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First Selectman's Corner

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

AWESOME EVENTS AROUND TOWN

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 Sunday, October 29th on the Ivoryton green. Dress up in your best Halloween costumes for the traditional **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!

FALL & WINTER HAPPENINGS

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 at: essexct.com, 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 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.



Norm Needleman
First Selectman

HUBBARD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Last fall the Town was awarded a \$500,000 grant through the Small-Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) for the Essex Civic Campus Enhancement project phase II which consists of improvements to Hubbard Park. The project will commence next summer and will include new fencing,

continued on page 5



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COVER PHOTO
 Essex Steam Train
 by Meghan McBrearity

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First Selectman... continued from page 3

additional parking, pedestrian pathways, new concessions, ADA compliant restrooms, and equipment storage along with landscaping improvements.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

The Board of Selectmen continues to work on the draft of the Town's Short-Term Rental Ordinance through an extended public hearing process. We would like input on both sides of the issue from residents in order to make a final decision on how to regulate short-term rentals. Please send your comments directly to me at: nneedleman@essexct.gov, or to Selectman Libby at: slibby@essexct.gov, or to Selectman Glowac at: bglowac@essexct.gov.

HURRICANE SEASON

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 a newly revised 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. Be sure to sign up for the Safer Essex Emergency Alert Program to ensure you receive emergency alerts and other important community news.

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



ABOUT VISITING NURSES OF THE LOWER VALLEY

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a not-for-profit, Medicare and Medicaid certified home health care organization serving the Lower Connecticut River Valley and eastern shoreline region.

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Assessor's Office

Town of Essex Reassessment Update

The Town of Essex is required to complete a real estate reassessment by October 1, 2023. The main purpose for the reassessment is to rebalance any inequities that may have developed since the last reassessment which was completed in 2018. Connecticut State Statutes require that all real estate within the jurisdiction of a municipality be reassessed every five years. A town that does not implement a required reassessment is at risk of losing certain grant money and is subject to various penalties.

The sales in the year prior to October 1, 2023 (10-01-2022 through 09-30-2023) will be reviewed and used to establish new property values.

Reassessment is a revenue neutral process. A significant increase/decrease in a property's assessed value will not result in an equivalent increase/decrease in the property's taxes. The total amount the town needs to collect through taxes for the support of our schools and local government is determined by the town budget regardless of whether a reassessment takes place.

The data collection phase of our state mandated reassessment is under way. You may see various employees of Vision Government Solutions around town. They all have employee ids, their vehicles are registered with the Essex Police Department, and they carry a letter of introduction from the Assessor.

Further information regarding the revaluation process in general can be found at the Vision Government Solutions website: <https://www.vgsi.com/taxpayer-revaluation-information/>.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 2023	Notices of Assessments Mailed. Information on how to schedule an informal hearing will be included in the notices of assessment.
December 2023	Informal Hearings to be held.
January 2024	Informal hearing results will be mailed to those that had a hearing.
February 1 to 20, 2024	Board of Assessment Appeals application period.
March 2024 – May 2024	Town and Board of Education Budget Process.
May 2024	Mill rate established.
June 30, 2024	Tax bills based on the new assessment and new mill rate mailed.
July 1- August 1, 2024	Tax bills due and payable.

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**21 Harbor View South
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Assessor's Office

Business Personal Property Declaration

Business Personal Property Declaration Forms are due to the Assessor's Office on or before November 1st. These forms will be mailed on or before October 1st and will also be available on the Town Website under Forms & Documents.

If you do not receive a form from our office by October 15, please call us and we can get a form to you.

If you receive a form from our office and you believe it is in error, please do not ignore it. Contact our office and we can discuss your specific situation.

Failure to file a declaration will result in a tax bill with a 25% penalty added based on the historical or best information the assessor has available for the valuation.

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 12-41 STATES IN PART:

The annual declaration of the tangible personal property owned by such person (or entity) on the assessment date, shall include, but is not limited to, the following property: Machinery used in mills and factories, cables, wires, poles, underground mains,

conduits, pipes and other fixtures of water, gas, electric and heating companies, leasehold improvements classified as other than real property and furniture and fixtures of stores, offices, hotels, restaurants, taverns, halls, factories and manufacturers. Commercial or financial information in any declaration filed under this section shall not be open for public inspection but may be disclosed to municipal officers for tax collection purposes.

Penalty (1) Any person who fails to file a declaration of personal property on or before the first day of November, or on or before the extended filing date as granted by the assessor pursuant to section 12-42 shall be subject to a penalty equal to twenty-five per cent of the assessment of such property; (2) any person who files a declaration of personal property in a timely manner, but has omitted property, as defined in section 12-53, shall be subject to a penalty equal to twenty-five per cent of the assessment of such omitted property. The penalty shall be added to the grand list by the assessor of the town in which such property is taxable; and (3) any declaration received by the municipality to which it is due that is in an envelope bearing a postmark, as defined in section 1-2a, showing a date within the allowed filing period shall not be deemed to be delinquent.

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Essex Veterans Veterans Day Parade

Essex will have a Veteran's Day Parade on November 11, 2023. The parade will stage at 10:30 am at the Essex Elementary School parking lot. The parade will kick off at 11:00 am and march to the Essex Veterans' Memorial Hall.

There will be a ceremony to honor Veterans. At its conclusion, everyone is invited for food and refreshments.

Any questions please call Bill Young at: 203-410-1926.



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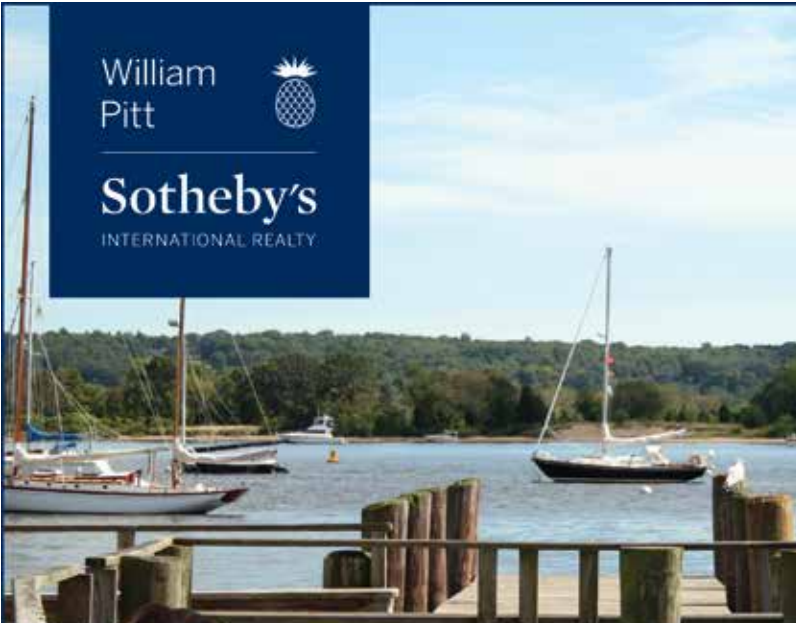
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Assessor's Office Legal Notice

All persons having taxable personal property to declare such as unregistered motor vehicles; farm equipment; any furniture, fixtures and equipment used in the operation of a business, must declare by November 1, 2023.

