



# 2011-2012

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# ANNUAL REPORT



*Herb & Sherry Clark*



## Dedication

### Herb & Sherry Clark

Everyone in this town knows how much Herb Clark loves his wife, Sherry. We see the car with the license plate LVSHR all over town! But the love that they share for each other has grown over the years to encompass their family, friends, town and indeed the whole of Middlesex County.

Herb and Sherry grew up in Madison and met when they were in third grade. High School sweethearts, they married and moved to Essex to raise a family. From the start, Herb believed in giving back to his community. He joined the Essex Rotary Club and became actively involved while Sherry stayed home to raise their three children

once thriving theatre. With the aid of several other like-minded individuals in town, Herb and Sherry were instrumental in the formation of the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation. The historic building was saved and continues to thrive today as a cultural and family resource for our community and beyond.

Who else but Herb and Sherry would preserve and maintain Bushnell Farm in Old Saybrook and make it available to area students and community organizations so that our history and heritage are enjoyed and understood for generations to come? Who would make certain that one of the oldest

Congregational churches in the state of Connecticut would be completely restored as Centerbrook Meetinghouse, a precious resource for non-profit organizations and community groups and a stunning visual asset to this town?

Quiet and unassuming by nature, Herb not only built a successful business in town, but he and Sherry made it their mission to make sure that this success would be shared and enjoyed by many. Herb's philanthropic deeds are legendary. He has served

on countless non-profit boards including the Connecticut River Museum and was a founder and chairman of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. In 2011, Herb was recognized by the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy with the John H. Filer Award for his leadership in promoting private action for the public good. Together, Herb and Sherry are the embodiment of philanthropy through their actions and example. We are honored to dedicate this year's Annual Report to them.



*Herb and Sherry Clark with Holly*

– Beth, Sarah and Tryon (T.) Sherry encouraged Herb in his community involvements and together they shared a commitment to historic preservation and making life in this great small town even better.

Over the years, Herb and Sherry have taken their passion for preserving historic sites, buildings and Middlesex County treasures to a level that is unparalleled. In 1978, when the Ivoryton Playhouse was under threat of demolition, Sherry understood how important it was to preserve the

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Birth Certificates .....	Town Clerk's Office
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Canoe and Kayak Permits .....	Town Clerk's Office
Death Certificates .....	Town Clerk's Office
Dog Licenses .....	Town Clerk's Office
Health Permits .....	Health Department
Marriage Licenses .....	Town Clerk's Office
Mooring Permit Applications .....	Selectmen's Office
Pistol Permit Applications .....	Selectmen's Office
Raffle Permits .....	Selectmen's Office
Septic Pumpout Tickets .....	Health Department
Social Services .....	Selectmen's Office
Sportsmen Licenses .....	Town Clerk's Office

**Essex At A Glance**

**Town Hall**  
**29 West Avenue**  
**Essex, CT 06426**  
[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)



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

**Hours of Operation:****Town Hall**

Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

**Landfill & Recycling Center**

Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7 am to 3 pm

**For Your Information:**

**Ambulance Association** .....767-1730

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

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

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

**Education:**

Essex Elementary School .....767-8215

John Winthrop Junior High .....526-9546

Valley Regional High School .....526-5328

Region 4 Central Office .....526-2417

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

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

Hazardous Waste & Consumer Electronics  
 Collection, for more information and dates, call  
 388-3497 (Connecticut River Estuary Regional  
 Planning Agency) or [www.essexct.gov/  
 departments/waste.html](http://www.essexct.gov/departments/waste.html)  
 or [www.crerpa.org](http://www.crerpa.org)

**Landfill & Recycling Center** .....767-1926

**Libraries:**

Essex .....767-1560

Ivoryton .....767-1252

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

**Post Offices:**

Centerbrook .....767-8730

Essex .....767-8476

Ivoryton .....767-8515

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

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

**Town Hall**

Telephone .....767-4340

General Fax .....767-8509

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

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



## ***History of Essex***

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

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

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

## ***Town Historian***

Hello! As so many of you know, there are few towns in Connecticut with a more significant or colorful history than Essex. Time and again for over 300 years Essex has transformed itself to meet the challenges of a changing world. We are certainly blessed to be able to admire the architectural legacy of Essex's natural, agricultural, industrial and now digital heritage and contemplate its meaning. For decades our town history has been carefully documented and brought to light by the hard work of so many residents, most prominently our venerable town historian, and my former mentor, Don Malcarne. I was fortunate to work with Don on an article I published about the Ivoryton piano factories back in 2006/2007. Don certainly did not try to maintain a monopoly on his historic knowledge, he shared it readily, always hoping to inspire others. When I was nominated to follow in Don's footsteps as Essex Town Historian during the summer of 2011, it was an honor I happily accepted. During the last twelve months I have worked hard to reach out and meet as many residents as possible. I have enjoyed exchanging ideas, sharing your stories and learning about the many community organizations that are continually at work preserving our past. For those of you who I have missed, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

After graduating with a BA and MA in history, I have taught history for fourteen years at Daniel Hand High School in Madison, CT. During my free time I also maintain a vocational freelance writing career which has recently culminated in the publication of my first book. It is through this experience that I have learned the most about historical research and public speaking. In the coming years I am eager to put these skills to the test by applying them to the history of the three villages of our small town. How fortunate am I to have such a rich history to draw from! Of course, in a community as active as our own, the preservation and promotion of history never falls on the shoulders of a single person. As Town Historian I hope to discover, document and promote our past. Perhaps most importantly, I hope to foster collaboration between the many local organizations and individuals who care so much about preserving our town's history. I hope another year does not pass before I have the chance to meet you!

Chris Pagliuco  
Essex Town Historian

## ***Elected Officials***

### **Town of Essex**

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman  
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman  
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman

#### **TOWN CLERK**

Frances D. Nolin

#### **TREASURER**

Robert B. Dixon

#### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Megan D. Haskins

#### **BOARD OF FINANCE**

James D. Francis, Chairman  
Keith M. Crehan  
W. Campbell Hudson  
Lee A. Rowley  
Frederick M. Vollono  
Jeffrey D. Woods

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

Lon J. Seidman, Chairman  
Jeffrey E. Burzin  
Adam Conrad  
Don G. Fitton, Jr.  
Judie McCann  
Loretta T. McCluskey

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

John Ackermann  
Anne J. Dougherty  
Coral L. Rawn

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4**

Mary Beth Harrigan  
Christopher D. Riley  
Jennifer A. Clark

#### **JUDGE OF PROBATE**

Terrance Lomme

#### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Lois Ely  
John Heiser

### **State of Connecticut**

#### **GOVERNOR**

Dannel P. Malloy

#### **LT. GOVERNOR**

Nancy Wyman

#### **STATE COMPTROLLER**

Kevin Lembo

#### **STATE TREASURER**

Denise Nappier

#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

George Jepsen

#### **SECRETARY OF STATE**

Denise Merrill

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

Eileen M. Daily

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

Philip J. Miller

### **Federal**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Barack Obama

#### **UNITED STATES SENATE**

Joseph I. Lieberman  
Richard Blumenthal

#### **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE**

Joseph D. Courtney



## **Town Officials and Services** *(as of September 30, 2012)*

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Joseph Heller

**ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Jessica Sypher, Assessor

Nancy Berryman, Administrative Assistant

**AUDITORS**

Grant Thorton, Glastonbury

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Keith Nolin, Building Official

Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

**CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Jerry Roberts

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

Richard Stebbins

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kathleen Tucker, Chairman

Pamela Bernardini

Douglas Demarest

Richard Helmecki

Jeffrey Lovelace

Susan Malan

Maryann Pleva

Ron Skinner, Alternate

**CONNECTICUT RIVER ESTUARY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY**

Alan Kerr

Frank Hall

**CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION**

Claire Matthews

**CONSULTING ENGINEER**

Robert Doane, Jr.

Doane-Collins Engineering Associates, LLC

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Lee Thompson, Chairman

John Beveridge

Edward Cook

Robert Laundry, Planning Representative

Lon Seidman

Mark Uihlein

David Winstead

**EDUCATION—REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 4****ADMINISTRATION**

Ruth Levy, Ed. D Superintendent of Schools

Joanne D. Beekley, Ed.D, Asst Superintendent

Tracy Johnston, Director of Pupil Services

Garth Sawyer, Business Manager

Pam Murphy, Director of Technology

**ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Scott Jeffrey, Principal

Deborah O'Donnell, Assistant Principal

**JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL**

David Russell, Principal

Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

**VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Kristina Martineau, Principal

Matt Talmadge, Associate

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

William Buckridge

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Judith Reynolds

**ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

Judith Reynolds

**ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1**

Steven Olsen, Chief

**ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair

Dawn Boulanger

David C. Gephard

Richard W. Stebbins

Rosemary A. Willis

**FIRE MARSHAL**

Keith Nolin, Fire Marshal

Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

**HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Jeffrey Going, Chairman

Walter Schieferdecker

John Senning

Walter Wiegert

Joseph Zaraschi

Earl Fowler, alternate

Fred Hitchcock, alternate

**HARBOR MASTER**

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

**HEALTH DIRECTOR**

Lisa Fasulo

Kerry Bernardinelli, Administrative Assistant

**INLAND WETLANDS AND****WATERCOURSES COMMISSION**

Daniel Lapman, Chairman

Nancy Arnold

Charles Corson

Jeffrey Lovelace, Conservation

Larry Shipman, Zoning

Fred Szufnarowski

Claire Tiernan, Planning

Jim Leo, alternate

Stephen Knauth, alternate

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

### **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

Susan W. Beckman .....	767-9755
Matthew P. Cooper .....	767-8462
Ann S. Dixon .....	767-1339
Charles N. Doane, III .....	767-1562
Linda K. Dwyer .....	767-8381
Lynn C. Faulstick .....	767-0777
Earl Fowler .....	767-2764
David W. Galligan .....	767-1860
Bruce M. Glowac .....	767-0650
Jean R. Hanor .....	767-1962
Donna M. Hyde .....	767-0061
Shelley H. Mack .....	767-7812
Philip J. Miller .....	767-7837
Norman M. Needleman .....	767-9176
Alison J. Nichols .....	767-1511
Vincent A. Pacileo III .....	767-8153
Douglas W. Paul .....	767-3094
Albert N. Rogin .....	767-0702
Lee A. Rowley .....	767-7210
Raymond A. Rubenbauer .....	767-2514
Elizabeth G. Schellens .....	767-1046
Daniel J. Stypa .....	767-2075
G. Lee Thompson .....	767-8201
Kathleen McKinney Tucker .....	767-0397
William P. Veillette .....	767-8519
Frederick M. Vollono .....	767-7665
Ellen Whaley-Wexler .....	767-3388
Kenneth Wexler .....	767-3388

### **LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER**

Michael Birner  
Wilbur Armstead

### **LIBRARIES**

#### **ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Richard Conroy, Library Director

#### **IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

William Buckridge  
Keith Nolin  
Judith Reynolds

### **PARK AND RECREATION**

Rick Audet, Director  
Mary Ellen Barnes, Recreation Coordinator

### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Michael Holmes, Chairman  
Cathy Bishop  
Anthony Mosa  
James Rawn  
Robert Russo  
Douglas Senn  
Jack Spangler

Edward Burleson, alternate  
Thomas Clerkin, alternate  
Virginia Willetts, alternate

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

David Caroline, Director  
William Angier  
Boris Churyk  
James Danks  
Richard Gallacher

### **REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Winifred Olson

### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Lois Ely  
John Heiser

### **RESIDENT STATE TROOPER & ESSEX POLICE**

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

### **CROSSING GUARD**

William Westerman, Crossing Guard

### **HARBOR PATROL**

Devin Schleidt, Boat Operator  
Richard Varricchio, Boat Operator

### **RETIREMENT BOARD**

Ellen Whaley-Wexler, Chairman  
Carl W. Ellison  
James Francis  
Ethan Goller  
Stacia Libby

### **SANITARY WASTE COMMISSION**

Susan Malan, Chair  
Randel Osborne,  
Leigh Rankin  
Mark Reeves  
Robert Van Houten  
Alvin Wolfgram, alternate

### **SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

Norman Needleman, First Selectman  
Stacia Libby, Selectman  
Joel Marzi, Selectman  
Maria Lucarelli, Administrative Assistant



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

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Dean Jacques

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

Megan D. Haskins, Tax Collector

Lynne Skinner, Assistant Tax Collector

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

Frances Nolin, Town Clerk

Dana Novorio, Assistant Town Clerk

### **TOWN COUNSEL**

Attorney David M. Royston, Old Saybrook

### **TOWN HALL OPERATIONS**

Thomas Fitzgerald, Supervisor

Mark Hiatt

John Schumacher

### **TREASURER'S OFFICE**

Robert Dixon, Treasurer

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director

Nancy Berryman, Accounts Payable Assistant

### **TREE COMMITTEE**

Adrienne Brochu

Nancy Hudson

Susan Malan

John Molloy

Anne Penniman

Mark Pratt

### **TREE WARDEN**

August Pampel

### **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Susan Malan, Chairman

Randel Osborne

Leigh Rankin

Mark Reeves

Robert Van Houten

Alvin Wolfgram, alternate

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Stuart Ingersoll, Chairman

Alexander Daddona

Douglas Demarest

Paul Greenberg

Alix Walmsley

Lynn Faulstick, alternate

William Timothy Furgueson, alternate

Michael Noto, alternate

### **ZONING COMMISSION**

Alvin Wolfgram, Chairman

Jim Hill

William Reichenbach

Larry Shipman

Susan Uihlein

Robert Connelly, alternate

Jeffrey Lovelace, alternate

Barbara Zernicke, alternate

### **ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

Joseph Budrow, Zoning/Wetlands Enforce. Agent

Darcy Roper, Administrative Assistant

## ***Board of Assessment Appeals***

The Board of Assessment Appeals is composed of three elected citizens of Essex: currently, Anne Dougherty, Chair; Coral Rawn and John Ackerman, who hear and consider appeals of assessment valuations. The Board meets during the month of March to hear appeals on the Grand List of the prior October 1. Appeals of the October 1, 2011 Grand List were heard in March of 2012. March hearings are for appeals of real estate, personal property and for motor vehicles on the Supplemental List (vehicles billed in January.) Appeal applications are available on the Board's webpage and at the Assessor's Office. For March real estate hearings, applications must be submitted by February 20.

Motor vehicles on the regular list (vehicles registered on the previous October 1 and billed in July) may be appealed at the Board's September meeting, after the July billing period. No advance application is necessary prior to September motor vehicle appeals.

There were no motor vehicle assessment appeals at the meeting of September, 2011.

The Board scheduled 12 hearings during the month of March 2012, all were appeals of real estate assessments. Three assessments were reduced and nine were unchanged, including one no-show.

## ***Board of Finance***

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members who serve six year terms. The current Board consists of W. Campbell Hudson and Lee Rowley whose terms expire in 2013, James D. Francis and Frederick M. Vollono whose terms expire in 2015, and Keith Crehan and Jeffrey Woods whose terms expire in 2017.

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

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

James D. Francis  
Chairman

## ***Board of Selectmen***

The Essex Board of Selectmen consists of three members who are each elected for two year terms. As of Election Day of 2011, the members include First Selectman Norman M. Needleman, and Selectmen Stacia R. Libby and Joel B. Marzi.

The purpose of the Board of Selectmen is to oversee policy, operations and management of Town government, appointments to commissions, and shaping the Town budget. Some government decisions are forwarded to Town Meetings or referendums, where citizens have more direct input.

In August of 2011, southern Connecticut was hit hard by the tropical storm related to Hurricane Irene. Many roads were blocked by fallen trees and branches, and electric power was out for most households for about a week. Emergency Management worked hard with local, State and Federal responders, and utility companies as well. John Winthrop Middle School opened its doors to the public as a state-of-the-art emergency shelter, providing food, drinking water, showers, electrical recharging, and a place to gather with friends in relative comfort and safety. The recovery process ran smoothly considering the amount of damage that occurred.

The experience of this tropical storm brought attention to the conditions of the Emergency Operation Center, located in the basement of the Town Hall. The room flooded and contained mold and asbestos. This year, the center was moved to the first floor, and is now complete.

An email newsletter, called *Essex News*, was launched in mid-March of 2012, and is designed to keep people more informed about Town Government.

A committee of volunteers was formed to facilitate the development of a new Town website that we hope to launch by the end of 2012.

Additionally, we are undertaking a review of the medium and long-term capital needs for the Town, and are addressing some type of property relief for seniors who are long-term residents who live on low, fixed incomes.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the citizens of Essex for granting this Board of Selectmen the opportunity to work collaboratively to provide the services the residents of the three villages expect from our municipal government, as well as to thank the countless volunteers who help us maintain the wonderful quality of life we have all come to expect and enjoy. Working together makes things happen.

Norman M. Needleman  
First Selectman



## Building Department

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Building Official reviews all submitted building plans to ensure compliance with current state building codes. All approved plans are marked with pertinent code information, dated with the review date and signed by the Building Official. One set of plans is returned to the applicant with the building permit and one set is retained in the building permit file.

Once all permits have been obtained and construction has begun, there are a number of inspections required during construction. A list of required inspections is available in the Building Department.

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

From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, a total of 578 (484 residential, 94 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$9,384,873. Four permits were for new home construction. Four driveway permits were issued. A total of \$99,903 in permit fees was collected. Two demo ordinance fees were collected for a total of \$150.

The Building Department is available to answer any questions or concerns both prior to and during the permitting process.

Keith C. Nolin  
Building Official

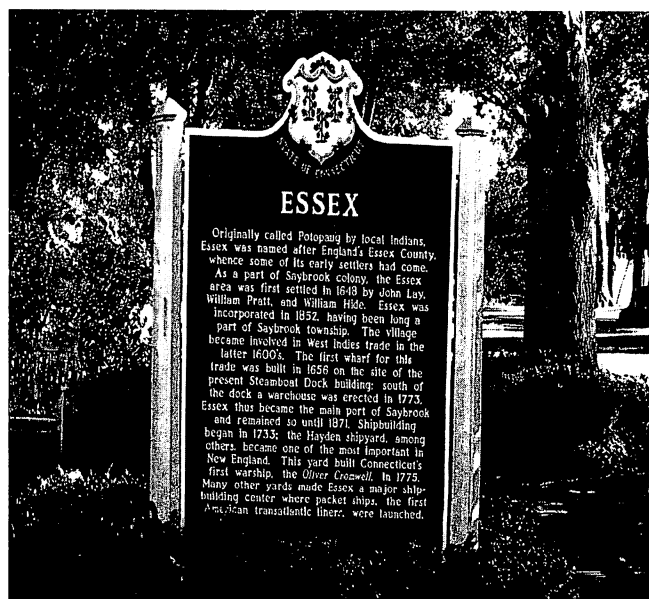
## Central Services Town Hall Operations

During fiscal year 2011 – 2012, well over 550 meetings were conducted at the Town Hall's three meeting rooms. Many of these meetings, including a number of large and even multiple-day events, required substantial set-ups and break-downs of chairs and tables, and actual coverage by staff personnel. Meetings included various boards, commissions and local clubs, Park & Recreation and library events, holiday programs, a business networking group that meets weekly, Red Cross Blood Drives, voting, non-profit fund-raisers, training classes, and medical screenings. During this time, our staff consisted of one full-time and one part-time employee.

