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# First Selectman's Corner

Dear Essex Friends & Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I would like to thank the residents of Essex for their support during my State Senate campaign. Nothing is more gratifying than the encouragement and support I receive in our hometown. I'll continue to work hard to be the credible voice our town and our district need in the State Senate. As important, I will continue to serve you as First Selectman. Our town is fortunate to be on sound financial footing, and we have built a core staff of professionals in every area of municipal operations and services. Those services are reinforced by selectmen who are experienced municipal managers, Stacia Libby and Bruce Glowac. I will work with them every day to make certain that Essex continues its positive momentum.

To stay up to date with what's happening in our community, I encourage residents to sign up for the Essex News quarterly email newsletter and the emergency notification system, Safer Essex. You can subscribe to both services by going to our Town website at <https://www.essexct.gov/home/pages/online-services>. These Town resources are invaluable to staying informed.

This year the Board of Finance dedicated the 2021-2022 Annual Report to Augie Pampel. Augie's extraordinary commitment to the Town spans decades. We are grateful for his years of dedication and service to the Town as an active member of the Planning Commission, the Tree Committee and currently as the Town's Tree Warden. Copies of the report are available at the Town Hall or you can view it online at Annual Report 2021-2022.



Norm Needleman  
First Selectman

Preparation for the 2023-2024 annual budget is underway. Letters have gone out to Town schools, departments, boards and commissions and they will soon be compiling and submitting their requests. Our goal is to continue to meet your needs and expectations with the highest levels of service, while keeping expenditures low. The schedule of budget meetings has been posted on the Town website. Budget

continued on page 5



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## First Selectman... continued from page 3

meetings are open to the public, and we hope you will attend. The Board of Finance has overall responsibility for the budget process and will submit a final budget for the approval of residents at a Town Meeting, currently scheduled for May 8, 2023.

### COYOTES

We have had reports of small dogs being attacked by coyotes in Town so please keep your dogs leashed and closely supervised, and cats should remain indoors.

We are looking into what recourse we have and are in a conversation with DEEP, but for now, please adhere to this request, as coyotes have become bolder and less afraid of humans. To report coyote problems and for control information call DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011 or our Animal Control Officers at 860-767-4340 x160.

### WINTER SAFETY

As always, I encourage you to contribute to the safety of all drivers and pedestrians this winter season. Please wear seatbelts, drive safely, make sure your tires are in good shape, be alert to icy road conditions and drive within the speed limit. Prepare your homes and cars for the winter weather and be equipped for emergencies. Kindly clear your sidewalks of snow as soon as possible after storms so pedestrians can walk safely, clear of traffic. If you see something that needs to be repaired, contact our Public Works Department at 860-767-0715 or report a concern online at: [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov).

### DONATIONS FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

With the price of utilities soaring, please remember those less fortunate at this time of year. If you have the means to give, consider reaching out to a friend or neighbor directly. Otherwise, please contact Mary Ellen Barnes in our Social Services Department and donate to the Town's Social Services Special Assistance Fund. Your donation will be used to help with financial emergencies for Social Services clients' families, by providing rental deposits, utility bill assistance, fuel assistance, school supplies, food & clothing, and holiday presents for children. Your gifts, both large and small, are imperative for us to achieve our mission of helping the many in need in our community. Donations should be mailed to: Town of Essex Social Services Assistance Fund, 29 West Ave, Essex, CT, 06426.

On behalf of all of us at Town Hall, I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Norm Needleman, First Selectman

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From the Assessors' Office

## 2023 Property Reassessment

The Town of Essex has contracted with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. to complete our state-mandated reassessment for October 1, 2023. Market values will be established as of that date and will be reflected on the July 2024 tax bills.

The town will utilize a data mailer to verify current information on our records. Once received, please review the information for

accuracy and make any necessary changes so that we have updated information to establish the new assessment. Even if there are no changes or corrections, we are requesting that each letter be signed and returned to us as verification of the existing data and receipt of the mailer.

We appreciate your cooperation with this state-mandated process.

## Social Services Assistance

Essex residents needing help paying their heating bills can begin applying for home heating assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LHEAP). The program can aid low and middle-income households and senior citizens keep their homes warm this winter and defray high energy costs. LHEAP is a vital lifeline for many Essex families, and we encourage all who are eligible to apply for these benefits which will provide much needed financial relief. Eligible homeowners and renters may receive heating assistance, depending on their income, household size, and how they heat their home. To apply contact the Town of Essex Social Services Department.

The Town is committed to ensuring our most vulnerable residents have access to assistance and programs that will help address rising costs for heating their homes this winter. The Board of Selectman approved an appropriation of additional funds to the Social Service Assistance Fund administered by the Town of Essex Social Services Department. The monies will provide additional support for people who fall through the cracks, people who cannot fill out those complicated forms, as well as people who may just miss qualifying for different reasons. We hope to match the additional funds with the help of our citizens and local non-profits.

The Town of Essex encourages residents, who have the means, to help a vulnerable neighbor. May times our most at-risk citizens don't ask for the help they may need. It could be a tank of oil, assistance with a utility bill, groceries, clothing, a ride to the doctor's office, or even just a visit in their home. *"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."* ~ Desmond Tutu

The 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. Our goal is to provide leadership, advocacy, planning and delivery of many services

in partnership with public and private organizations. We serve as a bridge connecting people to the essential resources of the community.

Social Services has long-standing tradition of collaborating with local community businesses, nonprofits, churches & residents to enhance services to town residents. The Town of Essex Social Services Assistance Fund was established to fill the gaps that may exist among neighbors in need, and neighbors that might be able to meet some of that need.

Please consider becoming a "Friend" of Essex Social Services, by donating to the Assistance Fund. Your donation will be used to help with financial emergencies for Social Service's families, including rental deposits, utility bills, fuel assistance, school supplies, food & clothing, and holiday presents for children. Working closely with the Director of Finance we ensure assistance from this fund is performed appropriately, in the best interests of the Town and donors, and within our guidelines. Your gifts, both large and small, will help us to achieve our mission of helping those in need in our community.

All donors should seek the advice of a tax professional relative to the deductibility of donations as it relates to their specific tax situation.

### Donations can be made to:

Town of Essex Social Services Assistance Fund  
29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426

Thanks to the support of our community partners, the Department of Social Services can continue to 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.



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## Hello 2023!

Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) has again planned a full year of events and programs to support our local business community in the three villages of Essex Township - Centerbrook, Essex & Ivoryton.

### Essex Ed Parade

As we turn the calendar page, EBOT is certainly excited to host our beloved Essex Ed parade. This year's parade will be on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00 pm, in celebration of Groundhog Day (Thursday, February 2nd.)

Moving ahead, EBOT looks forward to delivering additional homegrown events – Daffodil Days, Summer Alfresco, Scarecrow FestiFall, Girls Night Out, and Trees in the Rigging – that add vibrancy to our community and attract shoppers to our unique shops, restaurants, museums, galleries, riverfront, and marinas.

EBOT will also contribute to the beauty of our main streets, first with an annual tree donation to the Essex Tree Committee, and second by dressing our lampposts with seasonal décor -American flags for summer, scarecrows for fall and garland for the winter holidays.

Finally, under our brand name Experience Essex, we will



The RiverLane staff enjoying shoppers on Girls Night Out with the-e-list.

continue to invest in an attractive digital and social media presence to inform residents and visitors of special events and places to stay, eat and shop LOCAL.

Will you consider a contribution to EBOT to support our work? In February, our Annual Appeal letter will be mailed to every resident and business in town. With no town funding, we hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to support EBOT so we can continue to foster a vibrant community for Essex businesses, residents, and visitors to thrive in.

Happy New Year!



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## Essex Community Fund (ECF)

# Winter is here!

The weather has cooled but our local non-profits are heating up for the upcoming winter months. They have been working hard to continue to assist our residents in need. Building, improving, expanding, helping, and supplying. YOUR SUPPORT of their work is MORE IMPORTANT NOW than ever as they continue to battle back from the pandemic. These programs include, but are not limited to: food for those in need, keeping seniors safe, healthy and nourished, urgent mental health services, and community outreach and support programs. These challenging times have affected all our lives and we believe, working together, we will continue to keep our community safe, healthy and nourished.

### ECF's Paint Night Fundraiser

On November 4, ECF sponsored a Paint Night Fundraiser hosted by Essex Paint & Sip. Brushes were moving and paint was flowing all in the name of charity. Proceeds from the ticket sales directly support those Essex residents in need. Look for more ECF fundraising events in the upcoming months!