Declarations are available at the Assessor's Office and on the Town of Essex website at: www.essexct.gov.

The statutory deadline for filing personal property declarations is Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

As per CT General Statute 12-41, any person filing a late or incomplete form or who does not file will incur a 25% penalty.

Applications for farm, forest, or open space land will be accepted until December 30, 2023.

Forms are available in the Assessor's Office or on the Town of Essex Website.

Tax Collector's Office

SCAM ALERT! **Attention Essex Homeowners!**

It's being reported that unknown people may be attempting to fraudulently collect in-person property tax payments at taxpayers' homes.

The individuals may have fake identification as well as the tax bill for the specific homeowner in question.

The only way your tax bill can be paid is by sending in your payment by mail or by visiting the Tax Collector's office and paying in person.

If you encounter someone that is asking for payment, contact the Essex Tax Collector's Office immediately at: 860-767-4340 x120 or x121.



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Registrars of Voters

Municipal Election

The Municipal Election is on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. 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, you can request an absentee ballot online at: <https://oabr-sots.ct.gov/OABR/absenteeBallotReqPortalHome.do> or by calling the Town Clerk's office at: 860-767-4340 x129. 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 x142 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 2023 are Henry May, President; Mary Samburg, Secretary; Barbara Ryan, Treasurer; Jack Frost, Driver Recruitment and Bob Mountz, At Large. Dispatchers are John Heiser and Pat Callahan. Scheduler is Tony Carrano. Longtime driver and Vice President Stuart Warner retired in early 2023.

The volume of free rides given has increased in the last few months from 35 to 45 per month to 60 to 70 per month, just less than pre-pandemic numbers of rides.

Because of the pandemic and after not having a summer "thank you" party for our drivers, benefactors and friends for two years, we did get-together this June 2023 to say "hello again" and "thank you."

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.

Henry May,
Driver and President



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The Essex Foundation Announces Environmental Studies Scholarship Award Recipient



Ivoryton resident Tabitha Hardgrove (center) was presented with the 2023 Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Memorial Scholarship award grant by The Essex Foundation board members (from l-r) Strick Hyde, Bruce Glowac, Jim Clark, and Jay Tonks.

The Essex Foundation Board of Directors has selected Tabitha Hardgrove of Ivoryton as the 2023 recipient of The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Memorial Scholarship Award. The \$3000 grant is presented to honor the bequest and memory of the late “Diz” Callender and her sister Mary, and is available each year to one local Valley Regional High School graduating senior or graduate, or an Essex resident who is pursuing studies

related to land conservation and preservation at a two or four-year college, a technical school, or graduate school, or taking accredited courses in biology, botany, agronomy, ecology, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, or environmental science.

Ms. Hardgrove began senior year of studies in biology at Rochester Institute of Technology this fall and plans on pursuing a career in fish and wildlife

services. She stayed local this summer, working as an intern for the Essex Land Trust to identify microhabitats and document her findings.

“We were impressed with the quantity and quality of this year’s applicants, but Tabitha’s passion for and work in the field of conservation really stood out,” commented Bruce Glowac, President of The Essex Foundation. “Her spirit and community interests truly align with the values that Diz and Mary wanted to support.”

The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit 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 community projects and needs that benefit Essex residents.

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



Essex Community Fund

ESSEX COMMUNITY FUND (ECF)

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.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

The Essex Community Fund (ECF) is starting a “Community Spotlight” campaign on social media to raise awareness

about the impact our local charities have on our community. ECF will share the information we receive from our local nonprofits on our social media and in other communications to help raise awareness about their organization as well as ECF.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

Fuel Assistance Challenge 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

Grant applications for local non-profits serving Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton residents can be submitted beginning October 15, 2023. Final date for submission is December 15, 2023. Visit our website for more information at: essex-communityfund.org.

VOLUNTEER

Becoming A Volunteer with ECF is 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. Visit us at: info@essex-communityfund.org.



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Essex Land Trust

Arbor Day at Essex Elementary School

Arbor Day is an annual event celebrated across the world to recognize the role that trees have in our lives. It promotes the planting and caring of trees and was first observed in 1872, in Nebraska, after J. Sterling Morton proposed a resolution to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture to set aside one day to plant trees. All fifty states celebrate Arbor Day which typically takes place on the last Friday in April.



Arbor Day planting celebration at Essex Elementary School.

Since 2012, Essex Land Trust has joined forces with Essex Elementary School in commemorating this occasion. A time is set aside in late April for the third grade to learn about Arbor Day along which also includes the participation of EES' fifth grade Green Team.

The third graders write poems while the Green Team relates the history of Arbor Day. The event culminates with the planting of a tree on school grounds. Support for this event is provided by the Town's Tree Committee in the person of Tree Warden Augie Pampel, Fred Weber of Fred Weber Landscaping, and Dan Estey from Bartlett Tree Experts, who hands out tree saplings for all participants to take home and plant. Shown are a selection of the poems written by the third graders.



SOME TREES

by Claire

Some trees have leaves like an old man's beard.
 Some trees' leaves are as purple as a plum.
 Some trees' leaves are as spiky as a porcupine.
 Red, orange, yellow, green, and brown
 In the fall it is like a rainbow.
 In the winter the leaves blow away
 And the tree is like a skeleton.

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TREES

by Colin

Trees give us food and fruit to live.
 Trees give homes to wildfire and people.
 Trees give us air to breathe.
 Trees give us shade on a hot summer day.
 Trees are part of nature.
 Please don't cut down trees.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TREE

by Millicent

The tree is waving in the wind saying hi to a friend.
 The tree makes music as it moves in the wind.
 The tree wakes up in the morning
 With birds chirping like a melody.
 When the moon comes up and the
 Crickets start chirping the tree is ready to dance.