The Emergency Operations Center was relocated from the Town Hall basement to the first floor due to issues of water leakage and the resulting mold. Asbestos was found in that room and had to be removed. This major project required some outside excavation to deal with drainage issues.

We will continue to strive toward a more efficient and safe Town Hall facility. Citizen suggestions are always welcomed.

Tom Fitzgerald  
Custodial/Maintenance Services Manager



Essex Village Green

## Clean Energy Task Force

The Clean Energy Task Force has been using the quarterly magazine *Essex Events* to encourage residents to enroll in the CT Clean Energy Options (CCEO) program. As of the end of June 2012, the town had 245 Clean Energy points with 6.7% of the households enrolled.

The Town of Essex received approximately \$44,000 in federal energy efficiency stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) thru the State in 2009. Members of the Task Force were involved in the decision-making process to install 14 new energy efficient windows on the north side of the Town Hall in 2011. Funds from the ARRA were used to pay for the new windows.

The Clean Energy Task Force met with Norman Needleman, the First Selectman to discuss sustainability goals for the Town of Essex in April 2012. The goals are as follows:

1. Reduce electric consumption in town buildings by 5% by 12/31/12. Benchmark CY2010 - 872,489 kWhs
2. Increase purchase of clean energy for Town buildings by 1% by 12/31/13 to 16%.
3. Reduce heating fuel oil consumption in town buildings by 5% for FY 12/13. Benchmark FY2010 - 37,960 gals
4. Increase amount of recyclables in tons for FY 12/13. Benchmark FY 10/11 - 691.31 tons
5. Increase amount of household hazardous waste collected for FY 12/13. Benchmark FY 10/11 - # of households - 411 Est. Number of pounds - 8,220

Essex Citizens for Clean Energy will provide semi-annual progress updates toward these goals.

Frank B. Hall  
Chairman



*Conservation Commission opening Forest Glen Trail*

## Conservation Commission

The Essex Conservation Commission manages the town's three large preserves: Canfield-Meadow Woods, Bushy Hill, and the passive recreational portion of Viney Hill Brook Park (VHBP), keeping the trails cut and cleared, the invasive vegetation controlled or eradicated, and trail maps current. The Commission maintains the town's inventory of conservation easements, per Connecticut State Statutes, and provides advice and opinion on matters of land use, conservation, and open space to other commissions including Planning and Inland/Wetlands.

All three town preserves required attention after tropical storm Irene uprooted large trees last fall rendering numerous trails impassable. Clean-up took 20 hours of professional labor with large equipment. Luckily, the "Wolf Tree," a signature feature of Bushy Hill Preserve, remained unharmed.

The Conservation Commission's Annual New Year's Day hike (VHBP) officially opened Forest Glen Trail which gives access to thirteen more acres overall within the park. Fifteen hikers, including First Selectman Norman Needleman, enjoyed 43 degree temperatures and a tailgate breakfast.

Connecticut's second or third largest Tulip Tree, located in Canfield-Meadow Woods, lost several gigantic branches in winter. After investigating possible uses for the fallen wood, the Commission decided to allow the limbs to remain on the ground as examples of natural forest evolution. The majestic limbs add educational interest to the hiking trail and are great for climbing. To prevent further damage, the protruding snag in the trunk was sawed smooth.

Boy Scout Troop 12 aided the Commission in a spring clean-up of VHBP by collecting Styrofoam, old tires, rusted buckets, and metal truck parts. This type of debris continues to surface; remnants of the former quarry operation that existed for many years on-site.

Boardwalk, VHBP's central trail, remains boggy much of the year due to erosion from run-off that has caused this former quarry road to become lower than the land on either side. To make walking easier, two commission members designed and constructed a 16-foot bog bridge. The portable bridge permits hikers to access the uplands trails without walking through muddy water.

Revised maps showing recently acquired land and new trails in Bushy Hill and Viney Hill Brook parks were printed and are available at entrances to both parks. The maps can also be down-loaded from the town's website ([www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)).

2012 Conservation Commission members: Richard Helmecki, Vice-Chair, Pamela Bernardini, Douglas Demarest, Jeffrey Lovelace, Susan Malan, Mary Ann Pleva, and Ronald Skinner, alternate.

Kay Tucker  
Chair



## ***Economic Development Commission***

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) opened the year completing the Novelty Lane Pentway Project with our partner, the Harbor Management Commission. The project was completed on time and under budget thanks to an excellent contractor. A portion of the excess funds was used to install a new northern ramp, sidewalk and trash containers totally completing the entire area. We thank also the Town's Public Works Department who served as general contractors on the project for us. We also want to thank an anonymous donor who revamped the island plantings and mulched the entire island. Thank you, whoever you are. This area, along with the Novelty Lane Pentway, has created a beautiful addition to the entire area.

As we enter the new year, working with our Town Planner, Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Works Department, EDC Commissioner John Beveridge and our First Selectman, we have completed the STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant request for 2012 which encompasses the Civic Center area composed of the upper portion of Grove Street, the Library, Town Hall and the parking area and a newly expanded parking area beside the Town's Tennis Courts and the Playscape. It is a much needed project and we hope the application is successful.

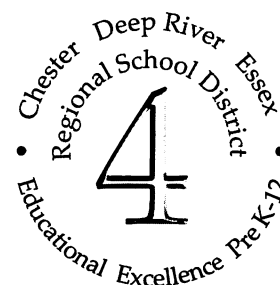
Our work continues with the area's Real Estate Agencies and the Board of Trade to maintain a fully rented retail shopping area in all of the villages. Compared to other towns in the area, we are holding our own.

We owe a big Thank You to our retiring Commissioner Bill Foster who has devoted countless hours and inspiration to all of us. We will miss his many contributions and leadership and hope we can continue to call upon his expertise in the future.

The Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month in Room A at 4:00 pm and your participation is welcome.

Lee Thompson, Chairman  
Lon Seidman, Vice Chair  
Commissioners:  
Robert Laundry  
John Beveridge  
Mark Uihlein  
David Winstead

## ***Education***



### **Our Mission**

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

### **Our Vision Statement**

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



*Public Access—Novelty Lane*

## **Education**

### **Essex Elementary School**

Essex Elementary School, situated on Main Street in Centerbrook, serves students from kindergarten through grade 6 who reside in the town of Essex. Essex Elementary also houses the Collaborative Preschool for Chester, Deep River and Essex.

Essex Elementary School is a school with high expectations for all students. The improvement of student learning is a direct result of the district's efforts to enhance instruction by focusing on individual needs.

Besides a strong academic program in reading, writing and mathematics, there are other programs to enrich our students' elementary experience.

Students in grades 3-6 participate in the World Language/Spanish program.

Technology is integrated into the classrooms through three portable labs and multiple desktop computers in every classroom. Additionally a portable iPad lab and mini iPad lab are available for use in classrooms.

The Enrichment Program uses an identification process based on multiple criteria to identify students in grade 6 for inclusion in the program.

The band and chorus programs encourage students' skills in music. Students may elect to begin instrumental instruction in grade 4.

A school-wide Art Show demonstrates the multitude of media that students create in grades K-6. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) provides enrichment for students in the Cultural Arts, field trips to enhance the curriculum and a myriad of opportunities for parent/family involvement.

The Green Team (grades 4-6) meets after school to support conservation efforts in the school. A Tower Garden was donated which has been an additional learning experience for students.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation funded 3 mini-grants to grades 3, 4 and 5, an Historian in Residence Program for students in grades 4, 5 and 6 and a World Cultures program in grade 3.

The staff continues to enhance its Social Development Program which helps to narrow the disparity between students who are already successful in school and those who struggle in school.

The Social Development Program promotes a school culture, climate, and curriculum, which fosters the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. The Social Development Book of the Month program embeds our core values into the general curriculum in each classroom.

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

## **Education**

### **Superintendent of Schools**

The 2011-2012 school year was a productive year filled with accomplishments for the Essex, Chester, Deep River, and Region 4 Schools.

Although our school year began with Tropical Storm Irene, it was smooth sailing throughout the year. Our districts have focused on teaching and learning permeating all aspects of curriculum, instruction, and budget preparation in order to meet the changing needs of our students. Alignment with the new Common Core State Standards was infused into our curriculum. Technology is key to building 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills necessary for careers of the future. We actively use technology in our instructional programs, and to assist educators in analyzing assessment data for better instructional decisions. Meaningful professional development has been helping teachers meet the changing needs in educating our children.

Our schools place a high priority on positive social development from kindergarten through grade twelve, supporting a positive learning climate, confidence, and self esteem. Each of our schools has a social skills curriculum designed to teach and model important interactive skills and values. The collaborative efforts between the schools, towns, and Tri-Town Youth Services are evidenced in the awards and recognition that our students have received whether in academics, athletics, or the arts. School climate plans are articulated and available to see on the Region 4 website.

Accomplishments for the 2011-2012 school year were plentiful across all areas. Environmentally green efforts were made by each of our schools through recycling, composting, and conservation initiatives. Recognition and awards were received in such areas as the Mock Trial Team, Lego Team competitions, Music and Art competitions both in New England and on a National level. Valley Regional High School was named one of the top 500 high schools across our country once again, by Newsweek Magazine. Our High School musical, *Titanic*, won multiple awards across our state, including this year's High School Musical of the Year! John Winthrop Middle School presented *Suessical the Musical*, with sell out crowds for every performance. Across our district, whether socially, in athletics, the arts, or in academics, our students have demonstrated excellence. We are very proud of our students, staff members, schools, and community who support our districts.

We look forward to providing rigor, focus, and accountability across all curricular areas during the 2012-2013 school year. The combined efforts and positive communication between our schools, home, and our communities combined with our collective commitment to improvement, will move each of our students toward personal excellence.

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

## Emergency Management

Emergency Management has moved up to the first floor of the Essex Town Hall and into the old Judge of Probate office. The Emergency Operations Center was only down for a few hours during the move. Thanks go to Richard Riggio and Sons, A-Dec Communications, Bella Electric, Stevens Communications, and Stewart Schenck.

The Emergency Preparedness Guidebook is out and we hope you will read it. If you would like an additional copy, please contact 860-514-1797. The Guidebook will help you understand the need to be ready for the next emergency. The Guidebook includes lists of suggested items that you may need for the next emergency. Special thanks to Dean Jacques, Lisa Fasulo, and Maria Lucarelli for putting this guidebook together.

On July 29 and 30th the Emergency Management Office took part in the state-wide Hurricane Drill. The drill started at 8:00 am on Monday and ended on Tuesday afternoon. There were 19 participants from several different departments, including the Selectmen, Fire Department, Essex Ambulance Association, the Red Cross, Public Works, CL&P, the Water Company, Essex CERT Team Members, Ham Radio EOC staff, the Harbor Master and other volunteers.

We are still looking for additional help in the Emergency Management Group. During an emergency or a major incident, the Emergency Management Office may run for 24 hours for several days. We are always looking for additional help, such as Ham Radio operators, administrative staff to type reports, even some additional help in answering the phones, and help in passing out supplies. Please contact 860-514-1797 to sign up.

William Buckridge  
Emergency Management Director



*Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1—Restored 1941 Mack*

## Essex Housing Authority

Essex Court is an affordable public housing complex for elderly and disabled residents located at 16 Main Street in Centerbrook, under the responsibility of the Essex Housing Authority (EHA). Residents live independently in our 36 garden-style units and enjoy camaraderie in the Community Room, which houses a full kitchen, a laundry, and a bathroom. As part of our second Small Cities grant to refurbish units, the Community Room added a shower and a generator. The grant was recently completed and most notable improvements are new heating systems, accessible bathroom fixtures, and new siding.

Our residents are fortunate to have on-going support from the community that enhances their daily lives. The

Essex Community Fund provided financial support to continue the Resident Service Program. The Essex Library brings books, games and updates programs on the computer they donated. The Rotary Club of Essex has been involved with several programs to improve our grounds and unit interiors. Ashleigh's Garden generously donated holiday items and the Essex Garden Club again donated plants from May Market. Pizza Pub and Aggie's Village Restaurant contributed items for cookouts. Thanksgiving this year was provided by Porky Pete's, The

Essex Community Fund and the Rotary Club of Essex. After last year's storm, Essex Hardware contributed toward storm lanterns for each unit along with the Essex Community Fund who also gave generously to replenish refrigerator contents. An anonymous donor gave each resident a gift card to replace their lost freezer contents.

In memory of our Chairperson, Mary Beth Stebbins, a bench and plaque will be placed in the garden. To realize her desire to provide affordable housing for those in need, the Commissioners have embarked on a development exploratory to build additional affordable housing units for the elderly, mobility impaired, disabled, and families.

EHA, our Site Manager, and Faith Asset Mgt., LLC strive to make Essex Court desirable for residents, financially viable, and an asset to the community.

Commissioners: Janice Atkeson, Acting Chairperson; Dawn Boulanger, Secretary; Rick Stebbins, Rosemary Willis, and David Gephard. Site Manager: Tammy Mesite. Property Mgt: Faith Asset Mgt., LLC

## Fire Marshal

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

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

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

A permit and inspection is also required from the Fire Marshal's office for the removal of an underground fuel storage tank. There is a \$30 fee for this permit and it may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. Upon removal of the tank, the Fire Marshal looks for any soil contamination and completes a report stating the results of the inspection. This report then becomes a permanent part of the property file. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, there were 11 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

Tent events also require a permit and inspection from the Fire Marshal. There is a \$30 fee for each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects all tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed at the tent for all social events. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, there were 30 tent permits/inspections.

The Fire Marshal also issues blasting permits to licensed blasting contractors. There is a \$60 fee for a blasting permit. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, 7 blasting permits were issued.

The open burning of residential brush (limited to 2" and under in diameter) requires a burning permit signed by the Fire Marshal. There is no charge for this permit; however there are specific terms and conditions under which this permit is issued. Information on open burning/burning permits is available in the Fire Marshal's Office. From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, 84 burning permits were issued.

Total income from permits issued by the Fire Marshal's Office from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 was \$1,210.

Keith C. Nolin  
Fire Marshal

## Harbor Management Commission

The past year was very busy for the Essex Harbor Management Commission with the culmination of three projects that had taken years from planning to fruition.

The Novelty Lane Public Access was graded and landscaped, turning a difficult pathway into an attractive and easy to use access to the water. The site is now an environmentally friendly pedestrian access and viewing point.

The Bushnell Street Access received the finishing touches of a complete upgrade and overhaul which included building an observation platform, new kayak racks, grading and landscaping. Both improvements to public access were accomplished with the aid of grants.

Dredging of the southern area of the harbor was finally completed in a joint project with local marine interests. By working together, we were able to reduce overall costs. Projects like this take years of planning and preparation to get through the necessary paperwork and tests to accomplish.

The Commission has begun the process to remove two rock piles that have deteriorated at the southern end of the anchorage and which are hazards to navigation and reduce the potential for anchorage.

The Commission maintains the Main anchorage and the Meadows anchorage along with moorings and wait lists. Applications for moorings, wait lists and Bushnell racks are online through the Town's web site.

Jeff Going  
Chairman



*Kayak racks and observation deck Bushnell Park*



## Health Department

The Health Department promotes and protects the physical and environmental well-being of residents from disease, injury and environmental health hazards through prevention and education programs, and enforcement of the CT Public Health Code, state regulations and town ordinances. In 2011-2012, the Health Dept. received grant funding for Lead Poisoning Prevention activities and for conducting a Health Needs Assessment for all residents in Middlesex County.

The department conducted 150 inspections at 42 food service establishments, 8 Temporary Events, 7 Salons/Spas, 6 public pools and 4 childcare facilities. Plan reviews and permit-related activities are summarized below:

Year	Plan Review	Soil Testing	Well Drilling	New Septic	Septic Repair
2007-2008	94	31	34	17	38
2008-2009	53	15	7	9	21
2009-2010	55	24	15	7	28
2010-2011	72	32	15	3	27
2011-2012	72	31	7	5	24

Additional Health Dept. responsibilities include:

### Environmental

- Provide information on radon, mold, lead poisoning, tick and mosquito-borne illnesses, food safety, vaccine clinics, well water testing and septic system maintenance
- Review and approve design plans for septic systems prepared by installers and engineers, proposed building additions, changes in use, lot line changes and accessory structures such as pools and sheds
- Perform soil tests for design of new septic systems in subdivisions and for feasibility of building additions
- Investigate failed septic systems and develop solutions for repair. Issue permits to construct and install septic systems
- Issue permits for drilling private drinking water wells. Review laboratory analysis of drinking water

### Food Service

- Inspect food service facilities, grocery and convenience stores, restaurants, sandwich shops, temporary events, and institutional kitchens.
- Investigate food-borne illnesses

### General

- Investigate public health nuisances and complaints that arise from rodent and insect infestations, accumulations of trash and garbage, institutional sanitation and safety, public bathing areas, potable water and private water supply
- Monitor state mandated reportable diseases and work to control the spread of communicable diseases
- Collaborate with Emergency Management Director and community partners to protect public health and safety during public health emergencies and natural disasters. Maintain emergency evacuation registry for citizens with special needs

The Health Dept. employs 1 part-time Director of Health/Sanitarian and shares administrative staff with Building and Zoning Departments.