### Fuel Assistance Challenge Underway

The Fuel Assistance Program (FAP) is an ongoing program available to residents who meet the funding criteria. This year is already seeing an increase in requests for assistance. Please

consider joining this year's challenge. Donations can be made through our website at [www.essexcommunityfund.org](http://www.essexcommunityfund.org) or by mail at Essex Community Fund, PO Box 614, Essex, CT 06426. Notate on your donation that it is for FAP. Thank you to Mary Ellen Barnes, Essex Social Services Director for overseeing this important program.

### Consider Becoming A Volunteer.

ECF is a great way to learn more about your community's needs and how you can help improve life for our neighbors, your family, and future generations. ECF has many opportunities to volunteer. Please consider becoming part of our organization.



Essex Community Fund sponsored a Paint Night Fundraiser hosted by Essex Paint and Sip.

*Wishing you a happy & healthy 2023!*

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SOLD

**1842 GEORGE STARKEY HOMESTEAD**  
1.5 acres in Essex Village, water views.  
7 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths  
\$875,000



SOLD

**1853 WASHINGTON CLARK HOMESTEAD**  
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7 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths  
\$695,000



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## Over \$50,000 in Grants & Program Funding to Essex Elementary School

The Essex Elementary School Foundation (EESF), supported by the residents and community of Essex, approved over \$50,000 for enrichment programs offered at Essex Elementary School (EES) for the 2022-2023 school year.

The approved programs and grants include the return of the World Culture Program (Grade 2), focusing on the three cultures of Haiti, China, and India. Students will gain a deeper understanding of each country's customs through a study of art, food, and history.

EES will also collaborate with the Essex Historical Society to provide a comprehensive Historian in Residence program to help students learn about the rich history of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton.



EES Students Participate in Historian in Residence Program.  
Sponsored by the Essex Elementary School Foundation

For a third year, grades K-6 will be inspired to solve grade-level specific math problems in designated locations around town through the Summer Math Passport Program.

The Connecticut River Museum will again work with the Essex Elementary School grades 4-6 to provide experiences to increase students' knowledge of their town and connection to the Connecticut River.

To further bolster the commitment to STEM learning at EES, a dedicated mathematics consultant has been funded by the foundation to facilitate ongoing programming in the STEM lab for both students and teachers. In addition, an ongoing partnership with the Connecticut Science Center has been established to continue to provide curriculum support and in-classroom and remote STEM extension activities to work toward achieving the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and broader STEM Learning. Lastly, the Connecticut Science Center is also working in collaboration with the Scientist in Residence Program (K-6) from the CT Audubon Society's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (CAS/RTPEC) Scientist in Residence to ensure an optimum outcome in all STEM related learning.

Learn more by visiting [www.essexesf.org](http://www.essexesf.org).



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Sister Cities Essex Haiti

# Sister Cities Essex Haiti Reaches Out

In an effort to expand the awareness of our Sister Cities Essex Haiti (SCEH) organization, centered in Essex, three towns, Essex, Boulder CO and Weston MA hosted events: SCEH Board members, Hope Proctor and Siobhan McAndrews in partnership with the Essex Land Trust, hosted a Hike for Haiti on Cross Lots to expand awareness of our work.



Terry Parkinson with Weston MA winning tennis team.

Boulder resident, Kate Kellogg, with long ties to Deschapelles and a SCEH Advisory Council Member, hosted a Hike for Haiti, expanding awareness of Essex and SCEH.

Weston, MA resident, Kim Bergner, with long ties to Deschapelles, hosted a Tennis Round Robin to benefit the SCEH Tennis Program in Haiti. Kim assigned Essex SCEH Board member Terry Parkinson and three grandchildren of Board member Jenifer Grant to different teams, to be spokespeople for the SCEH Essex-based program.

### IMPACT - Valley Regional High School Students

Three students traveled to Deschapelles several years ago to successfully coach a beginning Robotics Team. Nicholas Otte



VRHS students in Deschapelles coaching SCEH Robotics team.

went on to the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne FL, and is now applying to the Peace Corps to serve those in need. Dan Hearn designed a solar powered portable water filtration system for his Senior Year project with support from

continued on page 12



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## Sister cities... continued from page 11

Whelan Engineering. Dan went on to attend UCLA. This filter has been well used in Haiti.

All of these efforts give opportunities

to connect more people with the SCEH programs, a vital library, tennis, music and robotics programs that provide opportunities for the people of Deschappelles to broaden their

horizons. We are so grateful that activities like these bring both understanding of and support for a very different culture.

## Essex Foundation Helps Stock Backpack Program Pantry

### The Essex Foundation



From left to right: The Essex Foundation Treasurer Cheryl Harger presents a \$2000 check to Lynda Porcaro of the Backpack Program to help maintain food pantry inventories at area schools.

the number of food-insecure students in the program increasing to 42 this year, maintaining an inventory for the volunteers to pack each week has been a challenge. The Foundation's grant award will be used to purchase food items such as cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars, milk, juice, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, apples, and soup to stock the Backpack Program pantries that are now located at the schools.

The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents by providing funding for needs not met by other organizations or sources. The Foundation relies on donations from individuals, businesses, and other community groups to fund special needs and community projects that benefit Essex residents. The Foundation's Matching Gift Challenge for the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall expansion project is also in its final phase, another example of the organization's efforts to support local initiatives.

### \$2,000 Grant Awarded to Aid 42 Local Students

The Essex Foundation ended the year on a high note of community support with a \$2000 grant awarded to The Backpack Program, a volunteer organization that provides students identified by school social workers at Essex Elementary, John Winthrop and Valley Regional High School with nutritious food on weekends, during school vacations or when other resources are not available. With

### Information / Donate

For more information and to donate online, go to:  
[www.TheEssexFoundation.org/matching-gift-challenge](http://www.TheEssexFoundation.org/matching-gift-challenge).

To donate by mail, send a check payable to:  
The Essex Foundation, with EVMH Project in the subject line,  
and mail to: PO Box 64, Essex, CT 06426.

## FISH (Friends in Service Here)

FISH was founded locally in 1970 to provide free rides to medical appointments for residents of Essex, Deep River and Chester. The officers for 2022 are Henry May, President; Stuart Warner, Vice President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer and Jack Frost, Driver Recruitment. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Tony Carrano.

FISH restarted driving April 2022 after not driving because of COVID-19 in January through March 2022. Early

rider volume was low but has gradually increased to 35 to 40 rides per month, about half our pre COVID-19 volume. FISH drivers and riders continue to be required to be vaccinated and to wear masks.

After not having FISH Annual Meetings in 2020 and 2021, FISH held an Annual Meeting on November 3, 2022.

The modest FISH budget is funded by grants from the Essex Community

Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Essex Rotary Club, the Essex Savings Bank, the Deep River Community Health Committee, the Town of Chester, the Town of Essex, and other organizations, as well as by contributions from our drivers, riders and friends.

We did not ask for donations for 2021 and are asking for donations in 2022.

Henry May, Driver and President



William Pitt

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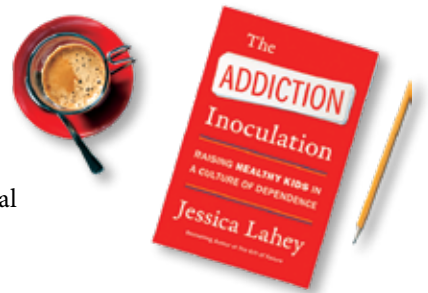


## Join Our Winter Book Club

Tri-Town Youth Services and Lymes' Youth Service Bureau present:

*The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence* by Jessica Lahey. Her supportive, insightful book helps parents, educators and community members

understand the roots of substance abuse, identify who is most at risk for addiction and offers practical steps for prevention.



**Tri-Town Youth Services hosted a virtual Book Discussion, On Wednesdays in January from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.**

- January 11:** Substance Use in America, Toxic Stress and the Adolescent Brain.
- January 18:** Protective Factors, How to Talk to Kids and Establish Clear Rules.
- January 25:** Friendship, Peer Pressure and Social-Emotional Development.



**Save the Date: Meet author, Jessica Lahey February 15th during a live Webinar to discuss her book.**

For more information, contact:

Melissa@ttysb.org.

To register, visit:

tritownys.org or

use the QR Code,

at right, to sign up!



## Busy 2022-2023 Musical Year Continues at the Community Music School



CMS Faculty after a November 2022 performance at the Centerbrook Meetinghouse.

Photo by Michael Pressman.



Thanks to the amazing support of friends and neighbors, the Community Music School (CMS) continues to play a major musical role in the lives and educations of its community members. A 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based at Spencer's Corner in Centerbrook, CMS offers lessons on all instruments and ensemble opportunities such as its String Ensemble, New Horizons Band (for senior citizens,) Acoustic Classic Rock Ensemble, and Studio 24 Vocal Performance Class.