Tri-Town Youth Services

Take a Listen at Tri-Town Talks

TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF TRI-TOWN TALKS

A Prevention Podcast, made possible thanks to the Communities Talk Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Our main objective is to foster open conversations regarding underage alcohol use in our community and further



explore a range of topics, such as the root causes of underage substance use, self-care strategies, available resources, and mental health challenges that our youth and their families may be experiencing.

Episodes are being produced monthly and can be found at: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/tri-towntalks>.

Be sure to listen and spark important conversations about prevention with your neighbors! The health and wellness of our community depends on these critical conversations.

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Community Music School Celebrates 40 Years!

Back in 1983, a particularly astute music teacher at John Winthrop Junior High School recognized that her students “did not have access to specialists with whom to work if they wanted to expand their study of their instruments. Since the resources were available through the Coast Guard Band, Yale School of Music, and the Hartt School, I decided to help make those specialists available to our community.” Looking back over the past 40 years, Paddy Hurley certainly did that, and much more! The Community Music School became, and remains, an important cultural fixture of the CT Shoreline; a 501(c)(3) organization that has provided meaningful musical education opportunities not only to school-aged students, but also to thousands and thousands of shoreline residents of all ages over multiple generations.

A grand 40-year celebration was recently held at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, featuring



CMS Founder Paddy Hurley with a student.

A Broadway Evening with Todd Ellison and Friends. The school’s 40th year is off to a great start with lessons on every instrument and voice, beautiful Music Together® early childhood classes, and a variety of ensembles including String Orchestra, New Horizons Band, Acoustic Classic Rock Ensemble, and Studio 24 Vocal Performance Class.

Building on the successful summer Broadway Bound Musical Theatre Programs, a fall “Musical Theatre Cabaret” program for teens is in the works.

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Regarding Paddy Hurley's humbly stated vision of 40 years ago to "make [music] specialists available to our community:" while such an endeavor is somewhat common in larger metropolitan areas, it's quite a feat to do so in an area of small towns like ours, never-mind with 24 highly accomplished and trained artist faculty members like those at CMS! Thanks to 40 years of support from our community of friends, neighbors, and businesses, we've done it! Thank you!

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



Connecticut River Museum

News from the Riverfront

This summer was a delight! We welcomed amazing musicians to play on the lawn at the Museum during Shanties & Sails in June and Thursdays on the Dock in July and August. We loved seeing folks of all ages dancing and singing along, enjoying chair massages from Privé Swiss, our supporting sponsor, and noshing on Porky Pete's excellent BBQ. Plus, the summer and fall are prime times for cruising on the River – whether you're aboard Onrust for a historic sail or enjoying a RiverQuest cruise to see the swallows' majestic dance in the sky, a scenic sightseeing cruise, a river view of Gillette Castle, fall foliage, and more! We'll be on the water through October, so don't miss your chance to enjoy the River!



Enjoy a RiverQuest cruise to see the swallows' dance in the sky,

There's lots more to see at the Museum that you won't want to miss.

continued on page 18

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Connecticut River Museum... continued from page 17

30th Annual Train Show

November 21, 2023 – February 19, 2024

Do you hear the train coming? All Aboard! Don't miss out on this annual tradition! Come and see Steve Cryan's latest locomotion exhibition featuring 30 feet of model trains, tugboats, and more!

Fall Lecture Series and Homeschool Programs

Our fall lecture series will return in October featuring local scholars and authors for thoughtful talks on timely topics. Check our website, www.ctrivemuseum.org, for more details, dates, and tickets. Homeschool programs will also return monthly and school field tips are in full swing. We continue



to offer sensory friendly mornings. With support from the Petit Family Foundation, we are able to offer sensory friendly items during the visit, including beanbag chairs and fidget toys. Our next morning will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 9:00 am - 10:00 am.

Mistletoe & Martinis December 7, 2023

And, we're excited to toast with you at Mistletoe & Martinis on December 7, 2023. Join us for a festive holiday gathering! Tickets will include signature martinis, seasonal beverages, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and music. Save the date and get ready to celebrate.

Connecticut River Museum 50th Anniversary

Finally, the Museum is getting ready to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. We hope you'll join us through 2024 as we celebrate 50 years of exhibits, programs, community events and more. We'll also look ahead as we imagine our next fifty years. Our anniversary is a testament to your support. Thank you to each person who has visited, participated, and in myriad other ways contributed to the Connecticut River Museum.



**Connecticut River
Museum**

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The Ivoryton Playhouse logo, which includes a stylized elephant and the text "IVORYTON PLAYHOUSE".

The Ivoryton Celebration Continues - Join Us!



Essex Historical Society (EHS) and Essex Land Trust (ELT) continue to honor the culminating chapter in their **Follow the Falls** series by investigating Ivoryton this winter.

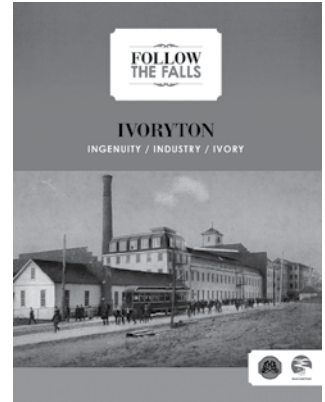
We return to Essex Meadows for our very popular **Winter Lecture Series** with three Ivoryton-based talks on Sundays at 3:00 pm, January 7, 14 and 21. Connect with us via eblasts or social media as we announce details.

Just in time for the holidays, EHS and ELT proudly announce the publication of *Ivoryton: Ingenuity, Industry, Ivory*. Richly illustrated with over 150 period images, the 90-page book details the village's history from Indigenous peoples to the creation of Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s factory village to its reinvention as a residential suburb after the Flood of 1982.

Our marketing partner, Overabove, created incredible work in laying out this lovely volume. Copies are available for purchase at Hills Academy, 22 Prospect Street, Essex, most weekday mornings.

The book highlights several compelling stories: Many U.S. manufacturers who produced furniture, pianos, and coffins before WWII converted production to aircraft designs under government contracts, including Pratt, Read & Co., the successor of Comstock, Cheney & Co. Using designs developed by the Waco Aircraft Company, Pratt-Read produced 1,000 large troop-carrying gliders, the Waco CG-4A.

The manufacturing process included fabricating parts facilities in Ivoryton and Deep River, known as the Gould Aeronautical Division. The Ivoryton facility could handle the assembly of a fully manufactured aircraft. The Waco CG-4A was constructed



The cover of the new Ivoryton publication features a colorized 1910 postcard of Comstock, Cheney & Co.'s "Upper Shop" on Main Street. Courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

continued on page 20

Helping Our Community Thrive...



