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#### **First Selectman's Corner**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As cooler temperatures settle in, I encourage you to mark your calendars for events happening around Town. You may want to check out the remarkable scarecrows adorning the lampposts in all three villages! Bring the kids to the annual Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, October 22nd on the Ivoryton green. Dress up in your best Halloween costumes for our legendary Halloween Parade in Essex Village on Oct 31st. The Trees in the Rigging Carol Sing and Boat Parade will kick off at the Essex Town Hall on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. And of course, throughout December, Ivoryton Illuminations will light up Ivoryton Village with over 400,000 lights!

The Essex Steam Train, the Connecticut River Museum, and the Ivoryton Playhouse have upcoming events throughout the fall and winter seasons. To find out more about what is happening in our villages visit the Essex Board of Trade's website essexct.com and the Ivoryton Village Alliance website at ivorytonalliance.org and the Essex Park and Recreation Facebook page.

We continue to deliver improved services and strive to enhance the quality of life in our three beautiful villages. To keep our taxes low and remain a beautiful, safe, and desirable destination, we rely on residents to be actively engaged in what's happening in our villages. We encourage citizens to call if they see vegetation overgrowth on poles, sidewalks, or guard rails, trees that need attention, sidewalk damage, or anything else that just doesn't seem right. We operate with a small, dedicated crew on a small-town budget and rely on every resident being our



Norm Needleman First Selectman

eyes and ears. All calls can go to my office at: 860-767-4340 x 145 or go to "Report A Concern" on the Town website.

With the Hurricane Season upon us, I encourage all residents to prepare an emergency plan and a supply kit. To help you do this, the Town has an Emergency Preparedness Guidebook and the state has the CT Guide to Emergency Preparedness. Both can be found on the Emergency Management web page on essexct.gov. If you haven't yet, sign up for the Safer Essex Emergency Alert Program to ensure you receive emergency alerts and other important community news.

continued on page 5





#### TM Ventures, LLC dba Essex Printing & Events Magazines

18 Industrial Park Road, P.O.Box 205

Centerbrook, CT 06409 860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259 email: print@essexprinting.com www.essexprinting.com

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#### **COVER PHOTOS**

by Sigrid Kun Images of the Halloween Display at Essex Hardware

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The Town quarterly newsletters, along with a variety of special issue emails, are one of the best ways for the Town to communicate with residents. Please sign up to stay informed! Go to "Online Services" on the Town website home page and click on "Subscribe to Essex News."

All the Best, Norm Needleman, First Selectman

#### **Registrar of Voters**

The November State Election is on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Voting will take place at the Essex Town Hall from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you would like to vote by absentee ballot, please contact the town clerk at: 860-767-4340 x129 for an absentee ballot application. If you are not registered to vote you can register online at: https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do

If you have any questions, please call 860-767-4340 Ext 142 or by email below.

Registrars of Voters Caitlin Riley criley@essexct.gov

Barbara Ryan bryan@essexct.gov

# 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 this April 2022 after not driving because COVID-19 January through March 2022. Early rider volume was low, but has increased to 40 free round trip rides in August 2022. FISH drivers and riders continue to be required to be vaccinated and to wear masks.

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.

Henry May, Driver and President





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#### **Submit your Vote for Best Scarecrow!**



As its annual fall tradition, Essex Board of Trade's (EBOT) "Scarecrow Lamppost Presentation" currently lines the Main Streets of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton villages. We encourage residents and visitors to participate in the contest for

"Best Scarecrow" or "Best Broom" by submitting your vote to one of six business locations (J. Alden Clothiers, CT River Museum, Savour Café, Blue Hound Cookery, Ivoryton Library and Elite Nutrition). Winners will be announced Halloween night, October 31st on social media – Instagram @experienceessex and Facebook at Essex Board of Trade.

In the meantime, now that 4th Quarter 2022 has arrived, EBOT is taking this opportunity to reflect and share some of the ways our organization has supported Essex businesses and the community this year.

- In January, EBOT donated two trees to the Essex Tree Committee, as part of our streetscape beautification program including seasonal decorations. EBOT will continue to donate one tree annually to the Essex Tree Committee.
- In May, EBOT implemented its first-ever sponsorship of The-E-List shopping event, "Ladies Night," to jumpstart post-Covid, spring retail and restaurant sales.

- In June, EBOT launched an "Alfresco Essex" summer advertising campaign to emphasize outdoor experiences including alfresco dining and shopping, boating, sightseeing, walking, biking, hiking, etc.
- On October 8th, EBOT heightened the entertainment value of its annual Scarecrow FestiFall with a themed Hocus Pocus event and LIVE characters "The Sanderson Sisters" who

flew in for photo opportunities with event attendees.

- On November 22, EBOT will hang lighted, holiday garlands on main street lampposts, creating that festive holiday feel that Hallmark movies are made of.
- On Sunday, November 27th at 4:00 pm, EBOT looks forward to teaming up with the CT River Museum and Essex Historical Society for our community's beloved Trees in the Rigging event. Join us to share the holiday spirit in a lantern-lit parade from Town Hall, down Main Street Essex, to Steamboat Dock.

As we close out the year in Essex Events, EBOT thanks our volunteers, business members and the entire Essex community for supporting our organization. We wish all of you a peaceful and happy holiday season ahead.



The Black Seal's "Flying Monkey" Scarecrow, 2021.

#### **Tri-Town Cub Scouts Pack 13**



Tri-Town Cub Scouts Pack 13 will resume for the 2022-2023 scouting year. Boys and girls in grades K-5 are en-

couraged 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.

This fall, 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.

If your family is interested in joining Pack 13, our join night was held on Thursday, September 15th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Deep River Congregational Church horseshoe field at 1 Church Street, Deep River. If you missed the event or could not attend, reach out to us at: tritown pack13@gmail.com anytime for more information or to join our Pack.







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#### Three Valley Regional HS Students Receive Yale Book Award

Three students from Valley Regional High School have been recognized this year with the Yale Book Award. Emily Mezick of Chester, Julia Donahue of Deep River, and Anna Benson of Essex are this year's award recipients.

The Yale Book Award is conferred upon students in their junior year of high school for showing outstanding personal character and intellectual promise. This year's winners from VRHS join students from around the world who have been presented with the award.

For the second year in a row, three VRHS students are being recognized – one from each of Chester, Deep River, and Essex – in a rare display of a school having multiple students recognized with the award in a single academic year.

This year's Yale Book Award recipients from VRHS were presented with their awards at the school's awards assembly. The books awarded align with these students' interests and longer-term aspirations. Donahue and Mezick received copies of "A Better Planet: Forty Big Ideas for a Sustainable Future" by Yale Professor Daniel Esty, and Benson received a copy of "Nudge" by behavioral economist and Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler. Each book includes a bookplate inscribed with the student's name and recognizing

the student's achievement as a Yale Book Award recipient.

Bradford Galiette, a resident of Essex, member of the Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors, and Secretary of the Yale College Class of 2008 added, "It is impressive that three VRHS students have once again earned the Yale Book Award, and it is a tribute both to the caliber of these students and to the quality education of Valley Regional High School that each of these three terrific students have earned this recognition. We are proud of our VRHS students, impressed by the potential they each have, and excited to cheer them on in the adventures that await each of them."

Details about and comments from each of this year's recognized students follow.

#### Emily Mezick (Chester)



"Receiving the Yale Book Award was an immense honor to me, and genuinely opened my eyes to what I am capable of accomplishing in the future as I explore college plans. The book that I accepted as a part of the award is 'A Better Planet' edited by Yale graduate, Daniel C. Esty. This book focuses on concepts such as public health and ecology



with an emphasis on sustainability, a subject I have always been captivated by. In the future I hope to pursue an education in the medical field while also exploring other passions such as public health. I have always loved the idea of joining the Peace Corps, or working with Doctors Without Borders to explore the world from a different perspective, connecting not only with diverse communities of people, but contrasting environments as well. I am so grateful to have received this award, and I can't wait to see where it takes me."

