



# 2018-2019

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# Annual Report



Photo credit: Photo Associates

**Main Street, Essex ~ 75 Years Ago ~ October 1944**

Dedicated to:  
**Jacqueline “Jacquie” Wolff**

## *Dedication*

# Jacquie Wolff

Jacqueline (Jacquie) Greenberg Wolff was born on July 11, 1929 in Norwalk, CT. She landed in Essex when her mother, Belle, married Phil Greenberg. Jacquie started first grade as a Greenberg and kept that last name until she married Daniel Edward Wolff in 1953. She has continued to be a very active and vocal contributor to our community. Jacquie graduated from Pratt High School in 1947, for which she recently organized a 70th class reunion at the Griswold Inn. The class yearbook was dedicated to the Essex lives lost in WWII. She attended Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts to acquire her teaching degree, and spent 20 years teaching kindergarten students in New Rochelle, New York, where she raised two children with her late husband Daniel. She is also blessed with five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. After the passing of her mother, Jacquie and Danny moved back to Essex permanently in 1981, and today Jacquie still lives in the house where she grew up on Pratt Street.

Jacquie's recollection of local Essex history is amazingly clear, and she was even a guest on a local TV program explaining her vivid memories of growing up in this riverside village. "I grew up in a thriving two-way main street village that consisted of two supermarkets, a movie theater, the Griswold Inn, docks, boat works, and Greenberg's Store." A flourishing business anchor of Main Street, Greenberg's store operated from 1921-1971 and was owned by Jacquie's father Phil and her brother Herbie. It was a popular gathering place and sold everything from clothing and shoes to hardware and toys. Phil would even act as a tailor



and hem the pants the customers purchased. The store remained open until 8 p.m. every evening so that people could shop after work. During the holidays, the upstairs was transformed into "Toyland" with visits from Santa Claus and goodie bags to the many children. The children came to visit from the Essex Elementary school, which was then located in the Highland Hall on Prospect St. Jacquie's father and Herbie, who returned from World War II, opened another store on Main St in Old Saybrook that closed in the late 1980's. Jacquie's fond memory of Greenberg's was an important part of her formative years into adulthood. Two of her favorite town events remain the Halloween and Memorial Day parades, in which she marched as a child.



Jacquie and Danny were founding members of the Corinthian Yacht Club in 1984 and Danny was also a member of their band as a guitar player. Their interest in boating took Captain Dan and first mate "Hey Jac" on their trawler "Wolff Pack" in 1983, through the intercostal to roam Florida and the Abacos and then returning in 1985.

Besides traveling internationally with Danny, she's also taken grandchildren to Africa and Italy. Her most recent trip was a cruise to New Zealand and Australia. Another favorite activity is her enjoyment of theater which began at the Ivoryton Playhouse and Goodspeed, and she has regularly attended musicals in New York with her family.

"My love and interest in Essex is well known as I have been dubbed the Mayor of Main Street." You can find Jacquie walking the streets talking to people and sharing her knowledge of Essex's history to anyone that has an interest and willing ear.





# Table of Contents

## SECTION I

<b>First Selectman's Message</b> .....	2
<b>History of Essex</b> .....	3
<b>General Information</b>	
Elected Officials, Town, State and Federal.....	4
Town Officials and Services .....	5

## SECTION II

### Departments, Boards and Commissions

Animal Control Officer.....	8
Board of Assessment Appeals.....	8
Board of Finance.....	9
Board of Selectmen.....	9
Building Department .....	10
Central Services—Town Hall Operations .....	10
Conservation Commission .....	11
Economic Development Commission .....	11
Education Region 4 Mission Statement .....	12
Essex Elementary School .....	12
Superintendent, Regional School District #4 ..	13
Emergency Management.....	13
Essex Housing Authority .....	14
Fire Marshal .....	15
Harbor Management Commission.....	16
Health Department.....	16
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Comm.....	17
Park and Recreation Department .....	17
Planning Commission .....	18
Probate Court.....	18
Public Works .....	19
Pumpout Boat.....	20
Registrars of Voters.....	20
Resident State Trooper and Essex Police .....	21
Retirement Board .....	21
Social Services .....	22
Sustainability Committee .....	22
Town Clerk's Office .....	23
Town Counsel.....	24
Tree Committee .....	24
Water Pollution Control Authority .....	25
Zoning Board of Appeals .....	25
Zoning Commission .....	25
Zoning Enforcement .....	25