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Essex Historical Society... continued from page 19

of a metal and wood frame covered in fabric, supported a two-man crew, and had the ability to carry 3,710 pounds of cargo (men and/or equipment). It was first used in the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and later in 1944 during the D-Day assault and in Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands.

To learn more, visit us at: www.essexhistory.org or call us at: 860-767-0681.



Left: Manufacturing wooden gliders in WWII, Pratt, Read & Co. of Ivoryton and Deep River produced their own internal newsletter to keep morale high in support of the war effort.

Courtesy of Essex Historical Society.

Essex Historical Society
 22 Prospect Street | Essex, CT 06426
 860-767-0681 | www.essexhistory.org

Essex Housing Authority
Essex Court Renovations


Essex Court, 36 units for senior affordable housing in Centerbrook, is the grateful recipient of its fourth Small Cities grant the Town of Essex has generously given to the Essex Housing Authority.

The \$1.5 MM grant is adding standalone generators for all units, expanding the Community Room, replacing the 1980s gazebo with a larger three-season structure, and upgrading

resident units with new hot water heaters, storm doors, and HVAC.

During COVID it was clear the 1984 Community Room needed changes. Residents and/or their caregivers had to come inside the Community room to access the laundry. One important change is the expanded laundry room with an outside entrance. An additional office is being added for

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social services privacy discussions with residents and also for an assistant to the site manager. There will be a larger storage closet, more space for residents to enjoy lunch, and new kitchen appliances. Wednesday lunches provided by the staff have been special for residents, but the old Community Room only had room for sixteen. The new room will double the space. Solar panels for the roof will help offset electrical costs.

The 1987 gazebo, which needed repair, is popular with residents, but during COVID, it was too small to allow appropriate distancing for all those who wanted to sit outside. The new structure will double capacity and, with curtains, will be usable in late spring and early fall. Should extra funds be available, residents would like back patio--a need which surfaced during COVID.

One item all residents want are generators for power outages. The Community Room has a generator but some residents with mobility issues could not come out during an outage. Now all units will have backup generator support.

Previous grants have refurbished the interior and exterior of all units. The project is scheduled to be complete by December 1.

Janice Atkeson,
Essex Housing Authority



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JAN 28	4 Hands • 4 Voices Long-time pianist partners Mihae Lee and Randall Hodgkinson with Singers Amanda Forsythe, Krista River, Charles Blandy and David Kravitz
FEB 18	Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks Stu Ingersoll Jazz Concert A rousing celebration of the Jazz greats of the 1920s and '30s
MAR 10	Bixby Kennedy, clarinet Fenton Brown Emerging Artist Concert Exploring American innovations and influences on the solo clarinet genre; accompaniment by Mika Sasaki, piano
APR 7	Essex Octet A stellar gathering of David Shifrin, clarinet; William Purvis, horn; Frank Morelli, bassoon; Ani and Ida Kavafian, violins; Steven Tenenbom, viola; Peter Wiley, cello; Timothy Cobb, double bass

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Emergency Management

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 at: <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.

Lisa Fasulo
Emergency Management Director



Town Clerk's Office 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT

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 14 Essex Glen Drive Unit #9 Essex
 69 Lynn Road Ivoryton
 42 South Main Street Essex
 6 Highland Terrace Ivoryton
 148 Saybrook Road Essex
 26 Prospect Street Essex
 46 Dennison Road Essex
 Saybrook Road Essex
 12 Comstock Avenue Ivoryton
 48 Lynn Road Ivoryton
 11 Cheney Street Ivoryton
 38 No. Main St., #14 Essex
 27 Melody Lane Ivoryton
 85 River Rd., Unit D5 Essex
 77 Dennison Road Essex
 22 Pratt Street Essex
 5 Scholes Lane Essex
 84 Mares Hill Road Ivoryton
 117 Mares Hill Road Ivoryton
 11 Old Dobbin Lane Ivoryton

LOSS OF RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS

June

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 Cathleen G. Keogh
 Dorothy J. Goodwin
 Albion K. Watts
 Eleanor D. Anthony
 Marvin Haltzer
 Carolyn S. Plantz

John Patterson
 Kathleen J. Bragdon-Brown
 Ralph Russo

July

Jon A. Peterson
 Mary C. Dunn
 Susanne OBrien
 Robert S. Martin
 Robert G. Muggleston
 Nancy A. Rambeau
 John C. Griggs
 Janet L. Van Wagenen
 Frederick Szufnarowski
 Bruce G. Baker, Sr.
 Carol R. Bell
 Donna M. Hyde

August

Donna M. Hyde
 Mildred E. Hill
 Ursula B. Connor
 Agnieszka M. Robinson
 Ian Carr Lewis
 Charles E. Tiernan

September

Charles Junius Fox
 Lillian V. Lorello
 Larry R. Timmerman
 Respectfully submitted,
 Yvonne Roziak
 Assistant Town Clerk

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Connecticut River Gateway Commission Honored by Governor for 50 Years' Service



It's not by happenstance that the lower Connecticut River Valley maintains its natural beauty. Fifty years ago, Connecticut's Legislature established the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, a Conservation Zone, and Standards to protect the traditional river view scene and the ecology of the river.

Eight towns in the lower river valley – Old Lyme, Lyme, East Haddam on the eastern shore and Haddam, which straddles the river, and Chester, Deep River, Essex and Old Saybrook on the western shore, asked the state legislature to create the conservation zone, the commission and its authority to establish regulatory standards that address bulk density and height of structures in the zone.

Requirements for vegetative riparian buffers and further guidance on residential structures of over 4000 square feet of total floor area were added in later years. In 2023, the Gateway Commission adopted criteria and guidelines to reduce night light pollution within the zone.



Suzanne Thompson, Commission Chair, Andy Fisk, DEEP, and Melvin Woody, Vice-Chair with a congratulatory proclamation from Governor Ned Lamont on the grounds of the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center, Old Lyme.

On August 3, 2023, founders and past leaders of the commission were honored at a celebratory reception at Connecticut Audubon's Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center,

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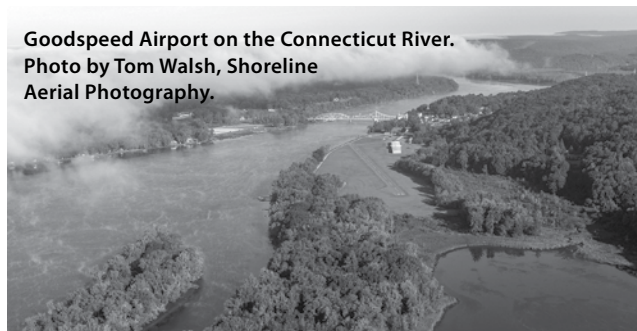
90 Maple Avenue, East Haddam, CT
www.BalleksGardenCenter.com

on the banks of the Lieutenant River within the Gateway Zone in Old Lyme.

