make our fundraisers, mailings and events a success. We began many new programs this year. Our outreach efforts to schools, libraries, churches, as well as business

organizations and other non-profit partners throughout the eleven towns in our service area has brought us a higher level of visibility and assistance in bringing in students, tutors and new donors. We improved the resources available to our tutors and students by initiating an eLearning program and made new additions to our library.

In this coming year we are faced with a number a challenges. The latest assessment by the American Institute for Research shows over 9,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 64 who lack basic literacy skills in the valley shore area – including over 400 in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton alone. Our goal is to increase our capacity incrementally in the coming years to allow us to serve 100% of the literacy needs of our communities and to make this year the finest in our history.

John J. Ferra  
Executive Director

## ***Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments***

RiverCOG, one of fourteen Regional Planning Organizations in Connecticut, is governed by its member towns: Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook.

RiverCOG weaves together shared programs of member municipalities within collective guidance provided by the RiverCOG board as recommended by the State Plan of Conservation and Development and Connecticut Statutes. The following is a quick synopsis of the RiverCOG work program. Additional details and the full annual report are available at our website: [www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org).

RiverCOG provides support for effective planning practices and land use strategies; assisting member municipalities, as requested. The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) supports RiverCOG with inter-municipals referrals and the long-range plan. The RPC includes a representative and alternate from each municipal Planning Commission in the region and meets monthly on the fourth Monday of each month.

River Metropolitan Planning Organization (RiverMPO), a subset of RiverCOG enacts and fosters the planning requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation; a complex process of public outreach and long-range planning for transportation improvements in the region. This year, RiverMPO received its official re-designation from the

Governor, making it one of the first MPOs in the United States to formally re-designate and merge two MPO organizations.

Through meeting space or staff support, RiverCOG hosts regional initiatives such as: Gateway Commission, Shoreline Basic-Needs Task Force, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Regional Agricultural Commission. The agency has begun to expand on existing shared-service programs and investigates unique opportunities for shared cost savings between two or more member towns. The RiverCOG continued an annual "dues" schedule at last year's rate as programs continue to expand for the new organization.

RiverCOG officers are Cathy Iino (Killingworth), serving as Chairperson, Dick Smith (Deep River) as Vice-Chairperson, Susan Bransfield (Portland) as Secretary, and Ed Meehan (Chester) as Treasurer. RiverCOG welcomes Paula Fernald as the new Financial Administrator for RiverCOG

With unexpected passing of Executive Director, Linda Krause, Deputy Director, Jean Davies is Interim Director until the position is filled. Linda and her legacy to promote the collaboration of member towns and the value of our region will be greatly missed.

As always, we welcome visitors and inquiries about specific topics of regional concern. Please contact us at (860-581-8554) or e-mail us ([info@rivercog.org](mailto:info@rivercog.org)) if you think we might be able to help you.

## Rotary Club of Essex

Founded in 1905, Rotary International has a broad and diverse global reach with 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries. The Rotary Club of Essex was chartered in 1955 and currently has 44 members. Money for our mission to support local, national and worldwide needs is raised mostly through local fundraising events, primarily our nationally famous Shad Bake. In 2014 we initiated a joint venture with the CRM which provided a wonderful new venue for the Bake. Local businesses also provide support at some of our events, and private contributions help sustain our activities.

Internationally: We have partnered with Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and the Rotary Foundation in a worldwide campaign to raise funds for clean drinking water, fighting disease (including elimination of polio), promoting peace, supporting education and growing local economies. We have also contributed directly to the library project through Essex Sister Cities Haiti.

Locally: Activities in support of our community during the last year include significant contributions to the Connecticut River Museum, Essex Elementary School programs, the Essex Library, FISH, Shelter Boxes and Shoreline Soup Kitchens. We are the charter and annual sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 4. We have also supported the Ambulance 255 project, the Essex Tree Committee, Literacy Volunteers and VRHS projects. We support an Interact Club at Valley Regional High to help young adults develop civic responsibility.

The Essex Rotary Scholarship Foundation, a separate non-profit corporation, annually awards a \$10,000.00 scholarship to two graduating seniors pursuing a college level education. Each student receives \$2,500 per year for four years subject to normal academic progress. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton. The application is available for download on our website, [www.essexrotary.com](http://www.essexrotary.com).

We meet every Tuesday at 6:15PM at the Essex Yacht Club, unless we have a special event elsewhere. The fellowship created through spending time together, locally and around the world, strengthens our organization and expands the reach of the services we provide

If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, visit us at a meeting, look at our website, [www.essexrotary.com](http://www.essexrotary.com), visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/>, or email [rlevne2@comcast.net](mailto:rlevne2@comcast.net). We are always looking for women and men who will help us improve our world and be inspired by our Rotary motto, "Service above Self".



## **Tri Town Youth Services**

Since Tri-Town Youth Services' establishment in 1984, the nonprofit has served youth (birth to 18) and their families who reside in Chester, Deep River, and Essex. The agency works with youth to strengthen connections with family, peers, school, and the community, carefully ensuring our services augment, not duplicate other programs. On the community level, Tri-Town convenes the local prevention council. The agency continues to lead community mobilization efforts around asset building through Healthy Communities•Healthy Youth of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

Counseling and crisis intervention were provided to residents for a wide range of issues through day and evening appointments with 24-hour phone availability. Issues addressed include parenting and relationship concerns, depression, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and substance abuse, with referrals made in some instances. Our early intervention program, the Tri-Town Juvenile Review Board hears cases of youth in trouble with the law as they are referred.

Much of our work is directed to positive youth development, parent education, and building healthy families and communities. With the school social worker, we trained Peer Advocates at Valley Regional; facilitated two youth advisory boards, organized community service activities, facilitated several mentoring programs, offered supervised teen recreation activities, a youth job bank, babysitter training classes, Homework Hangout, a Summer Co-op for middle school youth, and involvement in Safe Grad. In addition to involvement with the Early Childhood Council, parent programs are offered for parents/caregivers and their one-year-olds or two-year-olds, parent consultations, and courses such as "Getting Ready for Change." We sponsored the twenty-fourth annual substance prevention/awareness week, "High on Life", successful through support from multiple facets of the community.

The Bureau's Board of Directors is comprised of three to five members from each of the three towns and a youth representative. Our special thanks to: volunteers who have donated time and talent, to local taxpayers who support the bureau by providing the matching funds needed to procure our State Department of Education grant, and to all who have made monetary donations essential for maintaining our operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail M. Onofrio,  
Director

## **Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley**

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. As an agency dedicated to community outreach we focused our program development in 2013-2014 toward providing an increased number of health educational seminars in the communities we serve and by hiring a Faith Community Nurse to provide both holistic education and spiritual service to the residents at large. In 2013 we made over 14,053 home visits to patients in our service area and provided weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, B12 injections, and local flu shot clinics as part of our wellness program. We are pleased to report we continue to generate positive patient satisfaction and health care outcomes surpassing both the state and federal outcomes in seven out of the nine patient experiences of care measures and matching the federal outcome percentage in the remaining two measures as reported in the 2013 Home Health Compare Report.

