

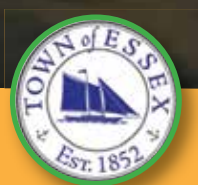
Essex events

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First Selectman's Corner



Norm Needleman
First Selectman

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Finally, spring has arrived! I encourage you to spend time outdoors enjoying the serenity of our beautiful Town and check out all the upcoming events that the warm weather brings. The Garden Club's May Market will be on Saturday, May 11 8:00 am – 2:00 pm at Main Street Park in Essex.

Explore the Essex Land Trust trails

and visit our Town parks. The Burning of the Ships, Memorial Day, and the July 4th parades have been scheduled and the Ivoryton Farmers Market will take place on the Ivoryton Village Green on Saturdays from June through October. Considering summer activities for the kids? Our Park & Recreation Department has a fantastic summer camp for children in grades K-8. Visit the Connecticut River Museum, make plans to take a ride on the Essex Steam Train, or see a show at the Ivoryton Playhouse. While you are out and about, shop the local boutiques and visit our fine restaurants. Our small town has much to offer.

The 2024-2025 Annual Budget is in progress. As always, the Town's goal is to continue to meet the needs and expectations of

our residents while keeping expenses as low as possible. The final budget went to a Public Hearing on April 18 at 7:30 pm and will be voted on by residents at the Annual Budget Town Meeting on May 13 at 7:30 pm. The Region 4 Budget Referendum for Essex residents will be on May 7 from 12-8 pm at the Essex Town Hall. I encourage you to participate in all these important budget events. The schedule of budget meetings can be found on the Town website, www.essexct.gov.

The Town is preparing for two upcoming projects. The Essex Civic Campus Enhancement project phase II consists of improvements to Hubbard Park. The project will include new fencing, additional parking, pedestrian pathways, new concessions, ADA compliant restrooms, and equipment storage along with enhanced landscaping. We will also begin the installation of the pedestrian bridge across the Falls River on River Road. We anticipate both projects getting underway this summer.

To stay up to date with what is 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 by going to our Town website at <https://www.essexct.gov/home/pages/online-services>. These Town resources are invaluable to staying informed.

All the Best,
Norm



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Assessor's Office

Real Estate Tax Relief – Persons Totally Disabled or Over Age 65

The Assessor's Office is accepting applications for the State of Connecticut Circuit Breaker program until April 17th for mailing and May 15th for walk-ins. To qualify for this program a person must be totally disabled or age 65 by December 31, 2023. In the case of a married couple, only one spouse needs to be 65. The total household qualifying income, including any Social Security benefits, must be less than \$53,400 for a married couple; and less than \$43,800 for a single person.

The property that you are seeking assistance for must be your primary residence.

Once qualified for the State Circuit Breaker Program, you are also eligible for the Town of Essex matching benefit.

The amount of tax relief is a sliding scale based on total qualifying income. For example, if a married couple had a total qualifying income of \$22,000 for calendar year 2023, they may be eligible for assistance from the State of up to \$1,000. The \$1,000 would be taken off the tax bill and the Town would match that benefit up to 100%, depending on age and years in the current primary residence. The tax bill could be reduced by as much as \$2,000.

If you, or someone you know, might be eligible for this benefit, please have them mail their information or come to the Assessor's

Office at Town Hall with their 2023 SSA 1099, and proof of any income earned in calendar year 2023 or a copy of their 2023 tax return prior to May 15, 2024.

We look forward to the opportunity to assist you.

Please call or email with any questions.

Jessica Sypher, CCMA II, Assessor

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Town Clerk's Office

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Welcome to Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton

Paul & Susan Poniatowski	85 River Road, Unit H5	Essex
Marianne G. Callahan	7 Highland Terrace	Ivoryton
Kevin & Dana Lefebvre	103 Mares Hill Rd.	Ivoryton
Ian & Holly Craig	24 Grandview Terrace	Essex
William C. & Gail K. Bruce	53 Comstock Ave.	Ivoryton
Jennifer O'Conno	85 River Road, Unit I-3	Essex
James Otis	65 Main St., Unit 6	Essex
Justin and John Hardy	126 Main St.	Centerbrook
Kristen Mitchell	24 Prospect Street	Essex
Tiffany Suski	6 Falls River Circle	Ivoryton

Loss of Residents and Friends

<i>December</i>	Nora M. Hawgood	Nelsie M. Lopez
Nelson C. White	Leila Bowman	Ruth H. Adams
Madge MB Bennett	Joan G. Stone	Caleb J. Penniman
Carolee Cannata	Margaret D. Perrin	Richard H. Moore
Barbara A. Stillwaggon	Joan B. Kratzert	Bette L. Mozzer
Daniel G. Proteau	Jennifer W. Perkins	
Leonore Shults	Eliza F. Shepard	<i>March</i>
Bruce J. Weiss	Sydney S. Whelan, Jr.	Charles Francis Stannard III
		Joseph Anthony Rowe III
<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	
Stephen M. Saharek	Barbara S. Hunt	
Glenn H. Jacobsen	Mary R. Jones	Respectfully submitted, Mary Hermann Assistant Town Clerk
MaryJean McLaughlin	David C. Bates	

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A sea of daffodils getting ready to bloom for Daffodil Days



Experience Essex

Experience Essex in 2024!

The Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) was delighted to sponsor its fourth annual Daffodil Days, sharing the vibrant beauty of the flowers in the three villages of Essex while inviting everyone to discover unique treasures, savor local flavors, and get immersed in the warmth of community spirit. From Ivoryton to Centerbrook to Essex, over 45,000 daffodils were planted over the past few years and are a brilliant and beautiful scene to behold. EBOT members partaking in the merchant specials from March 23rd through April 21st were Alchemi Wealth, Connecticut River Museum, Essex Indoor Golf, Grace & Haven, House of the Triple Moon, J. Alden Clothiers, JOY Chocolate Co., Port + Willow, Sandhill Concierge, Sweet P's, and The River Lane. Daffodil-themed specials, activities, merchandise, displays, discount offers, raffles, and menu items along the streets and businesses of Essex, Centerbrook, and Ivoryton are a beautiful welcome and a wonderful way to experience Essex.

Stay tuned for more ways to experience Essex in 2024 by visiting our EssexCT.com website and @experienceessex on Instagram.

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Essex Elementary School Foundation

Essex Elementary School Foundation (EESF) Provides Grant for School Community Reading Program at Essex Elementary School

The Essex Elementary School, supported by funding from the Essex Elementary School Foundation, kicked off a One School, One Book Program which will help to build a school community of readers. This program will provide a book for each student to read aimed at reinforcing reading, increasing parent involvement, and helping to bridge the home-school connection.

The reading program launched on Monday, March 4th with an assembly in the cafeteria, and began with an engaging question, "Have you ever experienced a haircut you didn't like?" This led to an introduction to the selected book for this year, "J.D. and the Great Barber Battle" by J. Dillard.

The question, answered by

raised hands in the audience, served as a connection to the protagonist in the book, J.D., a third grader who struggles with an unimpressive haircut on the eve of the first day of school.



Students of all grade levels participate in the One School, One Book Program at Essex Elementary School.

The One School, One Book Program will take place daily with teachers reading the story to their students. All students will receive a copy of the book to share at home with their families. To keep the engagement going, students will be given activities like bingo to take home as well, providing them with the chance to win a prize.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation proudly supports this initiative as it has the potential to not only enhance reading skills but also create lasting connections within the school community.

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THE ESSEX GARDEN CLUB is thrilled to announce its annual May Market fundraiser, set to take place on Saturday, May 11th, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Essex Town Park on Main Street. This highly anticipated annual event promises a delightful day for both experienced and novice gardeners. The Town Park will be filled with an array of beautiful plants, handcrafted garden gifts, gently used home décor and outdoor items, a variety of fashion accessories, and decorative arts pieces too special to miss.