Lyme's Melvin Woody, a former chair, and Old Lyme's Evan Griswold, who was elected chair of the commission when he represented Essex, were thanked for their commitment over the years. Lyme Land Trust Director and Selectwoman Kristina White recognized Mr. Woody who has remarkably served his town on the commission for 50 years since its inception.

In addition to working with member towns' zoning commissions on uniform standards, the Gateway Commission supports the conservation of land within the Gateway Zone by helping land trusts and towns with acquisitions and conservation easements.

See the Gateway Commission website at: www.ctrivergateway.org for more information.



Goodspeed Airport on the Connecticut River.
Photo by Tom Walsh, Shoreline
Aerial Photography.

The mission of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission is to preserve the aesthetic and ecological natural beauty of the lower Connecticut River valley for present and future generations.

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

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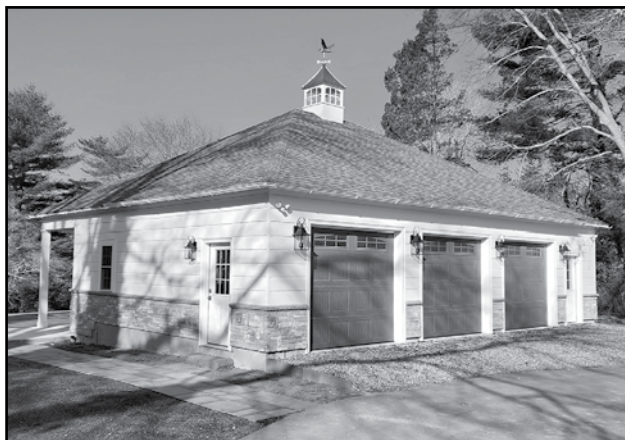
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Essex Land Trust Fall Preserve Cleanup



Many hands make light work!

The Essex Land Trust invites the community to join in its annual Fall preserve cleanups. It's at this time of year that the stewardship team prepares three of our properties for winter and ensures we are ready for the following spring.

As the saying goes, many hands make light work. Our three work events would benefit greatly from volunteers willing to get some outdoor exercise while helping care for some of our preserves. 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 18th, 9:00 am:

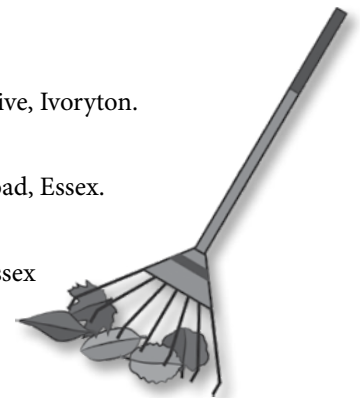
Falls River Park, Falls River Drive, Ivoryton.

December 2nd, 9:00 am:

Osage Trails, Foxboro Point Road, Essex.

December 9th, 9:00 am:

Cross Lots, 40 West Avenue, Essex



Essex Land Trust owns 23 preserves with over 55 well-maintained trails managed by volunteer stewards; easy access to most properties from our three villages

Canfield Meadow Woods	Johnson Farm	Pond Meadow
Cross Lots	Heron Pond	The Preserve
Doanes' Woods	Jean's Island	Thatched Island
Falls River Park	James' Glen	Tiley Pratt Pond
Falls River	Millrace	Stanley Park
Farm Hill Estates	Morgana's Place	Windswept Ridge
Fern Ledge	Osage Trails	Woodja Hill
Great Meadow	Bushy Hill/Platt	

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Essex Garden Club The Pink Hat Brigade

You might have noticed – and thanked – the small army of Essex Garden Club members (*the Pink Hat Brigade*) weeding and watering around town over the summer.

Thanks to their dedication, our Town has bloomed all summer long – from the traffic islands in Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton, to Dickinson and Town Parks, to the various planters around town (did you see those mandevilla around the Silent Policeman?)

Now it is fall, which is the start of a new year of activity for the Garden Club. That began with the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Monday, September 11 at the Essex Yacht Club. Not only was this year's luncheon a chance for Club members to reconnect after the summer hiatus (except for all that weeding and watering), but it was also an opportunity for the Club to recognize two of its longest-serving members – Jane



Essex Garden Club members at their Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Dickinson and Sheila Gleason – who have been members of the Club for 45 years! In their honor, the Club created a **Master Gardener Scholarship** to be offered to the Garden Club Member of their choice.

In October, the Club held its second annual **Fall Pop Up Sale** in the Town Park, when beautiful fall dried flower arrangements and gifts made by Club members were for sale.

And don't forget to look for the Club's contribution to the

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Sheila Gleason (left) and Jane Dickinson (right) being recognized for their 45 years of Garden Club membership.

Then on Saturday and Sunday, November 25 and 26, the Club will be holding its holidays greens and arrangements sale in the Town Park, Essex.



INFORMATION

For more information about the activities of the Essex Garden Club or to learn about membership, please visit our website at: www.essexgardenclubct.org.

Annual Scarecrow Competition. On October 12, members also participated in a **Fall Clean Up** in both the Town and Dickinson Parks.



In November, you'll see the Pink Hat Brigade decorating planters and window boxes with holiday greens throughout the villages of Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton, to set the stage for a picturesque New England winter.

ESSEX GARDEN CLUB

P.O. Box 936 | Essex, CT 06426

OUR MISSION

- To further the knowledge of gardening and the artistic use of plant materials.
- To stimulate interest in civic beautification.
- To aid in the conservation of natural resources.
- To promote educational and charitable projects which emphasize conservation, ecology and civic improvement.

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*Source: William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty 2022 Awards Recognition, Essex Brokerage

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ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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PROGRAMMING AT THE ESSEX LIBRARY IS IN FULL SWING!

Introducing New Saturday Book

Groups: Book Chat, a casual book group for busy bookworms, and the **First Saturday Book Group**, a weekend version of our **First Thursday Book Group**.

Declutter: If you are looking to spiff up your home, join us for a helpful seminar by Shelia Gavish on November 4 to learn all about downsizing and how to declutter any space.