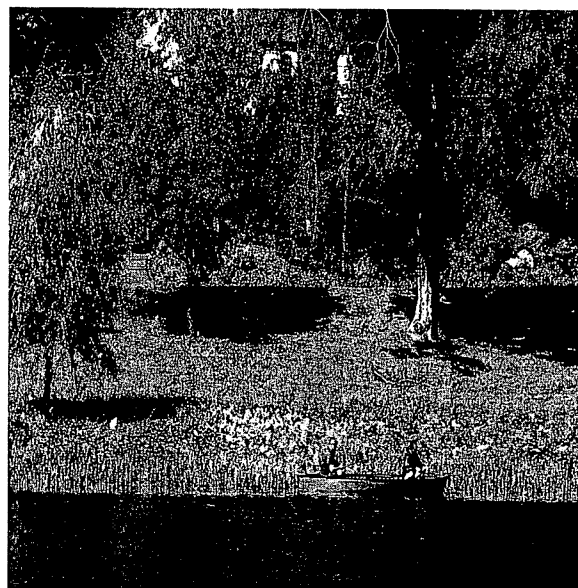
Lisa Fasulo, MPH  
Director of Health

## Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

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

The Commission, along with its enforcement official, regulates all proposed activities within a wetland, watercourse, or waterbody and on the land within 100 feet of those areas. Wetlands are defined in the regulations in accordance with CT General Statutes. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Commission conducted five site inspections and issued 20 inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued 13 permits for activities within upland review areas.



*An afternoon on Sunset Pond*

## **Park and Recreation Commission**

The Essex Park and Recreation Commission and Department continue to strive to make the Essex COMMUNITY through People, Parks and Programs. This year showed significant growth in programs and special events participation. We completed a number of parks improvement projects in our efforts to provide safe and appealing parks for Essex families and visitors to enjoy. Most notably, we successfully completed the Essex Basketball Center Project thanks to generous support from our donors and the tireless efforts of the Basketball Subcommittee.

Recreation programs continue to grow and improve under the oversight of Recreation Program Manager Mary Ellen Barnes. This year we processed over 1,100 program registrations and created many new youth program offerings. It has been a focus of Park and Recreation in recent years to increase our programs for adults as well. To this end, Zumba, Yoga, a Boating Certification Course, and Functional Fitness programs were held. Participants are taking advantage of our online registration software as 43% of total registrations were online registrations.

We again partnered with the Essex Land Trust to offer the Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit program that consisted of eight activities for families and featured the first ever Turkey Plunge at Viney Hill Brook Park. The Rockfall Foundation generously sponsored this program. Our second annual Essex-go-Bragh was a tremendously successful event, and we hosted the new Morning With Santa event in partnership with Essex Library. Our Essex Eggstravaganza, Fourth of July Parade, Summer Concerts Series, and annual Pumpkin Festival were held as well.

Creating a positive impact on the Essex community is of utmost importance to Park and Recreation. We collected \$4,415 in scholarship revenues to send children from families in need of financial assistance to camps and programs. Park and Recreation offered 47 after-school programs ensuring our children had a positive and safe manner in which to recreate after school. Park and Recreation provides 12 part-time, seasonal jobs to our local teens and young adults. We accepted registrations from over 800 Essex and non-resident families into our programs. Lastly, our special events generate thousands of attendees who visit Essex and Ivoryton Village and support our local economy.

The Park and Recreation Department and Commission appreciate their role, among many other great community organizations, in shaping our Town, and pledge to be careful, committed, and hard-working stewards of public funds and assets while delivering the benefits of Park and Recreation to our residents.

Rick Audet  
Director

## **Planning Commission**

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

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

During the fiscal year 2011-2012, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

- Following adoption of town-wide Transportation Study, began implementation of Study's recommendations and established ad-hoc subcommittee called Traffic Options Promoting Public Safety (TOPPS) to study traffic calming measures, with Grove Street as the pilot study;
- In an ongoing effort to encourage expanded housing opportunities, developed new Accessory Apartment regulations and referred them to the Zoning Commission for consideration;
- Adopted report from Architectural Design Review Subcommittee and made recommendations regarding Commercial Design Regulations as well as building height and coverage to Zoning Commission;
- Following recommendations of Architectural Design Review Subcommittee, was awarded \$10,000 grant from State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development to develop nomination for Village of Ivoryton to National Register of Historic Places. Nomination process will occur in FY 2012-2013.
- Approved three-lot subdivision on Toby Hill Road and conducted subdivision review of applications for properties on Foxboro Road (seven-lot) and Ingham Hill Road (six-lot). Both Foxboro and Ingham Hill subdivision applications will be decided in FY 2012-2013;
- Continued progress on Phase I of sidewalk improvement design for new sidewalk and repair sidewalk near Essex Elementary School funded through Safe Routes To School program. Construction will occur in FY 2012-2013.

Thomas Danyliw  
Chairman

## Probate Court

The last 18 months have been a very busy time for the Probate Court. As most of you know, there is now a regional court, which serves nine towns. This merger was part of a statewide effort that reduced the number of probate courts from 117 to 54. The new Saybrook District serves the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. The total population of these towns is over 62,000 citizens. As you can imagine, merging nine courts was not a simple matter, but with the help and cooperation of the former judges and the significant effort of the clerks we were successful in completing the task. The court is now a full time court and is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. It is on the second floor of the Old Saybrook Town Hall, which is located at 302 Main Street.

As a result of the mergers state-wide, the Probate Court Administration was able to return \$3.7 million to the state in its first year. The projection for 2012 is to be under budget by an additional \$2.1 million.

Most people understand that we handle all aspects of decedent's estates, however the court also handles a variety of other matters including determining the necessity to appoint conservators and reviewing the conservator's accountings, appointing guardians of minors and adults with intellectual disabilities, trusts and trust accountings, custody matters, removal of parental rights and adoptions.

We have opened over one thousand new matters of all types since January 2011. Some of these matters require hearings and some do not. As a result I hold, on average, 15 hearings per week.

In addition to the normal duties of a probate judge, I was fortunate to be nominated to the Executive Committee of the Probate Court Assembly. The Executive Committee meets monthly to discuss the rules and policies of the probate courts. I



*Probate Judge, Terrance Lomme*

have also joined the National College of Probate Judges, so that I can be aware of national trends and procedures in probate courts.

Thanks to the efforts of the chief clerk Valerie Shickel, and the other clerks and assistant clerks, Sharon Tiezzi, Marjorie Calltharp, Stella Beaudoin, Helene Yates, Peggy Schroeder, Gloria Amatrudo, Jackie Craco and Heather Graves the court has successfully completed the merger and operates smoothly.

## Public Works

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

The highlight of the 2011/2012 fiscal year was the tropical storm that hit Connecticut in August 2011. Many trees were damaged resulting in hazardous conditions. Public utilities were interrupted for some people up to a week and a half. This department worked closely with utility companies and private contractors to open streets and make repairs possible. This was followed by a lengthy clean-up period. Some relief came from a mild winter allowing us to prepare for spring.

Sidewalks were repaired and intersections were rebuilt on Harbor View and Cedar Grove Terrace, Stanford Hill Road, Mallard Point and Oakledge Drive.

A used Vac-All was purchased from an equipment rental company at substantial savings, allowing us to clean local catch-basins completely on our own in the future.

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

David Caroline  
Director of Public Works

## Pumpout Boat Program

The 2011 boating season was another record year of activity for the Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Program headquartered here in Essex. We are the second largest Pumpout Boat Program in Connecticut. The largest (Long Island Soundkeeper) covers western Long Island Sound including portions of New York.

The pumpout boat program is a federally funded program that concerns itself with preserving the delicate balance of marine life in our coastal waters. This year, Connecticut received the highest grant of all the states, and we are putting it to good use.

Our service safely removes thousands of gallons of sewage from boats annually. This sharply reduces the discharge of untreated waste into our local waters and harbors, protecting the flora, faunae and swimming areas.

We service the boating community from the East Haddam Bridge to (but not into) Long Island Sound. There are three pumpout boats providing service from Memorial Day through the end of October. In July and August the service is six days a week. In the spring and fall we are in service weekends only. There are eight employees including regular and part time workers.

There are roughly 2,853 serviceable boats in our area of operation. During the 2011 boating season, we pumped 62,368 gallons of material, pumped 3,282 times and were on duty 111 days.

We offload into upland disposal facilities that then transfer the material to sewage treatment plants.

Wally Schieferdecker & Joel Severance  
Program Managers

## **Registrars of Voters**

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

The Registrars have the responsibility of keeping the Registry List current at all times. They receive applications from new voters, admit those who qualify and add their names to the Registry in a timely fashion.

The Annual Canvass is required by State Statute and was carried out January thru April. Changes of address, removals and other corrections were made. The help of all electors in this process is greatly appreciated. As of August 20, 2012 there were 4,497 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats-1,417, Republicans-1,313, Unaffiliated-1,750, Other-17.

This past year was a busy year for us and the voters of Essex. The State Municipal election was held in November 2011. The Republican Presidential Primary was held in April 2012 and the Region 4 Budget Referendum was held in May 2012. Conducting these elections, primaries and referendums in an efficient and smooth manner is the responsibility of the Registrars.

The Registrars wish to thank all of the electors of the Town of Essex for helping to make the election process work as required. We also wish to thank and commend the moderators and poll workers for their dedication and effort in conducting the election process. Working together, the election process has been efficient and with good spirit.

Lois A. Ely  
John V. Heiser  
Registrars of Voters

## **Resident State Trooper Essex Police**

The Essex Resident Trooper's Office consists of the Resident Trooper and the Essex Police. The office is maintained in the Essex Town Hall for the convenience of the Essex citizens. The Resident State Trooper is provided to the Town of Essex by the Connecticut State Police. The Essex Police consists of two Essex Police Officers at 2012 fiscal year end. Additionally there are three Marine Boat Operators that supplement in staffing the Marine Patrol to allow a visible patrol force within the waters of Essex and the neighboring towns. Trooper First Class Kerry Taylor and her K-9 partner Schutz are the Resident Trooper(s) in the town of Essex. During the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year, The Essex Police and CSP handled over 6,279 calls for service in the Town of Essex and investigated approximately 454 criminal incidents in town. Approximately 126 accidents were investigated. Motor vehicle enforcement continues to be a high priority with 1,283 infractions and 455 written warnings issued to those who violated motor vehicle laws in the town of Essex. This was done by targeting areas where citizen complaints were received and/or accidents occurred.

The Essex Police continues to maintain a "clearance rate" that far exceeds the state average. The Essex Police currently have four Crown Victoria's that are being utilized for police vehicles and a 23' Parker boat that is utilized for marine patrol. The Essex Police continue to apply and receive Federal and State Department of Transportation grants to fund DUI Patrols throughout the Town of Essex. We continue to work hard to provide better service and assistance to our citizens and the visitors to the area.

The Essex Police and Resident Trooper's Office – with special thanks to Corporal Russell Gingras raised more than \$2,500 for Special Olympics and collected over 4,000 lbs. of food for the Shoreline Pantry.

TFC Kerry Taylor  
Resident State Trooper

## **Retirement Board**

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary administrator of the Town's three retirement plans: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Police Retirement Plan, and the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firefighters.

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

The ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall in the early evening. The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town's retirement plans in order to ensure effective and fair oversight of the plans.

The fund balances at the close of the 2011-2012 fiscal year were: \$2,015,253 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees, \$610,461 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen, and \$499,297 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Police. This included an annual Town contribution to each plan of \$135,596, \$69,922, and \$71,154 respectively. The Plans in 2011-2012 currently cover 144 total participants which include 92 active participants and 30 retired.

The ERB recently completed an updating of all three Town plans and submitted them to the Board of Selectman for approval in 2012. Copies of the Town plans, investment portfolio, audit and actuarial reports are available to the public for inspection at the Town of Essex – Office of the Treasurer upon request.

## Sanitary Waste Commission

The Sanitary Waste Commission has been working toward improved operations and efficiencies to keep the facility highly functioning and cost effective.

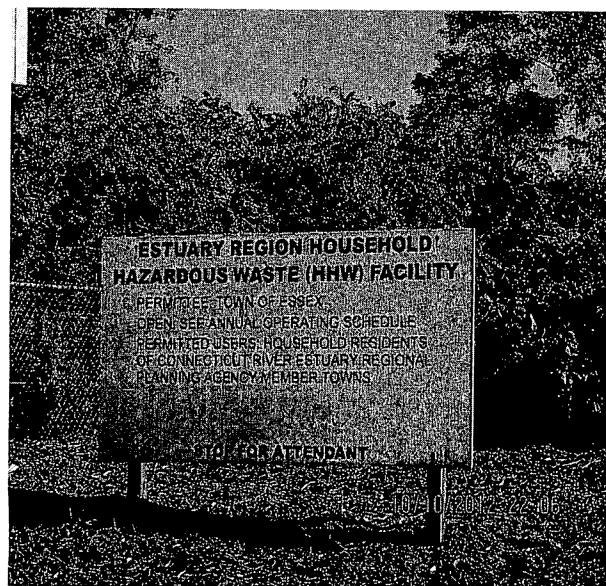
The Essex Landfill/Recycling Center located at 5 Dump Road, off Route 154 Exit 4 from Route 9 continues to serve Essex residents on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7 am to 3 pm

The facility offers two payment options for household waste which include “pay as you throw” at set price per bag or by purchasing bag stickers. The facility accepts free of charge the following additional items: cardboard, waste oil, antifreeze, and paint (from April 1 to Oct 1 only). The facility also accepts (fee basis) Freon containing appliances, mattresses, box springs, demolition material and bulky waste, clean or painted lumber, brush disposal, log disposal, and tires. In addition to these services, there is a leaf composting area open during the months of April, May, September and November – this service is free of charge.

Essex is the host location of the Estuary Region Household Hazardous Waste Facility located across the street from 5 Dump Road which is open on scheduled Saturdays and seasonally.

The Sanitary Waste Commission meets the third Monday of each month following the Water Pollution Control Authority meeting. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome to attend.

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



*Estuary Region Household HHW Facility—Dump Road*

## Social Services

The 2011-2012 fiscal year was a little out of the ordinary for this department.

The tropical storm that hit shoreline Connecticut brought serious damage to our local communities. Electricity was out for almost a week, while our emergency generator kept the Town Hall open. The Selectman's Office, which we are part of, became the focal point of many calls and complaints. We worked hand-in-hand with Public Works and William Buckridge, our Emergency Management Director, to keep people informed and advised.

A warmer than anticipated winter, along with generous donations from individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups, bolstered the viability of our donation account this last fiscal year. We feel confident that we are amply prepared for the coming winter.

Our winter programs, which distribute holiday food and toys for children, ran smoothly in 2011 during the midst of a busy Energy Assistance season. The public was generous in their support, and the Essex Elementary School personnel and volunteers worked flawlessly as usual.

We took applications for the Renter Rebate Program, which runs late spring and through the summer. This program helps senior citizens and disabled people on fixed income who pay rent, and is administered by the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management.

Social Services related notices and articles were publicized in our Town website, *Essex Events Magazine*, local newspapers, and the Town's new *Essex News* email newsletter.

We remain concerned about the national economy, which has yet to fully recover from what is now referred to as the *Great Recession*. Jobs are scarce and people are still hurting, although improvement has been noticed at the intake level of this office. We still have a ways to go.

Special thanks to local non-profits that provide direct services, including the Shoreline Food Banks and Meal Sites, the Community Renewal Team, the Estuary Council, FISH, Child and Family Agency, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, the Homeless Outreach Team – and many others.

Dean Jacques  
Social Services Coordinator



## Town Clerk's Office

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex had sixteen Town Meetings, twelve Public Hearings, a Municipal Election and one Referendum, as well as a Presidential Primary.

The following is a list of recordings for the 2011-2012 fiscal year for the Town of Essex:

Birth Certificates .....	36	
Death Certificates .....	103	
Dog Licenses .....	711	2 Kennels
Land Records .....	1,696	
Marriage Licenses .....	78	
Sportsmen Licenses .....	176	
Lifetime Sportsmen Licenses .....	88	
Survey Maps .....	7	
Trade Names.....	45	

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

Dog License Fees.....	\$5,120
Land Record Fees.....	\$111,772
Marriage Surcharge Fees .....	\$1,064
Preservation Fees-State Library.....	\$3,246
Sports License Fees.....	\$3,117
State Treasurer Fees .....	\$58,428

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax .....	\$93,458
Town Clerk Fees.....	\$67,171

We issue the following: Dog License, Sports License, Marriage License and Trade Name certificates as well as burning permits.

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

**VETERANS** please note that by September 30th you need to file your DD-214 (Discharge) with this office in order to receive the Veteran's exemption.

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

Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk  
Dana J. Novorio, Assistant Town Clerk

## Town Counsel

The past year has been one of transition from the Administration of Phil Miller to that of Norman Needleman. From the perspective of legal issues, the transition has been greatly facilitated by the fact that Mr. Needleman had served on the Board of Selectmen and thus was familiar with most of the pending issues facing the Town.

In addition to the usual matters of legal notices, Town Meeting calls, referenda procedures and review of contracts, the past year found the Town involved in several more complicated matters involving Town highways, ranging from resolving encroachments into Town highways to determining where a Town highway ended and private property began.

The Town was involved in several Freedom of Information requests, one of which resulted in a hearing before the Freedom of Information Commission. Based upon information provided by the Town that it had complied, the Hearing Officer recommended withdrawal of the complaint and the complainant did so.

Essex, like most other towns, becomes involved with personal injury claims, usually involving slip and fall claims on Town roads or sidewalks. One matter involving a slip and fall is still pending. There is no other pending litigation. There are other matters which may result in litigation, but none would appear to pose any significant liability issues for the Town.

Two tax appeals were taken to Court in the past fiscal year involving values determined in the 2008 revaluation. Both have been settled by smaller reductions than sought, without a trial. The total appeals of 2008 Grand List values numbered less than ten, and the resolutions, by settlement or trial (one case), had a miniscule effect on the Grand List. The Town has contracted with Vision Appraisal again to provide services for the 2013 revaluation.