Visitors to the Members’ Plants section at the May Market will have the opportunity to browse and make purchases from a wide selection of plants, including perennials, grasses, exotic plants, herbs, small flowering shrubs, and tomato seedlings, all grown and/or curated by club members or local nurseries. While selecting from the hundreds of plants offered for sale, attendees can chat with one of our “Garden Gurus,” a very friendly and garden-smart group of our most experienced club gardeners.

“We are excited to once again host the May Market and offer the extended community our bountiful supply of beautiful plants and garden treasures,” said Dagmar Miller, President of the Essex Garden Club. “This event not only supports our club’s efforts to beautify our town but also provides a wonderful opportunity for gardeners to find unique plants and products while enjoying a festive atmosphere. Proceeds from the May Market are also supporting our scholarship and campership programs that benefit the youth in our local community.”

In addition to the plant sales, the May Market will feature our May Market Café where delicious food and beverages will be sold all day. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit booths where local service organizations and nonprofits will showcase the work they do for the Essex community. We salute their efforts and share



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their goal to improve, enhance, and celebrate our community.

Admission to the May Market is free, and all proceeds from plant and merchandise sales will benefit the Essex Garden Club's ongoing community beautification projects and educational programs as has been the tradition for over 70 years. Attendees are invited to visit our "Welcome to May Market" booth where information about our club and our work will be on display. Attendees choosing to give a donation to our scholarship fund on May Market Day will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a chance to win one of three garden gifts baskets overflowing with a multitude of gardening tools and items guaranteed to please any gardener or wannabe gardener. Winners need not be present to win the bountiful prizes!!

Do not miss this chance to kick off the gardening season in style and support a great cause! Mark your calendars for the Essex Garden Club's May Market on Saturday, May 11th, and join us for a day of gardening inspiration and fun. We will be watching for you.

For more information about the May Market or the Essex Garden Club, please visit www.essexgardenclub.org.

Town Clerk's Office

2024-2025 Dog License Renewals



Dog License Renewals will be due from June 1 to June 30, 2024. **(There are no early renewals before Jun 1.)** Due to the volume of licenses, we would appreciate it if you mailed in your renewal.

Up-to-date rabies vaccine information and any current spayed or neutered procedures will also be required.

For residents with current registered dogs, we will send out a renewal letter in late May. Please refer to the expiration date of each dog's vaccine certificate on your renewal form, making sure it does not expire on or before July 1, 2024, the first day of licensing for the new year.

The cost to register a dog is \$8.00 for a neutered/spayed dog and \$19.00 for a dog that has not yet been neutered/spayed.

State Statute 22-338 requires dogs to be licensed. Licensing is not just a way to identify lost dogs, it is also a matter of safety for pets and their owners.

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News from the Riverfront at the Connecticut River Museum



Our winter season was one of celebration and discovery. We continued to celebrate the Museum's 50th anniversary. We learned about history and our environment during Live at the Boathouse! lectures and we piloted new activities at the Lay-Masin House.

Our 50th anniversary celebration continues through 2024 with many delightful events planned. Our 50th Anniversary exhibit,

Getting There: Wayfinding on the Water in the Pre-Modern Age, opened April 18, 2024, and will remain on view through October 13, 2024. Join us at Wesleyan University where we are hosting a Connecticut River Environmental Symposium which will explore the River's history, conservation efforts, and the environmental issues impacting the Connecticut River today. In the fall, we hope you'll join us for a Community Block party. And all year long we invite you to become a part of the Museum's collections

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by participating in our new oral history project. Find out more at: <https://ctrivermuseum.org/oral-history-project>.

Thinking about summer fun? Our summer camp returns for kids ages 6 to 11! Join us for a week or the whole summer, between July 1 and August 9. Camps runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Kids will catch critters with dip and seine nets, hoist sails, become history detectives and more!

The 2024 sailing season began with Winter Wildlife Cruises in February and will continue through fall. Join us on the water! You can experience nature and the scenery aboard RiverQuest. Aboard the Onrust, you will uncover history while you sail and learn about the age of exploration, early colonial history, and more.

Finally, save the date for our 50th Anniversary RiverFare extravaganza. Join us under the big tent on June 6, 2024, for tasty treats from local purveyors, peruse the silent auction, and support your Museum.



Connecticut River Museum
67 Main Street • Essex, CT 06426
860-767-8269
crm@ctrivermuseum.org




Essex Land Trust

Upcoming Events

Birding and Nature Walk - Wednesday, May 8, 8:30 AM
Essex Meadows, 30 Bokum Road, Essex. ELT Board member Jim Denham will lead a walk on Essex Meadows' grounds to explore peak bird migration and breeding season. You will see and hear many species around this diverse landscape. All levels of knowledge are welcome. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the walk, courtesy of Essex Meadows. Bad weather cancels.

Essex Land Trust Community Concert - Saturday, June 22, 5:00 PM *Main Street Park, 14 Main Street, Essex.* Enjoy an evening at the Essex Main Street Park with friends, live music, and views of South Cove. The event will feature Malaena, a 6-piece cover band whose sole mission is to perform music that "makes you want to dance." We'll be grooving to songs from every decade, from Top 40 to Motown to classic rock to current hits. Bring family, friends, picnic baskets, blankets, your choice of beverage, and be prepared to sip, dance, and have some fun. Face painting for kids of all ages. Free admission.



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MYSTIC PIZZA

Book by Sandy Rustin. Based on the MGM
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by Amy Holden Jones
JUNE 27 – JULY 28, 2024

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Book by Greg Garcia and Mike O'Malley.
Music and Lyrics by Jimmy Buffett
AUGUST 8 – SEPTEMBER 8, 2024




ALABAMA STORY

By Kenneth Jones
OCTOBER 3 – 20, 2024

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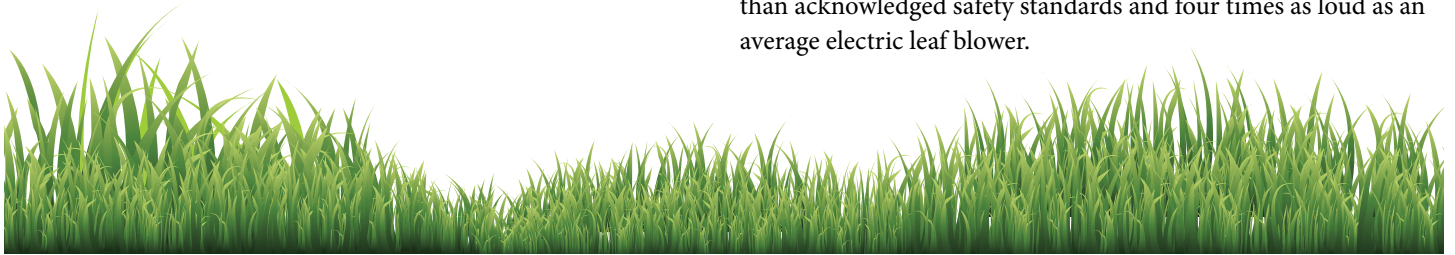
By Caroline Grist

Essex residents had a chance to try out environmentally friendly electric lawn equipment at an event organized by Essex Land Trust (ELT) and Sustainable Essex. With fall cleanups in mind, more than 30 people came to Cross Lots in Essex on Saturday November 4 to see and try out battery-operated leaf blowers, lawn mowers, string trimmers and a chain saw. Essex Land Trust's Tom Soboleski and Anne Penniman from Sustainable Essex spearheaded the event.