Food Drive: Also, with Thanksgiving around the corner, food is sure to be on everyone's minds so to help those in need, the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries will be hosting a **food drive** all through October

and November to benefit the **Region 4 Backpack Program**.

In the Children's Room: We are continuing some favorite programs and bringing in some new ones! **Wiggle Worms**, our popular story time for ages 0-3, continues on Tuesdays with two sessions.

Children Ages 3-5: Kids ages 3-5 can prepare on Fridays for a bright school future through **Story Time A-Z**, an early literacy story and craft time, and are encouraged to explore and create at the Library's **Preschool STEAM Lab** and **Future Artists** programs on select Mondays.

Elementary School Aged Kids: For elementary-aged kids, we have brought back **STEAM Saturdays** AND started **Kids Create**, a new arts & crafts program, both on select Saturdays.

For Teens: Our monthly **Dungeons & Dragons** sessions invite them to fight monsters and explore new lands in this epic role-playing game while **Bring Your Own Book Club** gives teen bookworms a place to share their passion with other teens and discover new books to read each month.

Special Events: In addition to our regular programming, we have some special events planned as well! On October 25, we are hosting a **Meet-the-Author** event with Connecticut author Amy Bloom for a dress-up party and book reading of her book *Flower Girl!* We are also welcoming back Essex Fire Engine Co. 1 for a **Fire Prevention Month Touch-a-Truck** on October 28. Later that day, we'll host our Halloween event, **Spooky Stories**, and invite kids to come in costume. To help celebrate **Native American Heritage Month**, we'll welcome Outreach and Tradition Specialist with the Mohegan Tribe, David Eichelberg, for a presentation, November 4 on Mohegan Culture, History and Tradition for kids in grades 1-6.

There are many programs in the works at the Essex Library. Check out our website and social media for more information. Always remember you have another library at your fingertips 24/7 through our downloadable and streaming services free with your Essex or Ivoryton Library card!

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Coming this November

Ivoryton Library's Escape Room!
November 3-12, book a session for up to 1 hour (up to 6 people) and see if you can escape **Miss Havisham's Parlor**. She served you a very special tea and now you have one hour to find the antidote! Visit our website for all the information at: ivorytonlibrary.org.

Haunted Library

Be sure to visit the Haunted Library during the **Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival**, Sunday, October 29 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm! We're stirring up new spooky ideas in our cauldron!

Region 4 Backpack Program

Once again, we are collecting non-perishable food items during the months of October and November for the Region 4 Backpack Program. A box for

donations can be found in both the Ivoryton and Essex Libraries. More information, including particulars on the foods most needed, can be found on our website.

This fall in the Children's Room

**Tuesday, November 7,
from 2:00-4:00 pm**

No School Tuesday Come Visit the Library for a Drop-in Eric Carle craft

Wednesday, Nov 8 at 10:30 am

Music with Ms. Martha. Please visit our website for registration.

Thursday, Nov 22 at 9:30 am

Friendsgiving! A special craft and story time for the whole family!

#OwnVoices Book Club

Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 pm

We will meet to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. This

book club meets bi-monthly September through May on the third Tuesday. All are welcome. Please visit our website for registration.

Adult Craft Night

Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 pm

Learn to make Swedish Stars woven out of old book pages. Please visit our website for registration.

Ivoryton

Illuminations

Saturday,

December 2

from 5:00 - 8:00 pm

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



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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!

Please Note

We will *not* be collecting toys for local children this year, as the agencies now choose to give family-specific gift cards so that the parents can choose the perfect gift themselves.

Please consider sending a holiday donation to Town of Essex Social Services at Essex Town Hall. They

will purchase gift cards for our local families in need.

Ivoryton Library Holiday Hours

The Library will be closed on **Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We will also be closed **Sunday, December 24 through Tuesday, December 26** as well as **Tuesday, January 2**.

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

For more information, contact us at:

Ivoryton Library

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*Source: SmartMLS, 1/1/19-9/15/23, total transactions by agent, Essex: all properties listed or sold by agent

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Essex Park & Recreation Department

Mission Statement
Creating Community through People,
Parks and Programs!



Essex Park and Recreation Summer Camp Wrap Up

The long days of summer are over and as we commence our FALL program Essex Park and Recreation would like to take a moment to look back at Summer Day Camp 2023.

WE HAD A BLAST!

We had over 100 kiddos participate. We couldn't have done it without our amazing camp counselors, the campers themselves, and their parents. Our partners: Essex Historical Society, Essex Library, the Town of Essex, the educators

and administrators, the custodial staff at Essex Elementary School, and our scholarship sponsors Essex Garden Club and the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

For a complete list of all our events, parks, and programming, please visit us on the web at www.essexct.gov or be sure to like our Essex Park and Recreation Facebook page or Instagram page. For more information, please feel free to contact us at: recreation@essexct.gov.



Looking Ahead – Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival

After 20 plus years of a Saturday evening event this year's **Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival** is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 29th.

Why do you ask? To accommodate all our partners, vendors, non-profits, volunteers & staff. Sunday

October 29th will be the best day to ensure that our event is full of all the fun activities that our families have enjoyed throughout the years.

We are also happy to announce that the **Costume Parade** was such a big hit - it's coming back for 2023! It's geared toward kids under 12 but all costumed participants are welcome. We have created a sign-up on our website for those 0-12 to ensure those who have registered get a goody bag and some pumpkin fest swag. Register at: www.essexct.recdesk.com.

The parade will step off from the corner of Walnut and Main Streets in the Village of Ivoryton at 4:00 pm. We will march down Main St to get the Pumpkin Fest Fun started.

Pumpkin Fest swag will be available for the first 150 registered participants who are 12 and under.

Earlier in the day plan to carve a pumpkin to be displayed at the festival at Bushy Hill Nature Center from 10:00 am -12:00 pm.

Excited children view the carved pumpkin display!



Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Don't Let Your Project Get "Bogged" Down

ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO A PROJECT ON YOUR PROPERTY OR AT YOUR HOME?

Most projects require advanced planning such as hiring an architect, choosing a contractor, securing a building permit, or possibly even obtaining a zoning variance. Those are fairly obvious steps. However, it is easy to overlook whether nearby wetlands (streams, rivers, vernal

pools, etc.) will impact your project. Wetlands and land within 100 ft of a designated wetland (called an "upland review area" or URA) require permits for work to be done in these areas. The protection of these areas is critical for flood control, protection of groundwater, and preservation of habitat to name just a few reasons. In addition, State law prohibits activity in these areas

between Oct 15 and March 15 to provide a quiet period where wetlands can recharge and allow critical species to breed.