## SECTION III

### Community & Service Organizations

Ancient Order of Weeders.....	26
Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT....	26
Connecticut River Gateway Commission .....	27
Connecticut River Museum .....	27
Essex Ambulance Association .....	28
Essex Art Association .....	29
Essex Board of Trade .....	30
Essex Community Fund.....	31
Essex Fire Engine Co. # 1 .....	31
Essex Garden Club .....	32
Essex Historical Society .....	32
Essex Land Trust .....	33
Essex Lions Club.....	33
Estuary Council of Seniors, Inc. ....	34
Estuary Transit District.....	34
FISH.....	35
Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc. ....	35
Ivoryton Village Alliance.....	36
Libraries	
Essex Library Association .....	37
Ivoryton Library Association.....	38
Literacy Volunteers—Valley Shore, CT Inc.....	38
Lower River Valley Council of Governments...	39
Rotary Club of Essex.....	40
Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries .....	40
The Essex Foundation .....	41
Tri-Town Youth Services.....	42
Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley .....	42

## SECTION IV

<b>Town Meeting Minutes</b> .....	43
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## SECTION V

### Financial Information

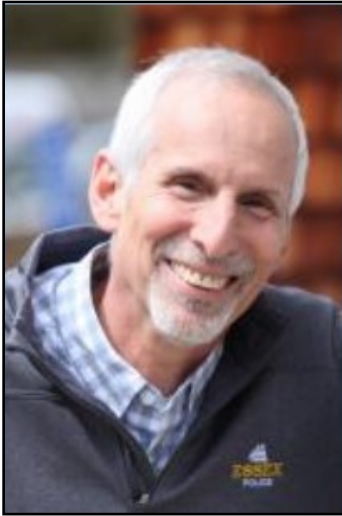
Finance Reports .....	50
Tax Collector's Reports .....	57
Assessor's Reports.....	58

**Town Department Directory**.....Inside Back Cover



*Pratt High School  
entire student body  
1947. Former Pratt  
High School  
building now serves  
as Essex Town Hall.*

## First Selectman's Message



As we put closure on this fiscal year, I'm pleased to report the Town of Essex remains in solid financial standing and continues to be recognized as a vibrant, desirable, and attractive community. We benefit from a very well qualified and dedicated staff as well as an abundance of talent

provided by the many citizens who volunteer their time and effort.

The approved budget for the subsequent year once again ran a surplus because we underspent the approved budget. This occurred as a result of an increase in building permits and an increase in property transfers. The surplus made it possible for the Board of Finance to lower the mil rate to 21.65 for the 2018-19 fiscal year. It allowed us to reallocate monies to go toward road repairs and repaving in several locations in Town.

The economy in Essex has been thriving with new businesses starting up and others relocating within Town. We welcome all the new growth going on and encourage all residents to support local business. Our Essex Board of Trade and the Ivoryton Alliance both remain strong and have organized many successful events that have contributed to the promotion of the Town and have enhanced the quality of life in our three villages.

We have completed most of the sidewalk replacement projects from the Connecticut River to Bushy Hill. This includes the sidewalks and lighting along Main Street in Centerbrook from the Essex Steam Train to the center of Ivoryton, along and in front of the former piano factory, at Champlin Square and other locations. The Connectivity Grant for \$142,500 awarded to the Town will fill in some of the missing links in the corridor to complete the connection from the Essex Steam Train to West Avenue.

We had a wonderful turnout for the recent Essex Community Day at the Essex Fire Headquarters. We offered free hot dogs, face-

painting, burning demonstrations, and a rescue helicopter just to name a few. The need for public safety volunteers is critical in order to maintain the lower taxes we enjoy. I'd like to thank the Essex Fire Department members, the Essex Fire Marshal and Town Hall staff for making this event a success.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the First Selectman for the Town of Essex. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Selectman Bruce Glowac and Selectman Stacia Libby for their efforts this year as well as the many volunteers, local elected and appointed officials, and the Town of Essex staff.

Norman Needleman  
First Selectman



*First Selectman Norman Needleman reads a proclamation presented to Jacquie Wolff on the occasion of her 90th birthday.*

**Photos of 1940s Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton featured throughout this annual report appear courtesy of Essex Historical Society**



## 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

association with privateering. While the Town was spared, the burning of the fleet (a total of 27 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". World War 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.



Town Dock at "Foot of Main"

## Elected Officials

### Town of Essex

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman  
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman  
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman

#### TOWN CLERK

Joel Marzi

#### TREASURER

James D. Francis

#### TAX COLLECTOR

Megan D. Haskins

#### BOARD OF FINANCE

Keith M. Crehan, Chairman  
W. Campbell Hudson, Vice Chairman  
Ethan Goller  
Mary-Louise Polo  
Vincent Pacileo, III  
Edward A. Tedeschi

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION—ESSEX ELEMENTARY

Lon J. Seidman, Chair  
Don G. Fitton, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Mark Watson  
Loretta T. McCluskey  
Carolyn Rotella  
Judie McCann

#### BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Keith Russell, Chair  
Mark Bombaci  
Coral L. Rawn

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION—REGION #4

Jennifer A. Clark  
Katelyn Sandmann  
Don G. Fitton, Jr.