David M. Royston  
Town Counsel



Guitar Workshop with Instructor Charles Domler  
Park & Recreation Program

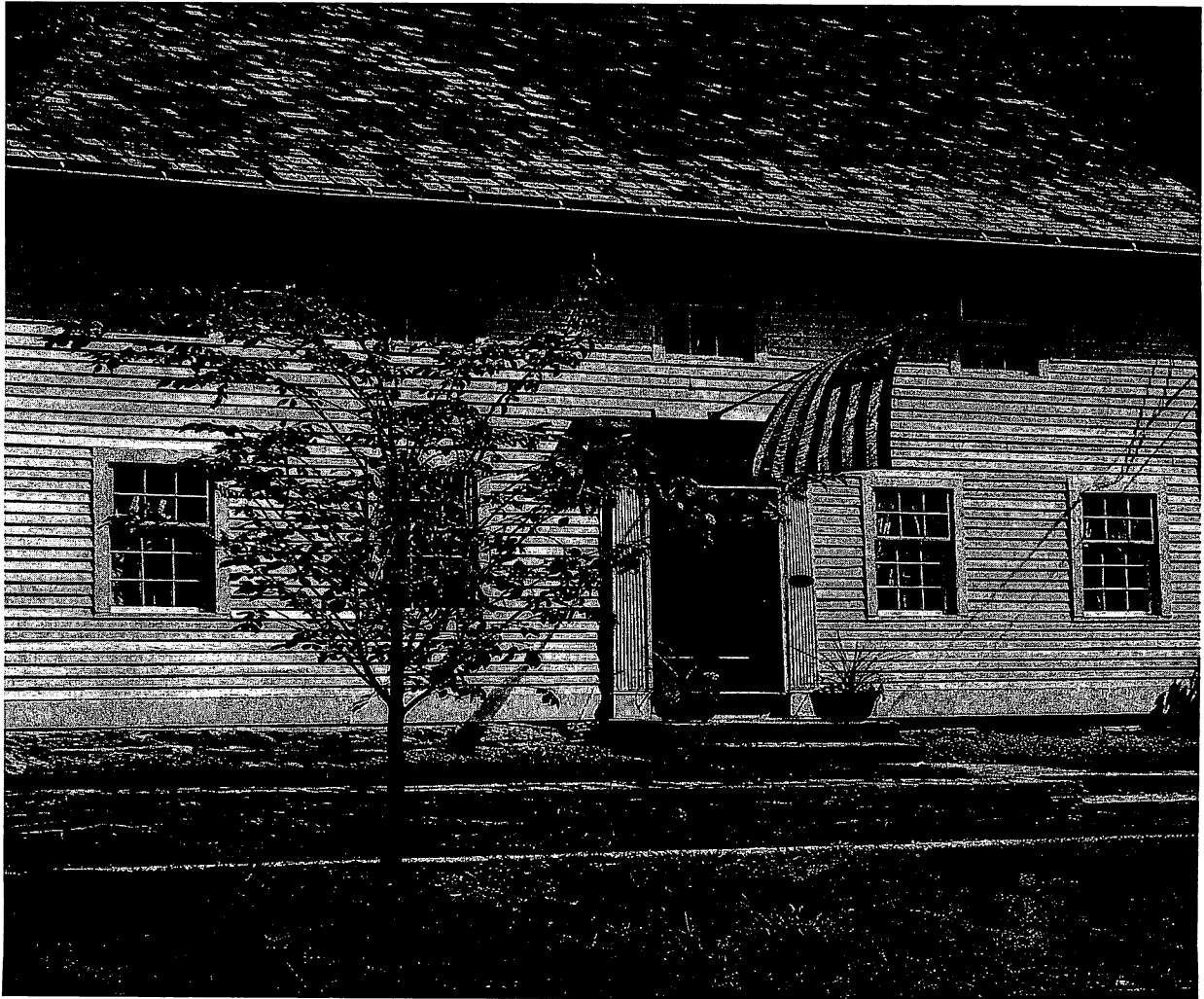
## Tree Committee

The Essex Tree Committee was established in 1990 to inventory, preserve and replace our priceless resource of street trees. Funding for the plantings comes from the Town, grants and private donations. During the period of fiscal year 2011-2012, we have planted eleven trees.

The tree types and locations are as follows: White oak (*Quercus Alba*), 46 Dennison Road, Princeton Elm, (*Ulmus Americana*), 30 West Avenue, London plane, (*Platanus x acerifolia*), 139 Dennison Road, Red Oak, (*Quercus rubra*), Maple Avenue, 2 Little Leaf Lindens (*Tilia*) South Main Street, 2 Hawthorns (*Crataegus*), 22 Main Street Essex, 3 Valley Forge Elms, (*Ulmus Americana*), Pratt House, 2 American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Carlson Lane.

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

Augie Pampel  
Chairman



American Hornbeam —Pratt House Museum—Essex Historical Society

## ***Water Pollution Control Authority***

In this past year we've improved our communication and tracking of pump-outs by more frequent correspondence with pumpers and residents. As an insert to the July tax invoices, the Health Department provided information about the Pump out Ordinance to all property owners. The ordinance requires that each property septic tank be pumped at least every five years.

Additionally, the WPCA started the work necessary to develop a goal toward contracting a new town-wide Wastewater Management Plan. We began the internal process of seeking input and guidance from the Economic Development Commission, the Planning Commission, the Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen.

The Water Pollution Control Authority meets the third Monday of each month at 4:30 pm on the second floor of the Essex Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

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

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## ***Zoning Board of Appeals***

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals is chaired by Stuart Ingersoll. With Mr. Ingersoll are Alexander Daddona, Doug Demarest, Alix Walmsley, Paul Greenberg and Tim Furgueson. Alternate members are Lynn Faulstick and Michael Noto. Attorney Michael Wells serves as legal counsel for the Board.

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

There were a total of 30 public hearings held before the ZBA this year. The Board granted twenty-two variances and denied six others. The Board approved one Certificate of Location for an auto repairer.

## ***Zoning Commission***

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

The Zoning Commission is responsible for the continuous review, updates and administration of the Essex Zoning Regulations. Revision updates to the Zoning Regulations are made periodically to conform to State Statutes and to changing concerns regarding development in Essex. In addition, the Commission reviews, approves, or denies applications for Special Exceptions and/or site plans.

During the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year the Commission held sixteen public hearings. It approved eleven special exceptions and six petitions to amend the zoning regulations and/or change a map boundary.

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## ***Zoning Enforcement***

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

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

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

Joseph Budrow  
Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Official

# Town of Essex

## 2012 Annual Report

### Financial Information

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

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

Once complete, the Town's official Audit Report prepared by our outside audit firm of Grant Thornton LLP will be available for review at the office of the Town Clerk.

# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

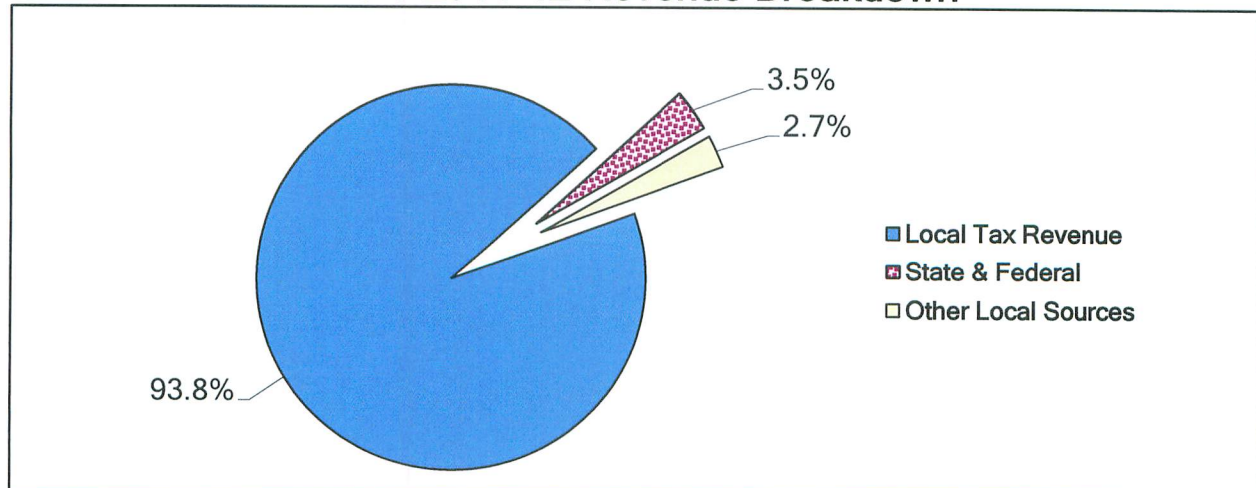
### Historical Data - Revenue

(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)

Fiscal Year	Assessor and Tax Collector						Other Revenue		Total Revenue
	Grand List		Adjusted Tax Levy				State & Federal	Local Sources	
	Net Taxable \$	Annual Incr. %	Amount \$	Annual Incr. %	Collected On Time %	Tax Rate Mills			
2012-13*	1,120,189,036	0.89	20,691,565	5.12	99.00	18.47	729,275	533,032	21,953,872
2011-12	1,116,538,776	0.25	20,147,562	6.55	99.02	17.98	741,493	581,345	21,470,401
2010-11	1,110,265,319	(0.31)	19,684,655	4.10	99.16	17.63	802,863	503,727	20,991,245
2009-10	1,113,762,454	8.16	18,908,813	4.50	98.80	16.95	897,178	542,978	20,348,969
2008-09	1,029,770,435	1.41	18,093,950	4.96	98.72	17.60	1,127,338	743,094	19,964,382
2007-08	1,015,492,968	0.83	17,239,184	4.94	98.91	16.90	919,922	1,277,775	19,436,881
2006-07	1,007,137,952	0.83	16,427,178	6.19	98.80	16.20	1,339,615	1,043,556	18,810,349
2005-06	998,805,274	1.54	15,468,996	4.69	99.01	15.50	851,787	920,468	17,241,251
2004-05	983,668,278	47.38	14,775,573	10.27	99.33	14.90	1,332,303	904,384	17,012,260
2003-04	667,428,769	1.15	13,399,154	9.62	98.79	20.00	823,407	691,617	14,914,178
2002-03	659,813,608	1.95	12,223,722	11.34	99.06	18.25	804,649	682,050	13,710,421
2001-02	647,187,810	3.05	10,979,019	2.72	98.67	16.75	873,648	621,298	12,473,965
2000-01	628,046,013	(2.85)	10,688,066	11.76	98.62	16.75	794,975	726,058	12,209,099
1999-00	646,470,930	2.07	9,563,675	5.84	98.54	14.50	822,107	741,254	11,127,036
1998-99	633,366,208	0.94	9,036,188	2.75	98.57	14.00	876,563	914,505	10,827,256

\* Budgeted figures

### FY 2011-12 Revenue Breakdown





# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

### Historical Data - Expenditures

*(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)*

Fiscal Year	Selectman's Expenditures			Education Expenditures				Total Essex Expend.	% Increase
	Town Admin.	% Increase	Debt Pmt (P & I)	Elementary School	Regional District 4	Total Education	% Increase		
2012-13*	5,983,965	1.31	869,675	7,534,591	7,701,887	15,236,478	2.91	22,090,118	2.23
2011-12	5,906,824	7.13	895,238	7,400,069	7,405,135	14,805,204	3.91	21,607,266	4.49
2010-11	5,513,716	(1.36)	917,916	7,109,503	7,138,437	14,247,940	2.09	20,679,572	2.13
2009-10	5,589,745	(6.56)	701,808	7,074,443	6,882,305	13,956,748	3.32	20,248,301	0.21
2008-09†	5,981,962	8.42	716,198	6,783,586	6,724,040	13,507,626	5.92	20,205,786	6.25
2007-08	5,517,313	(2.57)	747,662	6,316,505	6,435,906	12,752,411	6.30	19,017,386	4.40
2006-07†	5,662,807	13.51	555,953	5,995,035	6,001,990	11,997,025	5.81	18,215,785	7.89
2005-06	4,988,816	(4.19)	557,512	5,717,309	5,620,692	11,338,001	1.32	16,884,329	(0.57)
2004-05†	5,206,907	27.69	583,091	5,570,964	5,619,374	11,190,338	12.73	16,980,336	16.30
2003-04	4,077,737	7.12	595,962	5,514,033	4,412,335	9,926,368	6.80	14,600,067	6.28
2002-03	3,806,799	(1.37)	635,681	5,050,831	4,243,876	9,294,707	11.40	13,737,187	7.01
2001-02	3,859,558	10.32	634,006	4,664,525	3,679,008	8,343,533	7.99	12,837,097	6.89

\* - Budgeted figures

† - Includes STEAP Grants & Special Appropriations

### Pension Trust Funds

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

	Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Police
<b>Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 2,053,003	\$ 612,295	\$ 447,159
<b>Contributions:</b>			
From General Fund and Members	135,596	69,922	124,869
<b>Income:</b>			
Interest, Dividends & Other Income	53,868	16,263	11,970
Investments Market Value - Gain/(Loss)	(64,410)	(19,786)	(11,125)
<b>Total Beginning Balance, Contributions &amp; Income</b>	\$ 2,178,057	\$ 678,694	\$ 572,873
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Retirement Benefits Paid	153,499	54,529	63,136
Administration	9,306	13,704	10,440
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	162,805	68,234	73,576
<b>Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 2,015,253	\$ 610,461	\$ 499,297
Number of participants in plans	62	76	6
Retired	12	16	2
Active	35	55	2
Vested before terminating	15	5	2

# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

### Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2010-11 Actual	Fiscal Year 2011-12			FY 2012-13 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>TAX COLLECTION</b>					
Property Taxes	\$ 19,570,653	\$ 19,979,865	\$ 20,042,422	\$ 62,557	\$ 20,641,565
Interest and Lien Fees	114,002	25,000	105,140	80,140	50,000
<b>Total Tax Collection</b>	<b>19,684,655</b>	<b>20,004,865</b>	<b>20,147,562</b>	<b>142,697</b>	<b>20,691,565</b>
<b>STATE &amp; FEDERAL</b>					
Tax Relief Totally Disabled	212	-	198	198	-
Veterans Tax Relief	3,702	3,962	3,391	(571)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	393,304	389,697	390,366	669	389,697
Town Aid Road Grant	108,886	109,040	108,861	(179)	109,040
LOCIP	41,754	41,903	40,613	(1,290)	41,903
PILOT Grant	27,832	19,172	26,346	7,174	19,172
Homeowners Tax Relief	36,051	36,000	32,500	(3,500)	36,000
Boating Registration	20,500	20,500	-	(20,500)	20,500
Transit District	1,005	1,970	1,047	(923)	1,970
Manufacturing Equipment	80,826	80,825	-	(80,825)	-
Municipal Revenue Sharing	-	-	39,007	39,007	80,825
Pequot Grant	11,551	11,206	12,009	803	11,206
Miscellaneous State and Federal	77,240	15,000	87,153	72,153	15,000
<b>Total State &amp; Federal</b>	<b>802,863</b>	<b>729,275</b>	<b>741,493</b>	<b>12,218</b>	<b>729,275</b>
<b>LOCAL REVENUES</b>					
Interest Income	7,398	36,705	3,575	(33,130)	3,700
Miscellaneous Permits	3,440	2,000	2,862	862	2,000
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	29,081	45,817	32,175	(13,642)	45,817
Sanitary Permits	64,589	70,000	63,575	(6,425)	70,000
Building Permit Fees	90,295	96,000	94,503	(1,497)	96,000
Circuit Court Fines	5,785	7,000	6,375	(625)	7,000
Gas Tax Refunds	-	805	-	(805)	805
Zoning Permits	6,617	7,100	8,364	1,264	7,100
Zoning Board of Appeals	1,800	2,500	2,800	300	2,500
Planning Commission Receipts	-	500	3,060	2,560	2,500
Conveyance Tax	93,756	110,000	96,257	(13,743)	90,000
Park and Recreation	4,260	3,500	4,590	1,090	4,500
Miscellaneous Receipts	26,478	15,000	91,667	76,667	15,000
Town Clerk Fees	126,705	110,000	131,488	21,488	110,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	1,816	1,110	3,830	2,720	1,110
Regional Recycling Fees	34,510	33,000	30,000	(3,000)	69,000
Health Department Fees	7,197	6,000	6,225	225	6,000
<b>Total Local Revenues</b>	<b>503,727</b>	<b>547,037</b>	<b>581,345</b>	<b>34,308</b>	<b>533,032</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 20,991,245</b>	<b>\$ 21,281,177</b>	<b>\$ 21,470,401</b>	<b>\$ 189,224</b>	<b>\$ 21,953,872</b>

# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

### Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2010-11	Fiscal Year 2011-12			FY 2012-13
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>					
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					
Selectmen	\$ 179,166	\$ 180,578	\$ 174,901	\$ (5,677)	\$ 182,681
Assessor	103,358	108,891	103,588	(5,303)	111,255
Central Services	227,772	220,519	211,651	(8,868)	209,992
Elections	46,883	50,648	37,557	(13,091)	50,675
Probate Court	2,986	3,460	3,460	-	3,460
Tax Collector	95,963	93,464	91,469	(1,995)	95,358
Town Clerk	179,968	169,573	169,573	-	150,908
Treasurer	107,860	114,940	114,793	(147)	139,532
Zoning Enforcement Agent	46,218	56,224	56,084	(140)	59,052
Fringe Benefits	751,816	831,204	815,106	(16,098)	861,210
General Insurance	161,298	158,045	158,045	-	170,790
Legal Services	96,615	71,055	68,274	(2,781)	72,305
Public Restroom Facilities	17,817	18,447	18,447	-	17,210
Technology	101,732	157,461	144,019	(13,443)	155,084
Board of Assessment Appeals	1,317	1,379	1,379	-	1,340
Board of Finance	39,838	44,891	39,125	(5,766)	117,000
Clean Energy Task Force	2,373	3,600	638	(2,962)	3,000
Conservation Commission	9,872	10,800	8,032	(2,768)	9,900
Economic Development Comm.	740	1,100	426	(674)	5,000
IWWC Commission	6,444	9,600	7,220	(2,380)	8,810
Parks and Recreation	164,513	166,414	166,414	-	174,681
Planning Commission	67,774	65,521	65,521	-	62,366
Tree Committee	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Zoning Board of Appeals	6,723	7,050	6,640	(410)	6,300
Zoning Commission	34,555	45,343	26,171	(19,172)	28,885
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>2,454,802</b>	<b>2,591,407</b>	<b>2,489,732</b>	<b>(101,675)</b>	<b>2,697,994</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
Ambulance Association	26,818	15,273	15,273	-	18,363
Animal Control	15,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Building Department	69,385	75,820	71,293	(4,527)	79,373
Emergency Management	13,766	125,733	125,733	-	14,400
Emergency 911	92,138	97,264	97,264	-	95,873
Fire Department	263,759	281,250	281,250	-	281,250
Fire Marshal	47,399	47,285	47,285	-	48,337
Harbor Patrol	19,616	26,606	15,525	(11,081)	28,200
Police Services	343,044	440,126	440,126	-	315,806
Resident State Trooper	90,838	108,717	108,717	-	108,171
Water	141,686	144,873	144,873	-	147,074
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>1,123,448</b>	<b>1,372,947</b>	<b>1,357,339</b>	<b>(15,608)</b>	<b>1,146,847</b>