#### Julia Donahue (Deep River)



"I am extremely grateful to have been awarded the Yale Book Award. It is truly an honor to be recognized for the character and academic potential the award represents, two areas of my life I am constantly striving to improve in. I am a junior at Valley Regional High School studying in the International Baccalaureate program. I was recently made

the captain of the Valley Robotics Team and a member of the National Honor Society and I have also been a competitor in the IPPF Essay Contest. Last year the essay our team wrote was recognized as one of the top 64 essays submitted internationally. Apart from academics I regularly compete on the Quiz Bowl Team and

am a member of the Summer Reading Committee. I am also a past member of the Valley Soccer Team and the Valley Crew Team. I am interested in majoring in some type of biology and / or engineering and have an interest in also studying photojournalism. I am currently looking at colleges where I can pursue those interests. In the future I want to pursue a career where I can travel and have the opportunity to conduct a lot of field research."

#### Anna Benson (Essex)



"I am honored to have received the book 'Nudge' for my Yale Book Award. I am currently a junior enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program and have been working towards this diploma. For the past four years I have been elected president of my class and will be president of our school's Interact Club next year. I value volunteer

work and enjoy working with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Rotary. Outside of academics, I play varsity softball and soccer for Valley. In the future, I will attend university where I plan to major in biomedical engineering. I have always held an interest in science and hope to pursue a career in this field."



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# Essex Elementary School Foundation Funds New STEM Lab at Essex Elementary School

The Essex Elementary School Foundation (EESF) is pleased to announce a gift to the Essex Elementary School. At the start of this school year, the school will open its new, state-of-the-art STEM classroom lab for grades K-6.



Incoming Essex Elementary School students explore polymers with Science Center educator Cassandra Wilk.

Photo by Andrew Fotta.

Planning began in October 2021, to ensure that the STEM lab would be designed with all the components and equipment needed for today's classroom along with the flexibility to be modified for the classroom of the future. The Connecticut Science Center was retained and charged with designing a classroom that enables a collaborative learning environment and promotes creativity, innovation, and potential to all students, expanding beyond core science subjects, including engineering, robotics and mathematics. Essex firm, dreamscapes design group, was hired to create an engaging STEM mural filled with local Essex area connections of STEM related visuals to inspire the students.

"The Foundation took on this project to help stimulate student interest in STEM and introduce them to careers which support the national effort to develop a new workforce of the future," says Bill Jacaruso, President of Essex Elementary School Foundation. "We want our community of Essex Elementary School students to be inspired by potential future STEM careers in Computer Science, Advanced Manufacturing, Bioengineering, and beyond."

The lab will provide teachers with a space to best integrate STEM practices within the existing science curriculum, including a focus on Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and allows students to come together and problem solve. In addition to the purchase of the latest technology, features include easily moved and adjustable height furniture and large work areas. Additionally, a STEM mural filled with local Essex area connections of STEM related visuals has been created to inspire the students.

Throughout the school year, The Connecticut Science Center will offer students and teachers on-going support, including providing student programming in the space, and planning support to develop and facilitate activities in the STEM Lab.

#### Sister Cities Essex Haiti

# People of Deschapelles Request a Library

Hope Proctor is far from "new" to the organization. When Hope learned that the first request from the people of Deschapelles was for a library, she volunteered to help with the design and construction. She traveled to Deschapelles with members of SCEH to more fully understand the community and what the people envisioned as a library. This enabled her to design a library to fit the needs and the site; a large 2000 square foot well screened building, all open to its large property.

The front room provides a mosquito-free area for youth to study rather than the traditional occasional street light and doubles as a space for educational and cultural programs for the community. The Librarians' "office" in the center, open and visible to all surrounding spaces, provides interaction between librarians and the users. Childrens and adult areas areas are filled with books in French and Kreyol. A computer space provides training and access to educational information. There are outdoor spaces for activities as well.

Hope's thoughtful design created a welcoming space of an exceptional library. In addition to the usual day cam, this summer new programs included "Big Decisions" programs for adolescents to discuss the challenges of becoming adults, including ways to avoid unanticipated pregnancies led by a local psychologist and nurse, funded by the Carlson Family Foundation. Another program welcomes adults and youth graduates of a local literacy program that teaches non-readers to read to encourage them continue their new-found skills.



The funds for the construction of this library came from generous supporters in the Essex area as well as the Digicel Foundation in Haiti. However, the best gift of all was that of Hope Proctor's architectural expertise and her continued participation in the organization.



This charming home features hardwood floors throughout, a primary bedroom on the main floor with high ceilings, double closets, and an en suite bathroom, and a beautiful kitchen with a charming breakfast nook. The stunning sunroom with floor-toceiling windows on all three walls that offer views of the wraparound back porch and backyard. The nearly 3,000 square foot lower level, includes an open recreation room with potential for a walk-out.

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# The Essex Foundation Kicks Off Matching Gift Challenge for Veterans Hall Expansion Project

#### COMMUNITY ASKED TO HELP SUPPORT RENOVATION EFFORTS BY LOCAL VETS

The Essex Foundation Board of Directors has kicked off a matching gift fundraising campaign to support Essex Veterans Memorial Hall members in their efforts to expand and improve the building to welcome more community members and better serve their needs.

Plans are in place to enlarge and renovate the kitchen, add a new porch and outdoor dining area, install a new roof and ADA accessible ramp, and update the meeting room interior. Hall members will provide most of the labor but need the community's help to raise \$100,000 to cover all other expenses. Every dollar up to \$50,000 donated by individuals and organizations through The Essex Foundation will be matched 100% by the Foundation. A gift of \$50 to the Essex Foundation becomes \$100 donated to Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. A gift of \$250 will be matched with an additional \$250. No contribution is too small or too large and all will have double the impact. According to the Foundation's President Bruce Glowac, "This is the type of community project that we are honored to support and encourage others

## The Essex Foundation



Bruce Glowac of The Essex Foundation (center) is joined by Essex Veterans Memorial Hall members Paul Knudsen (left) and Jerry LaMark at the recently installed sign announcing the Foundation's matching gift challenge to raise funds for expanding the building to better to serve local veterans and the greater community.

# New in Town!

Many consider Main Street in Essex one of the most beautiful streets in Connecticut. And it just got better! That's thanks to the vision and entrepreneurial spirit of Robin Zubretsky embodied in the RiverLane.

The RiverLane is more than just a boutique. It is a destination. As Robin puts it: "An easy-to-shop oasis for genuine retail therapy."

The RiverLane offers over 50 brands with an emphasis on quality and versatility. The styles work for many different age groups. It's a place where a mother, great aunt and daughter can shop and find the perfect outfits. "It combines the couturial spunk of New York, the serenity of the Connecticut River, and the casual sophistication of Essex, "explains Robin. "The overall experience will include a fun atmosphere to shop, relax and



wine or coffee, in store tailoring, and know-ledgeable sales associates. The curated collections will converge with the seasons and provide a balanced mix of modern and updated classic styles to capture

enjoy a glass of

the evolving trends to create fresh looks."

Born and raised in the quiet corner of Connecticut, Robin attended college at CCSU in New Britain, and landed her first job post-college in Hartford. She then moved to New York and worked in the financial world. Ultimately, she decided she wanted to open a retail clothing store.

Timing was perfect. She found the space at the former bank building, located at 7 Main Street. Built in 1880, Robin retained the outdoor character of the building, just modifying the façade to be consistent with a retail store. The interior provided challenges like removing the vault. The transformed space, with its open floor plan is designed to enhance the shopper's experience. A second floor provides the potential for private parties or shopping events. Robin is thankful for builder Scott Desmond, Katie Lydon Interior Design, the RiverLane team, architects from Russell and Dawson for their hard work.