The school also presents special performances for our community members, with recent highlights including a November 2022 performance by its virtuoso faculty for a standing-room only crowd at the Centerbrook Meetinghouse, and a December 2022 holiday performance by its student String Ensemble and New Horizons Band at Valley Regional High School.

CMS has been registering students for its Spring Semester, which began January 23 (although students can register at any time,) and is proud to offer the excellent Music Together® early

childhood music program. These weekly classes, which occur on Wednesday and Saturday mornings beginning January 21, are "Mixed Age" classes (age 0-5 with caregiver,) and feature babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and the grownups who love them coming together weekly to play musically.

More information about the Community Music School and its programs can be found by visiting the school at: 90 Main Street in Centerbrook, on the internet at: [www.cmsct.org](http://www.cmsct.org), or by phone at: 860-767-0026.



# Connecticut River Museum News

This year, our guests were able to take in the stunning beauty of fall on the Connecticut River aboard two vessels. Onrust and RiverQuest finished out their seasons at the end of October. No matter the season, the river is always a reassuring presence. Public, private, and home school groups returned for their field trips; our campus was frequented by students from across New England and the tri-state area. It is always nice to hear the young voices!

A near sold-out crowd enjoyed the 4th Annual Mistletoe & Martinis, Thursday, December 8. Ani's Table catered this event with delicious food and drink. The famous Red Box Raffle, supported by Becker's of Old Saybrook and the sale of generously donated holiday centerpieces rounded out the evening.

Our 29th Holiday Train Show exhibit runs through February 19, 2023. Steve Cryan, our resident train artist, created a winter wonderland in the fully operational 26-foot model train layout. Visitors are challenged with "I SPY" scavenger hunts and the very young can experience the American Flyer and Lionel train layout designed for toddler size viewing. The exhibit is a fun for all ages outing. Sponsored by Lorensen Auto Group and Webster Bank.



**Juvenile Loon in the  
Connecticut River.**  
Photo by Brock Graham

## COMING THIS WINTER

- **STEAM girls FREE Program**  
Featuring Ming Thompson - February 7
- **Winter Wildlife Eagle Cruises**  
Beginning February 10 through March 18
- **STEAM girls FREE Program**  
Featuring Erica Cirino - March 7

More information may be found at: [ctrivermuseum.org](http://ctrivermuseum.org).



**15 Novelty Lane, Essex**  
Listed at: \$1,995,000



**10 Collins Lane, Essex**  
Listed at: \$2,350,000 • Represented Buyer



**12 Rackett Lane, Essex**  
Listed at: \$1,850,000



**159 River Road, Essex**  
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## Recent Sales in Essex

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\*Source: William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty 2021 Awards Recognition. Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. 🏠

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*William French, Essex Connecticut*

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## Join the Team Sharing Local History at Pratt House

Essex Historical Society (EHS) seeks engaged volunteers to serve as a new class of Tour Guides at Pratt House, Essex’s only historic house museum, located at 19 West Avenue, Essex. Come join our team of lifelong learners, eager to share the town’s rich history.

Pratt House Guides provide engaging tours of Pratt House to the visiting public on weekend afternoons from June through September and occasional group tours and education programs.



EHS Pratt House Group Tour

Built between 1701 and 1850, Pratt House serves as Essex’s only historic house museum, welcoming hundreds of visitors each year.

No experience is necessary and all training materials will be provided. You will enjoy getting to know your fellow guides and meeting new people. New guides will benefit from EHS’s training sessions and peer-mentoring from our experienced guides.



EHS Pratt House Education Programs

Volunteering as a Pratt House guide provides opportunities for lifelong learning.

A tour of Pratt House shares the stories of early American life in a Connecticut River seaport town. Built in stages between 1701-1850, the well-preserved, uniquely-asymmetrical home served the same family for more than 200 years, many of them sharing in the family blacksmith business. Pratt House’s historic

*Tracy Lenz*  
40+ year resident of the Connecticut Shoreline

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landscape includes beautiful grounds, historic kitchen and pollinator gardens, reconstructed barn with history timeline and museum shop.

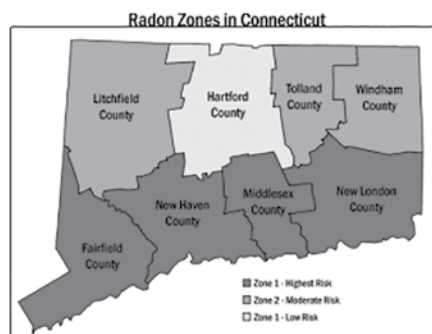
EHS welcomes potential volunteers to attend one or more of our training sessions scheduled for late Spring. To learn more about the program, please contact EHS Programs Coordinator Andy King at [membership@essexhistory.org](mailto:membership@essexhistory.org) or call 860-767-0681.

### Looking for additional learning opportunities?

EHS also seeks guides for its walking tours and cemetery tours, as well as research support at Hills Academy, 22 Prospect Street. Potential guides will relish the experience of learning more about the town's historic locations to share them with our eager audiences.

To stay updated, please visit our website at: [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org), sign up for our emails or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. Thank you!

## Essex Health Department Prepares for Radon Action Month, January 2023



The Essex Health Department is handing out free Radon Test Kits starting in early January 2023. If you haven't already tested your home, this is your chance. Radon is an odorless, colorless gas which moves up through the ground into your home through cracks and holes in the foundation, becoming trapped inside. Radon gas is responsible for about 20,000 lung cancer deaths

per year in the United States, so it is worth testing the air in your home.

Last year the Essex Health Department distributed 138 Radon Test Kits to residents that requested them. The program was so successful that we requested 200 kits this year from the State of Connecticut Department of Public

continued on page 18

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HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



## Radon... continued from page 17

Health. It is important that the test kits be used properly and instructions are included in the packaging. Last year a full 24% of kits distributed were never deployed and another 11.6% did not have calculable results (left out for too short a time or too long).

### OF THE 89 KITS WITH USEFUL RESULTS

24.7% were over the Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L.

33.7% were between 2.0 and <4.0 pCi/L

(not considered high but worth watching)

41.6 % were < 2.0 pCi/l

(pCi/L stands for picocuries per liter which is the standard measurement for Radon gas)

The Health Department staff can provide instructions on setting up your test kit and even help you interpret the results (which are sent directly to you from the laboratory.)

### Additional information for home radon testing is on

the CT Dept. of Public Health website at:

[www.ct.gov/dph/radon](http://www.ct.gov/dph/radon),

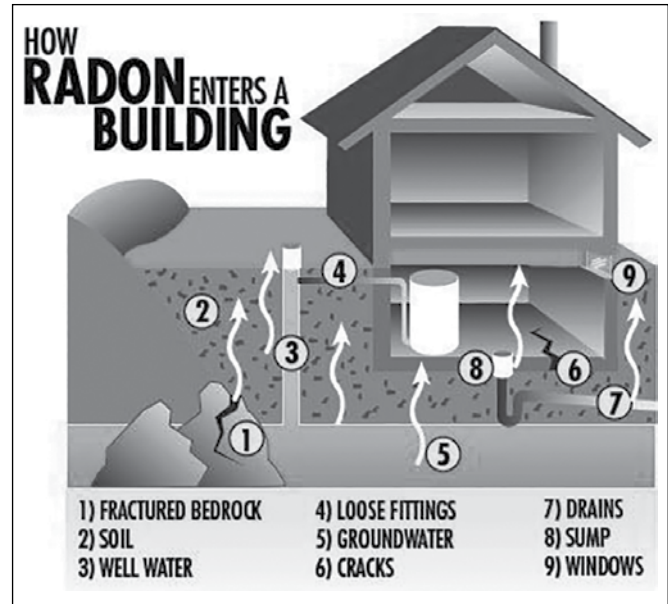
YouTube video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHP7IIJkrIU>, and

American Lung Association at:

<https://www.lung.org/clean-air/at-home/indoor-air-pollutants/radon>.

Please visit the Essex Health Department in early January 2023 to pick up a test kit. Kits will be offered while supplies last.





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# Emergency Management - Power Outages

## Eversource - Electricity Transmission & Distribution Company

Electricity to your property comes from Eversource not the Town of Essex. If you lose power, report the outage directly to Eversource - even if you think a neighbor already reported it. Eversource will calculate how many customers are without power in an area, assign a priority level and repair crew, and will provide customers with an estimated time for restoration.