#### JUDGE OF PROBATE

Jeannine Lewis

#### REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

John Heiser  
Caitlin Riley

### State of Connecticut

#### GOVERNOR

Ned Lamont

#### LT. GOVERNOR

Susan Bysiewicz

#### STATE COMPTROLLER

Kevin Lembo

#### STATE TREASURER

Shawn Wooden

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL

William Tong

#### SECRETARY OF STATE

Denise W. Merrill

#### SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT

Norman M. Needleman

#### REPRESENTATIVE 36TH DISTRICT

Christine Palm

### Federal

#### PRESIDENT

Donald J. Trump

#### UNITED STATES SENATE

Richard Blumenthal  
Christopher S. Murphy

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph D. Courtney





## *Town Officials and Services*

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Caitlyn Sikora

### **ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Jessica Sypher, Assessor

Betsy D'Amico, Assistant to the Assessor

### **AUDITORS**

Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

David DeLeeuw, Building Official

### **CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Jacqueline Hubbard

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

Richard Stebbins

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kathleen Tucker, Chair

Adrienne Forrest

Frank Hall

Richard Helmecki

Jeffrey Lovelace

James O'Brien

Mark Reeves

Roger Field—Alternate

Jason Wlochowski—Alternate

### **CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION**

Claire Matthews

Maryann Pleva—Alternate

### **CONSULTING ENGINEER**

Robert Doane, Jr., Doane Engineering

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Janet Peckinpugh, Chairman

Edward Cook

Betsy D'Amico

Peter Decker

George Sexton, Planning Representative

Brian Weinstein

David Winstead

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

Brian J. White, Superintendent of Schools

Kristina Martineau, Asst Superintendent

Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services

Kim Allen, Business Manager

Pam Murphy, Director of Technology

### **ESSEX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Jennifer Tousignant, Principal

### **JOHN WINTHROP JR. HIGH SCHOOL**

Matthew Espinosa, Principal

Peter Foxen, Associate Principal

### **VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Mike Barile, Principal

Carolyn Gbunblee, Associate Principal

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

William Buckridge

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

Judith Reynolds

### **ESSEX AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

Judith Reynolds

### **ESSEX FIRE ENGINE COMPANY #1**

Aron Schumacher, Chief

### **ESSEX HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Janice M. Atkeson, Chair

Yolanda Lowe

Gary Arnhold

Richard W. Stebbins

Rosemary A. Willis

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Kelly Sterner, Finance Director

Dana Novorio, Asst to the Finance Director

### **FIRE MARSHAL**

John Planas, Fire Marshal

### **HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Jeffrey Going, Chair

John Senning

Terry Stewart

Earl Fowler

Joseph Zaraschi

Susan Malan, Alternate

Eugene C. Schellens, Alternate

### **HARBOR MASTER**

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

David Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master

### **HEALTH DIRECTOR / SANITARIAN**

Lisa Fasulo

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

Fred Szufnarowski, Chairman

Ernest Cook

Daniel Lapman

Jim Leo

Andre Roussel,

Stephen Knauth, Alternate

Beth Currie, Alternate

### **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

Alison M. Adams .....860-581-3708

Philip Beckman .....860-767-9755

Susan W. Beckman .....860-767-9755

Tom Bellos .....860-767-2741

Heather K Chamberlain .....860-552-9529

Matthew P. Cooper .....860-304-2671

Peter Decker .....860-767-9516

Ann S. Dixon .....860-767-1339

Earl Fowler .....860-767-2764

## Town Officials and Services

### **JUSTICES OF THE PEACE** *(continued)*

Larry Freundlich .....860-767-2773  
David W. Galligan .....860-767-1860  
Bruce M. Glowac .....860-767-0650  
Leonard Goldberg .....860-213-7069  
Donna M. Hyde .....860-767-0061  
Louisa R. Ketron .....860-767-7473  
Leslie Lupovich.....860-767-4953  
Joseph W. Lux, Jr. ....860-918-3556  
Shelley H. Mack .....860-388-7890  
Philip J. Miller .....860-767-7837  
Christopher Morano.....860-767-0292  
Norman M. Needleman.....860-767-9176  
Alison Nichols .....860-767-1511  
Stephen L. Phillips.....860-581-8130  
John C. Stannard .....860-767-8051  
Daniel J. Stypa .....860-767-2075  
Kathleen McKinney Tucker....860-767-0397  
William P. Veillette .....860-767-8519  
Susan Weeks.....860-767-8535  
Mary Bowers.....860-575-9619  
Ned Rogin.....860-767-0702