Since opening in September, Robin is enjoying business ownership, whether it be meeting customers, picking out new merchandise, visiting New York City to view the coming seasons pieces, creating events that will be a draw for customers, or hiring great people that share her vision. "The RiverLane experience will be a unique one that keeps customers returning," underscores Robin. "I am so excited that we are open. The space, the merchandise and the people will make for a great outing or a quick dropin. We look forward to meeting all our new customers."



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to do so as well. The Hall is not only a great resource for our retired and active military members but also for our local scout and community service groups."

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 in Centerbrook, it now serves as a resource for 180 members, their families, and the greater community. Other nonprofit groups use the Hall free of charge for meetings and activities. Non-members can rent the space for special events and celebrations. With recent renovations, parking lot improvements, and the installation of a stand-by generator, also supported by grants from The Essex Foundation, the Hall can also be used as a community comfort station during storm-related power outages. Paul Knudsen, the Hall's House Committee Chairman, is overseeing the planning and construction work. "We are truly grateful for the tremendous support and shared enthusiasm for making the Hall a more vibrant community center. Most

people are not aware that you do not have to be a member to have lunch here or rent the space – hopefully this project will help get the word out."

Founded in 1970, 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.

All donations for the Essex Veterans Hall expansion project will be matched through November 30 and are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

#### Information / Donate

For more information and to donate online, go to: 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.



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#### Sustainable Essex has had busy year.

Essex Elementary has partnered with Blue Earth, a composting hauler, to start picking up food scraps generated in the kitchen. In October, students will be helped by volunteers and staff to place their own food scraps, recycling, and garbage into separate bins in the cafeteria following an educational assembly. Funds collected from the tax on small liquor bottles are being used for the project.

#### Thanks to all who participated in the Annual Source to Sea Cleanup!

Volunteers dispersed throughout town to pick up litter for a few hours. Awesome job keeping large trash and microplastics out of the Falls River, Connecticut River, and Long Island Sound.

#### Electric vehicle charging stations to be installed.



Plans are moving ahead to install two new dual electric vehicle charging stations - one behind Town Hall and the other in Ivoryton. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be matched by grants from

Eversource to fund the project.

#### **UPCOMING EVENT: EV Car Show**

EV Car Show, October 29th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the Essex Town Hall. No dealers, no test drives, just information from current drivers of EV and hybrid vehicles.

#### 2ND ANNUAL TOY SWAP

Keep an eye out for gently used toys that you (and your kids!) want to swap out for new ones. We are hosting the 2nd Annual Toy Swap at the Essex Elementary school November 12, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Bring and take as much as you want, for free. Do all your holiday searching here first before spending a dime on gifts.

#### **RECYCLING**

Keep up the good work of separating thin-film plastic and recycling it at the Essex or Ivoryton Libraries. You can also bring it to Big Y or Stop & Shop.

#### Sign up to receive emails from Sustainable Essex.

These newsletters have sustainability practices that you can implement and updates on programs around town. Fill out the form on our website at: sustainableessex.com.

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#### **Tree Committee Finishes Challenging 2022 Season**

The Essex Tree Committee held its last meeting of the season on September 14th to review the 2022 season and begin plans for 2023.

The Essex Tree Committee [ETC] was established in 1990 to inventory, preserve and replace our priceless resource of street trees. Funding for the plantings comes from the Town, grants and private donations.







Samples of trees we planted. From left to right: red sunset maple, swamp white oak and paper bark maple.

The Tree Committee is composed of the Chairman, Augie Pampel (Essex Tree Warden) as an ex-officio member, and up to 6 members appointed by the Board of Selectman to serve without pay for terms of 3 years. The Tree Committee has 4 meetings per year; March, April, May, and September.

To accomplish the ETC's mission, there is currently a \$7000 budget from the Town General Fund as well as a sinking fund comprised of donations. The sinking fund can be used

to replace individual trees, but also for special projects that may be proposed.

Once a tree is planted, the vendor is responsible for watering it for the first year. Then the Town will take over. Despite the drought this summer, only one tree has succumbed; that tree had been planted 2 years ago. This marks the only tree the committee has lost in over 30 years of planting.



In the Spring of 2022, the Tree Committee procured and planted 8 trees; 4 Maple "Red Sunset," 1 Swamp White Oak, 1 Paper Bark Maple, 1 Eastern Redbud, and 1 Styrax Japanese Snowball.

Over the fall and winter, the Tree Committee will consider possible planting sites and varieties. The goal is not only to replace trees in town that are taken down, but also to provide diverse trees with beautiful structure. It should be noted that the ETC can only plant on town property, not private or state property. However, the committee and Tree Warden do consult with homeowners and Eversource to try to achieve the best possible outcome when trees are slated for removal.

It is now more critical than ever that we protect, preserve, and replace the trees that become diseased or stressed on our own properties as well as our beautiful town trees.

Residents are welcome and encouraged to donate to the Tree Committee and can request a memorial tree be planted. Memorial plaques are in Town Hall and list the trees that have been given since 1992.

More information may be found on the Tree Committee's page on the Town website at: https://www.essexct.gov/tree-committee.

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# Connecticut River Museum News

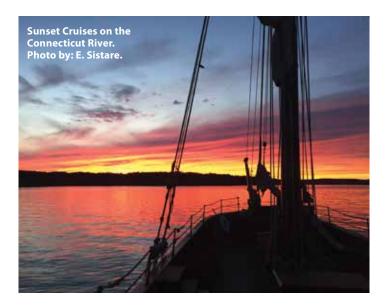
Fall is here, and as the seasons change so do the programs, activities, and exhibits at the Connecticut River Museum. This past summer was filled with wonderful experiences, sailing on the Onrust, cruising aboard our newly acquired RiverQuest, our sixth annual Paddle Regatta, music at Thursdays on the Dock, Summer Fun Days for kids, and so much more! Thank you to everyone who participated and enjoyed the Connecticut River with us. Here are a few highlights...

Onrust public cruises, charters, and education programs started in May. Thousands of visitors enjoyed this replica 1614 vessel on a peaceful sail on the River. Many helped to haul a line and explore below deck!

**RiverQuest** ventured out from her new home and engaged our visitors with nature and ecological information about the lower Connecticut River.

Thursdays on the Dock featured an all-star roster of musical talent! A special thanks goes out to Essex Wellness Center for their generous sponsorship and free massages!!!

Our feature exhibit, Speed: Hydroplane Racing on the Connecticut



**River, 1900-1940**, explored the era of speed racing on the Connecticut River during the forty years before America's entry into World War II. Speed included photographs, trophies, and memorabilia to showcase the technological innovation, design, and manufacture of that era.

#### This fall we look forward to:

- The 29th Annual Holiday Train Show, opening November 22.
- **Trees in the Rigging** on November 27. There is no better way to kick off the holiday season.



#### **Essex Historical Society - Have You Seen Us?**

Essex Historical Society (EHS) is pretty hard to miss these days. This growing organization seems to be everywhere:

- Providing Social Studies programs for Essex Elementary School students.
- Supporting the restoration of dozens of gravestones at River View Cemetery through research and our guided tours.
- Offering free guided tours at Pratt House, 19 West Avenue.
- Leading Walking Tours of all three villages.
- Environmental sustainability at Pratt House through Pollinator and Kitchen Gardens.
- Offering our "Find It Friday" mystery photo game on social media.
- Sharing the rich culture of the area's Indigenous peoples in stories and song.
- Answering over 200 annual research requests at the Hills Academy History Center, 22 Prospect Street.
- Investigating Ivoryton through our Follow the Falls project with Essex Land Trust.