SO PLAN AHEAD; HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- 1 **Speak** to Essex's land use official, Carey Duques, at the outset: cduques@essexct.gov or 860-767-4340 x115.
- 2 **Consult** Essex's online land maps for

wetlands areas, though recognize not all wetlands have been mapped.

3 Look carefully at your property survey; wetlands and URA may be indicated on it.

4 Hire a soil scientist to mark wetland boundaries.

Within the last two years, Essex's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) has issued 43 permits to allow projects to go forward. Examples include building a shed, allowing a business to expand its building footprint, and building a deck.

The IWWC has also issued 6 cease and desist orders to property owners who took action on their property before filing an application or obtaining a permit. Examples include building a patio in the wetlands, clear-cutting trees and removing boulders from a watercourse and wetlands, and replacing a dock.

The IWWC and the town's land use officials are focused on helping property owners use their property as they desire, as long as that use conforms to regulations, meets standards, and safeguards important resources, such as wetlands. So, remember to plan just as you would for other requirements of your project.



Essex Land Trust Biodiversity


Arguably, the single most comprehensive word that best describes and measures the condition of the environment is biodiversity. We are constantly exposed to terms such as climate change, global warming, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, overexploitation, environmental degradation, and many more. These terms alert us to what is happening in our environment, much of it caused by humans. The term biodiversity tells it all and by paying attention to it, thinking about it, and doing something to address it, we can learn to be aware of the environment's health. It is analogous to the "canary in the coal mine" that was used in the past to indicate danger.

WHAT IMPACTS BIODIVERSITY?

While biodiversity has been defined with many different words, simply put, it is the total sum of all the living organisms that exist on our earth, which have been the product of hundreds of millions of years of evolutionary history. However, the term is filled with complexity. For example, we sometimes take the view that some plants and animals are "less desirable" than others. Are they really or have they established themselves through normal evolution and adaptation?


The main drivers of diversity loss are the following. Habitat loss causes thinning, fragmenting, or outright destruction of an eco-

continued on page 36




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Biodiversity... continued from page 35

system's plant, soil, hydrologic and nutrient resources. Invasive species significantly modify or disrupt ecosystems. Overexploitation results in excess harvesting of aquatic or terrestrial animals depleting the stocks of some species while driving others to extinction. Pollution adds substances to the environment at a rate faster than it can be rendered harmless. And, finally, climate change, associated with global warming, is caused by increased levels of greenhouse gases.

WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT?

The importance of biodiversity can best be highlighted by the loss of species. One out of four amphibians, birds, conifers, and mammals and six of seven turtles are facing extinction. Every 60 minutes 240 acres of natural habitat are destroyed. 75% of the world's fisheries are fully or over exploited. And an estimated 80% of the decline in biodiversity is caused by habitat destruction. Among many reasons, biodiversity is important is because it maintains balance in ecosystems, promotes sustainability and growth,



speeds recovery from natural disasters, protects freshwater resources, provides food security, and maintains the food chain in nature. By maintaining soil, air and water quality, biodiversity enables all living things to thrive in balance with each other. Finally, biodiversity is important to everyone who enjoys nature and the outdoors. Its recreational benefit contributes to our physical and mental health.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

To feel empowered to address what might seem a daunting, impossible challenge, we can each in our own way measure biodiversity where we live. Some of the key metrics are species richness (total number of species within an area), endemic species (species that are specific to our region), ecosystem diversity (the number of ecosystems in our region and those which are unique). Admittedly, while some of the measures may be difficult to monitor, the point is to pay attention to our local world and take steps to care for it.

Jim Denham

Essex - Community Listings

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

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

Essex Lion's Club (860) 767-8072
Essex Land Trust info@essexlandtrust.org
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 Alliance info@ivorytonalliance.org
Lower Valley Visiting Nurses (860) 767-0186
Republican Town Committee..... (860) 262-0226
SCORE Mentors (860) 388-9508
The Shoreline Soup Kitchens (860) 388-1988
Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau (860) 526-3600
9 Town Transit (860) 510-0429

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

Thoughts and Views on Biodiversity

We asked the Essex Land Trust's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee for their thoughts on biodiversity. The following is their input.

Tom Worthley (*Extension Professor and Forester at UConn for almost 25 years.*):

The first thing that comes to mind is that in the face of global change in climate, etc., biodiversity is the key to environmental resiliency. It is also our best insurance policy for continuing environmental benefits for human beings.

Steve Gephard

(*recently retired fisheries biologist from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*):

When it comes to biodiversity, all species matter. Species of ants and spiders are just as much part of it as brook trout, eagles, ospreys, and sugar maples... It seems unlikely that the ELT could effectively monitor "biodiversity", per se. What it could do is monitor a few key species that are found on it preserves and use such monitoring as education and outreach for members and students

as well as long-term monitoring for Essex.

We are not wise enough to know what hands-on activities will promote the conservation of ALL biodiversity. But I think we must think at the habitat level not the species level. If we know that there is currently habitat that supports a rich and productive native biodiversity, we need to protect that habitat and assume with such protection, the species can fend for themselves. That is a reason for the ELT to seek to protect a diverse portfolio of preserves, so they capture diverse types of habitats from tidal marsh up to rocky crags.

Dr. Juliana Barrett

(*Extension Educator at UConn and a faculty member of both the Connecticut Sea Grant Program and the Center for Land Use Education and Research*):

We need to think about what would change or threaten the biodiversity of the area. Of

course, I'm thinking about climate change, and related to this, invasive species. I think these two threats are going to have the biggest impacts on biodiversity in Connecticut. Invasives (both aquatic and terrestrial) may be the biggest threat in the short term with major changes by 2100 due to climate change.

Chet Arnold, ELT Board Member

(*formerly at UCONN as a Water Quality Educator and the Director of the Center for Land Use Education and Research*):

Although I agree that climate change and invasive species are probably the biggest threats to biodiversity in this region, globally and maybe even locally we can't forget about good old habitat loss. Of course, the three are all related but I don't think there's any doubt that even without climate change we have been losing species right and left due to the destruction of the places that they live by development and agriculture.

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Sustainable Essex

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Thursday, November 2nd, 7:00 pm,
The Hive, 1 Maple St., Chester
A Roundtable Discussion of your ideas
to reduce our daily plastic use.

Wednesday, November 15th, 8:00 am,
The Nest Coffee House,
16-A Main St., Deep River
Climate, Coffee, and Conversations
with State Representative Christine
Palm.

Share your concerns and learn how to
promote eco-friendly laws
in CT.