"We are excited about the positive momentum building for electric lawn equipment, which is more convenient and user-friendly than gas-powered," said landscape architect Anne Penniman. "There's minimal maintenance, no fuel, and no exhaust." The Town of Essex has purchased electrical equipment, and Sustainable Essex is working with it to obtain more. ELT has also been purchasing battery operated equipment to replace gas powered machines.

"We have concerns about the health issues created by pollution for anyone using gas-powered leaf blowers especially. The 2-stroke engines emit the same toxic pollutants in an hour as driving a new passenger car for about 1,100 miles!" Anne said. Unlike vehicle engines whose emissions are regulated, two-stroke engines are not. Consumer-grade blowers (and some mowers) use a two-stroke engine, which lacks an independent lubrication system, so fuel must be mixed with oil. Burning oil and fuel emits several harmful toxic pollutants into the air, including carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides (which cause smog formation and acid rain), and hydrocarbons (a carcinogenic gas that also causes smog).

Gas-powered blowers also create dangerous amounts of noise which compromise our quality of life in our small-town setting. They can cause hearing damage after two hours of operation. The Centers for Disease Control and others report that the typical gas-powered leaf blower emits 85 decibels of noise, far higher than acknowledged safety standards and four times as loud as an average electric leaf blower.



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Anne had tips for those using a landscaping service. She owns an electric blower, string trimmer and other landscape equipment. "I asked my lawn service to refrain from using blowers during the summer season. I've also asked my landscape contractor to use my battery-powered blower only when necessary, such as on a gravel driveway," she said. In the fall, the leaves are left in planting beds and mulch is mowed into the lawn for added nutrient benefits. You can protect your plants for the winter, and also have

free mulch which will naturally break down to rich humus that will feed the woody and perennial plantings.


The equipment is also efficient. Addressing concerns that battery-powered equipment is not powerful enough, Sustainable Essex knows of six electric landscape firms in the state of Connecticut that all use the equipment with success. One of the companies reports a 30% annual growth over 10 years.

For more information on Sustainable Essex's "Quiet Lawns and Healthy Neighborhoods" initiative check out <https://sustainableessex.com/quiet-lawns/>.

Caroline Grist is a member of the Sustainable Essex Committee. To learn out more about the Sustainable Essex Committee, log on to their website: <https://sustainableessex.com/>.



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IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE is thrilled to announce the first two shows of its highly anticipated 2024 season. Opening on April 5, the electrifying **EVERLY: THE MUSIC OF THE EVERLY BROTHERS** has already enjoyed such high demand for tickets that the Playhouse has extended the run for a full week (now to April 28th).

This spectacular production will transport theatergoers on a nostalgic journey through the timeless hits of the legendary Everly Brothers. Renowned for their impeccable harmonies and unforgettable melodies, the Everly Brothers have left an indelible mark on the music world, influencing generations of artists across all genres.

EVERLY promises an unforgettable evening filled with classic tunes such as “Wake Up, Little Susie,” “Bye Bye, Love,” “All I Have to Do Is Dream,” and dozens more - a true celebration of the Everly Brothers’ enduring legacy.

On May 16, we are headed to London in 1944. Join MGM star Marian Ames and her all-girl band from the Hollywood Canteen for the rip-roaringest canteen show of them all, **SWINGTIME CANTEEN**. Laughs, tears, air raids and a celebration of women

during the war punctuate this hilarious and heartwarming story. Songs include “Don’t Fence Me In,” “I’ll Be Seeing You,” “How High the Moon,” “A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square,” “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive,” “Sentimental Journey,” and “Apple Blossom Time.”

Tickets are \$60 for adults; \$55 for seniors; \$25 for students of all ages, and are available by calling the Playhouse box office at 860.767.7318 or by visiting our website at www.ivorytonplayhouse.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Ivoryton Playhouse offers discounted tickets on Thursday nights! On Thursday nights at 6:00 pm, tickets for that night’s 7:30 pm performance can be purchased for only \$30. Limit four tickets per person. Tickets available at the box office for that performance only. Subject to availability. It is a mission of Ivoryton Playhouse to bring affordable, professional, high quality theatre experiences to our community.

Jacqueline Hubbard
Artistic/Executive Director
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The Mystery of Thatchbed Island

By Kathleen Sealey



Comparison of Thatchbed Island with images dated in 1934 on the left and 2022 on the right. The island's surface area has declined from 30 to barely 7 acres.

Thatchbed Island is a tidal wetland on the western bank of the Connecticut River just south of the Town of Essex. This island has been part of the history of the region as the salt meadow barrier between the river, Middle Cove, and South Cove. The earliest maps of Essex show the Island as a reed bed extending almost 30 acres in an arc from Essex to the middle of South Cove. Today, Thatchbed Island is under threat from natural and anthropogenic threats, rapid erosion, and loss of biological diversity. It is diminished in size to less than seven acres, with visible loss of vegetation each year. What is happening to this island marsh and what does this mean for the ecology of the Lower Connecticut River environs?

Riverine marshes such as Thatchbed Island are characterized by their dynamic nature. Accumulated sediments are barely above the waterline with flooding by tidal action. The marshes, sandbars and floodplains around the Town of Essex are truly estuarine and are increasingly influenced by saltwater with sea level rise. Since the Town of Essex was settled in 1635, sea level has risen over 26 inches. Glacial gravels and sands built up to a level above the waterline to support marsh plants made up of primarily grasses, sedges, and herbs. While plants can anchor and trap sediment, parts of these marsh islands can be eroded and moved with severe floods and ice flows. The agents of change for these river marshes include major flood events, tidal storm surges, and rising sea level. All these agents of change have impacted how people have used and viewed Thatchbed Island.

In the nineteenth and early 20th century, salt meadows throughout the northeastern seaboard were used for grazing livestock and cutting salt grass hay. Tidal marshlands were burned to maintain a dominance of grasses and sedges. After the second world war, commercial interests eyed Thatchbed Island as an ideal location for a large marina created by dredge and fill material. Residents of Essex opposed this marina, prompting

Captain Walter Rowe to purchase the northern end of Thatchbed Island and in 1968, Captain Rowe donated his part of Thatchbed Island to The Essex Conservation Trust, now the Essex Land Trust (ELT). About this time, an invasive reed *Phragmites australis* became a dominant grass on many tidal and non-tidal wetlands in Connecticut. The State of Connecticut took aggressive action to battle this invasive species on Thatchbed Island by spraying with an herbicide for a period of four years starting in 2000. The loss of the *Phragmites* along with the failure of native species to recolonize may have contributed to the island's rapid erosion.

The land trust focused its stewardship on Osprey conservation with the construction of nesting platforms. The popular Osprey camera was installed in the early 2000s to introduce the Town to the wonders of Osprey parenthood from April to July each year. The nesting platforms and ELT stewardship have contributed to the recovery of Osprey on the Lower Connecticut River.

A 2018 report for the Essex Harbor Commission on Thatchbed Island brought attention to the rapid deterioration of the island. An immediate concern was the loss or movement of sediment around the island and the need to maintain navigable waterways. Thatchbed Island has been used historically for dumping of dredged materials, yet the study concluded that the island had no high marsh areas, and it lacked the distinct high and low marsh zonation seen on the Great Meadow protecting North Cove. Wash-over debris brings both natural material (logs and other loose vegetation) as well as plastic debris down the river. The report addressed the impact of boat wakes and storms on the instability of the eastern shoreline of the island, with erosion reducing the extent of the island. Why has Thatchbed Island eroded so quickly over the past 25 years, and should the Town of Essex be concerned about the demise of the island entirely?

Fortunately, in 2024, we may have some answers. The Connecticut

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has contracted a year-long research study of Thatchbed Island to be carried out by the University of Connecticut's CIRCA (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation). A team of researchers with expertise in physical oceanography and modeling river flow and sediment transport will seek to identify and understand the root causes contributing to erosion. The Research was scheduled to begin in February 2024, and by the end of the year will publish the potential solutions aimed at mitigating the erosion issues.