## Broken Pole / Downed Power Line

The Town of Essex cannot repair a broken pole or reconnect a downed power line - only Eversource crews can perform this work. Town crews will only clear branches and debris from roadways if there are no wires or other safety hazards. Eversource crews must first verify downed wires are de-energized before the Town crew can work safely and clear roads. This takes time. Always be situationally aware of the dangers associated with downed wires and be prepared for prolonged outages. Know alternate routes to and from your home.

## Report all power outages directly to Eversource

1. <https://www.eversource.com/cg/customer/reportoutage>
2. Call 1-800-286-2000
3. Download the mobile app from Google Play or App Store
4. Sign up to receive outage alerts via text, email, phone. <https://www.eversource.com/security/account/login?ReturnUrl=/cg/customer/alerts>

## Safety is your responsibility

1. Stay far away from fallen tree limbs and electrical wires; assume all downed wires are "live."
2. NEVER drive over fallen wires or around a barricade and NEVER move or relocate a barricade. Barricades are intentionally placed for your protection and signify danger ahead. Use an alternate route to get to your destination
3. Operate power generators outside of the home and adhere to all safety procedures
4. Refer to: [www.Eversource.com](http://www.Eversource.com) for Storm Preparedness and Restoration Processes.

Stay safe,  
Lisa Fasulo,  
Emergency  
Management  
Director



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FEB  
26

**Jeff Barnhart & His Hot Jazz Collective  
Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert**

Fan favorites Vince Giordano and Jim Fryer are part of this world-class group of seven performing early jazz of the 1920s to 1940s.

MAR  
12

**Project: Music Heals Us String Trio with  
Pianist Mihae Lee**

**Fenton Brown Emerging Artists Concert**

From world news to our stage for a beautiful classical concert

APR  
23

**Chanticleer – An Orchestra of Voices  
The "LABYRINTHS" Tour**

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# ESSEX TOWN HALL

860-767-4340 (Unless otherwise noted)

## THE ESSEX TOWN HALL

is open 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday

## THE LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER

is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 7 am to 3 pm

### SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Norman Needleman, First Selectman	x114	nneedleman@essexct.gov
Maria Lucarelli, Assistant	x112	mlucarelli@essexct.gov
Alyson Finnegan	x145	afinnegan@essexct.gov

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Harry Plaut, ACO	x160	hplaut@essexct.gov
Caroline Fountain, Assistant ACO	x160	cfountain@essexct.gov

### ASSESSOR

Jessica Sypher, Assessor	x124	jsypher@essexct.gov
Karen Abercrombie, Assistant	x123	kabercrombie@essexct.gov

### BUILDING DEPARTMENT & FIRE MARSHAL

Dave DeLeeuw, Building Official	x117	ddeleeuw@essexct.gov
John Planas, Fire Marshal	x146	jplanas@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Tracey Celentano, Director of Finance	x122	tcelentano@essexct.gov
Dana Novorio, Assistant	x116	dnovorio@essexct.gov
James Francis, Treasurer	x127	jfrancis@essexct.gov

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

### LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER

Bill Armstead, Supervisor	860-767-1926 x163	barmstead@essexct.gov
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### PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

### PLANNING & ZONING

Carey Duques, Enforcement Agent	x115	cduques@essexct.gov
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### PUBLIC WORKS

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

### REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Caitlin Riley	x142	criley@essexct.gov
Barbara Ryan	x142	bryan@essexct.gov

### RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

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

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Mary Ellen Barnes	x201	mbarnes@essexct.gov
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### TAX COLLECTOR

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

### TOWN CLERK

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

### TOWN HALL OPERATIONS/ MAINTENANCE

Andrew Harrington	x136	aharrington@essexct.gov
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[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)

# Essex Land Trust Coming Events

## Trends & Emerging Ideas in Landscapes & Land Care

March 6, 2023 at 2:00 pm

The Essex Garden Club and Essex Land Trust present Kathy Connolly of Old Saybrook to be the speaker for the garden club's annual open meeting. Kathy is a well-respected ecology-minded landscape and garden designer writer, and speaker who emphasizes earth-friendly designs, native plants, and low-impact land care techniques. For more information about Kathy, check out her website: [www.speakingoflandscapes.com](http://www.speakingoflandscapes.com).

## Windswept Ridge Hike & Happy Hour

March 16, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Come enjoy Essex Land Trust's Windswept Ridge Preserve for a moderate 45-minute hike followed by Happy Hour. The property overlooks the Mud River valley farmland once known as "Scotch Plains" so it's fitting that we go to Scotch Plains Tavern after the hike. Parking is behind Essex Financial Services; 176 Westbrook Rd. and Scotch Plains Tavern is just a quarter mile away 124 Westbrook Rd. Rain date is the following Thursday, March 23 2023.

## Canfield Meadow Woods Hike & Happy Hour

April 15, 2023 @ 12:00 pm



A moderate, 4-mile hike at Canfield Meadow Woods. Follow the event with a short drive to High Nine Brewery, 6 Winter Avenue, Deep River for a socializing happy hour. Shared by Deep River and Essex, Canfield-Meadow Woods Nature Preserve is made up of more than 300 acres of hilly, forested land with a wide variety of terrain. Sixteen trails wind through mixed old and

new growth forest, and the preserve's many rocky outcroppings are a highlight. The hike starts promptly at 12 noon. Meet at the parking lot of the Deep River Canfield entrance on Rt 154. Overflow parking arranged for at Deep River Market across the road. Rain date is the following Saturday, April 22, 2023.

## Essex Land Trust Annual Meeting

April 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm

Essex Meadows 30 Bokum Road, Essex

Essex Land Trust members are invited to join the annual meeting and cocktail reception. Light food will be served. Tickets (\$30) for the buffet (5:00 - 6:00 pm) will be available at the door. The business meeting and presentation that follows the reception are open to the public.

# Town Clerk's Office

29 West Avenue, Essex, CT

WELCOME TO CENTERBROOK,  
ESSEX AND IVORYTON



Edward T. Canuel	95 Main Street	Centerbrook
Elizabeth Terenzio	65 Main Street, Unit 30	Essex
Karen Walsh	85 River Road, Unit 1B	Essex
Andrea W. Gargiulo	25 Main Street	Essex
Colin McGrath & Colby Swope	7 Pond Meadow Road	Ivoryton
Dorothy McGuinness & John Hanti	186 Main Street	Ivoryton
Rachel & Ronald Carlucci Jr.	15 Ridge Road	Centerbrook
Peter Jenkin & Nancy Miller	14 Essex Glen Drive, Unit 26	Essex
Marilyn Stith	7 Budney Hill Road	Ivoryton
Eris Masson & Dominique Richard	26 Hemlock Drive	Essex
Richard & Eleanor Bravman	22 West Avenue	Essex
Robin Rayner	9 Clarks Pond Lane	Ivoryton
Carl & Renee Giangrasso	14 Essex Glen Drive, Unit 20	Essex
Philip D. Trzcinski & Arielle Freib	108 No. Main Street	Essex
David & Barbara Kmetz	14 Essex Glen Drive, Unit 7	Essex
Shanee Stepakoff	14 Essex Glen Drive, Unit 24	Essex
Alexander & Nicola Appel	9 Essex Hills Drive	Essex
Elizabeth Stulga	15 Townwoods Road	Ivoryton

## LOSS OF RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS

### September

Jean L. Andress  
Eleanor L. Wetmore  
William T. Stubenbord  
Robert E. McGill III  
Alfred Reeser  
William J. Pease  
Joan Celia McCann Ed.D.  
Ruth Anne Hall Smithers

### November

Delys Callahan  
Anna Einholz  
Mary T. Mansour  
Frank V. Santoro  
Suzanne St. Dennis  
Olive J. Heebner  
Betty J. Christopher  
Helen L. Burke

### October

Raymond John Ryan  
Margaret M. Manning  
Albert N. Rogin  
Nancy P. Loader  
Yvonne R. Haynes  
John Paardenkooper  
Jordi Viladas

### December

Ann S. O'Reilly  
  
Respectfully submitted,  
Yvonne Roziak  
Assistant Town Clerk

# A Cause for Celebration

## 25 Years of Helping Good People Do Great Things!



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We honor every donor, volunteer, nonprofit, friend, and neighbor. You help us respond to rising and changing community needs. Together we are building a better today and brighter tomorrow for all.

As we celebrate, we look forward to another 25 years of helping our local communities thrive. Contact us at (860)347-0025 or visit us at [MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://MiddlesexCountyCF.org).

## The 1982 Ivoryton Flood, Part 3: The Morning After

By Steve Knauth

*Editor's Note: This article is Part 3 in a series about the 1982 Ivoryton Flood. The first two parts appeared in earlier versions of Essex Events. All three articles can be accessed on the Essex Land Trust's website: <https://essexlandtrust.org/woods-waters>*

It was the morning after, and the Flood of '82 had left Ivoryton a ruin.