*continued on next page*

# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

### Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2010-11 Actual	Fiscal Year 2011-12			FY 2012-13 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>					
Estuary Transit	\$ 10,465	\$ 11,628	\$ 11,628	\$ -	\$ 13,372
Health Department	117,477	106,490	97,995	(8,495)	113,105
Transfer Station	260,061	277,514	281,939	4,425	270,664
Sanitary Waste Commission	1,488	2,460	608	(1,852)	1,900
Social Services	95,487	99,192	98,148	(1,044)	101,229
Visiting Nurses	60,795	60,795	60,795	-	60,795
Water Pollution Control	849	3,217	1,186	(2,031)	3,642
Total Health and Welfare	546,622	561,296	552,299	(8,997)	564,707
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	349,000	365,000	365,000	-	365,000
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Highways	803,086	760,236	747,122	(13,114)	778,600
Town Garage	45,907	46,203	46,203	-	42,700
Total Highways and Transportation	848,993	806,439	793,325	(13,114)	821,300
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
Principal Payments	467,780	463,949	463,949	-	460,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	450,136	431,289	431,289	-	409,675
Total Debt Service	917,916	895,238	895,238	-	869,675
<b>CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS</b>	190,629	300,450	299,128	(1,322)	388,117
<b>GRANTS &amp; SPECIAL APPROPR.</b>	220	50,000	50,000	-	-
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	6,431,630	6,942,777	6,802,062	(140,715)	6,853,640
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School	5,040,864	5,243,878	5,241,157	(2,721)	5,365,242
Reg. School Operating	6,279,408	6,521,996	6,521,996	-	6,868,267
Reg. Supervision District	2,068,639	2,158,912	2,158,912	-	2,169,349
Reg. Bond & Interest	859,028	884,948	883,139	(1,809)	833,620
Total Education	14,247,939	14,809,734	14,805,204	(4,530)	15,236,478
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 20,679,569	\$ 21,752,511	\$ 21,607,265	\$ (145,246)	\$ 22,090,118

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

DESCRIPTION	FY 2010-11 Actual	Fiscal Year 2011-12			FY 2012-13 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 20,991,244	\$ 21,281,177	\$ 21,470,401	\$ 189,224	\$ 21,953,872
Total Expenditures	20,679,569	21,752,511	21,607,265	\$ (145,246)	22,090,118
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 311,675	\$ (471,334)	\$ (136,864)	\$ 334,470	\$ (136,246)

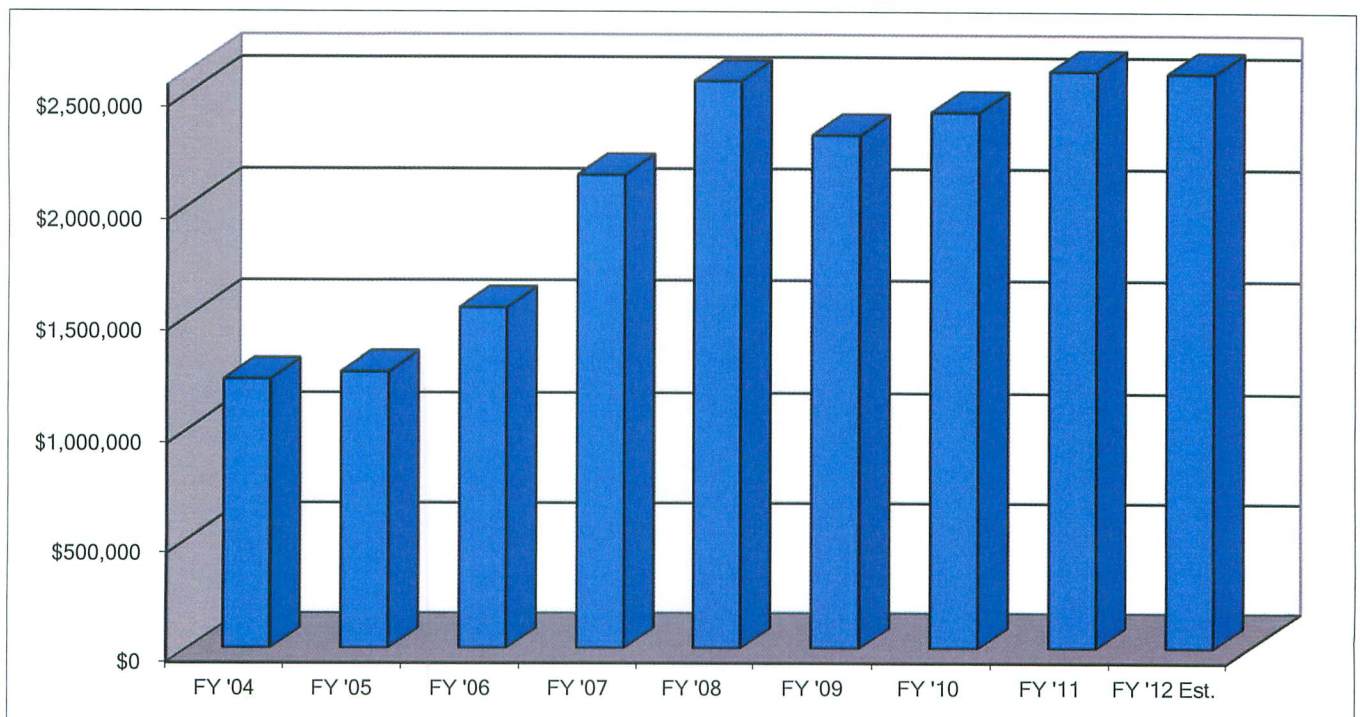
# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

### Special Revenue (Sinking) Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2011	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2012
Fire Truck	\$ 75,844	\$ 75,000	\$ 8	\$ -	\$ 150,852
Trucks & Equip.	2,778	-	-	-	2,778
Constable Cars	36,634	-	2	-	36,636
Assessor Revaluation	191,176	25,000	11	-	216,187
Wastewater Study	12,618	-	-	11,990	628
Harbor Patrol Boat	23,894	3,000	1	-	26,895
Park & Recreation	12,152	16,450	1	2,110	26,493
Unappropriated	12,275	5,000	1	-	17,276
Tree Committee	1,873	-	3,720	3,875	1,718
Open Space	65,194	15,000	-	-	80,194
EES Capital Improv.	233,107	20,000	10	59,388	193,729
Veteran's Memorial	20	-	-	-	20
Totals	\$ 667,565	\$ 159,450	\$ 3,754	\$ 77,363	\$ 753,406

### Undesignated Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year





# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Treasurer's Report

### School Enrollment

Student Count on Oct. 1st	For Budget Year	Essex Elementary			Regional School District #4				
		K - 3	4 - 6	Total	Junior High	High School	Total*	Essex Share	% of Total
2011	2012-13	256	230	486	338	618	973	434	44.60%
2010	2011-12	275	244	519	364	608	982	425	43.28%
2009	2010-11	297	251	548	354	618	985	419	42.54%
2008	2009-10	312	247	559	332	617	962	403	41.89%
2007	2008-09	322	227	549	341	620	961	397	41.31%
2006	2007-08	309	241	550	358	597	955	392	41.05%
2005	2006-07	317	246	563	350	598	948	381	40.19%
2004	2005-06	306	238	544	326	538	864	343	39.70%
2003	2004-05	316	240	556	342	549	891	356	39.96%
2002	2003-04	317	237	554	329	528	857	338	39.44%
2001	2002-03	333	225	558	331	575	906	334	36.87%
2000	2001-02	342	227	569	318	564	882	314	35.60%
1999	2000-01	327	224	551	347	494	841	329	39.12%
1998	1999-00	295	207	502	378	493	871	311	35.71%
1997	1998-99	301	211	512	361	458	819	289	35.29%
1996	1997-98	283	247	530	314	485	799	259	32.42%

\*Total includes out of district placements

### Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Actual 2008-2009	Actual 2009-2010	Actual 2010-2011	Budgeted 2011-2012	Adopted 2012-2013
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$13,539,779	\$13,439,663	\$13,656,985	\$13,955,518	\$14,277,362
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,114,977</u>	<u>1,106,237</u>	<u>1,254,690</u>	<u>1,266,582</u>	<u>1,360,166</u>
Total Operating Expenses	14,654,756	14,545,900	14,911,675	15,222,100	15,637,528
Revenue	500,215	277,132	211,997	190,680	241,279
Debt Service	<u>2,106,356</u>	<u>2,130,853</u>	<u>2,080,852</u>	<u>2,030,288</u>	<u>1,868,685</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	16,260,897	16,399,621	16,780,530	17,061,708	17,264,934
Total Billings-Essex Share	6,717,561	6,870,112	7,138,437	7,406,315	7,701,887
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	16,260,897	138,724	380,909	281,178	203,226
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	6,717,561	152,551	268,326	267,878	295,572
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	4.41%	0.85%	2.32%	1.68%	1.19%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	5.08%	2.27%	3.91%	3.75%	3.99%
Number of Student	961	962	985	982	973
Total Operating Exp / Student*	\$ 15,249	\$ 15,120	\$ 15,139	\$ 15,501	\$ 16,071

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

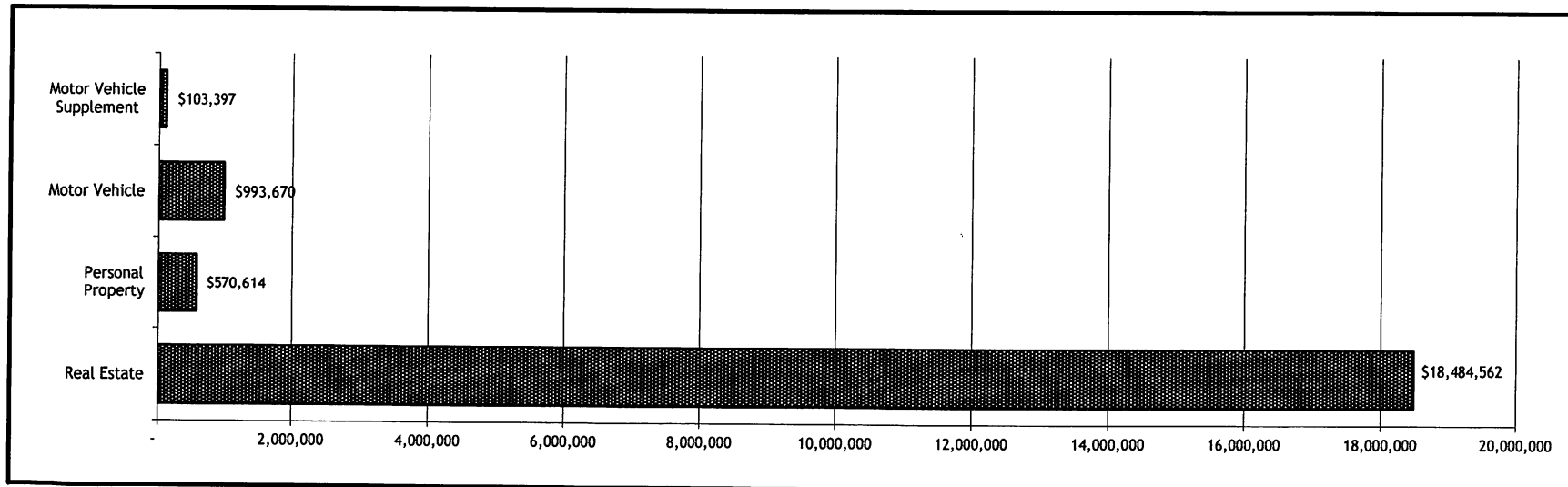
# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Tax Collector's Report

### Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2012

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2011	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Corrections		Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS		LIEN FEES	TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2012
			Additions	Deductions			TAXES	INTEREST			
2010	-	20,071,668	26,616	36,926	-	20,061,358	19,865,802	58,700	96	19,924,598	195,557
2009	163,962	-	49,121	3,672	-	209,411	120,111	18,123	456	138,690	89,300
2008	83,341	-	8,024	1,325	23,617	66,423	37,641	11,769	168	49,578	28,782
2007	25,253	-	-	131	-	25,122	11,882	6,134	96	18,112	13,239
2006	12,907	-	274	-	-	13,181	9,845	7,025	48	16,918	3,336
2005	4,740	-	164	-	-	4,904	4,143	179	24	4,346	761
2004	729	-	-	-	-	729	279	121	-	400	449
2003	432	-	-	-	-	432	-	-	-	-	432
2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001 & prior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>291,363</u>	<u>20,071,668</u>	<u>84,200</u>	<u>42,055</u>	<u>23,617</u>	<u>20,381,560</u>	<u>20,049,703</u>	<u>102,051</u>	<u>888</u>	<u>20,152,642</u>	<u>331,856</u>

### FY 2012 Collections for Grand List 10/1/10 by Type



# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### 2011 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2010	Grand List Year 2011
Gross	\$ 1,032,146,420	\$ 1,033,636,720
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,198,500	\$ 1,135,500
Veteran's Additional	555,750	168,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	210,000	525,750
Blind	11,000	10,000
Disability	9,000	9,000
Other	-	-
Net	\$ 1,030,162,170	\$ 1,031,788,470

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2010	Grand List Year 2011
Gross	\$ 38,429,151	\$ 38,498,681
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 23,610	\$ 25,630
Manufacturers*	4,227,460	9,503,270
Misc.	1,550	1,550
Additional Manufacturer*	4,038,660	-
Net	\$ 30,137,871	\$ 28,968,231

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2010	Grand List Year 2011
Gross	\$ 58,260,255	\$ 63,377,535
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 204,950	\$ 210,520
Veteran's Additional	76,640	78,740
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	6,000	-
Disability	46,130	33,460
Other	-	-
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	1,687,800	3,622,480
Net	\$ 56,238,735	\$ 59,432,335

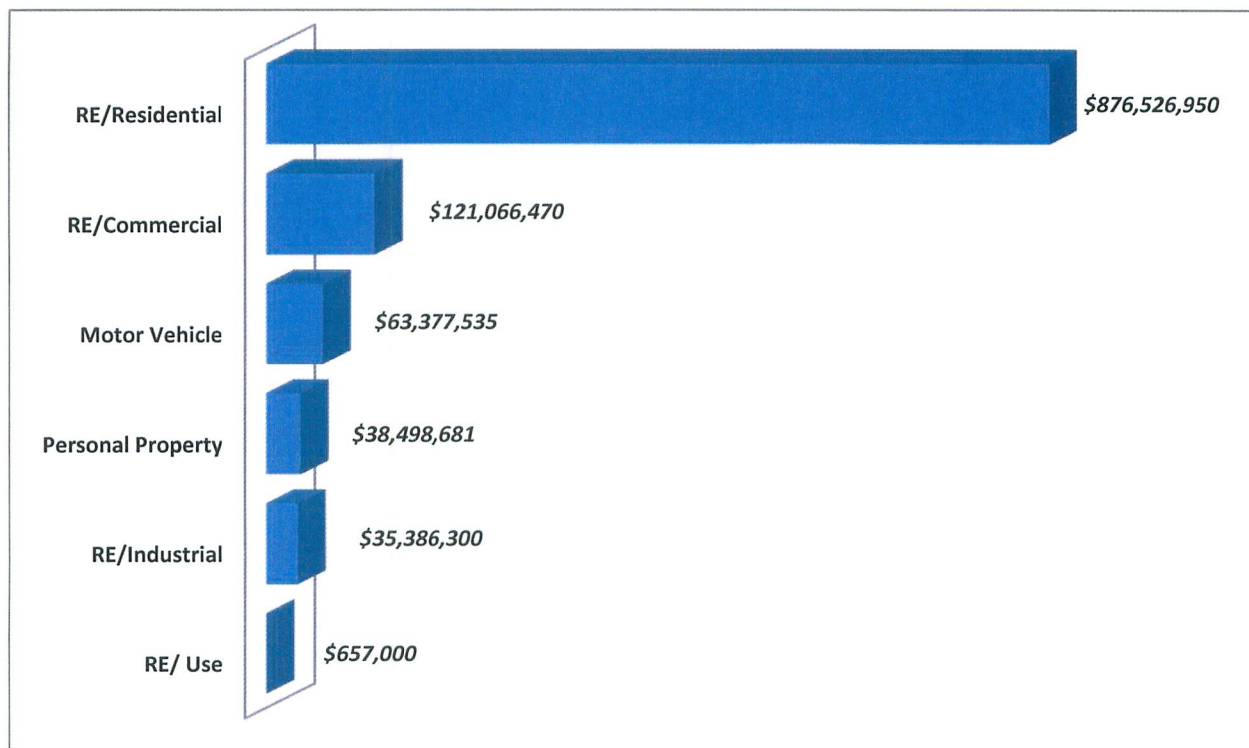
	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2010	Grand List Year 2011
Gross	\$ 1,128,835,826	\$ 1,135,512,936
Exemptions:		
Veteran's	\$ 1,403,450	\$ 1,346,020
Veteran's Additional	632,390	246,740
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	216,000	525,750
Blind	9,000	9,000
Disability	57,130	43,460
Other	25,160	27,180
Manufacturer & Truck*	9,953,920	13,125,750
Net	\$ 1,116,538,776	\$ 1,120,189,036

\*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### Grand List 2011 Assessment by Category



### Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2010	Grand List Year 2011	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 1,030,162,170	\$ 1,031,788,470	\$ 1,626,300
Personal Property	\$ 30,137,871	\$ 28,968,231	\$ (1,169,640)
Motor Vehicle	\$ 56,238,735	\$ 59,432,335	\$ 3,193,600
Total	\$ 1,116,538,776	\$ 1,120,189,036	\$ 3,650,260

### Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2010	Grand List Year 2011
Net List	\$ 1,116,538,776	\$ 1,120,189,036
Mill Rate	17.98	18.47
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 20,075,367.19	\$ 20,689,891.49

# Town of Essex 2012 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2011	# of accts
			Assessed Value	
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 24,672,600	1
2	Lee Company	Manufacturing	13,695,350	4
3	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	5,820,770	1
4	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,853,640	7
5	Cline Stephen R. Successor	Real Estate Development	3,587,400	5
6	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	3,263,550	6
7	Clark Herbert T III	Real Estate Development	2,950,520	28
8	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,870,000	2
9	River Properties	Marine Services	2,741,100	2
10	Demco LLC	Real Estate Holding Co.	2,702,900	12
Total			\$ 66,157,830	

Historical Mill Rates	
Grand List Year	Mill Rate
2011	18.47
2010	17.98
2009	17.63
2008*	16.95
2007	17.60
2006	16.90
2005	16.20
2004	15.50
2003*	14.90
2002	20.00
2001	18.25
2000	16.75
1999*	16.75
1998	14.50
1997	14.00
1996	13.50
1995	13.20
1994	12.25
1993	11.75
1992	11.25
1991	11.25
*Revaluation	

### Important Annual Dates for the Assessor's Office

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



## ***Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut***

Tracing its history to 1809, the mission of Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut is to promote the well-being and development of all children and their families, in particular to give priority to the unmet needs of children lacking physical, emotional and intellectual care and nurturing. Programs deal with child abuse prevention, the treatment of family violence, teen pregnancy, children's health care, childcare, parent education and children's mental health.