We are the parent organization of Lower Valley Care Advocates whose staff provides private care services designed to help the frail elderly, terminally ill and disabled remain in the comfort of their own homes. All of the staff are carefully screened, trained and bonded, and are expert at determining just what services are needed to achieve optimum health and safety at home. Please call 860-767-2695 for further information.

Our staff wishes to acknowledge the commitment of our volunteer board of directors: Judy Heiser, Nancy Kirkiles, Dick Levene, William McCann, Claire Tiernan, and Paul Thornwall from Essex; Ted Heiser, Peg Lieberman, Carl Manning and Skip Weisenburger from Chester; and Kate Bender, President from Deep River. And, a special thank you to all Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton residents who support the work of VNLV.

Please check our website ([www.visitingnurses.org](http://www.visitingnurses.org)) or call us at 767-0186 for service information or flu clinic dates and locations.

Susan Maxwell, MSN, RN, C-COS  
Executive Director

## **Town Meeting Minutes**

### **Special Town Meeting August 7, 2013**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectman, Joel Marzi and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby, were not in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eight (8) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

Resolved: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from the Park and Recreation Sinking fund for the purpose of the project at the Grove Street Playground as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt Amendment No. 4 to the Town of Essex Retirement Plan. Copies of said amendment are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted, Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



### **Special Town Meeting September 12, 2013**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Florence Whaley-Wexler was elected Moderator. Selectman, Joel Marzi and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby, were in attendance. Selectman, Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty-five (25) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To ratify, confirm, and amend the Lease between the Town of Essex and the Essex Housing Authority dated November 18, 2002, regarding property at 26 Main Street in Centerbrook, Connecticut to expand the permitted use of said property from "elderly housing" to "elderly and affordable housing", and to make other technical changes thereto, including permitting assignment and subleasing thereof. A copy of the proposed Amendment to Lease is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joel Marzi,



### **Special Town Meeting September 18, 2013**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Susan Malan was elected Moderator. Selectman, Joel Marzi and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby, were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty-seven (27) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2012-2013 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$75,000 for the Fire Department Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2012-2013 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$50,000 for the Municipal Property Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2012-2013 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$15,000 for the Police Cruiser Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation to the 2012-2013 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$35,000 for the Bonding Study as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation to the 2012-2013 Town of Essex Budget in the amount of \$25,000 for the Wastewater Study as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk



### **Special Town Meeting September 30, 2013**

Selectwoman, Stacia Libby called the Town Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. First Selectman Norman Needleman was not in attendance. Selectman, Joel Marzi was in attendance. Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nine (9) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Elizabeth D'Amico to fill an unexpired term from the date of this meeting until December 1, 2013

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the 2013-2014 Building Committee.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Kelly Sterner as a member to the 2013-2014 Building Committee.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin as a member to the 2013-2014 Building Committee.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Bruce Glowac as a member to the 2013-2014 Building Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk



**Special Town Meeting  
November 6, 2013**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Joel Marzi was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby were in attendance. Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the Town of Essex authorizes the Essex Elementary Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed 2013-2014 Capital Improvements Projects at the Essex Elementary School.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the 2013-2014 Building Committee is hereby established as the Building Committee with regard to the proposed 2013-2014 Capital Improvements Projects at the Essex Elementary School.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the Town of Essex hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the 2013-2014 Capital Improvements Projects at the Essex Elementary School.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a transfer as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance of an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to the Municipal Property Improvements budget for the purpose of boiler replacement and heating system improvements at the Essex Town Hall. Said sum to be transferred from the Board of Finance Contingency budget.

RESOLVED: To approve a supplemental appropriation in

the amount of \$30,700 to the Police Services account for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$57,148 to the Highway Department account for fiscal year 2012-2013 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk



**Annual Town Meeting  
November 18, 2013**

The First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. James Francis was elected Moderator. Selectman Bruce Glowac, and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby were in attendance as well as Board of Finance Chairman, James Francis and Finance Director, Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately forty (40) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED To accept the Statement of Town Accounts, report of the Town Treasurer and the report of the Superintendent of Schools, as printed in the 2012-2013 Annual Town Report.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Daniel Lapman to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Charles Corson to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Stephen Knauth as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Lon Seidman to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of David Sousa to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Elizabeth D'Amico to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Alan Kerr to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2018.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment of John Ackermann as an alternate member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015 to fill an unexpired term.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Jeffrey Going to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Joseph Zaraschi to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of James Rawn to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Thomas Clerkin to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Michael Noto to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of James Hill to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Jeffrey Lovelace as an alternate to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Susan Malan to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Randel Osborne to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Mark Reeves to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert Van Houten to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfram as an alternate to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Susan Malan to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Randel Osborne to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Mark Reeves to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert Van Houten to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfram as an alternate to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2013 to December 1, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk



**Special Town Meeting  
November 20, 2013**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. Vincent Pacileo was elected Moderator. Selectman, Bruce Glowac and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby, were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seventy (70) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the purchase by the Town of Essex of approximately 0.65 acre of land in the rear portion of property know as 27 West Avenue, Essex, Connecticut. Said purchase has been approved by the Board of Finance. A copy of the contract for said purchase is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

**Special Town Meeting  
December 18, 2013**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. Selectman, Bruce Glowac and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby, were in attendance. Kelly Sterner read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Ward Feirer as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy from the date of this meeting until December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Park & Recreation Sinking Fund for the purpose of costs associated with the assembly of playground equipment at the Grove Street Playground as well as a new fence for the tennis court as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund for improvements to the West Avenue approach to the Essex Town Hall as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kelly Sterner



**Special Town Meeting  
January 8, 2014**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. Selectman, Bruce Glowac and Selectwoman, Stacia Libby, were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately 2 people in the audience.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Virginia Willets as a member to the Park and Recreation Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2017.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund for improvements related to the Civic Campus Project as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Marzi Town Clerk

**Special Town Meeting  
January 15, 2014**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectman Stacia Libby was in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately two (2) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Tim Furgueson as a member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2016.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Frank Hall as a member to the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency. The term to run from date of this meeting to January, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Marzi Town Clerk



**Special Town Meeting  
February 19, 2014**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:56 p.m. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fourteen (14) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Terry Stewart as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Peter Sarner as an alternate member to the Park and Recreation Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Barbara Sarrantonio as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Peter Decker as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Marzi Town Clerk



**Special Town Meeting  
March 6, 2014**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were seated. Selectman Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Town Clerk Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty (20) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the Regional Performance Incentive Program Proposal

MOTION: Libby SECOND: Needleman  
**AYE 10 NAY 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund for renovations to the Town Hall ground-floor kitchen and to supplement prior appropriations for exterior work at the Town Hall as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance

MOTION: Libby SECOND: Needleman  
**AYE 11 NAY 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$21,700 from the Elementary School Capital Improvements Sinking Fund for capital expenditures at the elementary school which include barrier fencing, walk-in cooler repairs, and ceiling fan replacement in the gym and cafeteria as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance

MOTION: Needleman SECOND: Libby  
**AYE 11 NAY 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance for design and engineering costs related to the Walnut Street Bridge and the Ivory Street Bridges as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. The Town intends to reimburse this

appropriation with the proceeds of bonds, notes, or other obligations to be authorized to finance the full project cost

MOTION: Needleman SECOND: Libby  
**AYE 12 NAY 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$110,000 from the Elementary School Capital Improvements Sinking Fund for replacement of the second hot water boiler at the Essex Elementary School and conversion of both of the school's boilers to natural gas burners as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance. The Town intends to reimburse this appropriation with the proceeds of bonds, notes, or other obligations to be authorized to finance the full project cost.

MOTION: Needleman SECOND: Libby  
**AYE 13 NAY 0**

With no further discussion, there was a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Needleman SECOND: Libby  
**AYE 11 NAY 0**

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Marzi, Town Clerk



**Special Town Meeting  
April 16, 2014**

First Selectman Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:56 P.M. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of John Ackermann as the Planning Commission representative to the Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. The term to run from date of this meeting to December 1, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Marzi, Town Clerk

**Annual Budget Town Meeting  
May 12, 2014**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:32 PM. Alvin Wolfgram was elected Moderator. Selectmen Norman Needleman, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac were in attendance as well as James Francis, Treasurer and Kelley Sterner, Director of Finance. Town Clerk Joel Marzi read the call of the meeting. There were approximately eighty (80) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and Amended:

To make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects in an amount not to exceed \$23,056,963.

The amended Resolution was Read and Seconded and VOTED:

To make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects in an amount of \$23,056,963. Registered electors of the Town of Essex and United States citizens, eighteen years or older, owning taxable property assessed at \$1,000.00 or more on the last completed grand list of the Town are eligible to vote at this town meeting.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To determine and designate, pursuant to Sections 12-142, 12-144 and 12-144a, of the Connecticut General Statutes, that taxes levied on said budget will be due and payable as follows:

All Motor Vehicle tax bills will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2014

All real estate and personal property tax bills \$100.00 or less will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2014.

Real Estate and personal property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments with one half due on July 1, 2014 and one half due on January 1, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m..

Respectfully submitted, Joel Marzi, Town Clerk

**Special Town Meeting  
June 4, 2014**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 7:13 PM. Alvin Wolfgram was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty one (21) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex Adopt the Amendment and Restatement of the Ordinance Delaying Granting of Permit for Demolition of Historic Buildings.

SECONDED: James Francis  
**AYE: 21**                      **NAY: 0**

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex Adopt an Ordinance Renaming the Essex Water Pollution Control Authority and Establishing its Jurisdiction.

SECONDED: Lon Seidman  
**AYE: 19**                      **NAY: 1**

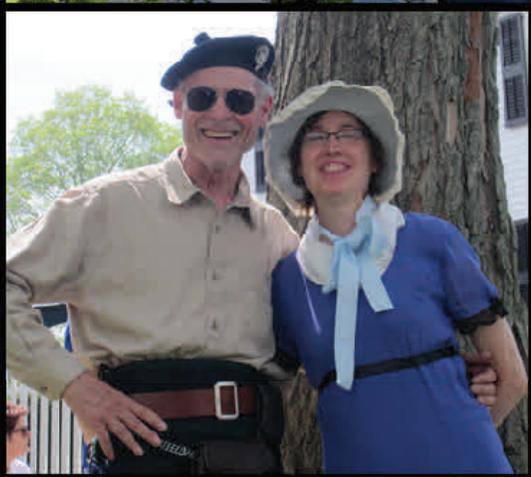
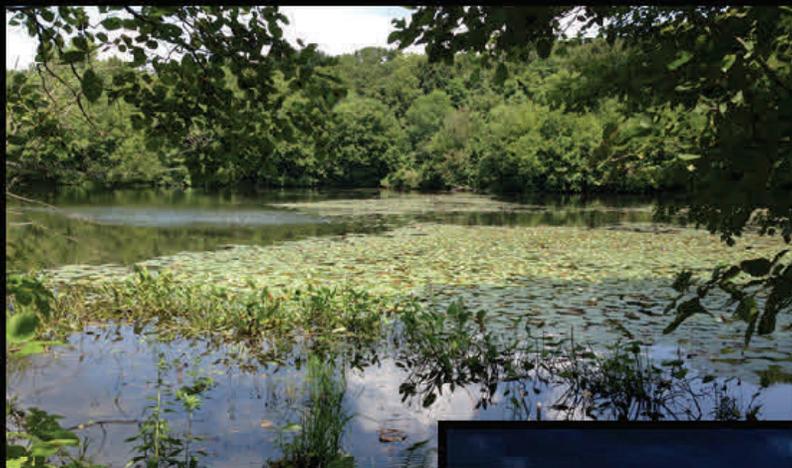
RESOLVED: To consent and approve that the Essex Place Centerbrook, LLC shall make payments in lieu of taxes to the Municipality in accordance with the provisions of Section 8-118a and Section 8-119gg of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. In an amount equal to 10% of the net shelter rent per annum.

SECONDED: Bruce Glowac  
**AYE: 20**                      **NAY: 0**

MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac SECONDED: Norman Needleman

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Marzi, Town Clerk



# Town of Essex

## 2014 Annual Report

### Financial Information

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Financial data concerning the government of the Town of Essex is public information. The reports presented here are prepared to inform our taxpayers.

The financial information included in these reports is un-audited; however, it has been prepared by the Finance Department with reasonable care.

Once complete, the Town's official Audit Financial Statements prepared by our outside audit firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP will be available for review at the office of the Town Clerk and posted on the Town website [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) under the Finance Department webpage.

# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report Finance Report

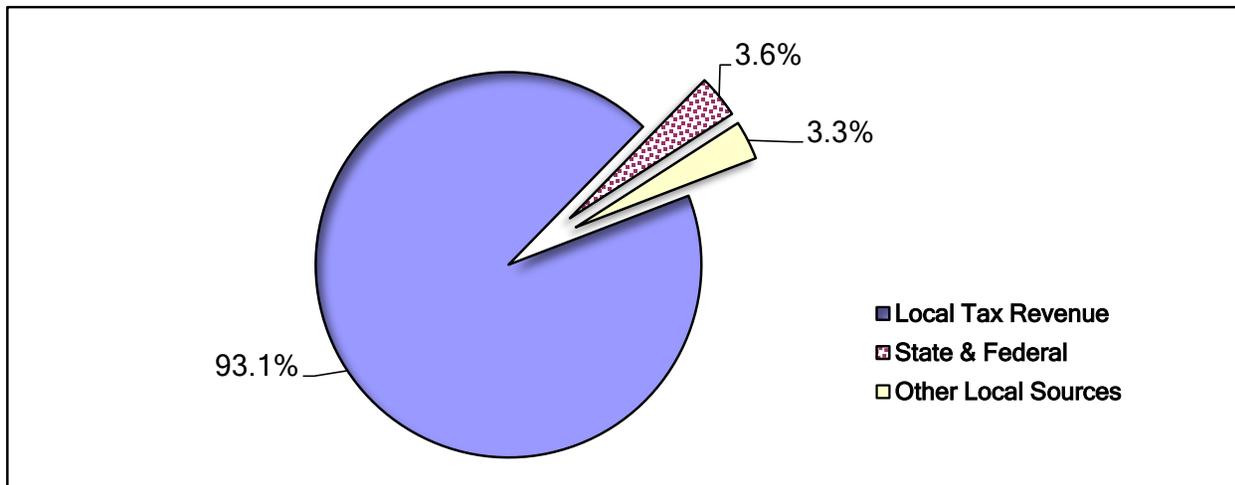
## Historical Data - Revenue

*(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)*

Fiscal Year	Assessor and Tax Collector						Other Revenue		Total Revenue
	Grand List		Adjusted Tax Levy				State & Federal	Local Sources	
	Net Taxable \$	Annual Incr. %	Amount \$	Annual Incr. %	Collected On Time %	Tax Rate Mills			
2014-15*	1,031,550,311	(7.93)	21,628,339	4.18	99.00	20.99	804,577	568,480	23,001,396
2013-14	1,120,431,426	0.02	21,316,486	5.80	98.69	18.99	826,489	747,553	22,890,528
2012-13	1,120,189,036	0.33	20,761,480	5.47	98.97	18.47	859,816	820,384	22,441,680
2011-12	1,116,538,776	0.57	20,147,562	6.55	99.02	17.98	741,493	581,345	21,470,401
2010-11	1,110,265,319	(0.31)	19,684,655	4.10	99.16	17.63	802,863	503,727	20,991,245
2009-10	1,113,762,454	8.16	18,908,813	4.50	98.80	16.95	897,178	542,978	20,348,969
2008-09	1,029,770,435	1.41	18,093,950	4.96	98.72	17.60	1,127,338	743,094	19,964,382
2007-08	1,015,492,968	0.83	17,239,184	4.94	98.91	16.90	919,922	1,277,775	19,436,881
2006-07	1,007,137,952	0.83	16,427,178	6.19	98.80	16.20	1,339,615	1,043,556	18,810,349
2005-06	998,805,274	1.54	15,468,996	4.69	99.01	15.50	851,787	920,468	17,241,251
2004-05	983,668,278	47.38	14,775,573	10.27	99.33	14.90	1,332,303	904,384	17,012,260
2003-04	667,428,769	1.15	13,399,154	9.62	98.79	20.00	823,407	691,617	14,914,178
2002-03	659,813,608	1.95	12,223,722	11.34	99.06	18.25	804,649	682,050	13,710,421
2001-02	647,187,810	3.05	10,979,019	2.72	98.67	16.75	873,648	621,298	12,473,965
2000-01	628,046,013	(2.85)	10,688,066	11.76	98.62	16.75	794,975	726,058	12,209,099

\* Budgeted figures

### FY 2013-14 Revenue Breakdown



# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Historical Data - Expenditures

*(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)*

Fiscal Year	Selectman's Expenditures			Education Expenditures				Total Essex Expend.	% Increase
	Town Admin.	% Increase	Debt Pmt (P & I)	Elementary School	Regional District 4	Total Education	% Increase		
2014-15*	6,347,793	0.93	854,369	7,742,313	8,112,489	15,854,802	1.42	23,056,964	1.36
2013-14†	6,289,526	2.09	824,579	7,564,917	8,081,772	15,632,806	2.60	22,746,911	2.16
2012-13†	6,160,663	4.28	869,741	7,534,205	7,701,887	15,236,092	2.91	22,266,496	3.05
2011-12	5,907,651	7.14	895,238	7,400,069	7,405,135	14,805,204	3.91	21,608,093	4.49
2010-11	5,513,716	(1.36)	917,916	7,109,503	7,138,437	14,247,940	2.09	20,679,572	2.13
2009-10	5,589,745	(6.56)	701,808	7,074,443	6,882,305	13,956,748	3.32	20,248,301	0.21
2008-09†	5,981,962	8.42	716,198	6,783,586	6,724,040	13,507,626	5.92	20,205,786	6.25
2007-08	5,517,313	(2.57)	747,662	6,316,505	6,435,906	12,752,411	6.30	19,017,386	4.40
2006-07†	5,662,807	13.51	555,953	5,995,035	6,001,990	11,997,025	5.81	18,215,785	7.89
2005-06	4,988,816	(4.19)	557,512	5,717,309	5,620,692	11,338,001	1.32	16,884,329	(0.57)
2004-05†	5,206,907	27.69	583,091	5,570,964	5,619,374	11,190,338	12.73	16,980,336	16.30
2003-04	4,077,737	7.12	595,962	5,514,033	4,412,335	9,926,368	6.80	14,600,067	6.28

\* - Budgeted figures

† - Includes STEAP Grants &/or Special Appropriations

### Pension Trust Funds

#### Town Employees, Volunteer Fire Department, & Police Department

	Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Police
<b>Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 2,332,542	\$ 683,421	\$ 544,392
<b>Contributions:</b>			
From General Fund and Members	229,403	75,741	77,857
<b>Income:</b>			
Interest, Dividends & Other Income	103,331	30,571	22,686
Investments Market Value - Gain/(Loss)	273,745	78,855	63,456
<b>Total Beginning Balance, Contributions &amp; Income</b>	\$ 2,939,021	\$ 868,588	\$ 708,391
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Retirement Benefits Paid	175,009	76,335	82,829
Administration	14,740	6,315	4,993
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	189,750	82,650	87,822
<b>Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 2,749,272	\$ 785,938	\$ 620,569
Number of participants in plans	70	81	7
Retired	23	21	3
Active	33	51	3
Vested before terminating	14	9	1

# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2012-13 Actual	Fiscal Year 2013-14			FY 2014-15 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>TAX COLLECTION</b>					
Property Taxes	\$ 20,652,286	\$ 21,218,019	\$ 21,216,985	\$ (1,034)	\$ 21,578,339
Interest and Lien Fees	109,194	50,000	99,501	49,501	50,000
<b>Total Tax Collection</b>	<b>20,761,480</b>	<b>21,268,019</b>	<b>21,316,486</b>	<b>48,467</b>	<b>21,628,339</b>
<b>STATE &amp; FEDERAL</b>					
Tax Relief Totally Disabled	178	-	184	184	-
Veterans Tax Relief	2,879	3,962	3,050	(912)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	387,077	402,107	389,143	(12,964)	389,697
Town Aid Road Grant	107,828	215,656	215,748	92	215,656
LOCIP	39,194	52,476	41,869	(10,607)	40,351
PILOT Grant	25,482	14,222	23,882	9,660	23,079
Homeowners Tax Relief	31,107	36,000	30,149	(5,851)	36,000
Transit District	1,257	-	429	429	428
Municipal Revenue Sharing	123,705	-	31,237	31,237	-
Pequot Grant	11,767	-	11,463	11,463	10,293
Municipal Grant in Aid	-	-	70,111	70,111	70,111
Miscellaneous State and Federal	129,342	15,000	9,224	(5,776)	15,000
<b>Total State &amp; Federal</b>	<b>859,816</b>	<b>739,423</b>	<b>826,489</b>	<b>87,066</b>	<b>804,577</b>
<b>LOCAL REVENUES</b>					
Interest Income	4,960	3,700	5,654	1,954	4,800
Miscellaneous Permits	6,309	2,000	6,146	4,146	2,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	29,315	35,175	28,382	(6,793)	35,175
Sanitary Permits	61,158	70,000	76,812	6,812	70,000
Building Permit Fees	90,880	120,000	136,690	16,690	120,000
Circuit Court Fines	5,501	7,000	2,451	(4,549)	6,000
Gas Tax Refunds	-	805	-	(805)	805
Zoning Permits	10,371	7,100	9,694	2,594	7,100
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,900	2,160	3,000	840	2,160
Planning Commission Receipts	-	2,500	930	(1,570)	2,500
Conveyance Tax	118,182	102,500	142,573	40,073	105,000
Park and Recreation	653	4,500	6,765	2,265	4,500
Miscellaneous Receipts	293,550	15,000	111,104	96,104	15,000
Town Clerk Fees	134,769	110,000	145,167	35,167	115,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	2,180	1,440	1,900	460	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	52,310	69,000	59,966	(9,034)	69,000
Health Department Fees	7,346	6,000	10,319	4,319	7,500
<b>Total Local Revenues</b>	<b>820,384</b>	<b>558,880</b>	<b>747,553</b>	<b>188,673</b>	<b>568,480</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 22,441,680</b>	<b>\$ 22,566,322</b>	<b>\$ 22,890,528</b>	<b>\$ 324,206</b>	<b>\$ 23,001,396</b>

# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2012-13	Fiscal Year 2013-14			FY 2014-15
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>					
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					
Selectmen	\$ 179,144	\$ 181,667	\$ 173,866	\$ (7,801)	\$ 184,795
Assessor	105,359	108,001	103,838	(4,163)	110,381
Central Services	217,737	217,561	217,561	-	219,015
Elections	47,535	41,600	33,795	(7,805)	47,604
Probate Court	3,460	3,460	3,460	-	3,460
Tax Collector	95,523	99,567	100,028	461	103,783
Town Clerk	164,120	174,708	174,708	-	155,391
Finance	134,612	152,355	152,858	503	154,546
Zoning Enforcement Agent	59,318	61,688	61,848	160	63,516
Fringe Benefits	845,365	881,583	839,769	(41,814)	900,733
General Insurance	146,064	173,069	163,723	(9,346)	181,643
Legal Services	88,253	73,500	75,746	2,246	73,500
Public Restroom Facilities	18,026	21,710	19,660	(2,050)	19,250
Technology	152,988	171,602	157,388	(14,214)	170,889
Board of Assessment Appeals	123	1,340	1,358	18	1,340
Board of Finance	42,803	42,000	36,362	(5,638)	117,000
Clean Energy Task Force	-	1,000	2,070	1,070	1,000
Conservation Commission	1,774	9,900	5,240	(4,660)	9,475
Economic Development Comm.	5,000	5,000	5,689	689	14,100
IWWC Commission	4,996	8,324	3,738	(4,586)	8,144
Parks and Recreation	180,746	175,649	178,053	2,404	178,843
Planning Commission	63,832	58,442	58,590	148	59,899
Tree Committee	1,200	3,000	3,000	-	5,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	6,541	6,300	5,023	(1,277)	5,611
Zoning Commission	28,893	32,002	32,002	-	31,613
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>2,593,413</b>	<b>2,705,028</b>	<b>2,609,373</b>	<b>(95,655)</b>	<b>2,820,531</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
Ambulance Association	18,363	19,422	19,442	20	12,634
Animal Control	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Building Department	73,826	79,797	79,797	-	86,437
Emergency Management	27,767	16,900	16,191	(709)	19,150
Emergency 911	96,216	99,709	99,798	89	99,896
Fire Department	302,984	307,700	307,700	-	325,700
Fire Marshal	47,793	49,300	52,314	3,014	46,707
Harbor Patrol	25,945	28,200	11,479	(16,721)	29,100
Police Services	346,505	321,250	323,177	1,927	331,186
Resident State Trooper	111,314	119,933	119,933	-	123,724
Water	148,792	149,645	150,297	652	152,255
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>1,209,506</b>	<b>1,201,856</b>	<b>1,190,128</b>	<b>(11,728)</b>	<b>1,236,789</b>

*continued on next page*

# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2012-13 Actual	Fiscal Year 2013-14			FY 2014-15 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>					
Estuary Transit	\$ 13,372	\$ 15,380	\$ 15,378	\$ (2)	\$ 16,147
Health Department	88,657	117,398	115,336	(2,062)	122,296
Transfer Station	257,758	267,330	252,829	(14,501)	263,246
Sanitary Waste Commission	200	1,300	1,502	202	800
Social Services	101,355	100,980	92,826	(8,154)	102,919
Visiting Nurses	60,795	60,795	60,795	-	66,874
Water Pollution Control	1,180	2,900	1,327	(1,573)	2,800
Total Health and Welfare	523,317	566,083	539,993	(26,090)	575,082
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	365,000	372,000	372,000	-	379,300
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Highways	835,748	873,799	873,799	-	826,065
Town Garage	37,827	42,900	43,218	318	41,600
Total Highways and Transportation	873,575	916,699	917,017	318	867,665
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
Principal Payments	460,000	550,000	550,000	-	550,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	407,653	274,579	274,749	170	304,369
Total Debt Service	867,653	824,579	824,749	170	854,369
<b>CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS</b>	560,013	646,300	645,845	(455)	468,425
<b>GRANTS &amp; SPECIAL APPROPR.</b>	35,840	15,000	15,000	-	-
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	7,028,317	7,247,545	7,114,105	(133,440)	7,202,160
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School	5,364,856	5,504,334	5,420,451	(83,883)	5,551,765
Reg. School Operating	6,868,267	7,313,598	7,313,598	-	7,252,388
Reg. Supervision District	2,169,349	2,130,583	2,130,583	-	2,190,548
Reg. Bond & Interest	833,620	768,174	768,174	-	860,101
Total Education	15,236,092	15,716,689	15,632,806	(83,883)	15,854,802
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 22,264,409	\$ 22,964,234	\$ 22,746,911	\$ (217,323)	\$ 23,056,962