#### Where can you find us next:

• Working with partners at St. John's Episcopal Church and



Essex Village Walk
EHS provides over 10 walking tours over the summer and fall
on different routes through the all three villages.

the Witness Stones Project to lay the first stone in honor of Violet, a formerly enslaved woman on October 29.

- Developing the street parade and community carol sing portion of the holiday favorite, Trees in the Rigging. Please make a Boat Float!
- Giving back to the community at our Annual Holiday

continued on page 20



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#### Historical Society... continued from page 19

Party and "Stuff A Wagon" Food Drive in December.

#### How you can help:

- Volunteer for any one of these projects, our planning teams or Board service.
- Support these good works through EHS membership.
- Spread the word about our good work in the historic community!

All of our events are open to the public, family-friendly and offered for free or at low admission. There are plenty more places to catch up with us and we hope you do! Please visit us at: www.essexhistory.org, call 860-767-0681 or follow us on Facebook and Instagram to learn more.

# **Essex Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission**



If you are lucky enough to live by an inland wetland, watercourse or vernal pool – Who are you going to call before making changes to your property?

Whether you are new to Town or a seasoned resident, it is always good to be aware of State and local requirements that protect our inland wetlands and waterways. Here's a link to a few frequently asked questions and recommendations: https://www.essexct.gov/inland-wetlands-commission from your Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (EIWWC). For more information or additional questions, you can call / email Carey Duques, Land Use Official at: 860-767-4340, extension 115 cduques@essexct.gov.



#### **Essex Community Fund**

Essex Community Fund (ECF) has a long history of positive commitment to our Community as evidenced by almost seven decades of consistent community-based support and

service. While we support a broad range of locally based non-profits, our primary focus has always been on the health of our residents, youth and adult enrichment programs, in addition to addressing emerging needs.

#### Ivoryton Illuminations-Saturday, December 3:

Come enjoy the Holiday Lights and activities in downtown Ivoryton while you await the arrival of Jolly Old St. Nick. Visit us and learn more about our organization.

#### **Fuel Assistance Challenge**

This is an ongoing program available to residents who meet the funding criteria. Please consider joining this year's Challenge. Donations can be mailed to the Essex Community Fund (PO Box 614, Essex 06426) with a note that it is for FAP. Thank you for helping us keep our neighbors warm and to Mary Ellen Barnes, Social Services Director at Essex Town Hall, for administering this important program.

#### **Grant Applications**

Applications for local non-profits serving Essex, Centerbrook and Ivory ton residents can be submitted beginning October 15, 2022. Final date for submission is December 15, 2022. Visit our website for more information at: essexcommunityfund.org.

#### **Becoming A Volunteer with ECF**

A great way to learn more about your community's needs and how you can help improve it for you, your family, your neighbors, and is a great way to give back to your community. ECF has many opportunities to volunteer. Please contact us to learn more; we welcome your time and talent at: info@essex communityfund.org.



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Jason & Elisa M. Hand

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6 Cedar Grove Terrace

65 Main Street, Unit 30

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Anne M. McCarthy-Coleman Hoyt Ammidon, Jr.

Chempolil T. Mathew

Francis Mansour

#### September

Jean L. Andress Rogers B. Johnson Eleanor L. Wetmore

Respectfully submitted, Yvonne Roziak,

Assistant Town Clerk





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Karen Abercrombie, Assistant	x123	kabercrombie@essexct.gov	
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John Planas, Fire Marshal	x146	jplanas@essexct.gov	
Darcy Roper	x144	droper@essexct.gov	
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#### Online Permitting System Expands to Health Department

The Essex Health Department will soon utilize the same online permitting system as the Essex Building Department. The software, called PermitLink, allows property owners and their contractors to apply for permits, pay online, upload project plans & drawings, submit required information, and track the status of applications and approvals.

The addition of the Health Department module to PermitLink's existing online functionality offers residents a single platform to submit new applications for both Health Department and Building Department permits.

The 'B100a Plan Review Application' is the most common application submitted in the Health Department module and is required for the Health Department to assess the parcel's capacity for an on-site septic system that meets current Public Health Code.

CT Public Health Code Section 19-13-B100a requires local Health Department permitting for land use activities pertaining to: new construction, building conversion or change in use, building additions and renovations, accessory structures, lot line changes, and sewage disposal preservation areas.

Additional online Health Department permitting includes soil testing, construction of new septic systems and modification / repair of existing septic systems.

#### **Submitting an Application**

To submit an online permit application, go to the Town of Essex website at: www.essexct.gov, select the green box titled 'Online Services' and scroll down and select the blue box titled 'Online Permitting'. Follow the instructions for submitting a Health Department application.

For efficient and timely review of an application the applicant must submit all required information and a complete project description. The more complete the application is, the quicker it can be reviewed.

Essex Health Department

#### **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 for Storm Preparedness and Restoration Processes.

Stay safe, Lisa Fasulo, Emergency Management Director



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#### **Essex Land Trust**

# The 1982 Ivoryton Flood, Part 2: The Morning After; Newspapers Tell Survivors' Tales

By Steve Knauth

In the flood's immediate aftermath, newspaper reporters from the Old Saybrook Pictorial, the Hartford Courant, the New York Times, and others came to the scene to record the tales the shocked and dazed survivors told, even while the harrowing events of that fateful night were still fresh in their minds.

"The Falls River [had become] an unimaginable monster; up-rooted trees, thrown about like so many match sticks, pieces of lumber from the Pratt-Read plant, resem-

bling Pick-up-Sticks, huge gouges in the pavement ... in some cases, no pavement at all ... only mud, rocks, and gaping holes. But perhaps the most touching sight is the faces of the people," wrote Marge Ward in the Middletown Press.

"The last time I saw anything like this was in Germany, in 1945," one resident told her.



Chris Dewey was playing Monopoly with friends when the power went out and his Main Street house was shaken by a sudden pounding, recorded Bob Semak of the Courant. "It felt like someone banging on the side of the house with a sledge-hammer," Dewey recalled. Looking outside, he saw a wall of water rushing down the street. "It looked like a tidal wave. It was a white wave covering everything. It just swelled up like a lake."





Jayne Perrin's father watched from the porch of his Ivory Street home as the water rose up his front steps. "He tried to close the door, and it wouldn't close," Perrin said. "The water started coming in all over the place." Her father's car ended up in a tree the next morning while her mother's lay upside down in the street.

Gary Wind had evacuated his parents from their Main Street home around 9:00 pm on Saturday. He returned on Sunday to find the 30-year-old house pushed off its foundations and the out-buildings gone. "My father's [house] just destroyed. My parents both cried when I told them what happened. There was a shed out back that I can't find any pieces of. The only thing left of the garage is the roof. I just don't know what we're going to do."

Carleton and Leslie Barlow, looking out from their recently renovated carriage-house home on Saturday evening, found themselves almost surrounded by the rushing waters, already battering the structure's foundation as it roared down Main Street and the Falls River bed by Ivory Street. "We got out just minutes before. We're lucky to be alive," said Carleton.

Sharon and Henry Gordon spent a terrifying night in their car, cut off from their home. "We wanted to go to a motel but couldn't get through. So, we stayed in the car, parked high up in someone's driveway," said Sharon, Henry adding, "We'll figure out what to do when the shock wears off."

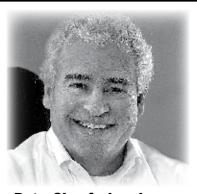
Cliff Ward, an Essex volunteer firefighter came upon a 17-year-old boy caught in a tree, surrounded by rushing water clogged with debris. Using a 10-foot boat to effect a rescue, Ward approached the hysterical youth, only to have the small craft capsize. Fortunately, Ward was able to save both himself and the boy

The scene at Pratt, Read and Co. was one of complete

continued on page 28







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#### Ivoryton Flood... continued from page 27

devastation; the heart of Ivoryton had been torn out, leaving what one person described as a "sea of rubble strewn with parts of fences, pieces of metal and other litter." A few people roamed about in the debris, looking for golf equipment.