### **LAND USE—ADMINISTRATIVE**

Darcy Roper  
Kerry Berardinelli

### **LANDFILL/RECYCLING CENTER**

Michael Birner  
Wilbur Armstead

### **LIBRARIES**

#### **ESSEX LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Deborah Smith, Library Director

#### **IVORYTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Elizabeth Alvord, Library Director

### **LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Alan Kerr  
Sandra Childress, alternate

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

William Buckridge  
John Planas  
Judith Reynolds

### **MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY**

Mary Ellen Barnes

### **PARK AND RECREATION**

Mary Ellen Barnes, Park & Recreation Director  
Tim Lachance, Recreation Aide

### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Robert Russo, Chairman  
John J. Bean Jr.  
Anthony Mosa  
Douglas Senn  
Virginia Willetts

Daniel Needleman, Alternate  
Brette Fitton, Alternate

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Alan Kerr, Chairman  
Erin Bogan  
Ralph Monaco  
George Sexton  
Gary Riggio  
Hope Proctor, Alternate  
Jane Siris, Alternate  
Alvin Wolfgram, Alternate

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Ryan Welch, Director  
Boris Churyk  
Richard Gallacher  
David Martin  
Dwight Massey  
Paul MacKenzie (PT)

### **REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Winifred Olson

### **REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

John Heiser  
Caitlin Riley

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

David Tretter, Resident State Trooper  
James Paul Kenefick, Corporal  
Todd Belcourt, Corporal  
Christopher McCarthy, Police Officer  
Karen Reilly, Police Officer (PT)  
Robert Hart, Police Officer (PT)  
Judson Howes, Police Officer (PT)

### **CROSSING GUARD**

William Westerman, Crossing Guard

### **HARBOR PATROL**

William Rochette, Boat Operator  
Mark Walter, Boat Operator  
Richard Varricchio, Boat Operator  
Wayne Vetre, Jr. Boat Operator

### **RETIREMENT BOARD**

Ellen Whaley-Wexler, Chair  
Peter Decker  
Ethan Goller  
Stacia Libby  
Mary-Louise Polo

### **SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman  
Stacia Libby, Selectman  
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman  
Maria Lucarelli, Assistant to Selectmen  
Betsy D'Amico, Administrative Assistant  
Alyson Finnegan, Administrative Assistant



## *Town Officials and Services*

### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mary Ellen Barnes

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

Megan D. Haskins, Tax Collector

Lynne Skinner, Assistant to the Tax Collector

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

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk

Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk

### **TOWN COUNSEL**

Attorney David M. Royston, Old Saybrook

### **TOWN HALL OPERATIONS**

Thomas Fitzgerald, Supervisor

Andrew Harrington

Kimberly Fair

April Lucarelli

Marion Martin

Alan Schroeder

### **TREASURER**

James Francis

### **TREE COMMITTEE**

Kenneth Bombaci

Nancy Hudson

Susan Malan

John Molloy

Mark Pratt

### **TREE WARDEN**

August Pampel

### **VETERANS SERVICES**

Doug Haynes

### **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Susan Malan, Chair

Wendy Arnold

Randel Osborne

Leigh Rankin

Mark Reeves

Alvin Wolfram, Alternate

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

William Timothy Furgueson, Chairman

Ward Feirer

Barbara Sarrantonio

Philip Schaller

Brian Weinstein

Philip Beckman, Alternate

Richard Rybak, Alternate

George Wendell, Alternate

### **ZONING COMMISSION**

Larry Shipman, Chair

Jim Hill

William Reichenbach

Mark Reeves

Russell Smith

Thomas Carroll, Alternate

Jeffrey Lovelace, Alternate

Robert L. Day III, Alternate

### **ZONING ENFORCEMENT**

Joseph Budrow, Zoning/Wetlands  
Enforcement

## ***SECTION II—Departments, Boards & Commissions***

### ***Animal Control Officer***

Year to date, approximately 300 calls came into the office, many of them regarding wildlife.