### Fiscal Year End Revenue Excess/(Deficit)

DESCRIPTION	FY 2012-13 Actual	Fiscal Year 2013-14			FY 2014-15 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 22,441,680	\$ 22,566,322	\$ 22,890,528	\$ 324,206	\$ 23,001,396
Total Expenditures	22,264,409	22,964,234	22,746,911	\$ (217,323)	23,056,962
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 177,271	\$ (397,912)	\$ 143,617	\$ 541,529	\$ (55,566)

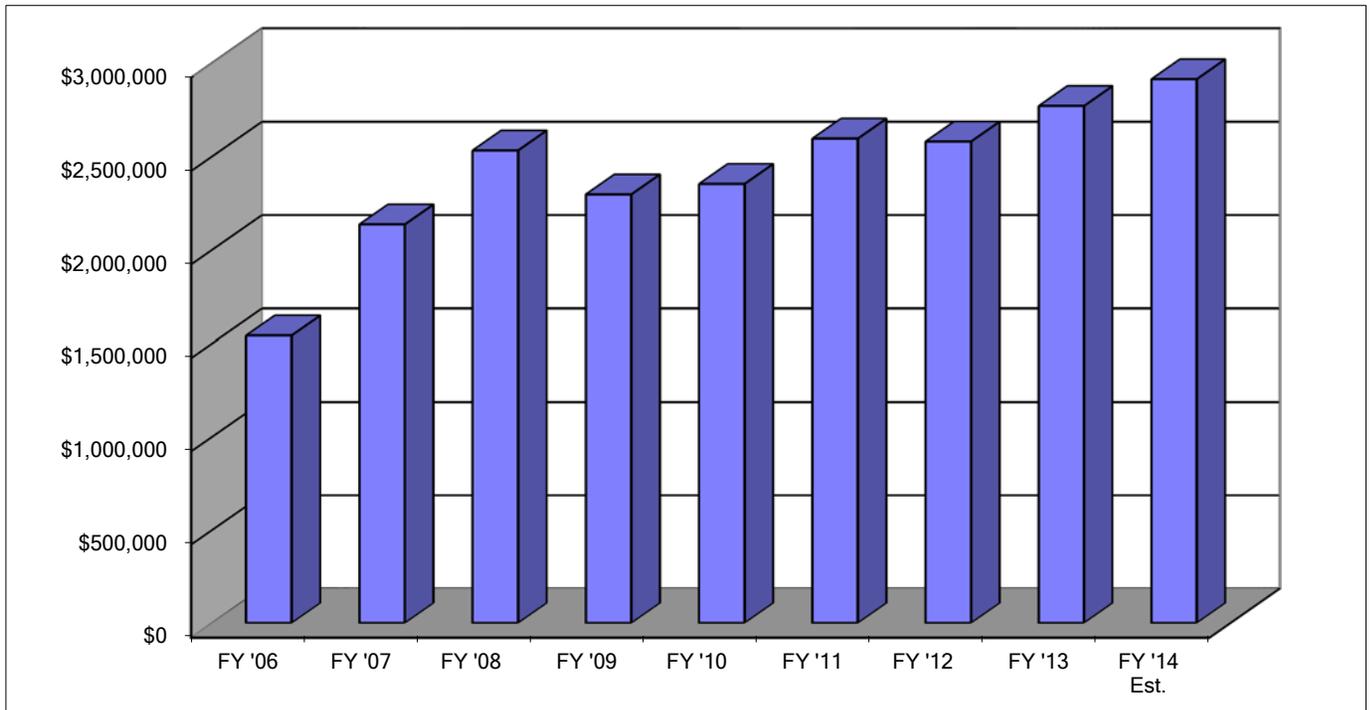
# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2013	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2014
Fire Truck	\$ 342,465	\$ 175,000	\$ 326	\$ -	\$ 517,791
Trucks & Equip.	2,778	-	2	-	2,780
Constable Cars	43,938	40,000	22	27,476	56,484
Assessor Revaluation	198,950	15,000	-	102,563	111,387
Wastewater Study	25,628	55,000	28	-	80,657
Harbor Patrol Boat	29,897	3,000	23	-	32,920
Park & Recreation	66,800	34,000	44	37,950	62,894
Unappropriated	72,014	35,000	71	5,652	101,433
Open Space	220,481	30,000	157	-	250,638
EES Capital Improv.	159,494	20,000	122	5,000	174,615
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 1,162,447</b>	<b>\$ 407,000</b>	<b>\$ 795</b>	<b>\$ 178,642</b>	<b>\$ 1,391,600</b>

### Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year



# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### School Enrollment

Student Count on Oct. 1st	For Budget Year	Essex Elementary			Regional School District #4				
		K - 3	4 - 6	Total	Junior High	High School	Total*	Essex Share	% of Total
2013	2014-15	204	224	428	357	617	994	446	44.87%
2012	2013-14	215	237	452	366	623	1007	465	46.18%
2011	2012-13	245	232	477	338	618	973	434	44.60%
2010	2011-12	275	244	519	364	608	982	425	43.28%
2009	2010-11	297	251	548	354	618	985	419	42.54%
2008	2009-10	312	247	559	332	617	962	403	41.89%
2007	2008-09	322	235	557	341	620	961	397	41.31%
2006	2007-08	309	241	550	358	597	955	392	41.05%
2005	2006-07	317	246	563	350	598	948	381	40.19%
2004	2005-06	306	238	544	326	538	864	343	39.70%
2003	2004-05	316	240	556	342	549	891	356	39.96%
2002	2003-04	317	237	554	329	528	857	338	39.44%
2001	2002-03	333	225	558	331	575	906	334	36.87%
2000	2001-02	342	227	569	318	564	882	314	35.60%
1999	2000-01	327	224	551	347	494	841	329	39.12%
1998	1999-00	295	207	502	378	493	871	311	35.71%

\*Total includes Pre-K and out of district placements

### Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Actual 2010-2011	Actual 2011-2012	Actual 2012-2013	Budgeted 2013-2014	Adopted 2014-2015
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$13,612,570	\$13,928,129	\$14,093,360	\$14,641,624	14,888,543
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,254,690</u>	<u>1,266,582</u>	<u>1,360,166</u>	<u>1,471,058</u>	<u>1,572,013</u>
Total Operating Expenses	14,867,260	15,194,711	15,453,526	16,112,682	16,460,556
Revenue	226,228	177,077	273,543	275,532	297,447
Debt Service	<u>2,109,730</u>	<u>2,024,324</u>	<u>1,865,845</u>	<u>1,663,438</u>	<u>1,916,875</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	16,750,762	17,041,958	17,045,828	17,500,588	18,079,984
Total Billings-Essex Share	7,138,437	7,406,315	7,701,887	8,081,772	8,112,489
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	351,141	291,196	3,870	454,760	579,396
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	268,326	267,878	295,572	379,885	30,717
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	2.14%	1.74%	0.02%	2.67%	3.31%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	3.91%	3.75%	3.99%	4.93%	0.38%
Number of Student	985	982	973	1,007	994
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 15,094	\$ 15,473	\$ 15,882	\$ 16,001	\$ 16,560