Everyone enjoying the views of the river, boating, or watching the Ospreys will be impacted by the fate of Thatchbed Island. This tidal marsh is one small part of the changing environment around us, and solving the mystery of its demise will inform future actions that may be needed to preserve the beauty around us.

Kathleen Sealey is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee – Thatchbed Island. Dr. Sealey is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Miami who recently relocated to Essex. She has a long interest and passion in the ecology of tidal wetlands and coastal environments.

For more information, refer to The Ad Hoc Committee's A Comprehensive Study of Essex Harbor and Thatchbed Island, Essex, Connecticut found on the Town of Essex website.

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 2024 are Henry May, President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer; Jack Frost, Driver Recruitment; and Bob Mountz and Tia Smith, At Large. Dispatchers are John Heiser, Pat Callahan, and Tony Carrano. Tony is also our scheduler.

The volume of free rides given has continued to increase to 87 per month for January and February 2024, close to pre-pandemic numbers of rides. We have added new drivers but could use more.

The FISH summer party, by invitation, is for drivers and their guests and our FISH donors. It will be on **June 12, 2024** at 5 pm at Essex Place in Centerbrook, CT.

The modest FISH budget is funded by grants from the Essex Community Fund, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Rotary Club of Essex, 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.

Henry May, Driver and President

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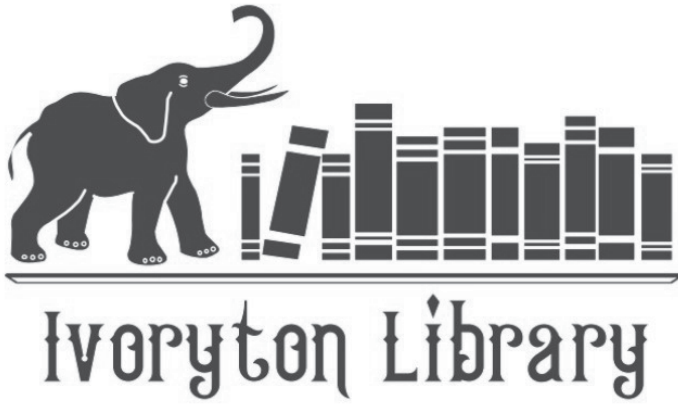
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I hope by the time you are reading this that construction will have begun on our new front steps. In a survey we sent out over a year ago asking for input on how to better serve our community, the overwhelming response was better, safer front steps and railings. Much discussion and many meetings later, we seem to have a solid plan to improve the stairs within the limitations imposed by lot size, the shape of the building and budget. We do not have the land to fit a ramp on the property but we are trying our best to give you the safest possible entry.

Our **Book and Plant Sale** returns *Saturday, May 11, 9 am-12 noon*. Be sure to swing by as you visit the other area plant sales that day. We'll take donations of books and plants any time during library hours, thanks!

The **Region 4 Backpack Program** food donation boxes are back! Bring in your donations through the end of May. See our website for information on the foods needed. Thanks for your generosity toward the children in our community.

In the Children's Rooms:

May Day Celebration during Storytime on Wednesday, May 1 at 9:30 am

Music with Martha Wednesday, May 8 at 10:30 am

Family Day Celebration Wednesday, May 15 at 9:30 am

Garden Wizards begins in May. Learn about our environment, our wildlife and caring for our gardens.



Judi Ann Jones and happy hula hoopers

For more information, contact us at:

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Kick off Summer Reading June 15th at Grove Street Park. Joining us will be Judi Ann Jones from Dancing With Hoops for hula hoop fun!

This marks the third year the 4 local libraries join together to host a fun event for our younger patrons and their families. This year's event will be held at the Chester Meeting House on July 25.

Read all summer then join us for **Wrap Up** at Main St. Park in

Essex on August 17th.

Our annual **Welcome to Kindergarten Party** will be August 20 for all new Kindergarteners.

Information on all these programs can be found on the website, ivorytonlibrary.org/childrens-room/

We're so pleased to be open 7 days a week for you. We also have several digital resources for you to download ebooks, audiobooks, music and video. Visit our website: ivorytonlibrary.org.

Essex Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission is having a very active 2024 thus far. We have heard many individual applications for small business and residential improvements, and we are addressing zoning issues that will help protect the Town and direct future growth to areas that can handle the new businesses and residents.

During the past year we have approved two new industrial buildings, which will add jobs and an increased tax base for the community. We have also approved the opening of many small businesses throughout town and the creation of a 3-lot subdivision where the Essex Spa used to be located. As part of this work, our Town Planner, John Guskowski, and our Land Use Official, Carey Duques, are working on obtaining grants for

infrastructure improvements (i.e. the sidewalks on River Road).

This year the Planning & Zoning Commission will begin a decennial review of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) which serves as the vision of our community as we grow and change. There will be numerous public hearings with opportunities for the public to weigh in with their vision of our town. We will advertise the meetings and hope you can join in the conversation.

The Planning & Zoning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Town Hall. The agendas for these meetings are

Continued on page 22

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Continued from page 21

posted on the Town of Essex website and if you are registered to receive Essex News, you will receive a weekly email about the Town Board & Commission meetings. All public hearings are required by state law to be published in the local newspaper well in advance of the meeting.

Carey Duques, the Land Use Official, is available to discuss any planning & zoning questions you might have. Please feel free to contact her at 860-767-4340 ext. 115 or email her at cduques@essexct.gov with any questions or comments.

If you are not signed up to receive Essex News, please email essexnews@essexct.gov to subscribe.

Public Works Department

SPRING IS COMING...

Spring brings the beginning of a new construction season. As you travel around Town, you may see an increase in road work signs, large trucks with flashing lights, orange cones and workers in bright clothes. Construction is an inconvenience and causes delays, but it is necessary to improve and maintain our infrastructure.

Please PAY ATTENTION while you are driving. Control the speed of your vehicle and be cautious while driving in work zones. Please respect what our employees and contractors are trying to accomplish. Most speed limits on our Town roads are 25 MPH. If you are traveling through a work zone you should be driving slower than the speed limit.

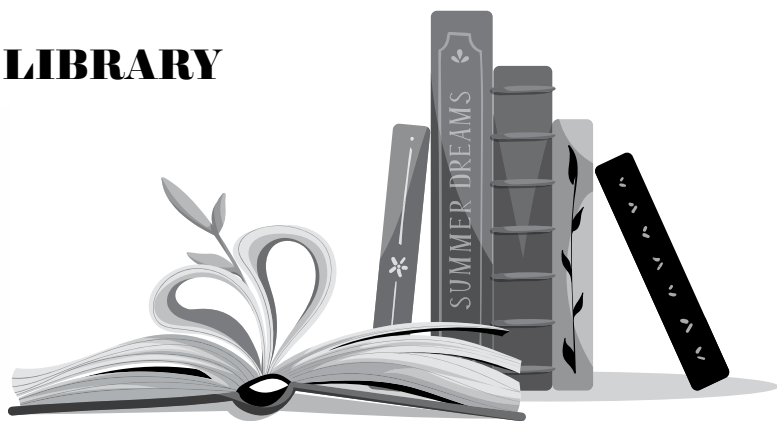
Our upcoming road paving projects will be the repaving of Summit, Chestnut, Blake, and Oak Streets. We will also be replacing various sections of deteriorated sidewalks before the paving begins. This is the final paving restoration of the CT Water Co. water main replacement project. Drainage improvements will also be made before we begin paving. You will see Town crews at the site throughout the spring preparing the roads before the repaving project begins.