Our Family-Child Mental Health Services address a broad range of needs for families in crisis or living with mental health illnesses. Victimization counseling is a major service of Child & Family and focuses on the psychological needs of sexual and physical abuse victims and their families. Family Therapy includes play therapy, groups and individual counseling in our licensed Child Guidance Clinic at 190 Westbrook Road in Essex. Our in-home intensive therapy service address the needs of young people with more serious behavioral health issues.

A full range of psychiatric, psychological and psycho-social assessment services are available to children and their families as well as to Essex and District #4 Schools and community groups. Child & Family serves children birth to eighteen years of age and their families. Our Essex office, located at 190 Westbrook Road, provided home and office based counseling services to almost 1,000 children and their family members this past fiscal year.

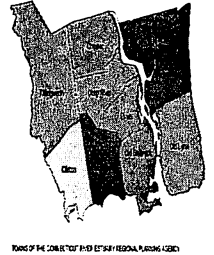
Last year, over 17,000 children were served in 79 towns in Child & Family Agency's service region. Child & Family has over 170 staff - social workers, teachers, psychologists, nurse practitioners, administrators, and support staff - dedicated to helping children at 28 service centers. A non-profit agency with a \$10 million budget, program funding comes from private, state, United Way and federal sources. Fees for service reflect costs. A sliding scale assures that no one will be refused service for financial reasons.

The Essex Auxiliary of Child & Family Agency promotes fund raising and advocacy programs to benefit the services and capital projects of the Agency. Reading to children, sharing a special skill with children, gardening and tutoring are just some of the "hands-on" ways to get involved. Our mission is "all about children." We encourage and welcome new members. The Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of each month (September-June) at Essex Yacht Club at 6:30pm. Visit our website at [www.cfapress.org](http://www.cfapress.org) to learn more.

Lynn Fairfield-Sonn  
Director of Development  
Child and Family Agency of SE CT

## ***Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency***

As of the end of the 2011/2012 fiscal year, the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA) completed its 45th and final year of planning for the nine-town Estuary region. Beginning with the 2012/2013 fiscal year, CRERPA has merged with the Midstate Regional Planning Agency to the north to form the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments. The new organization, commonly referred to as the "RiverCOG", represents the 17 towns of the lower Connecticut River from Cromwell and Middletown south and will replace both RPAs. This Annual Report will therefore address CRERPA in the past tense.



For the 45 years of its operation, the CRERPA board has consisted of two representatives from each member town, one representing the Board of Selectmen and the other representing the Planning Commission. The CRERPA Board met on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Agency office in the Saybrook Junction Marketplace. The outgoing Chairman is Bruce Edgerton of Deep River.

CRERPA staff consisted of full and part-time employees. Independent consultants were occasionally contracted on an as needed basis. CRERPA was supported financially from a variety of federal, state and local sources. A significant portion of the CRERPA budget included the annual contribution of its member towns. The new RiverCOG will be funded in the same manner. Most, if not all, of the regional support services provided by CRERPA and Midstate will be brought forward to the RiverCOG.

The Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization: The CREMPO Board, consists of the following: the nine chief elected officials and their alternates, a CRERPA board representative and alternate, and a representative from the Estuary Transit District. CREMPO provides executive oversight for transportation state and federal transportation funding within the region, planning and regional projects. During 2011-2012, CRERPA and CREMPO made significant progress on transportation preparedness for emergency response during disasters; including a special project for a geo-spatial transportation database for the 30 towns in DEMHS Region 2; planning for integrated transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, public bus passengers, rail, and automobile, work on rail systems, and freight planning.

### **CRERPA STAFF:**

Linda Krause, Executive Director  
L. Jean Davies, AICP, Principal Planner  
J. H. Torrance Downes, Senior Planner  
Margot Burns, Environmental Planner  
Jay Northrup, AICP, Senior Regional Planner  
Janice Ehle-Meyer, Recycling Coordinator  
Dorothy Papp, Financial Administrator  
Pat Anthony, Office Manager

## Connecticut River Gateway Commission

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Gateway Commission closely followed the proposed conveyance of 17 acres of river view property to a private developer in Haddam in trade for acreage adjacent to the Cockaponsett State Park, also in Haddam. Although a Special Act was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor in 2011, the conveyance proposal ended - for now - when State-sanctioned appraisals were completed and the private developer decided to terminate their involvement in the trade based upon the discrepancy in the appraised values of the two properties. Some worry that with the Special Act still "on the books", there is always a possibility that the conveyance could go forward at another time. Among many other reasons, the conveyance was considered ill-advised due to the resulting reluctance land benefactors now have when it comes to donating their land to the State of Connecticut for preservation purposes. The Gateway Commission, opposed to the conveyance and the legislation, will continue to monitor that situation.

During the fiscal year, the Commission updated their Mission Booklet and printed 6,000 copies to distribute to the public. In addition to local town halls and libraries, copies were sent to area real estate agencies to inform agents about the Gateway protective mission. The Commission and its staff are always ready to consult and assist the public and its member towns when it comes to protection of the viewscape of the lower Connecticut River. The Mission Booklet can be viewed on the Gateway Commission's website at [www.ctrivergateway.org](http://www.ctrivergateway.org)

The Gateway continues to explore a number of initiatives and collaborations that they feel further their mission to protect the "*natural and traditional riverway scene*" of the lower Connecticut River. Those initiatives include continued participation in the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE), continuing efforts to expand their education and outreach through active community involvement and the enhancement of stewardship efforts in the lower river valley by finalizing the transfer of several properties owned by the Commission to the State of Connecticut or to local conservation organizations. The Commission is also a partner in an ongoing effort to preserve the Haddam Neck site of the decommissioned Connecticut Yankee atomic power plant. As always, the Gateway Commission continues to financially support land preservation efforts where the conservation of such properties furthers their mission.

J. H. Torrance Downes  
COG/CRERPA Senior Planner and Gateway staff

## Connecticut River Museum

The past year was an extremely busy and productive one for the Connecticut River Museum, giving much cause for celebration. The bicentennial of the War of 1812 was the headline news and a key driver of activity. The State of Connecticut Historic Preservation Council officially recognized the grounds of the Museum and portions of Essex Village as the 1814 British Raid on Essex Battle Site District. Now on the State Register of Historic Places, the Museum is one step closer to gaining federal battle site recognition by the National Park Service. News of the state designation was announced at the annual Burning of the Ships Commemoration in May where Governor Malloy presented an official proclamation recognizing the Connecticut River Museum for bringing the 1814 British Raid to the foreground of the state's War of 1812 history.

CRM's extensive research and community outreach conducted over the past two years also resulted in editorial contributions in two publications on Connecticut's role in the War of 1812 as well as a key partnership position as developer and overseer of OPSAIL 2012's "Heritage Village". These achievements were in addition to a record-breaking year for the Museum's education department, having realized an exponential increase in school group participation in both on-site and off-site outreach programs.

Public and private funding support also continued to be strong with over \$100,000 in grant monies received and solid turnouts for the Museum's three benefit events. The schooner *Mary E* returned to Steamboat Dock for her third year of daily cruises and charters during the summer and fall seasons while attendance at the Thursdays at the Dock summer music series heated up. The new exhibit, *Blue Water Bound: Voyages from the River to the Sea*, invited visitors to explore the challenges of navigation and ocean travel through the dramatic stories of Connecticut River master mariners and their wooden ships using paintings, model ships, charts, navigational instruments and ships' logs. The exhibit also showcased a significant new acquisition for the Museum's collections. A portrait of Captain Stephen Clay, a River Valley sea captain, merchant and ship owner, painted by the well-known itinerant artist William Jennys in 1800 was purchased through the Milkofsky Curatorial Fund.

The year's accomplishments promise firm footing for the continuation and expansion of the Connecticut River Museum's mission to lead in the study, preservation and celebration of the cultural and natural heritage of the River and its valley.

Susan Daniels  
Marketing Director

## **Essex Ambulance Association**

Our Corps mission is to provide quality emergency medical service in our community. Our members work throughout the year to achieve that goal and meet the expanding responsibilities all emergency medical service providers are challenged with. We are in a transition with our training and certification requirements upgrading to new standards of care encompassing increased skill levels and refinement of those that are already in place. Our members are meeting that challenge each day. They readily accept the risks and challenges that come with providing emergency medical services to the community. We are grateful for their commitment and their families support.

We would like to thank our residents and businesses for their unwavering and continued support. Equally important, we thank our members and their families for their continued commitment to their community.

Our members responded to over 900 emergency calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests, psychiatric emergencies, fire stand-by's, police stand-by's and requests for mutual aid assistance to our surrounding communities. We also assisted at many local civic functions.

We have settled into our new headquarters and have the ability to conduct several training sessions and meetings simultaneously. Recent weather emergencies demonstrated how well our new headquarters will function providing housing for personnel, trimming response times and providing the ability to assist residents more effectively. We continue to work to pay down the mortgage but the benefits and cost savings of our new home have proven to be worth the expenditures. Thank you to everyone who helped us throughout the building process.

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

We are always looking for exceptional people to join us. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact us. Much of the required training is done at our headquarters by State Certified Instructors. The satisfaction of helping a neighbor is immeasurable. Once again, special thanks to all our supporters and best wishes for a healthy and safe year.

Judi Reynolds, Chief of Service  
Sabra O'Donnell President, Board of Directors

## **Essex Art Association**

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

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

The 2011 to 2012 season included two special events. "A Feast for The Senses" a collaboration between the Essex Garden Club and EAA, it was a weekend of wonderful plants and flower arrangements combined with selected artwork by EAA members. Also in December the association was one of the buildings on the Child & Family Service House Tour. At that time there was a fun day of "Chili, Cheap & Chilly". Pots of free chili steaming in the cold gallery with hundreds of artworks, all under \$200 each. Each of these events gave the community of Essex and EAA another chance to get to know each other.

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

### **EAA 2012 Council Members:**

Rob DeBartolo – President  
Pam Carlson – Vice President  
Nancy King – Secretary  
Robert Gantner – Treasurer  
John Berube  
Judyth Crystal  
Peggy Price  
Joanne Ryan  
Judith Saunders

## **Essex Board of Trade**

The Essex Board of Trade is a local business organization comprised of representatives from the following industries: manufacturing, banking/financial management, real estate, legal, health & wellness, food & beverage, lodging, and retail, as well as various professional services. The membership, totaling over 80, is comprised of primarily "for profit" businesses, but also has a number of "non profit" organizations in its membership. From its inception, first, as the Essex Merchants Group, then incorporated as The EBOT, the mission was to bring businesses together from the three villages to "engage in commerce and camaraderie throughout the township".

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

The Board of Directors, as well as the general membership, meet monthly to receive updates on our events and promotions, receive updates from our selectmen on local government plans, discuss the business climate and trends, as well as occasionally hear from guest speakers in various areas of expertise, who offer information on topics of importance to our members.

The seasonal events traditionally coordinated by the EBOT are the Essex Ed Parade, The Winter Eagle Festival, The Potted Garden Tour, The Evening of The Villages, The Scarecrow Festival/ Dogs on the Dock, and The Holiday Stroll.

We rely on the volunteerism of our members to assist in coordinating each of the events and making them successful. Through our work on special events, many in collaboration with our non-profit members, we consistently try to promote the sense of importance of community, and doing business locally. Regarding our visitors to the area, we strive to give a clear picture of small town life with its history and traditions, thus causing many visitors to move to our town and enjoy this slice of Americana on a daily basis. Our work and contributions to the EBOT are all on a volunteer basis, all while maintaining our own businesses and keeping them viable.

Jim D'Alessio  
President, Essex Board of Trade, Inc.

## **Essex Community Fund**

The Essex Community Fund, Inc. is organized for the purpose of soliciting and collecting monies through the medium of an annual drive for contributions. The monies collected are used for the benefit of organizations, both local and national, as may be decided upon from time to time by the Board of Governors. The mission is to assist organizations that are providing services to the villages of Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton.

### **Fundraising Highlights for 2011-2012**

The following three fundraisers were conducted to raise our funds this year:

- Fall Mailing: Mailed a request for donations to all Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton residents.
- Spring Mailing: Mailed a request for donations to all Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton residents.
- Ivoryton Playhouse Event: Partnered with the Ivoryton Playhouse to sell tickets for one of their shows.

### **Community Events**

We marched in the St. Patrick Days Parade and provided balloons to the spectators. Supported the Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival with a face painting area for patrons. In November and December we assisted in the "Stuff a Cruiser" food drive for the soup kitchen. We were able to stuff two cruisers.

### **Marketing**

In order to promote awareness of our organization the Valley Regional High School Video team produced the following:

- Recorded and streamed live our annual "Day of Giving" meeting where we distributed the collected funds
- A four minute video that describes who we are and what we do

Both are posted on our website -  
[www.essexcommunityfund.com](http://www.essexcommunityfund.com)

### **Funds Distribution to Local Charities**

The Essex Community Fund proudly collected and distributed \$42,350.00 to local charities.

Darwyn Azzinaro

## Essex Fire Engine Company No. 1

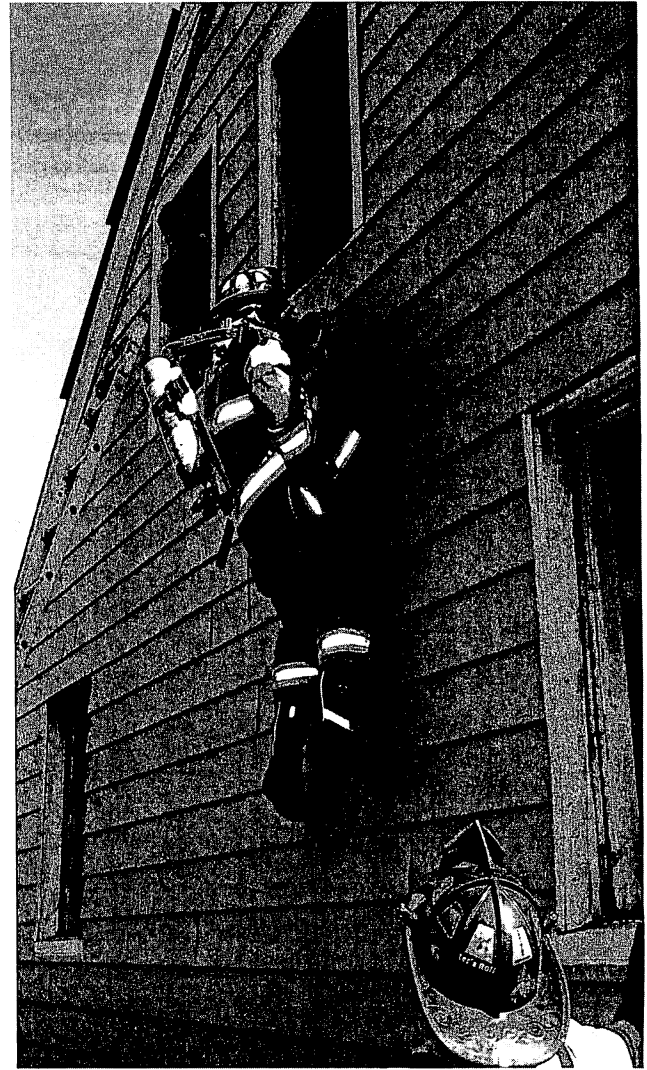
The Essex Fire Engine Co. #1, with over 60 volunteers, had a busy 2011 with over 800 responses including structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazmats, medical emergencies, and, don't forget, Tropical Storm Irene. During the storm, our volunteers stood by both the Saybrook Road Station and the Ivoryton Station. The volunteers uprooted their families and brought them to the station so they were close to them while remaining ready to help the town. Some of the volunteers worked 24-36 hours straight working closely with emergency management. We were prepared for the worst but luckily avoided the worst that the storm had to offer. This really opened our eyes to better prepare ourselves for the next time.

Our volunteers put in endless hours of state certified training, starting at entry level Firefighter 1 to Fire Instructor to Fire Officer. It takes many hours, including two to three nights a week and some weekends to complete these classes. The classes could be from 100 to 200 hours long which is a very big commitment for a volunteer; but it is a commitment that is also very much appreciated. Our training continues with our firefighter bail out systems; if a fighter was to get trapped and the only way out was a window the firefighter will have the ability to go out the window and propel down to safety. Yearly recertification is necessary with this equipment.

We continue to operate as a 100% all volunteer department and train to give you the best service available. This year will be another busy year with several projects in the works. We are very excited about the upcoming year and the future of the Essex Fire Engine Co. #1. Keep an eye on us at [www.essexctfire.com](http://www.essexctfire.com).

As always thank you for your support.

Chief Steven Olsen  
Deputy Chief Doug Harreys  
First Assistant Chief Ron Senn  
2nd Assistant Chief Paul Fazzino Jr



*Bail Out training exercises*



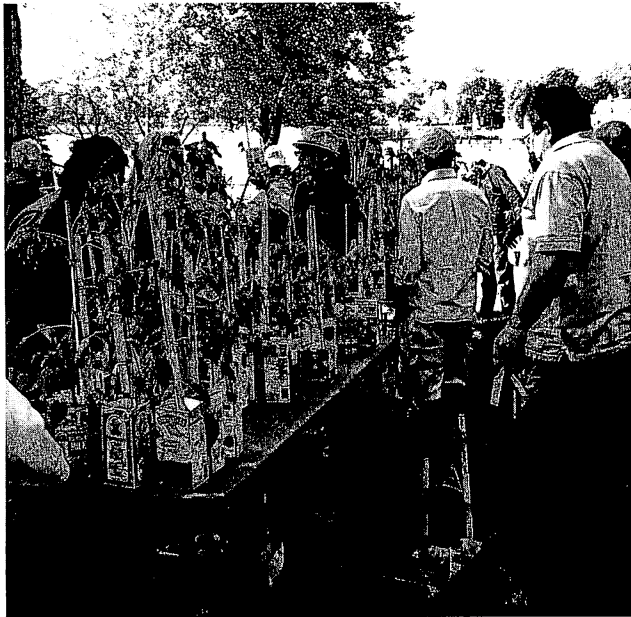
*Crew photo*

## Essex Garden Club

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

During the past year, the Garden Club has purchased plants for, and assisted in maintaining, town parks and three islands; provided college scholarships and summer camperships; offered programs at the elementary and middle schools; donated plants and funds to town organizations; decorated the Town for the winter holidays; co-sponsored free events with other town organizations; donated books and DVDs and provided weekly plants or flower arrangements to the library; and planted a town tree for Arbor Day. This is all made possible by the community supporting our annual May Market and by purchasing our garlic salt, made by using a secret recipe.