John Doane, a 35-year employee, came with fellow workers to see if they could help dig out the ground floor. "The first minute I came to look at the place, it caused me to cry. It's like a family has gone."

Essex Constable Ronald Krajewski, an Ivoryton resident, standing amidst the destruction on Sunday afternoon summed up the prevailing feeling. "There's no resemblance to the place I knew before. It's just a mud hole now," he said,

#### **Dealing with Disaster**

Beginning early on Saturday evening, the Valley Shore Emergency Communications Center, set up at the State Police barracks in Westbrook, started taking calls at a rapid clip, wrote Lisa Westerberg in the Pictorial. Dispatcher Carol Nash and five others, the latter called in to handle the emergency, received more than 2,000 calls in all that night.

It was critical work. "We had to keep the police constantly up-dated on which roads and bridges were out," Nash said. Calls involved medical emergencies, automobile accidents and people asking which roads were still open.

In one instance, there was a call from an Essex couple who were trapped in their house with water up to the second story. Rescue units simply couldn't reach them, and it wasn't until morning that they were finally rescued, said Nash. "Fortunately, they were okay."

On a lighter note, Nash recalled one woman who called because she was scheduled to play the organ at church on Sunday morning. "She wanted a boat to come and pick her up."

The Essex Town Hall, with Town Clerk Betty Gaudenzi and Secretary Ginger Conwell on hand, was just as busy. "People are calling about aid, about what roads are open, about water, about how to get to Ivoryton," Conwell told Claudia Van Ness in the Courant. "Some are calls from out-oftown, trying to find out how friends and relatives are."

On Monday, despite only limited access to downtown Ivoryton, Essex First Selectman Richard Riggio went on

continued on page 30



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#### Ivoryton Flood... continued from page 28

the road, making a first-hand inspection and setting up a command station at the Ivoryton baseball field, to assess the situation. "It's impossible to give a dollar figure on the damages, I really can't talk numbers that large," Riggio told the Pictorial. "It's going to be millions of dollars."

And it was a grim picture. Water mains had been destroyed; there was no running water. Power and phone lines were down, cutting electricity and communications. Roads and bridges were washed out, hindering access for emergency crews and residents alike. And, with some residents having fled their homes,

more than 100 evacuees needed a temporary place to stay.

In the end, a host of state and local organizations, including the National Guard, Essex's police and volunteer fire departments combined their resources in a successful recovery effort.



#### **Land Trust Events**

#### October 29th, 9:00 am: Fall Foliage Hike at the Falls River Preserve.

Enjoy Fall's colors and crisp air in this 40-acre Essex Land Trust Preserve. Trails wind through woodlands at edge of Mill Pond on Falls River (approx. 1 mile). Park at the end of Falls River Drive, off Main Street, Ivoryton.

#### Preserve Clean-ups: November marks

the time of year when the stewardship team prepares our properties for winter and ensures we are ready for the following spring. We have scheduled three work events which would benefit greatly from volunteers willing to get some outdoor exercise while helping care for some of our preserves. Please mark your calendars and come join us. Bring rakes, blowers, and tarps. Families welcome. Dress warmly, wear long sleeve shirts, and bring work gloves. Refreshments will be provided.

**November 5th, 9:00 am:** Falls River Park, Falls River Drive, Ivoryton. Rain date: November 6th.

**November 12th, 9:00 am:** Osage Trails, Foxboro Point Road, Essex. Rain date: November 13th.

**November 19th, 9:00 am:** Cross Lots, 40 West Avenue, Essex. Rain date: November 20th.

**December 10th, 10:00 am:** Long Hike in The Preserve. More details to be announced on website and local press.





#### The Probate Court & You

#### Do I Need a Lawyer for Probate?

A common question asked at the Probate Court is, "Do I need a lawyer for probate?" The short answer is no. That being said, however, below are some factors that may cause you to consider hiring a lawyer to navigate the probate process:

- 1. There is any sort of litigation involved, such as a Will contest.
- 2. The decedent owned many complex and highly valued assets.
- **3.** The decedent has a Connecticut taxable estate (\$7.1 million in 2021 and \$9.1 million in 2022).
- **4.** You feel overwhelmed by the prospect of navigating the probate process on your own.
- **5.** You are in the midst of your own life challenges and do not have the time to devote to probating an estate.
- 6. You live out of state, you are unable to easily travel to Connecticut, and the decedent owns real property in Connecticut which needs to be cleaned out and sold.
- 7. You do not like filling out paperwork, reading/following instructions, or doing math. For example, if you hire an accountant to file your income taxes for any of those reasons, this may be a good indicator that you would prefer to work with an attorney for probate.
- 8. The beneficiaries of the estate are fighting.
- 9. You need more guidance than the probate clerks can give

(they cannot give legal advice.)

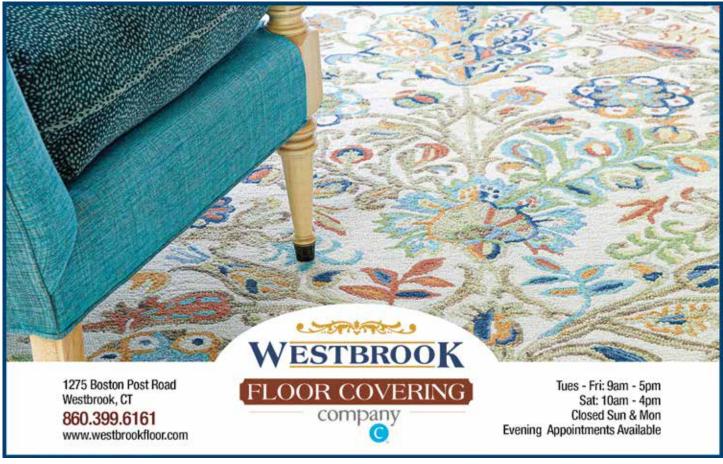
If you do hire a lawyer to assist you with the probate process, select an attorney with a lot of experience in this area of the law, just as you would select a cardiologist to assist you with medical issues concerning your heart. Also, define the assistance you would like to have (help with a particular form or assis-



Judge Jeannine Lewis, Saybrook District Probate Court. Photo courtesy Laura Matesky Photography.

tance with the entire process), and receive a written engagement letter from the attorney you select which will define the fees to be charged.

Finally, if you decide to proceed without a lawyer and are feeling overwhelmed, don't be afraid to ask the court for help. We are sensitive to your loss, and we are devoted to helping you navigate the probate process.





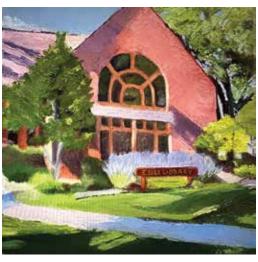
Your Community Center for Lifelong Learning and Cultural Enrichment

The Essex Library always has something new to offer whether it's new additions to materials and collections, new resources to explore, new programs, or services. One thing that isn't new and doesn't change is an unwavering desire to provide reliable excellence for our community.

September is traditionally "Library Card Sign-up Month" but there's never a bad time to get your card. An Essex Library card offers access to an amazing variety of FREE materials, information, resources, and flat out fun. The card itself is also FREE and available to any resident of the town who is at least 5 years old. You can apply for a card in person or online at: www.youressexlibrary.org.

Though you never have to visit the library to enjoy all the

FREE online collections like eBooks, downloadable audio-books, magazines, comic books, films & tv shows, not to mention the assistance for job hunters, entrepreneurs, and business owners provided in our interactive databases, our staff would urge you to make a visit anyway. They can provide answers to questions, book recommendations for your next favorite read, help with your computer, mobile phone or tablet frustrations, and programs for all ages.