As a reminder if you experience an issue with nuisance wildlife please direct your call to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at 860-424-3333. You can also call a Nuisance Wildlife Control Officer (NWCO) who is equipped and trained to deal with nuisance wildlife. As always please be mindful of the wildlife and keep your distance. It is also illegal in the State of Connecticut to relocate any Rabies Vector Species (fox, raccoon, skunk) under CT General Statutes sections 26-47(b) and 26-57. If you see wildlife acting strangely such as walking in circles, walking into things, stumbling, overly aggressive or overly friendly, or dragging the hind end please call our office at 860-767-4340 x160 or the CT State Police Troop F in Westbrook at 860-391-2100.

Please remember to get your dogs licensed every June! By CT state law, dogs over 6 months in age must be licensed in the town they reside and all dogs and cats over the age of 3 months old must be vaccinated against rabies.

The office has received many calls regarding roaming dogs and dogs running out into the road after pedestrians. Be advised that it is the owner's responsibility to keep their dog under their control at all times or an infraction can be issued. Also, please be courteous and clean up after your pet when out in public.

I always try to promote responsible pet ownership by encouraging everyone to spay and neuter pets! We have an enormous cat over population here in Connecticut, even here in Essex. Spaying and neutering also prevents unwanted health issues later in life. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 860-767-4340 x160 or by email [csikora@essexct.gov](mailto:csikora@essexct.gov). As a reminder, the following is a list of possible infractions along with their associated fees:

Failure to License a dog: \$75.00	Roaming Dog: \$92.00	Nuisance Dog: \$75.00
Failure to Redeem: \$75.00	Impound Fee: \$15.00per day	Failure to Vaccinate: \$136.00



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

The Board of Assessment Appeals is composed of three elected citizens of Essex: currently, Keith Russell, Chair; Mark Bombaci and Coral Rawn, who hear and consider appeals of assessment valuations. The Board meets during the month of March to hear appeals of the Grand List of the prior October 1; i.e. appeals of the October 1, 2018 Grand List were heard in March of 2019. 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 at the Assessor's Office and, for March hearings, must be submitted by February 20.

Motor vehicles on the regular list (vehicles registered by 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 the September motor vehicle appeals.

The Board scheduled fifty-three hearings during the month of March 2019; all of these were real estate appeals. One was withdrawn, thirty-four were adjusted and eighteen were unchanged.

Keith Russell  
Chairman



## *Board of Finance*

The Essex Board of Finance operates as set forth in the State of Connecticut General Statutes. Responsibilities of the Board include the annual budget of the Town, as well as necessary budget transfers and other supplemental appropriations, setting the mill rate and publication of the Annual Town Report. Additionally the board selects independent auditors, arranges the annual municipal audit and 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. Monthly financial reports are available on the Town website under the Finance Department.

The Board of Finance is comprised of six members, each of whom holds office for a 6-year term. Terms are staggered with two members elected at each biennial municipal election. No more than four of the board's members may be of the same political party. The current Board consists of W. Campbell Hudson, Vice Chairman and Mary-Louise Polo whose terms expire in November 2019, Vincent Pacileo III and Edward Tedeschi whose terms expire in November 2021, and Keith Crehan, Chairman and Ethan Goller whose terms expire in November 2023. Regular meetings of the Board of Finance are held the third Thursday of each month at the Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

Keith Crehan  
Chair

## *Board of Selectmen*

The Essex Board of Selectmen forms the executive branch of Town government. The Board is comprised of three members who are each elected for concurrent two-year terms. As of fiscal year end 2019, the members include First Selectman, Norman M. Needleman, and Selectmen Bruce Glowac and Stacia Libby. The First Selectman serves as the full time chief executive and administrative officer of the Town. The board works collaboratively to provide the services the residents of all three villages expect from our municipal government while maintaining a fiscally responsible environment.

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 Board of Finance, Town Meetings or referendums, where citizens have more direct input.

The Board meets twice monthly on the first Wednesday at 5:00 PM and the third Wednesday at 7:00 PM. These meetings are open to the public and an opportunity for public participation is scheduled for each meeting. In addition, the Board may meet for a special meeting as required to consider Town business.

For the fiscal year 2018-2019, the Board of Selectmen met for twenty regular meetings and fifteen special meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Town website at [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) and are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Board also sponsored multiple budget workshops in preparation of the annual town budget and held several public hearings on topics relevant to Town business and interests of our citizens.

Respectfully,

Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman  
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman  
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman



*Members of the Pratt High School  
Class of 1947.*

## ***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 as well as for any change of use of a structure (i.e. retail to restaurant, office to retail, residence to office.)

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 and on our website at [www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov) under Building/Required Inspections.