Up on the hill above the village, the Bushy Hill reservoir, where it all started, was empty, described as a 30-foot deep, mile-long mudhole. Down below, Clark's Pond and its dam were gone, Ivory Lake had vanished, along with its dam. Mill Pond was a 70-acre mud flat extending into Centerbrook.

Main Street, phone poles askew, was a torn, twisted stretch of pavement, lined with damaged buildings, Ivory Street choked with lumber piled against trees, with automobiles scattered every which



Ivoryton Flood courtesy Ivoryton Library.

way, one left in a tree. Side roads were either damaged or just plain swept away. There was no electricity, no phone service, no water.

Scores of homes and businesses extending all the way into Centerbrook had been lost, swamped with mud and debris, or knocked off their foundations. At least 100 people had been evacuated.

# WANTED

## ESSEX LIONS CLUB

wants your cars...

# DEAD OR ALIVE!



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Patrick Shea @ 516-647-9649

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For Membership... contact Denise at: [ddudek@snet.net](mailto:ddudek@snet.net)  
or attend a meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays • 6 p.m. at  
Essex Veterans Memorial Hall • 3 Westbrook Rd • Centerbrook

## ESSEX HARDWARE

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**3 MAIN STREET/CENTERBROOK**

The Pratt-Read factory complex, home to the piano parts maker and Sounder Sports, the golf equipment producer, was a mud-filled morass, their employees – more than 150 of them – facing an uncertain future.

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

For First Selectman Richard Riggio and the town's first responders, the top priorities were search-and-rescue and security. From an emergency communications center set up on the scene at the Ivoryton baseball field, Riggio declared a curfew, restricting travel between 8:00 pm and 6:00 am "until roads can be stabilized, and resident's property protected from looters," he said in a statement. Resident State Trooper Bob Natrass III along with Bill Morgan and other members of the Essex Constabulary set up and manned checkpoints.

Water and sanitation were also immediate concerns, with lines ruptured and potable water declared undrinkable by Health Officer Dr. Christopher Goff. Portable toilets had to be set up in all three villages. Volunteers at the Essex Ambulance Association thought to make emergency water deliveries to the local rest homes.

Evacuees had been brought to safety during the harrowing night by town constables and the volunteer fire department. Immediate shelter was found at the Essex Ambulance barn in Centerbrook, the elementary school, the Ivoryton Fire Department and the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center (today's Incarnation Center) up on Bushy Hill.

### TEAMWORK

At the town hall, Secretary JoAnn Schlauder took calls from bewildered citizens about drinking water, clothing and housing and just plain news. Civil preparedness chief Charlie O'Donnell monitored the emerging situation from the ambulance barn while his wife, Sam, made sandwiches and coffee to help fuel those already on the scene.

Natrass and the town constables stayed on duty, enforcing the curfew, providing security and soon turning away the increasing number of out-of-town sightseers clogging the devastated roads.

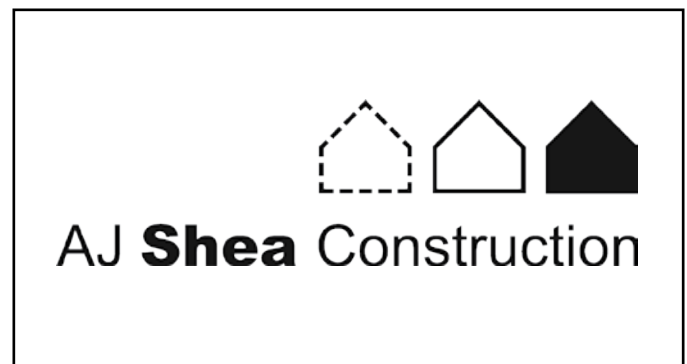
The fire department helped look for survivors, and missing persons were soon accounted for. Fourteen submerged cars had been searched; no lives had been lost.

Things were beginning to stabilize.


The National Guard arrived, 200-strong, with drab-green "buffalo" tanks from which they dispensed water, five gallons at a time, at various locations. At the civil preparedness headquarters, Secretary Jean Hanor began organizing a growing list of volunteers, from individuals and groups to local businesses. The Essex Community Fund's flood relief fund provided \$4,000 in emergency money by week's end.


Survivors needed basic advice, now, and the New London Day printed a what-to-do list; how to contact the Federal Disaster Assistance Center (FEMA), what to do about lost check books and pass books, missed mortgage payments, lost telephone service and power interruptions. Missing person queries were to go through the State Police barracks, it said, while those concerning lost vehicles went through

continued on page 24



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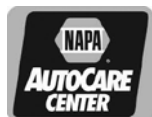
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**Ivoryton Flood... continued from page 23**

the Essex Town Hall. WLIS, Old Saybrook's AM radio station, also provided emergency reports and information.

People seemed to have taken a deep breath after a night of disaster. "Slowly but surely," wrote Marge Ward in the Middletown Press, "the people of Essex are beginning to pull things together and look to cleaning up and starting anew."

**HARD WORK TO COME**

Months of toil lay ahead, even as Selectman James Kennish and Town Engineers Fred Radcliffe and Bob Doane began assessing the damage and listing priorities. As if the lumber and cars weren't enough to clean up, there was mud everywhere. Crews had to be organized to begin, beginning what seemed to be the impossible task of clearing it all up. Chief Paul Phoenix and the fire department began pumping out cellars, more than 150 of them in the end. The junior firefighters helped wherever they were needed.

It took a while, and it wasn't always easy, but the roads were repaired, the houses renewed, and the villages were once again up and running. Ivoryton's now-vibrant downtown, upgraded recently with new sidewalks and other infrastructure, is the legacy of those groups, individuals and volunteers who helped put Ivoryton back together after the infamous Flood of '82.

"The hard and brave work of the Ambulance Association, the Fire Department, the Constables and the town crew will never be forgotten," wrote Nattrass, the resident state trooper, in a retrospective. "But the most remarkable thing was the way the people of Essex rose up to help each other."



Ivoryton Flood courtesy Cotty Barlow.

But there'd be no more swimming and fishing at Clark's Pond, no more walks along Ivory Lake and, within a few years, Ivoryton's last link with its origins - the factory - would lie empty.

The village would never be quite the same.

*To tell the full tale of the Flood of '82 would take nothing short of a book. For those who'd like to delve more deeply into the subject, they will find the files belonging to the Ivoryton Library and the Essex Historical Association to be of immense value.*



# Happy New Year!

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST IN 2023



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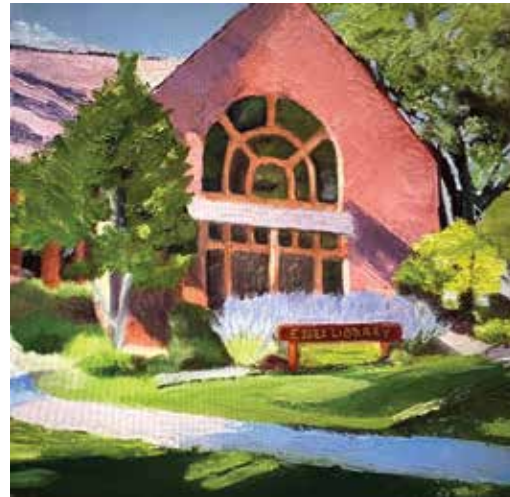
# ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Your Community Center for Lifelong  
Learning and Cultural Enrichment*

Essex Library Association (ELA) starts 2023 with a familiar face in a new role – Ann Thompson, formerly the assistant director for public services at ELA, has taken on “the job of a lifetime” in her words, and assumed the role of executive director after more than 20 years of professional librarianship service to the Essex community. New Year, new hours! In response to requests for more open hours, **Essex Library now opens at 9:00 am, Monday – Saturday.** In addition to a new director and new hours, there will also be some new faces among staff members who will contribute to the library’s ongoing efforts to provide outstanding programs, materials, and services to patrons of all ages and interests.

Miss Nicole, our children’s librarian, will continue popular children’s programming throughout the chilly winter months.

Our youngest patrons ages 0-5 can come and warm up at Wiggle Worms on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am and Fri-Yay Stories & Play on Friday mornings at 10:30 am. Making science fun and accessible, weekly STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) programming is available for children in kindergarten through sixth grade on Saturdays at 10:00 am. Check the programming calendar online and the library’s Instagram and Facebook feeds for



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other children's programming and information about ELA's celebration of Take Your Child to the Library the week of February 4.

The UConn Disaster Research team, in collaboration with ELA, is conducting a survey about your readiness for emergencies caused by extreme weather events. Visit the ELA website to learn more about the project and take the survey.