Carol Denham  
President



*Essex Garden Club May Market*



## Essex Historical Society

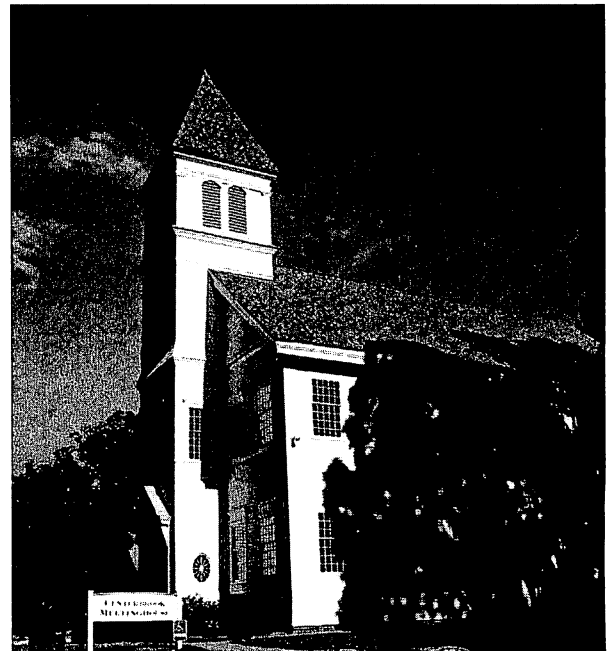
This past year, the Essex Historical Society engaged the expertise of the Peer Advisor Network to review the effectiveness of the board and committee structures. Additionally, they helped us better define our strategic goals and make suggestions on ways to improve our programs and processes, while remaining true to the basics of our mission of promoting and preserving the awareness of the people, places and things that have shaped the history of our three villages; Centerbrook, Essex and Ivoryton.

Based on suggestions from the Peer Advisor Network we reduced the number of board members from 24 to 14 for 2013, which will improve the efficiency and focus of the board. We have focused efforts in updating and refining the roles and responsibilities of committee chairs and committee members so that we may better serve the community and meet our goals.

We are collaborating with many other organizations in town to develop entertaining and informative programs targeted to all ages. This past year we worked with all of the yacht clubs in town to develop a presentation of the history and evolution of yachting on the Connecticut River. Both this event and the Roar of the Rum Runners had over 100 people in attendance. The annual taste of the Roaring 20's drew a great crowd, as did our New Member event at the Pratt House.

Recognizing the importance of the past helps us to understand our present and plan for our future. EHS is excited to embark on new adventures into 2013 and we hope that you will think of joining our organization.

Mark Pratt  
President



*Centerbrook Meetinghouse  
EHS Preservation Award Winner 2012*



## Essex Land Trust

With President Bob Nussbaum presiding, the Essex Land Trust 44th annual meeting reported the following highlights:

**Financial:** In 2011, ELT received \$85,000 in revenues: membership dues of \$30,000 and donations and grants of \$55,000, as well as a grant of \$319,000 from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Expenses of \$87,000 included non-recurring application fees and legal costs associated with the NRCS grant and repairs to the stone walls at Cross Lots.

**Development:** Grants were received from Essex Community Fund, Freedom Forum, Middlesex County Community Fund, Riverview Foundation, Rockfall Foundation, and Lions. Essex Savings Bank, Essex Printing, The Lee Company and Murtha Cullina LLC were sponsors.

**Acquisitions:** Twenty-five acres have been added to Great Meadow with proceeds from the NRCS grant, which is earmarked for this property. We continue to view and prioritize properties for acquisition and to explore easements to connect existing properties.

**Stewardship:** Ongoing cleanup and maintenance of properties included trail work, invasive control, and bridge building and repair. Multi-property cleanups were held on Earth Day and International Coastal Cleanup. Stewards and volunteers completed damage control from the 2011 storms in the summer and fall. The efforts have been supported by in-kind sponsorship from Bartlett Tree and Landscape Specialties.

**Events:** included lectures, hikes and other outdoor activities with attendance exceeding 1400. We collaborated with the town's Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit and continued to pursue partnerships with the Essex Garden Club, Potapaug Audubon Society, Essex Historical Society and both the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries.

**Volunteers:** Over a hundred individuals gave generously of their time, supporting our property stewards and assisting with communication and membership activities.

**Communications:** The communications team published our newsletters, press releases, events posters and eBlasts. A major initiative involves organizing the Land Trust's photo archive to preserve our photographic history.

**Membership:** Added 22 new members and closed the year with 121 Conservators for Life, representing nearly one third of our total membership. We continue our outreach to new residents and young families.

**Recognition:** Bob Nussbaum thanked the retiring board members Suzy Burke, Al Macgregor and Thea Putnam, highlighting their contributions, and presented appreciation gifts to each.

**Special Presentation:** Bob Nussbaum presented a video, *Great Meadow: Its History and Significance*, which was researched and scripted by Steve Knauth.

Officers elected for the upcoming year are: Bob Nussbaum, President, Jim Denham, Vice President, Nancy Rambeau, Secretary; Mike Carlucci, Treasurer

## Essex Lions Club

The Essex Lions Club is a community service organization, dedicated to giving back to the community. Our Motto of "We Serve" is known throughout the world. We are known for successful initiatives in vision and health. Lions volunteer for many different kinds of projects; caring for the environment, feeding the hungry and aiding seniors and the disabled.

We run two major fund raisers for the year. The money we raise through our Essex Annual Lobster Fest, held the first Saturday in August and Thomas The Tank Engine, held for two week-ends in May, returns 100 per cent back to the community. We also run smaller fund raisers, which fund a Scholarship, given to a deserving senior at Valley Regional.

We have 35 dedicated business men and women who give generously of their time to community service projects for the needy. We sponsor a Leo's Club, a group of dedicated kids from Valley Regional, who this year have helped us in these projects.

Essex Lions Club Secretary,  
Alice Gradwell



Participant at annual Lion's Lobster Fest

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

The Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. (ECSI) is a non-profit regional senior center located at 220 Main Street in Old Saybrook, with café sites in Clinton, Westbrook, Chester, and Old Lyme. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission is to promote senior's quality of life, community involvement, and independent living. Last year the ECSI provided over 80,000 nutritious meals including Meals On Wheels, over 1,000 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region, 676 free preventative health screenings, and social and exercise programs too numerous to count.

Tropical Storm Irene came through the area in late August, 2011, leaving homes without power for days and even weeks. ECSI was only closed one day and was delivering Meals- On-Wheels to all of our clients within three days. ECSI welcomed many area residents without power for the comfort of air conditioning, a hot meal, free WiFi, and a place to charge their cell phones.

During the 2011/2012 fiscal year, ECSI provided 85 Essex seniors with 1,815 congregate meals and 5,277 Meals-On-Wheels (homebound meals). 6 Essex seniors were provided 14 rides to medical appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region through the Stan Greimann EMOTS program. In total 318 Essex seniors received 8,654 services through ECSI.

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, other grants, individual donations, and fund raising efforts. Like many other non-profit organizations, ECSI's funding is being cut due to the state budget cuts to Senior Resources. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for your continued support of our programs.

For information on our lunch program, Meals-On-Wheels, EMOTS, exercise programs, and social programs please call 388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Paula C. Ferrara  
Executive Director



*Rotary Club of Essex—Wendy with Tippy, her NEADS dog*

## Estuary Transit District

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

9TT's four deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. The routes include the Old Saybrook to Madison Shoreline Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Chester Riverside Shuttle, the Old Saybrook to Middletown Mid-Shore Express, and the new Old Saybrook to New London Southeast Shuttle. These routes offer free connections to the New Haven, New London/Norwich, Middletown, and Hartford area bus services.

In addition to the deviated fixed routes, 9TT provides door-to-door service throughout all nine towns of the Estuary region through its Dial-A-Ride service. As with all of 9TT's services, the Dial-A-Ride service is open to all persons with no age or disability restrictions. During the year, ETD expanded Dial-A-Ride services to include the town of Haddam.

During the year, ETD expanded the service hours of its Southeast Shuttle and Mid-Shore Express services to improve availability for work and school related trips. This combined with the marketing efforts have led to an increase in ridership of 29% over the previous fiscal year to 94,163 trips and 80% of trips being persons below 60 years of age. The continued growth has led to a need to purchase larger buses to accommodate the growing

passenger loads.

After completing nearly \$900,000 in capital purchases over the past two years, ETD was awarded an additional \$675,000 to purchase seven replacement buses. In addition, ETD received funding to make three of the replacement buses hybrid electric, continuing the commitment to clean fuel technology.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by the ETD Board of Directors made up of one representative from each town, each having a weighted vote based on the population of the town they represent. The Directors serve in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. In 2008, the board hired First Transit, Inc., a professional transit management company, to provide an Executive Director to manage the day to day business of ETD. Regular board meetings are held on the third Friday every other month at 9:00 A.M. at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD continued to grow its unrestricted fund balance during the 2011-2012 fiscal year through aggressive finance management by staff and the board. This has enhanced ETD's cash flow position, reducing the need for borrowing.

### Board of Directors:

Noel Bishop, Westbrook; Richard Cabral, Chairman, Killingworth; Ralph Eno, Lyme; John Forbis, Treasurer, Old Lyme; Roland Laine, Old Saybrook; Jack Spangler, Essex; Richard Smith, Deep River; Leslie Strauss, Vice-Chairman, Chester Virginia Zawoy, Secretary, Clinton

### Administrative Staff:

Joseph Comerford, Executive Director; Paul Tyrrell, Operations Manager; Halyna Famiglietti, Finance Manager; Sue Traskos, Lead Dispatcher



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

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

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

In 2011, FISH provided 847 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Of our 47 drivers, 40 are residents of Essex.

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

Henry May, Driver and President



*Judy Lovelace—Fallen Tulip Tree limb—Canfield Woods*

## *Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc.*

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



*Patsy Cline—Ivoryton Playhouse*

What was once a largely summer stock theatre with various community events throughout the year has become a thriving year-round professional theatre. The Playhouse is owned and operated by the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation with Section 501(c) (3) status. It is managed by a board of trustees and employs an executive director, managing director, company manager, office manager, box-office and production staff. The Playhouse produces seven professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, designers, actors, dancers and musicians from all over the country. In 2011, the

Ivoryton Playhouse annual revenue exceeded \$1million for the first time and the theatre enjoyed 4% growth overall. Revenue is generated through a combination of ticket sales, membership dues, benefit performances and sponsorships.

In 2011, the Playhouse celebrated it's 100th birthday in spectacular fashion with a gala event and the publication of a souvenir program and DVD. Hurricane Irene wrought devastation across the state in August 2011: the Playhouse lost an 80ft tall spruce but miraculously, the building was unscathed. In 2012, as the Playhouse entered it's next 100 years of life, an endowment campaign was launched to raise money that will guarantee the preservation and maintenance of this historic building in perpetuity. The 2012 season continues to delight audiences with the classic music of *Always....Patsy Cline*, the comedy of *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, and the blockbuster summer musical, *Hairspray*. The Playhouse also presented seven children's shows and hosted many crowd pleasing "red hot summer" events under an elegant tent covering the patio.

The Ivoryton Playhouse prides itself on being a leader in the community and promotes partnerships with local organizations and civic groups. In 2011 and 2012, the Playhouse partnered with local non-profits in fundraising ventures including Essex Community Fund, the Middlesex County Community Foundation and the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

To learn more about the history of the Playhouse, pick up a copy of our centennial program or DVD or visit [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org),

Jacqueline Hubbard  
Executive Artistic Director



*Ivoryton Playhouse*

## Ivoryton Village Alliance

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

Chris Shane, an Ivoryton resident, approached the Alliance with the idea to "light up Ivoryton" using his considerable collection of Christmas lights. In October and November 2010, volunteers created large scale displays and decorated the Village Green with 100,000 lights, illuminations and inflatables. Over 2,000 people attended the first "switch on" event to marvel at Santa Claus flying in to land on the patio of the Ivoryton Playhouse. The event was a huge success and enormous boost for the town with visitors coming from all over the state to enjoy the brightest village in Connecticut.

In 2011, the Alliance kept up the momentum by financing and producing a tri-fold leaflet advertising Ivoryton shops and restaurants and services. Planning for the 2011 Ivoryton Illuminations started in August and funds were raised from individual donations and corporate sponsorships to purchase more lights and create the largest living Christmas tree in the state – a 70ft pine tree professionally decorated in 5,000 bulbs with 20,000 LEDs.

Money donated from First Niagara, Citizens Bank, Essex Meadows and a media sponsorship from Valley Courier allowed the Alliance to produce an even bigger, brighter "switch on" event on December 3, 2011 with well over 3,000 people attending. Community groups (including Lions Club, local churches, and Boy Scouts among others) had stalls in the Playhouse, every business contributed an event such as crafts or performances, and Ivoryton's famous flying Santa delighted children of all ages.

Today, the Alliance is more committed than ever, meeting monthly and constantly looking for positive ways to promote Ivoryton. The Alliance will support three major events for the village in 2012: July 4th parade, Pumpkin Festival and the Ivoryton Illuminations. A Farmer's Market was also launched in June 2012 and now runs every Saturday until October. Plans for the 2012 Illuminations include creating new themed designs for lights, using more controllers so more displays can be programmed to "dance" to music and offering more opportunities for community groups to perform during the "switch on" event scheduled for Saturday, December 1, 2012.



*First Selectman Norman Needleman with Santa at Ivoryton Illuminations*



## Libraries

### Essex Library Association

Fiscal 2012 was another record breaking year for attendance at Essex Library programs. Almost 10,000 people came to one or more of the 358 events sponsored by the Library, which included everything from a newly formed knitting club to a debate between the candidates for Selectman. Last year the Library was visited over 63,000 times by patrons looking to take advantage of the many programs, materials and services that we have to offer. Some of this year's highlights include:

New programs for children and young adults – Building on the success of our award winning GirlZone program, last fall we offered GuyZone, a multi session program designed to help young men navigate the pitfalls of adolescence. Younger patrons became enthusiastic members of the Mad Scientist Society. They conducted fun experiments with simple materials that were used to put scientific principles to the test.

Ancestry.com - In January we began offering Ancestry.com to our patrons. Almost 6,000 searches were conducted in the first six months it was available. Round 'Em Up – In late April the Library held a very successful fund raising event with a Western theme. Our thanks, once again, go to Herb Clark, who graciously permitted us to use the beautiful Bushnell Farm for this gala.

This year we also began the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for the Essex Library. We are excited by the prospect of hearing from you as we determine how to best serve the needs of our community with the resources we have available to us.

Change is inevitable but it was with great regret that we said goodbye to Anita Amos this year. Anita had been the longest serving member of our staff when she left to begin a well deserved retirement. As Anita left we welcomed new staff members Heather Delouchry and Phoebe Petrovic.

As always, we are very grateful for the financial assistance we receive from the Town of Essex, but we are also extremely appreciative of the support provided by our members, whose contributions make up such a significant portion of our operating budget.

**Library Staff:** Richard Conroy (Director), Jessica Branciforte, Anna Cierocki, Heather Delouchry, Phoebe Petrovic, Shawn Ruffer, Marjorie Ruschau, Diane Simoneau, Ann Thompson, Jenny Tripp.

**Board of Trustees:** Barbara Klin (President), Marla Bogaert, Pierre Boulanger, Dick Buel, JoAnne Carter, Gary Dayharsh, Bob Downer, Phyllis Greenberg, Charles Irving, Maureen Heher, Chris Morano, Ann Prichard, Deborah Rutan, Fred Szufnarowski.

### Ivoryton Library Association

The Ivoryton Library saw some sweeping changes this last year as long-time director Robbi Storms resigned and Children's Librarian Elizabeth Alvord was hired as her replacement. Elizabeth Bartlett was then brought on as the new Children's Librarian and Andrea Myers joined us for Sundays.

We also expanded our hours; an extra hour each on Wednesdays and Fridays and we are now open on Saturdays. Please note these new hours:

Tuesdays - 10-6; Wednesdays - 10-8; Thursdays - 10-6  
Fridays - 2-6; Saturdays - 9-12; Sundays - 1-4

We are excited to announce that we have hired local historian Brenda Milkofsky to oversee the organization of our collection of local history. She is assisted by our Archival Committee: Betty Austin, Mary Catherine Colburn, Kathy Coopersmith, Jean Johnson and Shirley Malcarne. The index to this collection will ultimately be accessible online.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 150 people attended our program on the Falls River Flood of 1982 and were treated to stories and reminiscences of 30 years ago when 9 feet of water swept through our community. The response to this program was such that we partnered with the Essex Historical Society for a Second Look in November.

For adults, we still offer our popular language classes during the school year, our watercolor class and our Mystery Book Club on the third Friday of every month. Single programs we held this year included Beekeeping, Food as Medicine, and How to Watch the Olympics, featuring three local coaches.

Children are welcomed to our weekly Storytime on Wednesdays at 10am as well as many single programs throughout the year with seasonal or literary themes, including our jam-packed summer schedule. Please sign up at the library to receive email notifications of these programs and events.

Our third House and Garden Tour was held in June and featured 6 beautiful properties in Ivoryton and Centerbrook. It was, as usual, a fun and successful day under brilliant blue skies. Our thanks to Leslie Barlow and Keith Rustemeyer for their organization of this wonderful tour.

We also held our annual Run Local/Read Local 5k in October and our second Big Quiz Thing Trivia Night in November.

**Staff:** Elizabeth Alvord (Director), Elizabeth Bartlett, Jean Johnson, Andrea Myers, Rosalie Zonder, Elizabeth Sprague

**Board of Trustees:** Susan Nilsen (President), Leslie Barlow, Susan Beckman, Pan Burr, Karen Burzin, Crystal Clarkin, Julian Evans, Donald Frazier, Patricia Hurley, Wendy Jaillet, Christopher Pagliuco, Judith Saunders

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

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore, CT, Inc. trains volunteer tutors to teach Basic Reading and English as a Second Language to residents of the Valley Shore area who cannot read, write or speak English, or who would like to improve these basic skills. This one-to-one instruction is strictly confidential and is completely without charge to the student.