Essex has always prided itself on being a very walkable community. We have seen a significant increase in pedestrian travel. If you are a pedestrian or cyclist, keep yourself visible; wear bright clothes and choose safe routes; be cautious at intersections and use the sidewalk whenever possible. Drivers, please give our pedestrians the right of way and share the roadway.

The Town of Essex Public Works Department depends on you to be a responsible driver and help keep our employees and pedestrians safe on roadways. Please bring any questions or concerns to our attention. We appreciate your help in keeping our Town a safe and an enjoyable place to live. If you see something that needs to be repaired, contact our Public Works Department at 860-767-0715 or go to www.essexct.gov and go to "QUICK LINKS" to report a concern.

Ryan Welch, Public Works Director
rwelch@essexct.gov | 860-767-0715

FRIENDS OF THE ESSEX LIBRARY



3rd ANNUAL COCKTAILS WITH THE FRIENDS RETURNS IN JUNE!

On Friday, June 7th, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (rain date June 8th), the Friends of the Essex Library will again host one of our community's favorite fundraisers – COCKTAILS WITH THE FRIENDS! The event will take place at a spectacular location in Essex, with live music, lovely gardens, great views and relaxing outdoor areas where cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served. We had so much fun last year and are extending the party for another hour! This event does not disappoint.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are on sale now at the library (cash or check).

Carpooling is highly recommended so get a group together to have a fun evening out, get to know new people in the community and support the library at the same time.

BOOK SALE AND DONATION NEWS

Thanks to all who attended our Spring Sale! Our upcoming monthly sales include History and Biography in April, Cooking, Gardening and DIY in May, Beach Reads, Odds & Ends and Special in June and July and Art and Coffee Table books in August.

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 www.youressexlibrary.org/friends/friends-book-sale/ for a detailed description of donation "please's" and "no thank you's".

As always, thank you for your support and remember to check the website often to see what's new at the library and with the Friends! www.youressexlibrary.org.

Essex - Community Listings

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

All Saints Episcopal Church..... (860) 767-1698
 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
 Essex Little League..... www.essexlittleleague.org
 Essex Veterans Memorial Hall (860) 767-8892
 F.I.S.H. (860) 388-2693
 Ivoryton Company of Fifers & Drummers..... (860) 767-2237
 Ivoryton Village Allianceinfo@ivorytonalliance.org
 Lower Valley Visiting Nurses..... (860) 767-0186
 Republican Town Committee..... (860) 262-0226
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This spring, the Essex Library Association offers something for everyone. Remember that all our programs are FREE and open to the public! Register for programs in our new online calendar and get text or email reminders so you'll never miss an event.

We're now offering, *thanks to the wonderful generosity of Essex Meadows*, an Author Talk Series which features virtual events by bestselling, award-winning, and highly acclaimed authors from around the world. In May, join us for talks with *The New York Times* bestselling authors **Douglas Brunt** (*The Mysterious Case of Rudolph Diesel: Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I*), **Nina Simon** (*Mother-Daughter Murder Night*) and **Rebecca F. Kuang** (*Yellowface*). These events may be watched live in the library or at home, and the recordings are available afterward so you can watch them anytime!

Last year's Seed Library was so successful we're doing it again!

Let us (lettuce!) help you grow a bountiful garden! Pick up **FREE** packets of seeds from a selection of vegetables, herbs and flowers in the Library's Seed Library. Limit six packets per patron.

Upcoming programs for adults include: the return of the **Centerbrook Architects Lecture Series** on *April 25*; music of the Baroque Classical and Romantic periods with the **Connecticut String Trio** on *May 18*; and **Gentle Yoga** will be offered *every Saturday in May*. This class is perfect for adults just starting to learn the practice of yoga, for those who may not be comfortable with intense movements, or for those who are looking for deep relaxation. Who isn't looking for some of that these days?

Our ongoing, drop-in adult programs include an **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group** the *second Tuesday of every month*,



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Image courtesy of Donna Richard.

a **Bereavement Support Group** the *first and third Thursday of every month*, a **French Conversation Group** on *Mondays*, a **Genealogy Interest Group** the *second and fourth Tuesday of the month*, a **Needlework Group** on *Mondays* and **The Writer's Block** on the *second and fourth Wednesday of every month*.

Summer Reading for kids is just around the corner but until then our ongoing children's programming includes the ever popular **Wiggle Worms story time** on *Tuesday mornings* for ages 0-3 as well as **Story Time A to Z** on *Friday mornings* for ages 3-5. For elementary school aged kids, there are **STEAM Saturdays** and **Kids Create** on *select Saturdays*. **Tranquil Tuesdays** and **Teen Friday** offer teens a space to relax, chat with friends and take part in different relaxing activities.

For the Essex Library's latest programs and announcements, check the Library's website, www.youressexlibrary.org and social media. Our 24/7 at-home offerings include eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and films through the Libby app, as well as Hoopla, the digital streaming service – all free with your library card!



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SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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Maria Lucarelli, Assistant	x112	mlucarelli@essexct.gov
Alyson Finnegan	x145	afinnegan@essexct.gov

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICE

Caroline Fountain, ACO	x160	cfountain@essexct.gov
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ASSESSOR

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT & FIRE MARSHAL

Keith Nolin, Building Official	x117	knolin@essexct.gov
David Mesite, Assistant Building Official	x150	dmesite@essexct.gov
John Planas, Fire Marshal	x146	jplanas@essexct.gov
Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov

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

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

PLANNING & ZONING

ZONING ENFORCEMENT		
Carey Duques, Enforcement Agent	x115	cduques@essexct.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

Ryan Welch, Director	860-767-0715	
Rich Gallacher, Dave Martin, Dwight Massey, Paul Mackenzi, Joe Lucarelli	x161	rwelch@essexct.gov

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

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Barbara Ryan	x142	bryan@essexct.gov

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

ESSEX POLICE	860-767-1054	
Mark Roberts, Resident State Trooper	x130	mroberts@essexct.gov
Todd Belcourt		tbelcourt@essexct.gov
Christopher McCarthy		cmccarthy@essexct.gov
Judson Howes		jhowes@essexct.gov
Jeff DePerry		jdeperry@essexct.gov
Paul Kenefick		jkenefick@essexct.gov
Chris Reid		creid@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

Caitlin Riley, Town Clerk	x129	criley@essexct.gov
Mary Hermann, Assistant	x128	mhermann@essexct.gov

TOWN HALL OPERATIONS/ MAINTENANCE

Andrew Harrington	x136	aharrington@essexct.gov
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Essex Community Fund

For More Information about ECF, visit our website at www.essexcommunityfund.org.

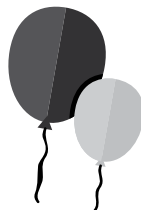


About Us: Created in 1949, Essex Community Fund is one of the oldest and most unique programs in the Essex Community that raises and distributes funds to our local non-profit organizations that focus on: food and meal programs, health services,

education, supporting our senior citizens, fuel assistance, public safety, arts and culture. Thank you to our donors. With your donations we are able to continue to support these vital organizations that help to keep our community healthy and thriving.

2024 Grant Recipients: Essex Community Fund is pleased to announce our 2024 Grant Recipients:

- Little Compassion Inc. / The Nest
- Essex Winter Series
- Bikes for Kids
- F.I.S.H.
- Camp Hazen YMCA
- Gilead Community Services



- Community Music School
- Incarnation Center/Bushy Hill Camp
- Connecticut River Museum
- Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation
- Essex Eagle Scout Program
- Region 4 Foundation
- Essex Fire Engine Company
- Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries
- Essex Fuel Assistance Program
- Tri-Town Youth Services
- Essex Housing Authority

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The CT Sea Music Festival will ring out along the banks of the CT River and throughout downtown Essex on *June 7-10, 2024*.