Essex Library by Donna Richard.

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#### What about book groups, you ask?

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Yes, we have that! It's full of tools, games and other things you might want to use but don't want to own.

#### Need a document notarized?

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#### Internet unavailable at home, printer on the fritz?

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#### Need a place to meet, work, or study?

Yes, yes, yes, all here, Monday through Saturday. Don't see what you're looking for when you visit? Please let us know!

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860-767-1560

https://www.youressexlibrary.org



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#### 106 Main Street | PO Box 515 | Ivoryton, CT 06442 860-767-1252 | staff@ivorytonlibrary.org

Once again, we are collecting non-perishable food items during the month of October for the **Region 4 Backpack Program**. A box for donations can be found in our lobby.

More information, including particulars on the food most needed, can be found on our website

#### This Fall in the Children's Room

**November 8th:** No School\* Come Visit the Library for a Drop in craft - Friendship Bracelets 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Wednesday, November 9th:** 10:30 am: Music with Ms. Martha in the Ivoryton Gazebo

**Thursday, November 17th, 3:30 pm:** Friendsgiving! Join us for a special afternoon of outdoor games and delicious snacks!

#### **Toy Collection**

Once again, the Ivoryton Library will be collecting toys for

the children during this holiday season. We keep it local by partnering with Child and Family Agency who will receive all the donations and will distribute them to area families. The donation box will be up November 1 and we will be collecting well into December. Bring new, unwrapped toys any time during library hours.

#### **Adults**

#### **Own Voices Book Club**

Meets Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 pm to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book club meets bi-monthly September through May on the third Tuesday.

Adult Craft Night, Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30: We'll be making Sliding Knot Bracelets. Please call the library to register.

#### **Great news! Ivoryton Illuminations is Back!**

Come to the village on Saturday, December 3 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm for all the fun you remember from years past.

#### **Letters to Santa**

The Library will be hosting letter writing to Santa with all the tools you need and a North Pole Postal Service

#### **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
tritownpack1	l 3@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 Trustinfo@essexlandtrust.org
Essex Little Leaguewww.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
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

Mailbox. Letters can also be dropped off at the Library any time during December. Be sure to include a return address for a reply from Santa!

Adult Craft Night, Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm: We'll be making ornaments out of old book pages. Please call the library to register.

For more information, contact us at:

#### **Ivoryton Library**

106 Main Street | PO Box 515 | Ivoryton, CT 06442 860-767-1252 | staff@ivorytonlibrary.org

#### The Ivoryton Library Holiday Hours

#### The Library will be closed on:

Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

We will also be closed Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26 as well as Monday, January 2, 2023.

> We wish all our patrons fun, relaxing holidays with plenty of time to read!





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#### Friends of the Essex Library

#### **INDOOR MINI GOLF RETURNS THIS JANUARY!**



"Putt Fore The Essex Library" will once again transform the library into an 18 hole mini-golf course. The course will wind its way throughout the library, with each hole uniquely decorated by community and business sponsors.

The fun begins on Saturday evening, January 14th, from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm with a special event just for adults, featuring 18 holes of mini-golf, beer/wine and light hors d' oeuvres.

The fun continues for the entire family on Sunday, January 15th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm with mini-golf, beverages and snacks.

This event was a big success for the library when it was last held in 2019. It's fun for people of all ages, while supporting the vital and varied services the library brings to our community.

Ticket prices: Saturday evening \$35 / person; Sunday \$5 / person, children under 5 are free. Tickets will go on sale at the library in December, cash or check only.



#### **BOOK SALE NEWS**

Thank you for once again making our Fall Book Sale successful. There would be no sales without your generous donations. Please drop off your gently used books, puzzles and games during library hours. Remember all 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 supporting the library and remember to check the website often to see what's new at the library and with the Friends at: www.youressexlibrary.org.

# Stay Healthy • Get Vaccinated Get Tested

**VISIT:** portal.ct.gov/coronavirus

for Connecticut COVID-19 vaccination & testing information

VISIT: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

for updated information from the CDC

#### **Ivoryton Playhouse**



Fall in Connecticut means glorious colors, the smell of wood fires and hot apple cider and a trip back in time to the decadence and excess of the Roaring Twenties at the Ivoryton

Playhouse with our production of THE GREAT GATSBY, which ran until October 23rd.



The final performance was also our annual fundraiser – THE GATSBY GALA – and included tickets to the show and a marvelous party under our tent complete with music and dancing and sumptuous Gatsby style food.

The Women Playwrights Festival was sidelined last year because of Covid but we are back with four wonderful new works that were presented on October 29th at the Playhouse. Funded in part by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Connecticut Chapter of the League of Professional Theatre Women, the one-day festival includes staged readings of four new plays written by women and a discussion with the League on Rebuilding Theatre with a Greater Relevance.



As the days become shorter and the holiday lights start to twinkle, Ivoryton will be celebrating in its usual fashion with the Ivoryton Illuminations and THE WINTER WONDERETTES. Featuring great '60s versions of holiday classics such as "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town," "Jingle

Bell Rock," "Run, Rudolph, Run," and "Winter Wonderland," the result is, of course, marvelous! This energetic and hilarious holiday production is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Performance times are Wednesday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 pm, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$55 for adults, \$50 for seniors, and \$25 for students of all ages. Available online at: ivorytonplayhouse.org or by calling the box office at: 860.767.7318.

Jacqueline Hubbard
Artistic/Executive Director



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#### The Devil and Elijah Webster

Elijah waited impatiently with his parents & younger sister Sadie for the annual Essex Halloween Parade to begin. He had waited all year, and stood as tall as he could as a "War of 1812 Soldier." Sadie was Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz; though instead of carrying "Toto" in her basket, she carried their cat Binx.

Elijah watched keenly as the Sailing Masters of 1812 lined up, and stepped off with a roll of the drums. "I would give anything to be a Sailing Master" he murmured to himself as they marched by, leading the throng of Halloween revelers down Main Street.

As the Sailing Masters passed, Elijah noticed a tall, slim man dressed in black with a towering stovepipe hat and knee-length jacket standing across the street staring intently at him and smiling. It appeared as if his eyes glowed red in the darkness before he disappeared behind the mass of parade-goers. Elijah searched the street to find the stranger, but he had vanished.

After wolfing down popcorn and cider while listening to the Sailing Masters serenade the costumed crowd, Elijah & his friends began the serious business of trick-or-treating. It was with a heavy bag of Halloween "booty" that Elijah started late on his way home. As he passed the cemetery Elijah stopped

in his tracks when someone beckoned from inside. Creeping through the gates, he peered cautiously all around the cemetery. His eyes were drawn to an old, mold-covered tombstone he had never noticed before; the epitaph smoldering in the moonlight.

LOOK AND SEE ALL WHO PASS BY
AS YOU ARE NOW SO ONCE WAS I
AS I AM NOW SO YOU MUST BE
SO PREPARE FOR DEATH AND FOLLOW ME

Elijah gave an involuntary shudder, then sensed someone behind him. Wheeling quickly, Elijah saw the tall, slim man dressed in black standing there, smiling. "Good evening," he intoned in a deep voice.

Elijah could have sworn his eyes flashed red for an instant. "I didn't see you there. Did you just come from the parade too?" "Yes. All Hallows Eve has been my favorite day of the year for ages," replied the stranger.

"I love Halloween too," agreed Elijah, curious at the use of the early name for Halloween.

"Yes, I know young Elijah. And your fervent wish is to wear a Sailing Masters' uniform."