In 2011/2012 from the Town of Essex, we had 6 volunteers and 14 tutors. Our total number of volunteers for 2011/2012 was 151 and the total number of active tutors was 96. Some of the volunteers/tutors from Essex were: Erl Nord (Board Emeritus) and Eleanor Champion, our Treasurer and one of most active volunteers, Board member John Bogaert and tutor and former Director Michael Noto.

Our total number of students in 2011/2012 was 152, with 7 of them residing in Essex. Our students represented 70 different countries.

As usual we had a busy year. Our tutors spent 3,595 hours tutoring our students during 2011/2012. Tutors spent 1,813 hours preparing for those lessons. In addition, our volunteers spent 4,619 hours in other ways helping to make our programs successful.

LVVS services the valley shore communities of

Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Guilford, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook.

John J. Ferrara  
Executive Director



## ***Rotary Club of Essex***

Rotary International ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)), founded in 1905, has a broad and diverse global reach with 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to more than 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries. The Rotary Club of Essex was chartered in 1955 sponsored by Old Saybrook Rotary which at that time had many members from Essex.

Our Club currently has 46 members who organize local fund raising events including our annual Shad Bake, Wine Tasting and Scrabble Tournament. Since 2007, we have partnered with Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and the Rotary Foundation in a worldwide campaign to raise funds for clean drinking water projects in Africa and the Philippines. We are the charter and annual sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 4 and have made significant contributions to the Essex Elementary School Foundation, the Ivoryton Playhouse, the Connecticut River Museum, and the Essex Library. We organized an Amber Alert registration and provide free dictionaries annually to every third grader at Essex Elementary School. We donated \$10,000 for the purchase of a NEADS dog (National Education for Assistance Dog Services) to assist a local resident with disabilities. In conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Deep River and Chester, we support an Interact Club at Valley Regional High School—helping young adults to develop civic

responsibility. A portion of The Scrabble Tournament proceeds benefits Literacy Volunteers which provides literacy training to hundreds of local residents. The remaining funds have helped the Rotary Club of Essex meet its commitment to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's \$200 Million Dollar matching grant to fund Polio vaccination and eradication efforts worldwide.

The Essex Rotary Scholarship Foundation, a separate 501(c)3, annually awards a \$10,000 scholarship, \$2,500 per year for four years, to two students pursuing a college level education. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton. The application is available for download on our website, [www.essexrotary.com](http://www.essexrotary.com).

We meet every Tuesday at 6:15 pm at the Essex Yacht Club, unless we have a special event elsewhere. The fellowship created through spending time together, locally and around the world, strengthens our organization and expands the reach of the services we provide. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary, come visit us at a meeting, take a look at our website, [www.essexrotary.com](http://www.essexrotary.com), or email [rlevne2@comcast.net](mailto:rlevne2@comcast.net). We are always looking for women and men who will help us improve our world and be inspired by our Rotary motto, "Service above Self".

## ***Tri-Town Youth Services***

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

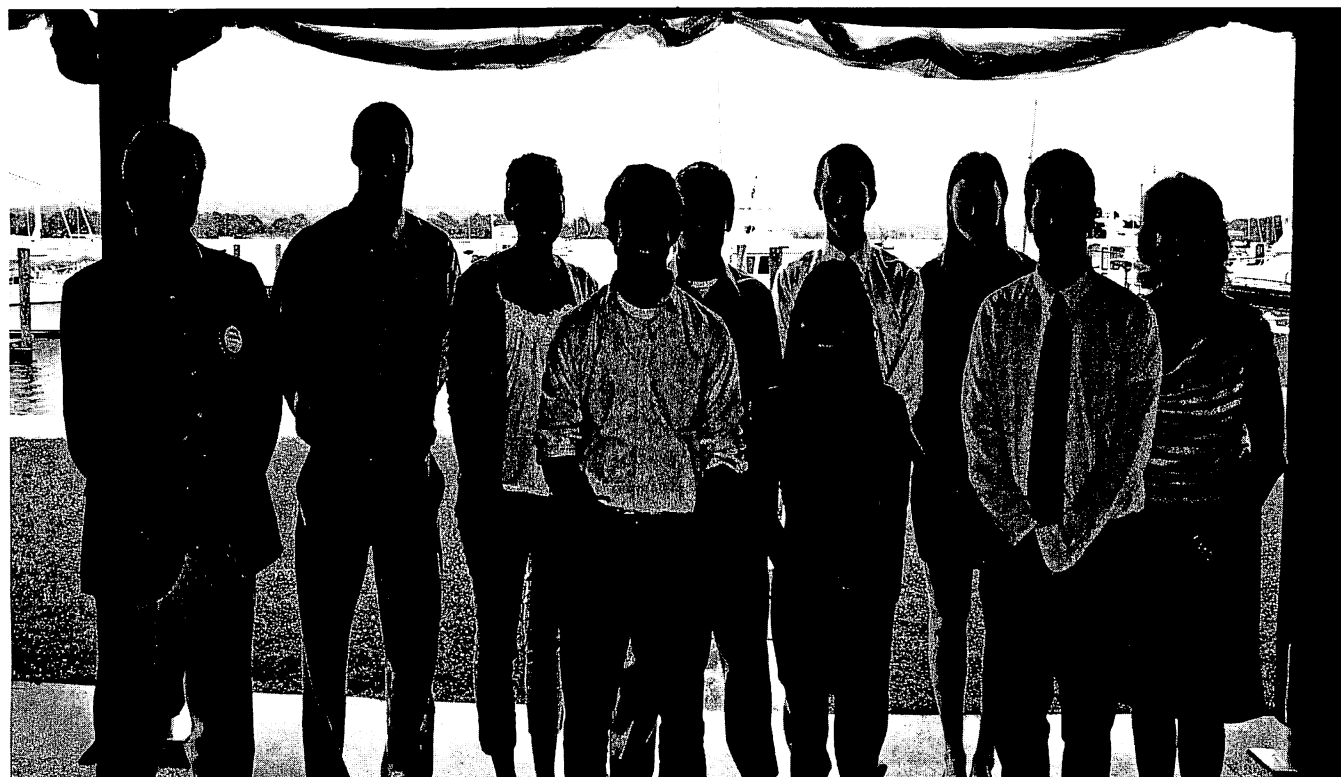
Counseling and crisis intervention were provided to residents for a wide range of issues through day and evening appointments with 24-hour phone availability. Issues addressed include parenting and relationship concerns, depression, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and substance abuse, with referrals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

Much of our work is directed to positive youth development, parent education, and building healthy families and communities. With the school social worker, we trained Peer Advocates at Valley Regional,

facilitated two youth advisory boards, organized community service activities, facilitated several mentoring programs, offered supervised teen recreation activities, a youth job bank, babysitter training classes, Homework Hangout, a Summer Co-op for middle school youth, and involvement in Safe Grad. In addition to involvement with the Early Childhood Council, parent programs are offered for parents/caregivers and their one-year-olds or two-year-olds, parent consultations, and courses such as "Getting Ready for Change" and "Boys in the School System." We sponsored the twenty-third annual substance prevention/awareness week, "High on Life", successful through support from multiple facets of the community.

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

Gail M. Onofrio  
Director



*Rotary Club of Essex Scholarship award recipients*

## Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

For more than 92 years, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Inc. have been providing skilled health care services to the Essex community. Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to home health and community-based health care. We are the parent organization of Lower Valley Care Advocates whose staff provides private care services designed to help the frail elderly, terminally ill and disabled remain in the comfort of their own homes. The community response to these services has been very positive. All of the staff are carefully screened, trained and bonded, and are expert at determining just what services are needed to achieve optimum health and safety at home. Please call 767-2695 for further information.

We have witnessed a major transformation in America's health care system; one which is creating new challenges for providers of home health care. With challenge comes opportunity and our response has been to anticipate industry changes and the associated challenges by internally restructuring and providing new strategies to meet today's health care demands. We are empowering patients to manage their own care at home under the guidance of our clinical experts. In 2011 we made over 13,687 home visits to patients in our service

area, 21.9% were to Essex residents. Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Inc also remains committed to its public health mission, providing weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, and flu shot clinics beginning in September. We are pleased to report that we continue to generate positive patient outcomes and patient satisfaction.

Our staff wishes to acknowledge the commitment and leadership of our volunteer board of directors: Judy Heiser, Nancy Kirkiles, Dick Levene and Andrew Mitchel from Essex; Ted Heiser, President, Arthur Henick, Peg Lieberman, Carl Manning and Skip Weisenburger, from Chester; Russell Marth and Kate Bender from Deep River; and Susan Carpenter from Westbrook. And, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

Please call us at 767-0186 for service information or flu clinic dates and locations.

Susan Maxwell, RN, MSN, CDE  
Executive Director



Summer Adventure Camp - Connecticut River Museum

## Town Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Frances D. Nolin, Town Clerk

### Special Town Meeting

July 6, 2011

First Selectman, Philip Miller called the Town Meeting to order at 4:45 pm. James Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Norman Needleman, Joel Marzi were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fifteen (15) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$12,000 from the Essex Elementary School Capital Improvement Sinking Fund for the installation of rubber flooring in the B Wing and to recommend an additional appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$12,800 from the Essex Elementary School Capital Improvement Sinking Fund for the purchase and installation of carpeting in the B Wing; said appropriation is contingent upon completion of the flooring installation within the funds appropriated as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Susan Malan, as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December, 2011.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Cathy Bishop, as an alternate member to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



### Special Town Meeting

August 17, 2011

First Selectman, Philip Miller called the Town Meeting to order at 8:07 pm. Joel Marzi was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Norman Needleman, Joel Marzi were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately nine (9) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopts the Amendment and Restatement of an Ordinance concerning a Schedule of Fees for the Processing of Land Use Applications. A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



### Special Town Meeting

September 19, 2011

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Terry Stewart was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Norman Needleman and Joel Marzi were not in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately sixty-five (65) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read :

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the increase in the Town of Essex Retirement Plan formula multiplier from 1.4% to 1.5% effective July 1, 2010 on currently active participants and future participants as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

This being a voice vote the Resolution was decisively voted down.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.



### Special Town Meeting

October 5, 2011

First Selectman, Philip Miller, called the Town Meeting to order at 4:45 pm. Philip Miller was elected Moderator. Selectman, Norman Needleman was in attendance, Selectman Joel Marzi was not in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fourteen (14) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve the appointment by the First Selectman of Ronald Skinner as an Alternate to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting until December, 2014

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

**Annual Town Meeting  
November 21, 2011**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman, called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00pm. James Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen Stacia Libby and Joel Marzi were in attendance as well as the Treasurer, Robert Dixon and Deputy Treasurer, Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk, Frances D. Nolin, read the call of the meeting. There were approximately sixty (60) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Statement of Town Accounts, report of the Town Treasurer and the report of the Superintendent of Schools, as printed in the 2010-2011 Annual Town Report.

**RESOLVED:** To approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$22,796 to the Police Services Account for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**RESOLVED:** To approve an appropriation in the amount not to exceed \$2,110 from the Park and Recreation Sinking Fund for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**RESOLVED:** To rescind the Town Meeting Resolution of July 6, 2011 as follows: **RESOLVED:** To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$12,000 from the Essex Elementary School Capital Improvement Sinking Fund additional appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$12,800 from the Essex Elementary School Capital Improvement Sinking Fund for the purchase and installation of carpeting in the B-wing; said appropriation is contingent upon completion of the flooring installation within the funds appropriated as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 from the Essex Elementary School Capital Improvement Sinking Fund for the purchase and installation of carpeting in the B-wing as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Pamela Bernardini to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Gudrun Lelash to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014. **REMOVED**

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Maryann Pleva to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Cathy Bishop as an alternate to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Randel Osborne to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert VanHouten to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Mark Reeves to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfgram as an alternate to the Sanitary Waste Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Randel Osborne to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert VanHouten to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Leigh Rankin to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.



RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Mark Reeves to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfgram as an alternate to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Douglas Demarest to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of William T. Furgueson as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Susan Malan as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Barbara Zernike to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Claire Tiernan to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Gudrun Lelash to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014. REMOVED

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Lon Seidman to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013 1, 2010 to December 1, 2013.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Lee Thompson to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Mark Uihlein to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2013.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Walter Wiegert to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Mark Faulstick as an alternate to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Anthony Mosa to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert Russo to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Douglas Senn to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Lillian Mosa to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Alvin Wolfgram to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Robert Connelly as an alternate to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of William Reichenbach as an alternate to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Nancy Hudson to the Tree Committee. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Anne Penniman to the Tree Committee. Term to run from December 1, 2011 to December 1, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.



### **Special Town Meeting December 21, 2011**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. James Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Stacia Libby and Joel Marzi were in attendance as well as Treasurer, Robert Dixon and Deputy Treasurer, Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately thirty (30) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$32,528 for the purchase of Emergency Management improvements and needs as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm.



### **Special Town Meeting January 4, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Joel Marzi was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Stacia Libby and Joel Marzi were in attendance as well as Deputy Treasurer, Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty- one (21) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation to budget line 10427-508850 (Emergency Management- Special Appropriations) in the amount not to exceed \$38,000.00 for the relocation of the Emergency Operation Center to the

first floor of the Essex Town Hall as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.



### **Special Town Meeting January 18, 2012**

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

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Cathy Bishop as a member of the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 1, 2012.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Thomas Clerk in as an alternate to the Park & Recreation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 1, 2014.

.Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.



### **Special Town Meeting February 1, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Joel Marzi was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Stacia Libby and Joel Marzi were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seventeen (17) people in attendance

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount not to exceed \$39,000 for the purchase of a VAC/All Basin Cleaner as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.



**Special Town Meeting  
March 7, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:58 pm. Joel Marzi was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Stacia Libby were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately fifteen (15) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of Susan Malan to the Tree Committee. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 1, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.



**Special Town Meeting  
April 19, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. James Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Stacia Libby were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately twenty (20) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To appoint Susan Malan as a Regular Member to the Conservation Commission. Term to start from the day of this meeting until December, 2012.

RESOLVED: To appoint Barbara Zernike as an Alternate Member to the Zoning Commission. Term to start from the day of this meeting until December, 2014.

RESOLVED: To appoint Virginia Willetts as an Alternate Member to the Park and Recreation Commission. Term to start from the day of this meeting until December, 2012.

RESOLVED: To appoint Walter Schieferdecker as an Alternate to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission. Term to start from the day of this meeting until July 1, 2012.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the waiver of Payment in Lieu of Taxes request by the Essex Housing Authority for 2010/2011 in the amount of \$12,204, 2009/2010 in the amount of \$11,360, 2008/2009 in the amount of \$9,703 and 2007/2008 in the amount of \$7,696 as

recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$3,050 to fund the tree planting this spring. Said sum to be taken from the Tree Committee Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.



**Special Town Meeting  
April 18, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Alvin Wolfgram was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Stacia Libby were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately thirty-five (35) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation a sum not to exceed \$109,711.81. Said sum to be taken from the Elementary School Capital Improvements Sinking Fund. As recommended and approved by the Board

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex hereby ratifies the action of the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials to become a council of governments at their meeting of July 27, 2011, toward that end, the Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials formally adopted Sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 4-124j of the Connecticut General Statutes, and that this newly established council of governments be called the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.



**Special Town Meeting  
May 2, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 pm. Susan Malan was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Stacia Libby were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,000 for the purpose of new surfacing to the Hubbard Park batting cage. Said sum to be taken from the Park and Recreation Capital and Sinking Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jeffrey Lovelace as a member to the Inland Wetlands & Water Courses Commission representing the Conservation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 1, 2015.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Fred Szufnarowski as an at large member to the Inland Wetlands Commission to fill an unexpired term. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 1, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



#### **Annual Budget Town Meeting May 14, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Alvin Wolfram was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Stacia Libby, Treasurer, Robert Dixon and Finance Director, Kelly Sterner were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately one hundred seventy (170) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: To make the necessary appropriations as prepared and recommended by the Board of Finance for the support of schools, highways and the general government and other necessary objects in an amount not to exceed \$22,090,118.

Registered electors of the Town of Essex and United States Citizens, eighteen years or older, owning taxable property assessed at \$1,000.00 or more on the last completed grand list of the Town are eligible to vote at the Town Meeting

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

- a. All Motor Vehicle tax bills will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2012.
- b. All Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills \$100.00 or less will be due and payable in full on July 1, 2012.
- c. Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills over \$100.00 may be paid in two installments with one half due on July 1, 2012 and one half due on January 1, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.



#### **Special Town Meeting June 6, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:50 pm. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi and Stacia Libby were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt a Budget Fund Designation Ordinance and an Amendment to the Open Space Sinking Fund Ordinance and the Tree Committee Sinking Fund Ordinance. A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



#### **Special Town Meeting June 20, 2012**

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:55 pm. Stacia Libby was elected Moderator. Selectmen, Joel Marzi, Stacia Libby were in attendance. The Town Clerk Frances D. Nolin read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seventeen (17) people in attendance.

The following Resolution was Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex Repeal the Liquor Hours Ordinance. A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

# ESSEX TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Telephone Number 767-4340 (unless otherwise noted)

## Selectmen's Office

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

## Animal Control Officer—767-3219

Joe Heller.....jheller@essexct.gov

## Assessor

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

## Building Department and Fire Marshal

Keith Nolin—Building Official/Fire Marshal, X117 ..... knolin@essexct.gov  
Darcy Roper, X144 ..... droper@essexct.gov

## Health Department

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

## Landfill/Recycling Center—767-1926

Mike Birner  
Wilbur Armstead

## Park and Recreation Commission

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

## Public Works—767-0715

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

## Registrars of Voters

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

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

Kerry Taylor—Resident State Trooper..... ktaylor@essexct.gov  
Russell Gingras—Corporal ..... rgingras@essexct.gov  
James Paul Kenefick—Officer ..... jkenefick@essexct.gov

## Social Services

Dean Jacques, X201 ..... djacques@essexct.gov

## Tax Collector

Megan Haskins—Tax Collector, X120..... mhaskins@essexct.gov  
Lynne Skinner, X121..... lskinner@essexct.gov

## Town Clerk

Frances Nolin—Town Clerk, X129..... townclerk@essexct.gov  
Dana Novorio, X128..... townclerk@essexct.gov

## Town Hall Operations

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

## Treasurer

Robert Dixon—Treasurer, X127 ..... rdixon@essexct.gov  
Kelly Sterner-Finance Director, X122..... ksterner@essexct.gov

## Zoning Enforcement

Joseph Budrow—Enforcement Agent, X115..... jbudrow@essexct.gov  
Darcy Roper, X144 ..... droper@essexct.gov

**[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)**

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