REPAIR CAFÉ

Saturday, Oct 28th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm,
Estuary Senior Center,
220 Main St., Old Saybrook
Save money and protect landfills!
Free repairs by volunteers. Jewelry,
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box in the lobby of Valley Shore YMCA.

THE LATEST ON RECYCLING!

Sustainable Essex, Deep River, and Chester members recently toured the new Materials Recovery Facility in Berlin.

For updated information on recycling in your home go to the Resources

link at: sustainableessex.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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. If you have an interest, please join us! Contact susxct@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.

Visit our website at: **www.essexct.gov**

Happy Fall!

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Sailing Masters of 1812

There's No Place Like Home

"What's that?" Elijah asked his sister Sadie as he pointed inside the gates of the town cemetery at shadowy figures twirling among the gravestones. A full Halloween moon overhead bathed them in a ghostly light.

It was late as Elijah had his younger sister Sadie in tow as they trudged home with a treasure trove of candy from Trick-or-Treat-ing after joining in the annual Essex Halloween Parade.

He was dressed as a Naval officer on USS Constitution; 'Old Ironsides' in the War of 1812. He especially loved the distinctive "Fore and Aft" hat his mom was able to fabricate. Sadie was dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. But instead of carrying Toto in her basket, she had their family cat Binx. His parents insisted he take Sadie trick-or-treating with him - in spite of Elijah's loud protests that he would be humiliated to be seen with her.

Both gawked in amazement as a Coven of witches frenziedly danced in a ring. Some of the witches were very ugly and horrid, with others being astonishingly beautiful. A sleek, black cat sitting at the edge of the circle with the moonlight shimmering in its large, yellow eyes, turned and looked directly at the pair, then darted into the underbrush.

"This is weird. Is this a new to the town Halloween festivities? Why would they be out here this late?" wondered Elijah as he scrutinized the witches through narrowed eyes. "What are they doing?"

Sadie tilted her head slightly. "I'm not sure. I think it's the Monster Mash."

"That's ridiculous."

"I know! The Transylvania Twist is so much more fun!" she giggled. "Let's go watch!" Binx meowed restlessly. "I have a bad feeling about this," Elijah warned, shaking his head. Sadie laughed. "Scaredy-cat!"

Not sure if Sadie was accusing him or Binx. But refusing to be shamed by his younger sister, Elijah took Sadie's hand and started heading through the graveyard gates.

"I wouldn't do that if I were you," a voice behind them pronounced ominously. Alarmed, the two spun around to find the black cat sitting on the stone wall glowering at them.

"A Halloween cat! He's adorable!" declared Sadie. Seeing nobody but the cat (while Binx gave out a ferocious hiss) Sadie paused and tilted her head. "Did you just talk?" "My lips moved, and words came out. So I think so. You're not in Kansas anymore Sadie."

Stepping forward to protect his sister, Elijah demanded: "What are you? Are you a witch?" "Do I look like a witch Elijah? Sadie obviously has heart. Binx has courage. You must be looking for a brain. Let me give you a clue. I have fur, a tail, whiskers, pointy ears, four paws, look a lot like Binx... and apparently I'm 'adorable'. What conclusions do you draw, Sherlock?"



Sailing Masters of 1812 marching at the Halloween Parade.

“You look like a cat. But cats don’t talk,” asserted a startled Elijah. Binx gave Elijah a quizzical look.

“Are you sure?” the black cat asked as it glanced at Binx, then at Elijah.

Sadie seemed amazingly unflustered. “Are you a Witch’s ‘Familiar’? A witch’s animal companion? Wait... how do you know our names?”

“Good guess! Yes, I am a witch’s ‘Familiar’! And when you’ve lived in Essex for 350 years, you get to know just about everyone’s name in town.”

“Well... what’s your name then?” Sadie asked, as if meeting a new friend.

“I AM OZ; THE GREAT & POWERFUL” the cat roared while puffing itself up to look bigger. As Elijah and Sadie gaped wide-eyed, the black cat suddenly smiled. “Sorry; I couldn’t resist. I’m just pulling your leg. My name is Athena.”

“You’re kind of a sarcastic witch’s companion aren’t you,” Elijah cynically remarked.

“That is all part of the magic that is me,” Athena rejoined with a grin.

Sadie was quickly warming up to Athena. “Is your witch dancing over there?”

“No. My witch had a house dropped on her when she went to visit her sister in Kansas.”

“Really? She’s dead?”

“Not only is she merely dead - she’s really most sincerely dead. Her sister was liquidated too.”

“Oh. I’m very sorry.”

“Don’t be. Steer clear of wicked witches. They’ll get you my pretty, and your little cat too.”

“Then why were you with those witches?” Sadie inquired, pointing to the dancing Coven.

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Sailing Masters... continued from page 41

"What can I say. They only gather once a year, and I love to dance," Athena revealed as she swayed side to side.

"And you obviously love Halloween" observed Athena as she bounded down from the stone wall and circled Elijah. "I must say, your costume is quite good. It's what I remember the Navy uniforms looking like in 1812. I especially like the hat. But why is there a fife stuffed in your boot? Naval officers didn't... Oh I get it!... You're dressed up as one of the Sailing Masters of 1812!"

"Good guess!" answered Elijah sarcastically.

"I love them and all of the parades in town!" exclaimed Athena. "It's ironic you wore their uniform for the Halloween parade while the Sailing Masters marched around town tonight like a bunch of clowns... and pirates, and... witches. I would join them faster than you can say Hocus Pocus if I could hold a musical instrument... and they accepted talking cats. Don't just pretend to be a Sailing Master. You should join them!" Athena declared before turning to scamper down the sidewalk. "And stay away from wicked witches!"

"Where are you going?" Sadie cried after the cat.

"I'm going home!" the cat called back over her shoulder. "There's no place like home!"

Then Athena stopped, turned around and shouted:

"Remember Elijah. join the Sailing Masters! You'll have so much fun! Happy Halloween!" Athena disappeared into the blackness.

Thoroughly exasperated at being lectured to by a cat Elijah turned back to Sadie and Binx. Binx nodded his head sagely. "She's right you know."

If you would like to join the Sailing Masters, don't wait for talking cats to convince you. The Sailing Masters invite you to "Come Aboard!" No previous musical experience required. You can choose from fife, snare drum, bass drum, and color guard (carry a flag).

For more information please call Vicki at 860-212-1606 or email: captainvicki1812@gmail.com. Note: if you meet a talking cat that loves the Sailing Masters, please contact us. Other talking cats need not apply.

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