# **Promises Kept**

#### For Chester, Deep River, Essex and Haddam

This year our State Representative, Christine Palm, passed legislation to:

- Create and fund the Office of Aquatic Invasive Species to address hydrilla and water chestnut in the Connecticut River and our lakes.
- Require that climate change science is taught in all public schools.
- Establish a Civics Education Task Force to evaluate how well we are preparing our students to be informed voters.
- Increase funding for non-profit service providers.

In addition, Christine:

- Was part of the team that wrote and passed the Women's Reproductive Defense Act to protect abortion patients and providers against out-ofstate criminal charges.
- Expanded Absentee Ballot access at the height of the pandemic and secured an Early Voting referendum question on the ballot this Nov. 8.
- Voted for the Emergency Risk Protection Order ("red flag") law and a bill to take guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.



"I take my promises seriously. That's why I've been endorsed by both the Independent Party and the Working Families Party. Thank you for helping protect our Democracy."

State Representative Christine Palm



Paid for by Friends of Christine Palm, Dianna Kulmacz, Treasurer. Approved by Christine Palm



"How do you know that? How do you know my name? Who are you?" demanded Elijah.

"My apologies. People call me Mr. Scratch."

"I've never seen you before," asserted Elijah firmly.

"But I have seen & heard you. I may be of assistance," Mr. Scratch offered with a knowing wink.

"With what?" Elijah inquired suspiciously.

"With your offer to "Give anything to join the Sailing Masters." Where I come from, we refer to that as 'making a deal with the Devil'. And on this night, it is a deal I insist you honor." Elijah whispered, "Where do you come from?" Mr. Scratch smiled slowly. But his eyes flashed red. "I

"What do you want? I didn't promise you anything!" Elijah insisted.

think you know."

"Actually, 'anything' is exactly what you promised" Mr. Scratch reminded Elijah. "Therefore, it is I who chooses what you owe to uphold your end of the bargain." "I didn't mean it!" exclaimed Elijah.

"Oh, come now. That's what everyone says" countered Mr. Scratch impatiently.

Thinking quickly, Elijah asserted: "But I did not make a promise to YOU. I read in old stories that I need to promise YOU a bargain in order for me to owe YOU."

"A mere technicality," Mr. Scratch refuted, sounding exasperated.

"No! It's how you make a deal where you come from! I've read the stories!" cried Elijah.

Mr. Scratch mused for a moment. "You are quite a worthy adversary, while younger than most. I must claim my prize before the witching hour. Yet I am inclined to offer a sporting chance."

continued on page 40

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#### Sailing Masters... continued from page 39

Mr. Scratch gestured to two identical entities who materialized on either side Elijah. They looked & dressed exactly alike. "May I introduce Veritas & Falsitas. Veritas always tells the truth. Falsitas always lies. Determine correctly who is Veritas and who is Falsitas and you are free of any obligation to me. Choose incorrectly and you must fulfill your bargain. And you may ask only one question to only one of the pair in order to determine who is who."

Elijah's mind struggled to think clearly.

Turning to the first identical figure, Elijah queried: "If I asked your companion if you are Falsitas, would he answer 'Yes' or 'No'?"

The first figure considered for a moment. "No."

Elijah instantly declared: "Then you are Falsitas!"

"How do you know?!" the first figure retorted.

"If you always lie and you say your companion would answer 'No' when I asked him if you are Falsitas, then your companion would actually tell the truth and say 'Yes', you are Falsitas!"

"I could be telling the truth!" countered the first figure.

"You couldn't be. If you always tell the truth and you say your companion would answer 'No', then you know your companion must be lying if he says 'No', you are not Falsitas," Elijah explained. "And since he would be lying, the true answer would be 'Yes, you are Falsitas'!"



Elijah turned to Mr. Scratch and exclaimed: "I figured it out!"

At that moment, church bells began tolling midnight. Veritas and Falsitas evaporated into the mist. And as Elijah watched, Mr. Scratch slowly melted away. His flickering red eyes being the last to vanish in the night as the final bell struck twelve.

If you would like to join the Sailing Masters, no deal with Mr. Scratch is required. We invite you to "Come Aboard!" No previous musical experience is required. You can chose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard (carry a flag.) For more information please call Vicki Miorelli at: 860-212-1606 or email at: captainvicki1812@gmail.com; or Amanda Auger at: 860-575-8931 or email: aepfairbanks@gmail.com.

#### **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.

#### **Essex Land Trust**

#### Why Start an American Chestnut Orchard?

#### By Pam Peters & Leif Owens

In the case of the Essex Land Trust, it started with a typical walk through a land trust property two years ago when some stewards started noticing what they believed to be young American Chestnuts. Over the course of a few weeks, several more young trees and saplings were discovered in our preserves. Genetic analysis by The American Chestnut Foundation validated the findings as certified Castanea dentata (American Chestnut).

#### Why is this unexpected you may ask?

Prior to the blight in the early 1900s, the American Chestnut made up 25-40% of the forests in Connecticut. When the American Chestnut was a healthy member of our forests it had a key role providing abundant and highly nutritious food for wildlife year after year.

It's also perfect for returning degraded landscapes to diverse and healthy forests due to its fast growth and tolerance of rocky, acidic, and poor soils.



Castanea dentata (American Chestnut) leaves in the autumn.

After finding the saplings on land trust property, a few stewards and Vice President Bob Nussbaum, started investigating what it might mean. Fast-forward through online searches and discussions with the Connecticut Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). We learned that through state chapters, TACF is establishing orchards of American Chestnut hybrids. These orchards are referred to as "Germplasm Conservation Orchards" (GCO). The

continued on page 42

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#### American Chestnut... continued from page 41



Botanical print of the American Chestnut.

chestnut hybrids being planted are crosses of the American Chestnut with the more blight tolerant Asian Chestnut. Each generation produced has a greater percentage of the American Chestnut line in the mix. This is referred to as a 'germplasm.' It's a cross-pollination approach.

#### What's the goal?

It's about investing in

our future by restoring a lost ecosystem, restoring biodiversity in our forests, and environmental protection. During April and May, the land trust board, stewards, and volunteers got busy. If you visit our Cross Lots property today, you'll find our American Chestnut Orchard in the field east of the crest of the hill.

#### What was involved in starting our orchard?

Working with the Connecticut Chapter, the Cross Lots field was determined to be an ideal location due to the good drainage, sunlight, and access to water. Or course, the planting area required some preparation. The preparation started with cutting the vines and brush growing in the field. Fortunately, we have some experts at running a brush hog. Next the property stewards made a closer cut to enable a team of 15 plus stewards and volunteers to clear all growth and weeds from 50 three-foot square patches. Each patch then received a square of weed cloth, protective tubing, nutrients, and fertilizer to give the chestnuts a fighting chance against the unwanted ground cover and the dreaded vole. After the 50 nuts were planted it was time to install fencing to deter any deer browse. So, after 100 – 120 hours of a great team effort including laughs, new friends, and a lot of sweat, we have the first stage of an orchard.

The orchard is currently structured with five plots, each containing 10 plantings. Each plot contains a different strain of hybrid.

#### What to expect while reaching our goal

In year one, we've been told that a survival rate between 50%



- 80% is typical. Any plantings that do not sprout this year will be replaced with one year old saplings next year, so they are on the same timeline with those that do survive. When our saplings reach year five or six, they should start blooming so they can be pollinated. This is the point where they will fruit and nut collection will start, producing the next generation of hybrids.



Nuts and casings of the American Chestnut.