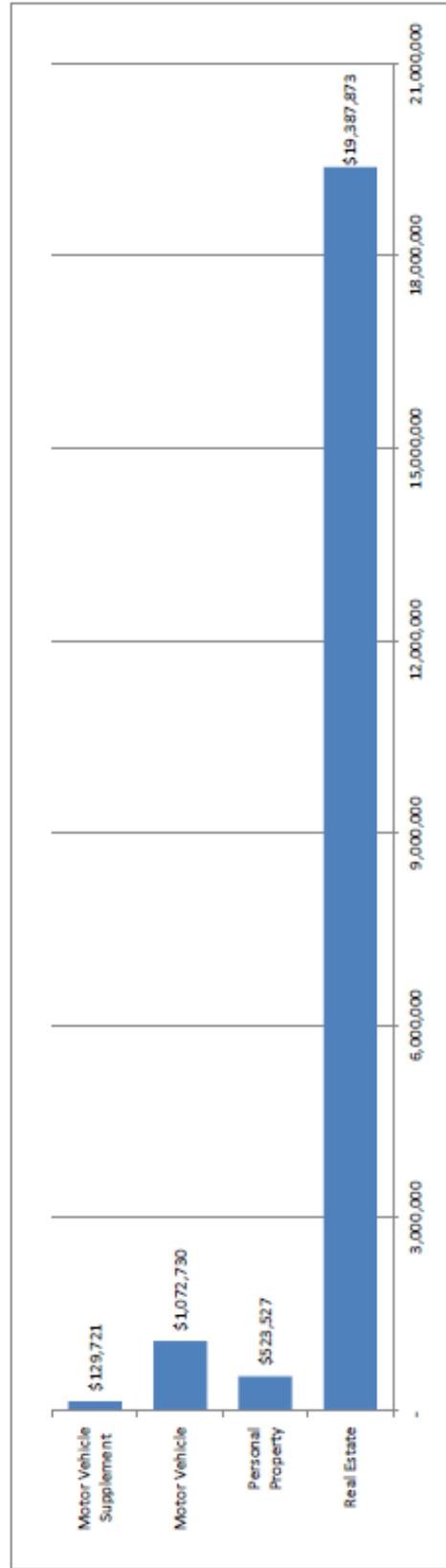
\*\*This number does not represent the Net Current Expenses per Pupil (NCEP) reported by the CT Department of Education which excludes Special Education and other costs

## Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report Tax Collector's Report

### Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2014

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2013	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	LAWFUL CORRECTIONS		Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS			LIEN FEES	TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2014
			Additions	Deductions			Taxes	Interest	Taxes			
2012		21,333,130	15,160	27,271	-	\$21,321,020	21,053,693	60,134	24	21,113,851	267,327	
2011	214,991	-	4,928	1,040	-	218,880	79,680	15,899	600	96,179	139,200	
2010	100,224	-	2,709	311	37,726	64,895	31,656	11,577	240	43,473	33,239	
2009	26,752	-	-	-	-	26,752	10,302	5,086	48	15,435	16,450	
2008	13,119	-	-	-	-	13,119	1,762	26	24	1,813	11,356	
2007	5,962	-	-	-	-	5,962	-	-	-	-	5,962	
2006	794	-	-	-	-	794	-	-	-	-	794	
2005	761	-	-	-	-	761	-	-	-	-	761	
2004	729	-	-	-	-	729	-	-	-	-	729	
2003	432	-	-	-	-	432	-	-	-	-	432	
<b>Total</b>	<b>363,764</b>	<b>21,333,130</b>	<b>22,798</b>	<b>28,622</b>	<b>37,726</b>	<b>\$21,653,344</b>	<b>21,177,093</b>	<b>92,722</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>21,270,751</b>	<b>476,251</b>	

FY 2014 Collections for Grand List 10/1/12 by Type



# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### 2013 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2012	Grand List Year 2013**
Gross	\$ 1,034,674,820	\$ 943,433,000
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,084,500	\$ 1,255,190
Veteran's Additional	180,000	168,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	492,750	554,450
Blind	10,000	39,960
Disability	9,000	9,000
Other	-	537,280
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 1,032,898,570</b>	<b>\$ 940,869,120</b>

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2012	Grand List Year 2013
Gross	\$ 38,557,249	\$ 39,785,864
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 27,050	\$ 23,890
Manufacturers*	9,850,980	10,170,250
Misc.	8,643	500
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	-	5,593
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 28,670,576</b>	<b>\$ 29,585,631</b>

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2012	Grand List Year 2013
Gross	\$ 62,289,730	\$ 63,187,280
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 188,760	\$ 176,690
Veteran's Additional	76,020	66,200
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	1,000	1,000
Disability	40,450	30,960
Other	-	-
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	3,121,220	1,816,870
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 58,862,280</b>	<b>\$ 61,095,560</b>

	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2012	Grand List Year 2013**
Gross	\$ 1,135,521,799	\$ 1,046,406,144
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,273,260	\$ 1,431,880
Veteran's Additional	256,020	234,200
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	493,750	554,450
Blind	9,000	9,000
Disability	50,450	71,920
Other	35,693	567,263
Manufacturer & Truck*	12,972,200	11,987,120
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 1,120,431,426</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,550,311</b>