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

From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, a total of 906 (781 residential, 125 commercial) building permits were issued for an estimated construction value of \$17,336,870.78. The prior fiscal year set an all-time record high for the Town with 736 permits issued. This fiscal year saw 906 permits, a 23% increase and new all-time record high for number of permits. The total fees collected by the building department were \$185,170. Fifteen permits were issued for new home construction. No multi-family housing units were permitted. One Demo Ordinance Fee was collected.

David R. DeLeeuw  
Building Official



## ***Central Services Town Hall Operations***

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year the Town Hall Maintenance Custodial staff has cleaned, set-up and broken down the meeting rooms in the Town Hall while working around the install of a new ceiling in the Police Office.

Always aware of maintaining the quality of cleanliness the staff and residents have come to expect. We have also been working on upgrading the lighting to energy efficient L.E.D. lights starting with the Police Office and working our way thru the hallways. Maintenance has also been working on freshening up the walls with new paint. The Town Hall hosted over 500 events in the three meeting rooms and on the grounds. These rooms have been set-up, taken-down, cleaned and maintained by a dedicated staff of 1 full time Maintenance Custodian and 4 part-time Custodians. The Staff works to maintain a high level of cleanliness and safety for the Town Hall staff and citizens of Essex. The custodial staff also maintains the Main Street restrooms which are open year-round for the visitors to Main Street and the park which also has been upgraded to new energy efficient L.E.D. lights as well.

The dedicated staff will continue to strive towards a more efficient and safe Town Hall Facility. Citizen suggestions are always welcome.

Tom Fitzgerald  
Custodial/Maintenance Services Manager

## Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission meets at Town Hall the second Thursday of each month and in Bushy Hill, Canfield-Meadow Woods, and Viney Hill Brook Preserves, as needed, to maintain and manage the trails, open spaces, and invasive vegetation in these properties. Current commission roster: Adrienne Forrest; Frank Hall; Richard Helmecki; Jeffrey Lovelace, Vice-Chair; James O'Brien; Mark Reeves; and Kay Tucker, Chair. Newly appointed alternates: Roger Field, Essex Land Trust Steward; and Jacob Wlochowski, VHBP Eagle Scout Bridge project, 2011.

**Bushy Hill Preserve:** Professional services were contracted to treat for mosquitoes and for routine mowing and annual maintenance of the reclaimed meadow, which has been a sanctuary for birds such as woodcocks and small animals seeking a watering hole and grassy shelter. The bat houses appear unused, a sign that the bat population in CT has not recovered.

**Canfield-Meadow Woods** (300 acres) is used heavily and inspected regularly. Fallen trees and other trail obstructions are remediated immediately by town volunteers led by Roger Field. A report surfaced that there was evidence of a bear in this preserve. Another report surfaced concerning nuisance off-leash dogs. Signs stating that "dogs must be on leash or at heel" are often ignored in this, as well as in other town-owned preserves.

**Viney Hill Brook Preserve.** The commission investigated ways to drain the water which continues to amass at the intersection of Broadwalk and Quarry Pond trails due to beaver activity. Trenching the impermeable levees to allow water to flow into Quarry Pond proved too costly. Alternatively, the commissioners posted more "Detour" and "Flooded" signs, repositioned the bog bridges, and cut higher, dryer upland trails. A portion of Broadwalk remains impassable as beavers enlarge their dam. The result—a beaver-made pond with varying departments of water. At twilight on April 24, Frank Hall guided a public tour around Quarry Pond pointing out two beaver lodges and the exclusion fence and flexible pipe installed to keep the main drain culvert free from beaver accumulated trees, sticks, and mud. At last light, beavers surfaced, tails slapped the water, and patrolled until all attendees exited the trail site.

**Other:** The three preserves have new GPS drawn maps with updated information courtesy of ELT cartographers Jim Denham and Myron Stacks. The commission asked State Trooper David Tretter to investigate an extensive system of unauthorized gates used as bike access through VHBP. By order of the DEEP, bicycles are not allowed in our preserves. The gates were eventually removed. Commissioners continue to repair the gouged and rutted areas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Tucker, Chair



## Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission (EDC), chaired by Janet Peckinpaugh along with commissioners David Winstead, Peter Decker, Betsy D'Amico, Brian Weinstein, George Sexton (Planning) and Ed Cook meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM at either Town Hall or a local business. During this past year, Essex Village was the subject of a UConn Civil Engineering Senior Project. The students worked on ways to manage our parking and village beautification to keep Essex a thriving destination. The project generated many good ideas. We have applied to continue the project this school year and implement one of the students' ideas from last year. Using the "Tactical Urban Guide" and a group of community volunteers we can implement the changes on a temporary basis to see if our citizens like it and whether we might want to make the changes permanent. Bike paths, slanted parking, more seating areas and expanded safety areas for walkers are things we will be working on in the coming months.