At some point, we do expect the saplings will show signs of blight. When this occurs, the main trunk may be removed to allow the root stock to continue to send up new sprouts so the process of pollination can continue. Our hope is that someday native wildlife is flourishing again with the

continued on page 44



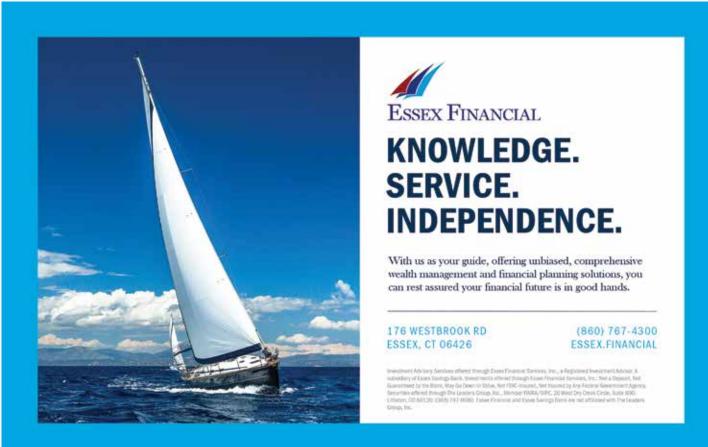
#### **Our Vision and Mission**

The Essex Land Trust is an independent nonprofit organization supported by generous donations and managed by a dedicated group of volunteers. Its Vision is to preserve our community's open space and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

To this end our Mission is to acquire open space by gift or purchase and to protect the environment and the small town character of the three villages, Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton, which comprise the town of Essex and to provide our community with passive recreational and educational opportunities.

To fulfill these objectives the Land Trust conserves wildlife habitats, forests, fields, rivers, wetlands and scenic views by maintaining properties in a natural state.

The Essex Land Trust is now accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance. Visit us at: www.essexlandtrust.org.





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#### American Chestnut... continued from page 43

abundance of food provided by chestnut trees, biodiversity is being established in forests, and that future generations can enjoy the beauty of the once majestic American Chestnut.

If you're interested in learning more about the American Chestnut tree and other orchards in Connecticut, please visit: https://acf.org and select 'Find A Chapter."

If you're interested in volunteering and helping maintain the Cross Lots orchard, please contact Pam Peters at: peterspamelaj@yahoo.com.

# Creations, The Little Shop... With a Big Heart



The Folks at Creations.

Located in Downtown Madison, CT on Main Street is Creations–The little shop with a big heart! Creations is a nonprofit social enterprise that employs individuals with neurological difficulties and is operated by Vista Life Innovations. Creations is unlike any other store because it is driven by the mission of assisting individuals with disabilities to live independent and successful lives.

Creations was formed with the intention of providing incremental employment experiences and opportunities to Vista's students and members. In an effort to do that Creations offers an array of paid and non-paid employment opportunities that give Vista's students and members hands-on experience to strengthen their vocational skills. These are the types of opportunities that have been put in place to springboard folks at Creations into meaningful employment opportunities.

Creations continues to make a positive impact on the lives of those with neurological difficulties every day.

Vista Life Innovations is a 501©3 nonprofit organization with campuses in Madison and Westbrook. Vista's mission is to provide services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. For more information about Vista, please visit www.vistalifeinnovations.org.

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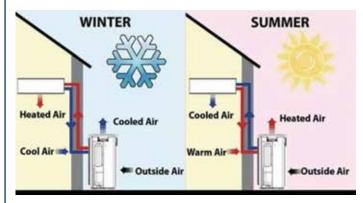


Maybe it was at your neighbor, Joe's. Or your cousin, Kelly's condo. Possibly the pizza shop you frequent on a Friday night. Wherever the location, you've probably come across those rectangular units hanging on a wall and, hopefully, providing you a nice blast of cold air on one of those steamy hot days we all experienced this summer. Those units, commonly known as mini-splits, are an example of the most energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment available: heat pumps.

Over the past ten years, tens of thousands of Connecticut homes and businesses have installed heat pumps because they provide highly efficient heating, cooling, and dehumidification in a single unit.

#### **WHAT'S A HEAT PUMP?**

A heat pump is a high efficiency system that provides both heating and cooling by moving heat from the exterior inside, or vice versa. Heat pumps consist of an outdoor unit connected to one or more indoor units by piping, which carries heat between the two. A heat pump can replace both the heating system (your boiler or furnace) AND the cooling system (central air or window units) in a home or building.



#### **HOW DOES A HEAT PUMP WORK?**

There are two main types of heat pumps available: air source heat pumps and ground source (or geothermal) heat pumps. Both air and ground source heat pumps provide efficient heating by pulling heat inside your home or business from either the outside air or ground. In the summer, these systems operate in reverse, using the same kind of system as your refrigerator or window AC to keep you cool. Heat pumps can be installed to utilize your existing ductwork or you can choose to install ductless units, commonly known as mini-splits.

#### WHY IS EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT HEAT PUMPS?

Heat pumps are the most energy-efficient heating and cooling system available in New England. Because these systems move – rather than create – heat, they can be up to 400% efficient. This means that for every one unit of energy used to power a heat pump, up to four units of heat energy are supplied. If you're currently heating with oil, propane, or electric resistance baseboards, this kind of energy savings can lead to saving money on your energy bills.

Heat pumps can also help you reduce your home or business' carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. Because a heat pump is an electrical system, it does not directly produce emissions when operating. As New England's electricity generation mix gets cleaner, heat pumps have the potential to produce zero emissions.

#### While any time is the right time to install a heat pump, many customers upgrade to heat pumps when:

- A furnace, boiler, or central air conditioner is nearing the end of its life and will need to be replaced soon
- A home has been recently purchased or is ready to be sold
- Weatherization upgrades have been completed

#### I'M READY FOR A HEAT PUMP!

Great! There are some significant rebates and incentives available to offset installation cost through Eversource, your local Energize ConnecticutSM Sponsor.

#### To get started, we recommend these steps:

- **1. Review** the resources available at eversource.com/home-savings
- **2. Contact** a contractor participating in the Energize CT Heat Pump Installer Network
- **3. Consider** your financing options and secure a loan
- 4. Complete your installation and take advantage of incentives

If you need help at any point, you can schedule a heat pump consultation with a technical specialist. Scan the QR code, at right, to learn more about this solution and the funding available to make it happen.





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#### **Barbaresco**

Barbaresco is one of the great wines of Northwest Piedmont Italy. The grape that is used to make this wine is 100 percent Nebbiolo. This wine is cellared for a minimum of 26 months including 9 months in oak barrels. For the reserve, bottles are aged for a total of 50 months in regulations of the DOCG classification.

This wine might be considered the softer equivalent of Barolo. Being more elegant, it is not quite as bold or tannic as that of the area of Barolo. Although it has the richness, it has a softer less tannic finish than that of Barolo. However, it is still considered one the big wines of Italy due its quality and boldness. Aromatically it produces scents of raspberry, dried cherries, licorice, and rose petals.

In terms of time of production of wines in Italy, Barbaresco is one of the newer wines produced. The wine was first introduced in the late 1890s. Nebbiolo, pictured above, is a grape grown in the areas of Barbaresco and Barolo. It has strong deep dark skins and has high acidity with rich tannins, which makes this a big, long-lasting wine. The growing area is relatively small to keep the quality high.

The growing area in Barbaresco is relatively small. However, as in many regions of Peidmont, there have been many new vines planted recently to ramp up production without losing the quality, in the wine. The wine partakes the profile of dark fruit, blackberry, plum cassis, and intense tannins yet a soft round finish and mild acidity. Barbaresco pairs well with many dishes including, steak, red sauce, and roast. One of the top producers that mark Barbaresco as a high-quality wine of Peidmont is Gia.

Although, this wine does not have the popularity of other wines from Italy, it should not be taken lightly. This Italian wine is a strong full flavor red that should not be overlooked. The wine is not inexpensive, but it is well worth the cost. It also could be aged for many

years.

Enjoy a taste of Peidmont! Art LiPuma, Manager, Seaside Wine & Spirits



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