The festivities begin on Friday with a scholarly Symposium on the Music of the Sea, held from 9-4 pm at the Essex Town Hall, an evening concert (ticketed) at the CT River Museum, and late-night sings at the Griswold Inn and the Corinthian Club. Saturday kicks off with a parade down Main Street, free daytime workshops and concerts, a family stage, demonstrations of sailor skills, sails on the Connecticut River, an evening concert (ticketed), and more late night singing



at the Gris. Sunday begins with a revival-style hymn sing, more free daytime workshops and concerts, including a wrap-up concert from 3-6 pm at the CT River Museum. The Festival will feature internationally-acclaimed Tom Lewis, Sean Dagher (of Assassin's Creed fame), storyteller Jackson Gillman, The Vox Hunters and Flannery Brown, and a host of

other New England and regional maritime musicians.

For more information, visit the Festival website at <https://ctseamusicfest.org/2024-festival> or contact@ctseamusicfest.org. Hope to see you in Essex!

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The Essex Foundation Helps Fund Valley Unified Buddies Life Skills Trip to Disney

Awards \$10,000 Grant to Underwrite Student Travel Expenses



Members of the Valley Unified Buddies are “all ears” as they accept a grant award from The Essex Foundation board members in support of the group’s life skills trip to Disney World. Presenting the check on behalf of The Essex Foundation are (front row l-r) Jay Tonks, and Cheryl Harger to Kate Ely and Susan Strecker of Valley Unified Buddies. Valley faculty supervisor Carolyn Crehan and Foundation board member Strickland Hyde are second row center.

In March 2024, 23 local area teens took the ultimate life skills trip to Disney World in Florida thanks to the organizational efforts of Valley Unified Buddies and a \$10,000 grant award from The Essex Foundation. Valley Unified Buddies is a nonprofit group made up of Unified Sports, a registered program of Special Olympics, and Valley Buddies. The group provides high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities every opportunity to succeed in school, their jobs and in life. They are provided a safe space to play team sports and are paired with peer mentors. Together, they enjoy team dinners, movie nights, football game outings, and other organized activities including a Unified prom open to other special needs kids from surrounding schools.

“Valley Unified Buddies is so grateful to The Essex Foundation for partnering with us,” said Susan Strecker, President of the non-profit Valley Unified Buddies booster club. “It is only with their support and generosity that our kids were able to go on this ultimate life skills trip to Disney World. A big part of our mission is awareness and inclusion. The Essex Foundation is a huge part of helping us achieve these goals.”

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most students, the entire trip was designed for them to put everything they’ve been learning into practice - from following directions to get through security; to displaying proper social behavior while traveling by airplane and during the hotel stay; to planning their time and paying for meals. The cost of \$2400 per student was prohibitive for some. Every \$10,000 raised reduced the cost for each of the 21 students by \$400.

“It was a unanimous decision by our board members to approve the grant request,”

commented The Essex Foundation President Bruce Glowac. “Even though the request is a little beyond our purview, we felt strongly about doing our part to positively impact young people in our community.”

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. More information can be found online at www.theessexfoundation.org or by emailing contact@theessexfoundation.org.

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Spring Is in the Air at Essex Historical Society (EHS)

Visit the 1732 Pratt House on Weekend Afternoons

EHS invites the public to visit Pratt House (1732) for free guided tours of Essex's only historic house museum, 19 West Avenue, Essex. Learn from your knowledgeable guides about early American life in a Connecticut River seaport town. Enjoy Pratt's beautiful grounds, Historic Kitchen and Pollinator Gardens, reconstructed barn with history timeline and museum shop. Tours are **free and open to the public** every Saturday and Sunday, June 1- Sept. 29, from 1 pm-4 pm.

Join the Pratt House Team

Calling all those interested in local history! EHS seeks friendly, reliable volunteers to serve as summer guides at the Pratt House. Please join us for two training sessions on Saturdays April 27 and May 4 from 10 am – noon. Led by two of Pratt House's veteran guides, Wendy Mawhinney and Brien Riedell, the free sessions will provide you with tour demonstrations, training materials and ample time for Q & A. To learn more, please contact EHS at (860) 767-0681 or membership@essexhistory.org.



Enjoy a little exercise with your history on EHS's popular Walking Tours of Essex Village, offered once a month from June through September.

Essex Village Walking Tours

Please meet at the foot of Main Street to learn about Essex's maritime past.

Sundays: June 16, July 28, August 25 or September 29 at 5 pm.

All walks last about an hour; admission is \$5 per person or free to EHS members.

Save the Dates

May 11: Visit EHS's booth at May Market, Essex Town Park

June 8 and 9: Connecticut Sea Music

Festival returns townwide, with afternoon performances of "The Deckhands" on the Pratt House lawn.

The **Essex Holiday House Tour** returns on **Saturday, December 7, 2024**, following a five-year hiatus. This beloved holiday event will feature **6-8 private historic homes**, beautifully decorated for the holidays, all within walking distance in Essex Village. Stay tuned for details!

For more info on our upcoming events, please visit www.essexhistory.org or contact us at membership@essexhistory.org, (860) 767-0681 or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @essexhistory.



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THE 2024 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



The Annual Essex Memorial Day Parade will be held on **Monday, May 27th, starting at 9:00 am.** Participants will assemble at the foot of Main Street in Essex at 8:45 am. The parade will follow a shorter route, starting at the Essex waterfront to the Essex Town Hall where it will stop for a prayer and a salute after which it will continue to the Essex Veterans' Memorial Hall in Centerbrook. There, a ceremony and the conclusion of the Parade will take place at approximately 10:30 am.

There will be clam chowder, hot dogs, and ice cream served by the members of the Essex Veterans' Memorial Hall.


The Essex Veterans will be honoring veterans at the Riverview Cemetery, then the First Baptist Church Cemetery, and concluding at the Centerbrook Cemetery on Saturday May 25th at 10:00 am.

The new American Flags will be placed on the graves on Sunday, May 21st by the Boy Scouts. If you would like to help, please contact Bill Young at 860-767-1414.


If weather precludes a parade, ceremonies will be held at the Essex Veterans' Memorial Hall at 9:30 am.

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Tri-Town Youth Services Welcomes New Director



I have been telling people, “It’s like coming full circle, ish.” That is how I describe becoming the Executive Director for Tri-Town Youth Services, noting that I had interviewed for the position way back in the fall of 1990, when I had no business even applying for the position. At that time the only experience I had working with youth in any capacity was

coaching and officiating sports. For the next 32-plus years, as I was working in various youth development roles, directors Gail Onofrio Beck and Allison Abramson were busy building Tri-Town Youth Services into a dynamic and invaluable community resource.

When Allison started a new position in April 2023 and her replacement left after only four months to take a position with the state, I stepped down from the Board of Directors to serve as the interim director. From the start I was being encouraged by numerous people to consider becoming the full-time director. Additional staff departures eventually prompted me to stay on, and I was appointed by the board in January. I don’t know if

that is being called, pulled or pushed, but ultimately it felt right: This is my community. I have lived in one of the three towns my entire life. I have served in several civic roles, know many of the key stakeholders, and remain committed to fostering the development and well-being of all children.

Like many non profits, we face funding and staffing challenges, yet I remain optimistic about our ability to meet them. Youth Service Bureaus have always had to be nimble to adjust to the changing landscape of community needs and resource allocations. Even with recent departures our remaining staff have worked diligently and creatively to maintain most of the programming that has been in place for several years. Change is inevitable and we will adapt and persevere. We may have some new faces and a reconfigured menu of services, but we will continue to be a potent and reliable resource for our youth, families and community partners.



To learn more, visit our website: www.tritownys.org where you can also sign up for our weekly newsletter. For questions, to share ideas or volunteer with Tri-Town Youth Services please call: 860-526-3600 or email: info@ttysb.org.