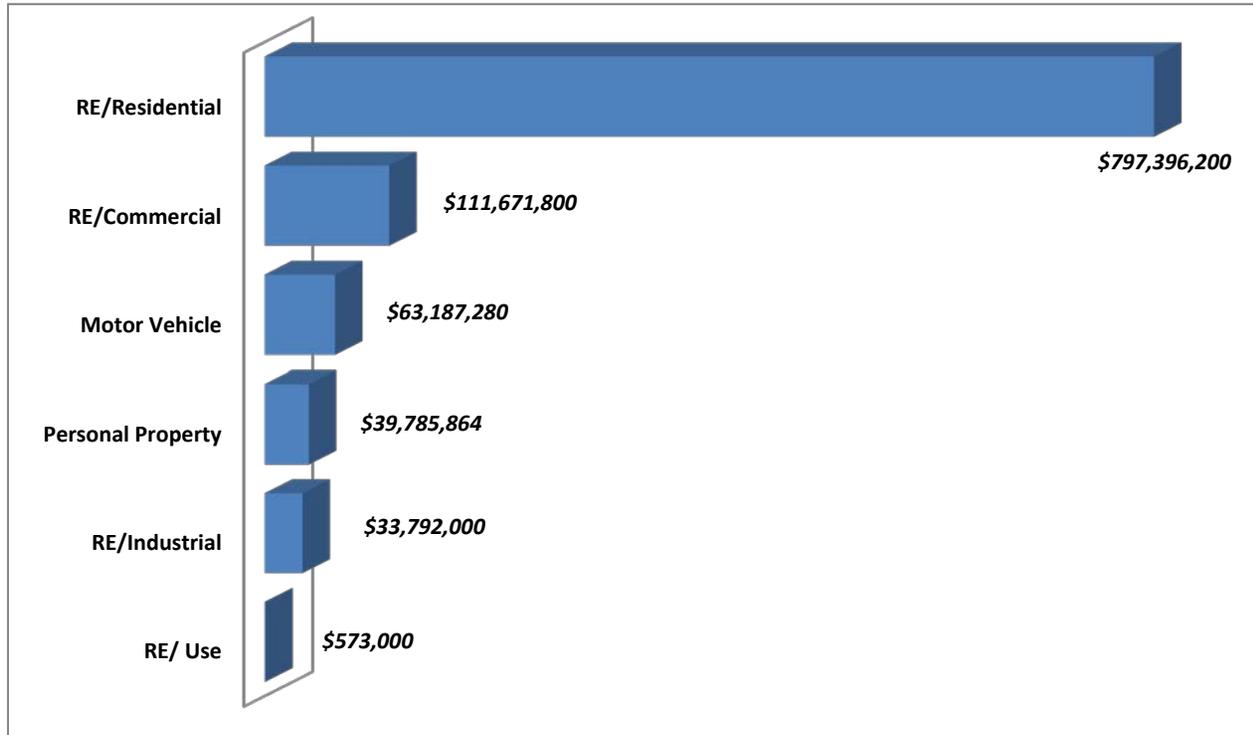
\*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

\*\*Revaluation Year

# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### Grand List 2013 Assessment by Category



### Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2012	Grand List Year 2013	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 1,032,898,570	\$ 940,869,120	\$ (92,029,450)
Personal Property	\$ 28,670,576	\$ 29,585,631	\$ 915,055
Motor Vehicle	\$ 58,862,280	\$ 61,095,560	\$ 2,233,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,120,431,426</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,550,311</b>	<b>\$ (88,881,115)</b>

### Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2012	Grand List Year 2013
Net List	\$ 1,120,431,426	\$ 1,031,550,311
Mill Rate	18.99	20.99
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 21,276,993	\$ 21,652,241

# Town of Essex 2014 Annual Report Assessor's Report

## Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2013	
			Assessed Value	# of accts
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 22,875,400	1
2	Lee Company	Manufacturing	14,269,220	4
3	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	6,480,780	1
4	SKR Partners LLC	Real Estate Development	5,413,200	7
5	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,384,520	7
6	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	3,378,710	6
7	Cline Stephen R. Successor	Real Estate Development	3,276,600	6
8	All Waste Inc.	Refuse Collection	3,135,040	44
9	Clark Herbert T III	Real Estate Development	2,764,370	28
10	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,759,500	2
Total			\$ 67,737,340	

Historical Mill Rates	
Grand List Year	Mill Rate
2013*	20.99
2012	18.99
2011	18.47
2010	17.98
2009	17.63
2008*	16.95
2007	17.60
2006	16.90
2005	16.20
2004	15.50
2003*	14.90
2002	20.00
2001	18.25
2000	16.75
1999*	16.75
1998	14.50
1997	14.00
1996	13.50
1995	13.20
1994	12.25
1993	11.75
1992	11.25
*Revaluation	

Important Annual Dates for the Assessor's Office		
February	1	We begin accepting applications for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Program and Additional Veteran's Benefits.
May	15	Deadline to file for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Program and local options.
June	1	Deadline for all commercial property owners to file the annual income and expense forms.
September	1	The filing period for PA 490 land, farm, forest and local option open space begins
October	1	Deadline by which Veteran's must file their DD214, honorable discharge. (Only needs to be done once)
October	1	Deadline for low-income Veterans to file for their additional exemption.
November	1	All business Personal Property Declarations must be filed or postmarked by this date to avoid the 25% penalty.

# ESSEX TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Telephone Number 860-767-4340 (unless otherwise noted)

## Selectmen's Office

Norman M Needleman—1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, X114 ..... nneedleman@essexct.gov  
Maria Lucarelli, X112 ..... mlucarelli@essexct.gov

## Animal Control Officer—860-767-3219

Jae Wolf ..... jwolf@essexct.gov

## Assessor

Jessica Sypher—Assessor, X124 ..... jsypher@essexct.gov  
Nancy Berryman, X123 ..... nberryman@essexct.gov

## Building Department and Fire Marshal

David DeLeeuw—Building Official, X117 ..... ddeleeuw@essexct.gov  
Keith Nolin—Fire Marshal, X146 ..... knolin@essexct.gov  
Darcy Roper, X144 ..... droper@essexct.gov

## Health Department

Lisa Fasulo—Health Director, X118 ..... lfasulo@essexct.gov  
Kerry Berardinelli, X119 ..... kberardinelli@essexct.gov

## Landfill/Recycling Center—860-767-1926

Mike Birner  
Wilbur Armstead

## Park and Recreation

Rick Audet—Director, X148 ..... raudet@essexct.gov  
Mary Ellen Barnes, X110 ..... mbarnes@essexct.gov

## Public Works—860-767-0715

David Caroline—Director ..... dcaroline@essexct.gov  
William Angier, Boris Churyk,  
Richard Gallacher, Ryan Welch

## Registrars of Voters

Lois Ely, X142 ..... lely@essexct.gov  
John Heiser, X142 ..... jheiser@essexct.gov

## Resident State Trooper and Essex Police—860-767-1054

David Tretter—Resident State Trooper ..... dtretter@essexct.gov  
Russell Gingras—Corporal ..... rgingras@essexct.gov  
James Paul Kenefick—Officer ..... jkenefick@essexct.gov  
Scott O'Donnell—Officer ..... sodonnell@essexct.gov  
Todd Belcourt—Officer ..... 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 ..... townclerk@essexct.gov

## Town Hall Operations

Thomas Fitzgerald, X136 ..... maintenance@essexct.gov  
Mark Hiatt  
John Schumacher  
Joseph Donofrio

## Treasurer / Finance

James Francis—Treasurer, X127 ..... jfrancis@essexct.gov  
Kelly Sterner—Finance Director, X122 ..... ksterner@essexct.gov  
Dana Novorio, x116 ..... dnovorio@essexct.gov

## Zoning Enforcement

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Darcy Roper, X144 ..... droper@essexct.gov

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