If you would like to attend our meetings or host one, please reach out to [jpeckinpaugh@wpsir.com](mailto:jpeckinpaugh@wpsir.com) or 860-985-3659 or our Economic Developer, Susan Malan, 860-767-4340 x220 or [smalan@essexct.gov](mailto:smalan@essexct.gov). Look for meeting minutes and our agenda at [EssexCT.gov](http://EssexCT.gov).

Janet Peckinpaugh  
Chairman



## ***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.

## ***Education***

### ***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.

## ***Education***

### ***Essex Elementary School***

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

EES is a school with high expectations for all. The focus on student learning and growth is a direct result of the district's efforts to enhance instruction by focusing on the individual needs of its students. In addition to focusing on the academic needs of students in all content areas, we offer programming to enrich our students' elementary experience. PE, art, music, library and Spanish are among the classes offered. Chorus, instrumental

music lessons, and ensemble are offered for students in the intermediate grades. These programs are beneficial to the development of the whole child and provided through the Supervision District of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education.

Technology integration has been a focus in all of the Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region 4 Schools. Through this collaboration, students have access to a wide variety of technological tools. Our students in grades 3-6 have their own Chromebook for use in school providing a 1:1 environment. Innovative and engaging computer applications are infused into the curriculum to enhance twenty-first century learning and skills.

We have an active PTO providing enrichment experiences for all students through cultural arts, field trips, and an assortment of opportunities for family involvement. Support from this organization is an integral part of the overall climate of the school community.

Our students have access to many extra curricular activities such as Green Team, Student Leaders, Math Olympiads, Invention Convention, Chess Club, and Broadcasting Team. These offerings help to teach important life-long academic and social skills outside of the typical classroom.

The Essex Elementary School Foundation generously provides grants to teachers to support enrichment opportunities for our students. The Foundation also supports many programs such as MakerSpace, World Cultures, Scientist in Residence, Engineering with LEGOs, and Bloom Art.

Our Social Development program promotes a culture, climate, and curriculum that enhances the social, emotional, and behavioral development of students. Our focus for the 2018-19 year was Zones of Regulation through which students learned how to recognize and self-regulate their emotions.

Essex Elementary strives to provide outstanding programs creating a positive environment that fosters a lifelong love of learning and sense of community.

Jennifer Tousignant  
Principal



## *Education*

### *Superintendent of Schools*

We are proud to offer a wide range of learning experiences for the students of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools. It is our purpose to ensure that at the culmination of their K-12 education, every Region 4 graduate is college and career ready, and well prepared to successfully embrace the opportunities and challenges that await them in our ever-changing world.

Across Chester, Deep River, Essex, and the Region 4 Schools, the 2018-19 school year was very exciting, bringing with it with a number of initiatives and recognitions. The Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools engaged in the second year of our strategic plan, which primarily focused on Critical and Creative Problem Solving, as well as developing systemic coherence. All Boards of Education voted to focus on these goals, along with administration and staff members. This alignment has moved our districts forward to provide excellence for all of our students pre-kindergarten through graduation.

Valley Regional High School enjoyed many awards and recognitions in academics, the arts, sports, and citizenship. Our high school was very proud to report a 100% graduation rate for students attending all four years at VRHS. This year our high school successfully met the criteria to begin offering IB Programme Diploma courses beginning in the fall of 2019. We are very excited about the opportunities this program will offer our students in the years ahead.

The elementary schools have continued their focus on the development of curriculum and instructional practices that match the new national and state standards across content areas, with a particular focus on the new Next Generation Science Standards. Our elementary schools entered into their second year of implementing Bridges, our new elementary mathematics program. Instructional coaches played an integral role in working with staff and students in each of our schools to build staff capacity in the instructional methods required by the Bridges program, as well as to develop effective approaches to developing the new mathematics curriculum.

We recognize that our excellent schools are part of the fabric of our communities, and attract families to our region. We continue to develop strong productive relationships with the towns we serve, and partner with those towns to provide innovative educational programming that ultimately has a positive impact on the regional economy. On behalf of our schools, administration, staff, and

students, we thank you for your support and partnership in developing our students to become the citizens of tomorrow.

Brian J. White, Superintendent of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Schools

## *Emergency Management*

The Emergency Management Department continues to put safety and well-being of residents as its highest priority. Each year we review and update the emergency readiness and Local Emergency Operations plans and incorporate improvements and modifications as a result of lessons learned during statewide drills and actual emergency events.