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Sailing Masters of 1812

A Connecticut Tradition



Photo by Anna Sullivan

We who live in the Northeast are well aware of fife and drum corps, with their shrill sounds of fifes and the boom of drums, as they seem to be part of every parade. But did you know that Connecticut residents sit in the

epicenter of fife and drum activity and history?

The use of fife and drums in the military in Europe and the US has a long history. But after the Civil War, US veterans began to come together to form civilian fife and drum corps for recreational purposes. In time, fife and drum corps could be found in most towns on the east coast and associated with many companies, civic groups, schools, boy scouts and more.

Ivoryton is home to the Company of Fifers and Drummers Museum which is dedicated to the preservation of the fife and drum tradition. It houses one of the most unique collections of artifacts in the world, a visual and musical history of America on parade from the Revolutionary War to the present.

While the number of corps in the US waned over the years, fife and drum corps remained strong in Connecticut and especially in the lower CT River valley. Musters, where corps meet to showcase their skills and have fun, remain popular within the state. Deep River holds the oldest and largest muster in the world with Westbrook right behind it.

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In 1963 the Essex Fife and Drum Corps incorporated into the Sailing Masters of 1812. The Sailing Masters hold an event each May, the Commemoration of the Burning of the Ships. The Burning of the Ships Commemoration highlights the attack by the British in 1814 on Essex's privateering fleet and has a dozen fife and drum corps perform along with other groups. This year the Commemoration will be held on Saturday, May 11th. The parade starts at the Town Hall and makes its way to the CT River Museum where musical numbers from each corps and presentations from other groups are conducted.

The Sailing Masters of 1812 perform at annual and historical events in many states throughout New England, New York, across Connecticut and in all Essex parades. They have received accolades and awards from numerous events and government officials.

We are grateful to have this corps in our town, but the best part is that it is open to anyone 18 years or older to join. No experience is necessary as all training and uniforms are provided free to any interested person. Practices are held each Monday evening at 7:30 in the Town Hall. Stop by if you want to see what it's like and get more details. You do not need to be a resident to become a part of this fun and engaging tradition. For more information you can go to the Corps' Facebook or Instagram page or contact Vicki at (860) 212-1606 or email: captainvicki1812@gmail.com.

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Sustainable Essex advocates for "Quiet Lawns, Healthy Neighborhoods" with a new Guide to Sustainable Lawn Care. Our guide provides suggestions about how to maintain our lawns so that they look great and support our health and

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quality of life. It explains why switching to quieter and clean battery-operated machinery is better for the environment. It's easy to make the switch! Available in brochure form and online: <https://sustainableessex.com/quiet-lawns/>.

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Please bring your thin-film plastics to the Essex and Ivoryton libraries.

In 2023 Sustainable Essex collected over 200 pounds of thin film plastic for recycling. For detailed information about what kind

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of thin film plastic can be recycled go to <https://nextrex.com/view/educate>.

Sneaker Fundraiser ongoing

Support Sustainable Essex and protect landfills by bringing sneakers in any condition to the recycling collection box in the lobby of Valley Shore YMCA. In 2023 we collected and recycled 292 pairs of sneakers.



Are you interested in helping Essex be as sustainable as possible? We are looking for volunteers! Our greatest need now is help with our public communications and social media. Contact susxct@gmail.com.

Community Partnership Initiative Grant Awarded to Sustainable Essex

The Town of Essex, in partnership with Sustainable Essex, has been awarded a Community Partnership Initiative grant from Energize ConnecticutSM Sponsor Eversource. Through this grant, *we are encouraging residents* to participate in energy efficiency offers, particularly Home Energy SolutionsSM – Income Eligible. This in-home energy assessment and service is available to customers who meet income eligibility requirements and can help decrease your energy bills while making your home more comfortable to live in. Professional contractors, approved by Eversource, will assess your home, make on-the-spot energy-saving improvements, recommend additional upgrades, and discuss the available rebates. Residents who meet the income eligibility guidelines can have assessments done at no cost and receive significant savings on the energy-saving recommendations made during the visit. All other residents may benefit from Home Energy Solutions for a \$75 co-pay.

To learn more about our outreach efforts, look for the Sustainable Essex table at the **May Market on May 11**. We will hold another outreach event at the **Essex Library on May 30 from 6 to 8 pm**.

Be sure to visit the Sustainable Essex website (www.sustainableessex.com) for more updates on this program!



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Essex Veterans Memorial Hall Breaks Ground on Expansion and Renovation Project

Recognizes The Essex Foundation and Community for \$100,000 Grant Award, Others for In-kind Donations



PHOTO CAPTION: (from l-r) Essex Veterans Memorial Hall members Paul Knudsen and John Lee, with The Essex Foundation board members Strickland Hyde and Judy Bombaci, and EVMH President Art Davies break ground on the Hall's expansion and renovation project funded by a community matching gift effort and in-kind donations. A model of the finished expansion work is displayed to the right.

On Friday, January 12 members of the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall (EVMH) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the expansion of and renovation of the building that serves as a resource for 180 members, their families, and the greater community. EVMH President Art Davies welcomed guests and thanked all who helped make the ambitious project possible. Special recognition was given to The Essex Foundation for its matching gift fundraising campaign that resulted in a \$100,000 grant award- \$50,000 from community donors matched by \$50,000 from the Foundation. Doane Engineering, Ring's End, and Architect Jerry Karpuska were also acknowledged for their generous in-kind donations of services and materials. House Committee Chair Paul Knudsen, who is overseeing the construction, provided an overview of the work which includes enlarging and renovating the kitchen; adding a new porch and outdoor dining area; installing a new roof and ADA accessible ramp; and updating the meeting room interior. Hall members will provide most of

the volunteer labor while the \$100,000 award will be used to cover the cost of equipment, materials, and specialized labor.

The ceremony commenced with the presentation of the flag by EVMH Color Guard, followed by the national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner” performed by Community Music School Executive Director and retired Coast Guard Warrant Officer Richard Wyman on saxophone. An invocation and moment of silence was presented by Reverend David Stambaugh of Essex Congregational Church. Karen Baron then performed “America the Beautiful” on violin. Strickland Hyde of The Essex Foundation acknowledged and thanked the community for its tremendous outpouring of support that helped reach the \$100,000 mark in less than six months. After the closing remarks guests were invited to pick up a shovel for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

Essex Veterans Memorial Hall is the last known stand-alone, 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans’ organization on the East Coast. After World War II the Town of Essex conveyed the Centerbrook Schoolhouse to the group for \$1 with the stipulation that the organization remain intact and take full responsibility for maintaining the building. Located at 3 Westbrook Road, it is available for use free of charge to other nonprofit groups for meetings and activities. Non-



PHOTO CAPTION: (from r-l) Essex Veterans Memorial Hall President Art Davies looks on as Paul Knudsen presents an overview of the Hall’s expansion project to guests at the recent groundbreaking ceremony in Centerbrook.

members can rent the space for special events and celebrations. The Essex Foundation, Inc is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex citizens by providing support for new services and needs not met by other charitable organizations. More information can be found at TheEssexFoundation.org.

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The Judith McCann Heiser Nursing Scholarship



IN HONOR OF THE LATE JUDITH MCCANN HEISER OF IVORYTON, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is pleased to announce the Judith McCann Heiser Nursing Scholarship.

Judith's (Judy's) life was about serving and being part of her community.

Judy operated Swanton Jewelry on Main Street in Essex for 33 years, retiring in 2008. During

that time, she became a fixture on the Main Street, cavorting and organizing with the other business owners. She became a longtime active member of the Essex Board of Trade. She delighted in coordinating annual parades for Essex Ed (Groundhog Day) and Trees in the Rigging (which kicks off Christmas in Essex), the Scarecrow Festival, and other Main Street activities.