Throughout tax season, ELA public computers and printer are available for accessing instructions and printing tax forms.

But we don't want to end our message talking about taxes. February is Valentine's month. We want to share your photos of our beautiful town, captured in warmer months or in a deep freeze. Check our website at: [www.youressexlib.org](http://www.youressexlib.org), and watch our social media accounts for information about providing your Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton photos to share with the community as well as details about other programs teed up for 2023.

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It's 2023 and the Ivoryton Library is looking to serve its community to the best of our abilities by making some changes.

### We need your input

On our website is a link to a survey. Please take a few minutes to visit: [ivorytonlibrary.org](http://ivorytonlibrary.org), click on the link and let us know what you like, don't like and what you'd like to see in the future. We also ask about our operating hours. These changed when we opened back up in 2020 but your lives may have changed and we want to be available for you. Thank you.

### Have you been thinking about taking your writing to the next step?

Register for a free, 4-week workshop on writing Fast Fiction with the author Paul Beckman. Beginning Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 pm, you will be guided to write in this short format, writing in class and on your own. Register by calling the library at: 860-767-1252 or online via the link on our website. Space is limited.

### Trivia is back!

Join us Sunday, March 5 at the Centerbrook Meeting House for WhatTrivia?! Doors open at 6:30 pm, game begins at 7:00 pm. More details and ticket info on the website.

### In the Children's room this winter

#### Take Your Child to the Library Week

It is January 30 through February 4. We will provide a passport for you to complete! Receive a prize at the end of the week, completed passports will be entered for a grand prize drawing! Check our Facebook pages and website for more detailed information.

#### The Ivoryton Library Children's Room

Music with Miss Martha, February 8 at 10:30 am. Please call to register as space is limited.

#### Fun February Break activities are planned for our school-age friends!

**Monday, February 20 between 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Drop-in to make a Mardi Gras Mask!

**Tuesday, Feb 21 at 11:00 am**

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A big THANK YOU to all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees that once again made our "Putt Fore" the Essex Library fundraiser a great success. Without your support, the Friends would not be able to support the library in providing free programs and services that benefit our community.

Puzzles are the focus of our monthly sale through the end of January. February's sale will be Sports, Maritime and Mysteries. Fiction will be the focus in March.



## SEMI ANNUAL BOOK SALE NEWS

Mark your calendars for the spring book sale on Saturday, April 1st and Monday, April 3rd. Monday is the Bag of Books sale. Fill your bag with books for just \$10.

There would be no sales without your generous donations. Please drop off your gently used books, puzzles, and games during library hours. Remember that donations need to be in good condition. Think resale! Visit us at: [www.youressexlibrary.org/friends/friends-book-sale/](http://www.youressexlibrary.org/friends/friends-book-sale/) for a detailed description of donation "pleases" and "no thank you's."

As always, thank you for supporting the library and remember to check the website often to see what's new at the library and with the Friends! You will find us at: [www.youressexlibrary.org](http://www.youressexlibrary.org).

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# Wetlands: How do they Impact You?

Wetlands are areas throughout town that have official characteristics which make them such. It is easy to see a brook, pond or marshy area and know they are 'wetlands.' Yet more than those things make up a wetland; for example, where water pools, sometimes intermittently, can also be classified wetlands. Wetlands are defined by specific, scientific characteristics, including soil composition. Most, but not all, of these areas are identified on the Town's geomap and are indicated on the map by blue lines with triangles on them.

## Why do we care about wetlands?

While some of these areas may not look like much, they are fundamental to the overall ecosystem. They nurture all sorts of life, much of which is foundational to a healthy and balanced ecology. In fact, Connecticut was one of the first states in the nation, back in 1972, to recognize the importance of wetlands.

Given their importance there are regulations covering what activities are allowed within designated wetlands AND, importantly, within 100 feet of wetlands ("upland review area"). There is also a town commission that reviews and renders decisions on activities within both the wetlands and



Connecticut wetlands.

100 foot review area. Please see: [www.essexct.gov/inland-wetlands-commission](http://www.essexct.gov/inland-wetlands-commission) for more information.

Therefore, before you cut a tree, install a shed, or build anything it is best to review your

property to ensure there are no wetlands or the activity is not within the 100 ft review area. The consequences of not doing so can end up being costly and time consuming. And yet, it doesn't have to be. If you have any questions or concerns, the Town of Essex has professionals who will work with you to complete your project the right way, the first time. You can both enjoy your property and, at the same time, protect an incredibly important environmental resource.

When in doubt, pick up the phone or send an email to Carey Duques the Town's Land Use Official, who will be more than happy to assist at: [cduques@essexct.gov](mailto:cduques@essexct.gov).

## Essex - Community Listings

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 First Baptist Church..... (860) 767-8623  
 First Congregational Church ..... (860) 767-8097  
 St. Teresa of Calcutta Church..... (860) 767-1284  
 St. John's Episcopal Church..... (860) 767-8095  
 Trinity Lutheran Church ..... (860) 767-0228

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Ancient Order of Weeders..... (860) 767-2700  
 Democratic Town Committee..... (860) 767-1973  
 Community Foundation of Middlesex County ..... (860) 347-0025  
 Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13..... (860)-558-2121  
 ..... tritownpack13@gmail  
 Essex Board of Trade..... (860) 767-3904  
 Essex Boy Scouts of America ..... (860) 304-9027  
 Essex Community Fund..... (860) 304-2751  
 Essex Cub Scouts of America ..... (860) 790-0681  
 Essex Garden Club ..... (973) 809-6832  
 Essex Historical Society ..... (860) 767-0681

Essex Lion's Club ..... (860) 767-8072  
 Essex Land Trust ..... [info@essexlandtrust.org](mailto:info@essexlandtrust.org)  
 Essex Little League..... [www.essexlittleleague.org](http://www.essexlittleleague.org)  
 Essex Veterans Memorial Hall ..... (860) 767-8892  
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 Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers..... (860) 767-2237  
 Ivoryton Village Alliance ..... [info@ivorytonalliance.org](mailto:info@ivorytonalliance.org)  
 Lower Valley Visiting Nurses ..... (860) 767-0186  
 Republican Town Committee..... (860) 262-0226  
 SCORE Mentors ..... (860) 388-9508  
 The Shoreline Soup Kitchens ..... (860) 388-1988  
 Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau..... (860) 526-3600  
 9 Town Transit ..... (860) 510-0429

### SCHOOLS

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

# Learning about Connecticut Wildlife & the Environment

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website has a wealth of information about Connecticut wildlife and the environment. Most information is freely accessible, can be subscribed to, or purchased from its store. The following link takes you to its list of publications: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/SearchResults?SearchKeyword=-publications>.

**Following are three publications which provide useful, timely and educational content.**

**Sound Outlook** is an electronic newsletter published three times each year by the DEEP Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. It addresses the water quality, coastal resources, and coastal uses of Long Island Sound. To sign up for Sound Outlook newsletters, go to: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/Sound-Out/Sound-Outlook>


**Wildlife Highlights** is a free electronic newsletter for anyone interested in Connecticut's wildlife and the outdoors! Content typically

includes such items as wildlife and habitat projects underway in Connecticut; latest hunting information, regulation and season updates, and hunter education opportunities; natural history about Connecticut's wildlife species and wildlife viewing tips; what to do about nuisance or distressed wildlife; special events and activities; Citizen Scientist opportunities, and much more!

**Connecticut Wildlife Magazine** is the official bimonthly publication of the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources. It includes articles written by DEEP biologists who are responsible for the management of Connecticut's wildlife, fisheries, and forest resources. The magazine is your best source for fishing, hunting, wildlife, and conservation information in the state. Every issue includes wildlife photography, in-depth features, hunting and fishing season information, and natural history articles - plus no advertising. It is published six times a year and is available by subscription. You'll find each issue packed with information about natural resource-related issues in Connecticut. *-Jim Denham*

**Beach Association's Guide Provides Information on a Wide Range of Coastal Topics**

The Land and Water Resources Division (LWRD) has developed another valuable resource, the [Connecticut Beach Association's Guide to Coastal Activities and Permitting](#), to help protect coastal resources and avoid potential violations of the DEEP's coastal regulatory programs.



Similar to the [Coastal Property Owner's Guide](#), the goal of this guide is to educate members of beach associations about the federal, state, and local permits that may be required before they undertake certain activities on their property. The information contained in the guide regarding common activities such as beach raking and storm response will hopefully protect against future enforcement actions and will protect coastal resources from adverse impacts associated with unauthorized activities, such as fill in tidal wetlands or coastal waters.

Although the guide was developed with beach associations in mind, we strongly encourage Sound Outlook readers to view the guide, which also provides general information on interesting topics such as protecting dunes, nesting shorebirds, and horseshoe crabs. When we know better, we can do better.



## Recent Activity in Essex



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**#1 TOTAL TRANSACTIONS IN ESSEX 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022 (YTD)\***

\*Source: SmartMLS, 1/1/19-12/29/22, total transactions by agent, Essex; all properties listed or sold by agent.

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**3 NUTMEG LANE**  
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# 1972 Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act: A 50-Year Balancing Act

Until 50 years ago Connecticut's inland wetlands were often drained, filled, polluted and most of all under-appreciated for their crucial ecological function and value.

The environmental movement of the 1960s and increased scientific understanding of the wetlands set the groundwork for Connecticut's Inland Wetland and Watercourse Act of 1972. This landmark legislation, passed with broad bipartisan support, protects Connecticut's inland wetlands and their environmental role and economic value. The Act balances broad protection for the environment, the rights of property owners and State and local control.

Connecticut's swamps, bogs, marshes, streams, ponds and lakes account for almost 20% of state's geographic area. Wetlands play a crucial role in reducing storm surge, recharging our ground water, and supporting fish and wildlife.

The Act is the founding legislation for local municipal Inland Wetland Commissions that have regulatory powers for activities that take place in local wetlands and the Upland Review Area, the 100 feet area of land surrounding a wetland area.

What does the IWWC Act and the Essex IWWC Commission mean to Essex property owners today?

By protecting our local environment from storm surges, erosion, and by recharging ground water, the IWWC helps protect all property values.

Many residential and farm activities are 'as of right' and once they are determined as such by the Town's agent or its Commission, they don't require a permit. Other activities in wetland and the 100 feet Upland Review Area will require a permit. If you are considering any activity in your wetland or within 100 feet upland review area, or you think that you might own a wetland area, property owners are urged to consult the Town Wetland's agent, Carey Duques at: [cduques@essexct.gov](mailto:cduques@essexct.gov) for guidance.

## Ivoryton Playhouse Announces 2023 Season



On April 6, 2023, The Ivoryton Playhouse opens its doors for a stellar new season - a year full of exciting, uplifting and affordable professional theatre. Musicals for families and romantics, stories of

challenges overcome and evenings that are just plain fun, our 2023 Season has a little bit of everything and something extra! A great melting pot of a season in a theatre that feels like home.

The season opens on April 6, 2023 with a big hearted, music-filled comedy. **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE** by Matthew Lopez is a wildly entertaining story filled with drag queens and an Elvis impersonator, snappy zingers and dance worthy numbers. A show that will challenge your assumptions with extraordinary humor and depth.

Ernest Thompson's charming and nostalgic play, **ON GOLDEN POND** will open on May 18, 2023. The movie was a big hit for one of the Playhouse's most famous alums - Katharine Hepburn - and the play is a beautifully crafted love story about generations of a family struggling to show affection for each other. Heartwarming and hilarious, this is a play filled with magic and memorable moments.

The summer opens on June 29, 2023 with one of the most beloved musicals of all time, Rodgers and Hammerstein's **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**. The glorious melodies and timeless



David Pittsinger.  
Photo by Christian Steiner.



Patricia Schuman.

tale of Maria and the Von Trapps makes this the perfect musical for the whole family. Featuring Ivoryton favorites, last seen together in **SOUTH PACIFIC**, David Pittsinger, Patricia Schuman, Adrienne Hick and Bruce Connolly. You don't need to "Climb Every Mountain" to see this show, but you better get your tickets early!

**JERSEY BOYS**, the international musical phenomenon, opens in Ivoryton on August 10, 2023. Come peek behind the scenes - and behind the music - of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Filled with all of their greatest hits, "Sherry," "Walk Like A Man," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," and so many more. No wonder that, for over 15 years, America's favorite musical is the one about the boys from Jersey.

**THE COLOR PURPLE**, which opens on September 28, 2023,



is an inspiring saga that tells the unforgettable story of a woman who, through love, finds strength to triumph over adversity and discover her voice in the world. This musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel (and 1985 Steven Spielberg film) spotlights Celie, a downtrodden young woman whose personal awakening over the course of 40 years forms the arc of this epic story. With a joyous score featuring jazz, ragtime, gospel, African music and blues, THE COLOR PURPLE is a story of hope, a testament to the healing power of love, and a celebration of life.

**The Playhouse Holiday Show** will round off the season, opening on November 16, 2023. At this time, the title is still a secret but we are hoping to be able to announce it very soon.

**TICKETS**

We will be taking a long winter's nap to get ready for this sensational season but you can purchase gift certificates and subscriptions now. Subscriptions are a great way to save money as single ticket prices will be going up for our three summer musicals. Six and three play subscriptions are available. Single tickets will go on sale March 1, 2023. Visit us at: [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org) or call: 860-767 7318 for the latest ticket information.

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# Why Would Anyone do That?

WITH OUR FIFES AND WITH OUR DRUMS  
AND A GROUNDHOG WE SHALL COME  
SAILING MASTERS LEAD THE WAY  
WEARING FURRY HATS  
BANGING POTS AND PANS  
MAKING MUSIC WHILE WE PLAY  
SHOUT HURRAY; IT'S GROUNDHOG DAY!

When a dear friend first described the Essex Groundhog Parade to me long ago, and invited me to join her, my first response was to tilt my head and to look back at her with a perplexed expression on my face; "Did I hear you correctly?" You leave your warm home to go out on a cold winter day to greet what, if I understand correctly, is a very, very large groundhog who gets dressed up? And to welcome the groundhog, you wear a groundhog hat? And you bang pots and pans together?" I am originally from the midwest. While I was indeed familiar with Groundhog Day. I had certainly never heard of anything quite like this. Once I was sure I comprehended all of the finer points of welcoming Essex Ed, my next question was simply, "Why would anyone do that?"

Why indeed.

I happen to have an overly developed sense of maintaining my dignity... even with Halloween costumes. I know, I know... dignified Halloween costumes are a contradiction in terms. But I couldn't help smiling as my friend eagerly displayed photos of Ed in previous groundhog parades, and of all the revelers proudly sporting their groundhog hats. My curiosity was piqued. It was now my mission to go pay my respects to Essex Ed and see what this spectacle was all about.

Still, I wondered what I should wear to my very first ever groundhog parade. And, how could I join in the spirit of the celebration and still maintain a semblance of propriety? As it happens, I love big hats. Dignified big hats of course. Naturally, for me anyway, a big hat was the answer. Fortuitously, I had a tall, black top hat in my closet (who doesn't?) ...for those occasions when only the most stately hats will do. Greeting Ed for the first time impressed me as one of those occasions. So, I mounted a small, furry groundhog puppet to my top hat, and crowned the groundhog puppet with a top hat of his own. A top hat with a groundhog wearing a top hat. It just DOESN'T get more dignified than that.

When I arrived with my friend and joined the huge throng awaiting the arrival of Essex Ed, the anticipation was contagious. I was told it's always a big secret as to what Ed will be dressed up as each year until he reveals himself in the parade. Everyone enthusiastically awaited Ed to round the corner as the parade stepped off. What will he be this year? Ed is apparently very cultured; yet fun-loving. My friend had shown me photos of Ed as Elvis, Witch hazel, a firefighter, Beethoven, one of the Beatles, and a sea captain, among so many others through the years. He has been Essex Edna too - dressed as Princess Leia from Star Wars!

The Sailing Masters of 1812 always have the privilege of escorting Ed up Main Street (wearing groundhog hats of course.) When we heard the Sailing Masters strike up the beat of the first groundhog carol, we knew Ed could not be far behind. (Full disclosure...there may not be actual groundhog carols... but there should be.)



When Essex Ed finally appeared, the crowd went wild! Everybody cheered and banged their pots and pans in a deafening crescendo to welcome Ed!

As The Sailing Masters led Essex Ed up Main Street, children and adults and dogs and cats all fell in to join the procession; everyone laughing and smiling. Some of the children skipped excitedly beside their parents while others rode their shoulders for an unimpeded view of Ed. There were furry groundhog hats, groundhog crowns, groundhog stocking caps (some of which looked suspiciously like beavers instead of groundhogs; but we'll give them the benefit of the doubt), groundhog hand puppets including one that was banging a miniature pot and



spoon, groundhog sweatshirts, and a groundhog banner with the ominous shadow forecast warning: "Remember, what has been seen cannot be unseen."

And when Ed was ceremoniously installed in his place of honor at the head of Main Street to greet all visitors to Essex, Ed's fans jostled to have to have their photo taken with him.