She joined the Board of the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

in Centerbrook soon after arriving in town and remained an active and committed leader of the organization for almost fifty years. She was devoted to the scholarship program, serving as chair of the scholarship committee, and promoting nursing and health science careers within the towns of Essex, Old Saybrook, Deep River and Chester. Judy thrived when meeting scholarship candidates, discussing their achievements and future plans. Always an advocate for nursing and a strong and active supporter of Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, it is an honor to offer the Judith McCann Heiser Nursing Scholarship in remembrance of her service, dedication, and friendship.

One or more scholarships will be awarded (with \$5,000 being the total of all awards) to residents of Essex, Chester, Deep River and Old Saybrook who are planning to pursue a career in Nursing. Scholarships will be given based on academic achievement, interview, essay, and motivation.

Application forms are available at the Visiting Nurses' office at 61 Main Street, Suite 5, Centerbrook, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The application deadline is May 24, 2024, and all required materials must be received by this date. For further information or to request an application call 860.767.0186, or email Susan Maxwell at smaxwell@visitingnurses.org.

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15 Loop Road, Clinton
Seldom found deep water dock with a 20,000 lb. lift capable of raising a 40' boat five feet above mean high tide. An absolutely beautiful, exquisitely remodeled home with a recent addition. **Offered at \$3,275,000**



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64 Book Hill Road, Essex • 36+ acres
Designed by noted architect Ulrich Franzen, this c.1957 paragon of Mid-Century Modern design is nestled on 36+ acres of idyllic, pristine woodland bordering 300 acre Canfield Woods Nature Preserve. A palpable sense of solitude, combined with commanding CT River Valley water views, serves to inspire enchantment. **Offered at \$2,875,000**

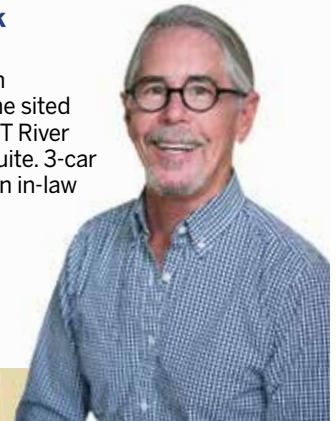


7 Little Point Street, Essex
c. 1804 Essex Sea Captain's House lavished with thoughtful, well-executed additions and updates. Spectacular English Conservatory with radiant-heated tile floor. Manicured grounds and heated pool with separate spa. 4 bds, 3.1 bths, 4,820SF **Offered at \$2,350,000**



9 Overlook Drive, Old Saybrook
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Tree Warden

Eversource Tree Trimming

Eversource has notified the Town that additional tree trimming will happen throughout 2024. The dark blue lines on the map (on page 42) are the roads that will be maintained by Lucas Tree who is obliged by the PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) regulations and state statutes to notify abutting owners of planned tree work on or over the Town roads. Tree owner approval is required for trees wholly on public property. According to these new statutes, residents have the right to accept the planned work, waive their rights to object to the work, modify the work or they can refuse all tree work if they choose. Residents wishing to modify the work or object to the trimming or removal should follow the procedure described in the brochures that will be given out by the contractor's permissions contact. Residents must also contact the Essex Tree Warden and Eversource in writing. The Tree Warden, Augie Pampel, can be reached via email at augiepampel@att.net or by phone at 860-388-7209. Eversource can be reached at the address and number in the informational brochure provided.

Work will also be done on the red line roads (see the map on next page).

To provide effective communication and better customer service, Eversource will seek property owner approval in advance of the tree work. Eversource will stop at all homes abutting areas of potential work to provide information and request approval for the trimming. It is incumbent upon the property owner to read the material carefully, ask questions, and/or contact the Eversource permissions contact listed on the informational brochure given to the property owners.

Continued on page 42

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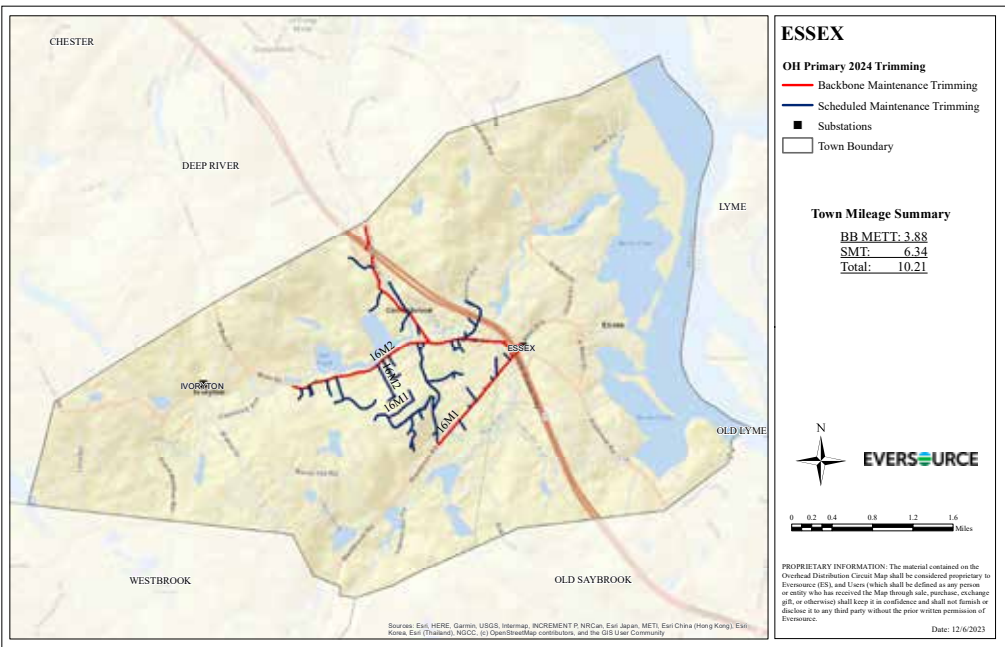
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and secondary services. Flat cut brush and cut vines. Remove hazard trees less than or equal to 16" DBH within the clearance zone.

BACKBONE MAINTENANCE TRIM

Red lines (Route 153 and Route 602 "Main Street Centerbrook" and Old Deep River Road)

Re-clear overhead to previously established ETT clearances, including new growth into the clearance zone 10' to the side of the outer most conductor on backbones (8' to the side on laterals) and all limbs in the clearance zone under the primary.

Beech Leaf Disease

For the latest information on Beech Leaf disease go to the CAES (CT Agricultural Experiment) website and click on **Beech Leaf Disease Management Options**. Here you will find the latest information on this aggressive disease that is decimating our beech trees here in CT.

Augie Pampel
Essex Tree Warden

Trimming Specifications

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE TRIM

All other roads or streets identified on the map in dark blue: Remove all branches within the clearance zone 8' to the side, 10' below, 15' overhead and hazards within reach of 70' bucket. Flat cut brush taller than telcom (16'). Trim 2' opening on open wire



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9 Jacob Lane, Killingworth
Available • Listed at: \$729,000



8 Bank Lane, Essex
Building Lot Available • Listed at: \$725,000



31 North Main Street, Essex
Available • Listed at: \$15/square foot /year



29 Union Street, Deep River
Sold • Listed at: \$579,000



15 Nott Lane, Unit 1, Essex
Rented • Listed at: \$900/month



85 River Road, Unit H5, Essex
Sold • Listed at: \$344,900



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*Source: SmartMLS, 1/1/19-12/31/23, total transactions by agent, Essex; all properties listed or sold by agent

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For more information about Janney, please see Janney's Relationship Summary (Form CRS) on www.janney.com/crs which details all material facts about the scope and terms of our relationship with you and any potential conflicts of interest.



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