That was it. I was an Essex Ed convert. "This is absolutely brilliant! Whoever thought of this is a genius!" This was so much fun! I would never again miss the opportunity to celebrate Groundhog Day with Essex Ed!

Now when I tell my friends (dear or otherwise) about the Essex

Groundhog Parade, and invite them to join us, I am usually greeted with a very recognizable perplexed expression and the inevitable query: "Why would anyone do that?"

Why indeed...

If you would like to be at the heart of "Everything Essex," including welcoming Essex Ed on his annual trek, the Sailing Masters invite you to "Come Aboard!" No previous musical experience required. You can choose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard (carry a flag.) For more information, please call Vicki at: 860-212-1606 or email: captainvicki1812@gmail.com.

## Tri-Town Cub Scouts Pack 13 Continues in 2023!



Boys and girls in grades K-5 are encouraged to come join us for a fun-filled, outdoor-centered, character-building experience. This summer, our scouts participated in a pack-wide kickball game, building, and launching model rockets, a pack campfire/s'mores evening, and creating a scarecrow scene for entering in the Chester Fair scarecrow contest. A group of our older scouts attended resident camp for a week at the J.N. Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford, CT, where they completed several adventures and activities related to their rank advancement. Some of the activities included fire making, knot tying, learning to safely use folding knives, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, outdoor cooking, leatherworking, BB gun shooting, archery, group skits, and the ultimate campfire. In the fall, scouts placed flags at the State Veteran's Cemetery, and this winter, Pack 13 has a number of pack activities planned to include multiple camping trips, guest speakers, hiking trips, challenge hikes, and community service opportunities in addition to our den meetings and den activities.



This winter/spring, Pack 13 will hold hikes on the first Saturday of every month. There will also be special events such as the ever-popular Pinewood Derby in February, the Maple Syrup Festival Day in March, and the Covered Wagon Derby in April!

If your family is interested in joining Pack 13, kindly reach out to us at: tritownpack13@gmail.com anytime for more information or to join our Pack.

Visit our town website at:  
[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)



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## Sustainable Essex Town of Essex is Awarded Silver Status

### What does this award mean?



Essex is one of nine towns in Connecticut that has achieved Silver Status, the highest level of certification currently offered by Sustainable CT. Sustainable CT is a statewide, voluntary certification program which requires that certified communities demonstrate significant achievements in at least twelve sustainability impact areas that encourage long-term resilience, community connections, thriving local economies, and social equity.



Sustainable Essex members, Linda Kagan and Susan Abbot, accept the Silver Status Award from Sustainable CT in November, 2022.

### We did it with your help!

In 2022 you came out to participate in the Earth Day Repair Cafe, the Source to Sea clean up, and Electric Vehicle Event. You composted your food scraps- over 37,000 pounds! and recycled your thin-film plastics- over 400 lbs. since April! Kudos and thank you to the citizens of Essex for dropping off and welcoming home toys, games, and children's books in good condition at the November Toy Swap! The pre-holiday event advanced the dual goals of sustainability and equity. There was no need to bring anything to take anything. Both parents and kids had fun browsing the huge selection of toys that had been dropped off and went home with fresh toys, books, and games to explore.

Thank you for the great work and please sign up on our website at: [sustainableessex.com](http://sustainableessex.com) to receive timely emails about sustainability practices and local events.

### What's next?

Our ongoing projects include working to establish additional EV (Electric Vehicle) charging stations in Ivoryton and at the Essex Town Hall, working to make food scrap composting a reality at all Region 4 schools, increasing the capture of thin film plastics at the Essex and Ivoryton libraries, and exploring more solar power for our schools.

### Save the Date 2023

**Feb 11, Passive House SEED**  
(Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussion)  
at the Essex Library

**March 11, Repair Café**

Get things repaired for free

**April 22, Earth Day litter cleanup!**

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## Dry two or more loads in a row



Your dryer has already generated a wealth of heat during your first load, so take advantage of that heat to lower energy use.

## Use the locks on your windows and doors



Locking windows and external doors will ensure they seal shut and keep out drafts.

# Top Recommended Products & Programs for Winter Energy Savings

Cold temperatures, chilling winds, and blustery days can lead to cozy evenings at home. These winter conditions usually mean your heating system is working hard. Other parts of your house – holiday lights, drafty doorways, hardwood floors – can also all result in your home using more energy this time of year compared to other seasons. Below, we've outlined some of the resources that you can leverage this winter and beyond, including no- and low-cost ways to use less energy. Here are some of our top recommendations for keeping energy use down and staying comfortable throughout the season.

### **ELIMINATE AIR-LEAKS AND DRAFTS near doors, windows, attics, and basements by weatherstripping and air sealing.**

A leaky home is less comfortable and uses more energy, especially in the winter. A home weatherization project is one of the most effective ways to improve your comfort and reduce energy use year-round. Properly insulating your home can help you reduce heating and cooling costs by an average of 20%.

### **INSTALL WI-FI THERMOSTATS.**

Wi-Fi thermostats allow you to control your home temperature settings from your smartphone or tablet, so you can adjust and save energy whenever, and wherever, works best for you. Smart thermostats offer various energy-saving features such as automatically adjusting the temperature based on whether you are present or away, based on the weather forecast, or with a schedule customized by you. You can save up to \$145 per year on your heating and cooling costs with a properly programmed Wi-Fi thermostat.

### **DRY TWO OR MORE LOADS IN A ROW to take advantage of the heat from your dryer.**

Get more done with less energy by throwing in a second load of laundry right after the first. Your dryer has already generated a wealth of heat during your first load, so take advantage of that heat.

### **REVERSE YOUR CEILING FANS.**

Normally, ceiling fans spin counterclockwise, allowing you to feel cooler in the warmer months. However, most ceiling fans have a reverse switch that will force them to turn clockwise, producing a downdraft and moving the warm air that collects near your ceiling down into the rest of the room.

### **BUNDLE UP AND HEAD OUTSIDE!**

Although we tend to curl up inside during the winter months, spending a few hours outside with family and friends can reduce stress on your overall

household. Consider unplugging those electronics (if you don't have an advanced power strip) and spending quality time together building a snowman or trying a seasonal sport such as snowshoeing.

### **MAKE SURE YOUR HOME DEVICES ARE SET to save power.**

Check your computer, monitor, TV, and other electronics to make sure they are set to conserve energy. If you are looking for a new device, check for the ENERGY STAR® logo.

### **LAY DOWN RUGS ON HARDWOOD FLOORS.**

Add an extra layer of insulation to your home and save money and energy. Rugs help trap cold air underneath and keep it from circulating around the room.

### **HAVE A HEAT PUMP? Set it and forget it.**

Turning your heat pump on and off, or constantly adjusting its temperature settings, may use more energy and cause comfort issues. Generally, it's advised to find a temperature that's comfortable and leave it there.

### **THIS ALL SOUNDS GREAT – where do I start?**

Eversource, a Sponsor of Energize Connecticut<sup>SM</sup>, offers on-the-spot air sealing through Home Energy Solutions<sup>SM</sup> and up to 75% off approved insulation projects. This is one of the best ways to get started and knock some items off the list above. If you meet income eligibility requirements, you may receive the initial visit at no cost and up to 100% off an approved insulation project and incentives for additional energy-saving upgrades. Visit the URL, give us a call, or scan the code at right to get started.

Learn more at [eversource.com/home-energy-solutions](https://eversource.com/home-energy-solutions) or call us at 1-877-WISE-USE.



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Contact Jane Ellis at:  
860-388-0788  
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### ABOUT CONNECTICUT CANCER FOUNDATION (CCF)

CCF was founded in 1987 by Connecticut native John Ellis, a former catcher for the New York Yankees and cancer survivor, to financially assist cancer patients and their families and fund cancer research.

For the past 35 years, through its *CT Cancer Patient Assistance Program*, CCF has granted over \$5 million to more than 6,000 Connecticut families

dealing with the financial hardship that often follows a cancer diagnosis. In addition, CCF has donated more than \$2 million to support ongoing cancer research at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

*CCF is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization.*

For more information, please visit us at: [www.ctcancerfoundation.org](http://www.ctcancerfoundation.org).



## Welcome to Essex

Essex consists of three unique villages and is ideally located on the Connecticut River a few short miles from Long Island Sound. Well-known for its beautiful landscapes, majestic trees and gardens, fascinating architecture, and cultural and historical attractions, we are a boating and sailing destination as well. Essex is famous for hosting a multitude of parades throughout the year and offers an outstanding culinary and shopping experience to our residents and visitors. Come experience, explore and enjoy the small-town enchantment of Essex, Connecticut.

Visit our website at:  
[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)



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