In 2018-19, the department participated in the Statewide Mutual Aid Drill at Essex Meadows Health Care Center. The goal of the drill was for Essex Meadows staff to practice their Emergency Plans in response to a weather emergency. The department also participated in quarterly Health & Safety Meetings with local officials, Region 4 Schools Security Advisory Committee Meetings, and numerous Valley Shore Emergency Management programs. We attended the Statewide Emergency Management Symposium which focused on cyber security, tornado response and debris management planning, mobile communications and Incident Command, and proposed changes to the Statewide Emergency Communication system.

Essex Emergency Management Officials strongly encourage residents to be prepared for severe weather events and natural disasters and to have plans in place for your health and safety. For information on how to plan for an emergency and prepare a home emergency supply kit, refer to the *Emergency Preparedness Guidebook* located on the Town of Essex/Emergency Management website. Hardcopies are also available in the Essex Town Hall. To receive critical and real-time information directly to your cell/home phone or email about a local emergency, prolonged power outage, or sheltering, you are encouraged to sign up for [Safer Essex](#) Emergency alerts. To register your contact information, visit the Town of Essex website main page and scroll down to [Safer Essex](#). This communication system is used only by Town Officials to inform you about real-time, significant, local, emergencies. Remember to add the [Safer Essex](#) phone number, 860-767-8139, to your cell phone's safe senders list so that you know the call is from Essex Emergency Management Officials.

Be Well and Stay Safe.  
William Buckridge

## *Essex Housing Authority*

Essex Court is an affordable public housing complex for elder and disabled residents under the responsibility of the Essex Housing Authority (EHA). Our campus is located at 16 Main Street, Centerbrook. Each resident enjoys one of our 36 garden style apartments which allow easy access to the outdoors. Our Resident Services Coordinator (RSC) hosts weekly lunches, monthly bingo and other social events in the campus community room. Gatherings are open to all residents. The community room at Essex Court is fully backed by generator in the event of any power outage. Residents have complete access to the community room at all times, but in case of a power outage, the community room is easily accessible for all and may provide access to heat and food.

Community organizations continue to generously support residents of Essex Court. Warriors in the community, a group of high school students, come annually to assist staff in maintenance projects. The Rotary Club of Essex in conjunction with Dr. Tobin, generously provide holiday meals for residents each year. Essex Coldwell Banker contributes funds each year.

These funds are used to sponsor social events and entertainment for residents. Our local Veterans sponsor an annual pasta dinner for all residents to enjoy. Residents also enjoy multiple concerts sponsored by our local Community Music School. Other businesses and individuals donate services and/or goods. Residents are most appreciative for all these services.

Essex Housing Authority and the site manager, DeMarco Management Company, strive to make Essex Court a desirable place to live for all residents. We offer a high quality, financially viable, housing opportunity for elders and disabled individuals in the community.

Applications are available and the wait list is currently open. Due to the length of the waiting list, however, we may need to close the list in the near future.

Commissioners: Janice Atkeson, Chairperson, Rick Stebbins, Yolanda Lowe, Rosemary Willis and Gary Arnhold, Resident representative.

Mary Mansour  
Property Manager



*Ivoryton Store*

## ***FIRE MARSHAL***

The Essex Office of the Fire Marshal is responsible for the enforcement of many of the sections found in Chapter 541 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as well as numerous codes that are promulgated under the provision of these statutes. The Essex Fire Marshal is required to annually inspect all buildings and facilities of public service and occupancies regulated by the Connecticut State Fire Prevention Code. The State Fire Prevention Code covers all occupancies except one and two family dwellings. One and two family dwellings may be inspected upon a complaint relating to life safety hazards.

Additional duties performed by The Office of the Fire Marshal include:

- Investigate the cause, origin and circumstance of all fires within the jurisdiction, and report to the State Fire Marshal's office.
- Issue permits for the use, transportation and storage of explosives in compliance with State Explosives Regulations.
- Investigate complaints concerning explosives, inspect explosive storage magazines, and spot-check all job sites where explosives are being used.
- Enforce statute regulating the installation and use of space heaters and inspect all flammable and combustible liquid storage tank installations for compliance with Connecticut Flammable and Combustible Liquids codes.
- Inspect and enforce the Connecticut Regulations concerning storage, use and transportation of liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas.
- Conduct site inspection of all fireworks and special effects displays for compliance with applicable State legislation and make the determination of the amount of fire protection and extinguishing equipment to be on site.
- Inspect all tents and portable structures for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety Regulations.
- Conduct review of plans and specifications for various occupancies and facilities being proposed within the town for compliance with the Connecticut Fire Safety code.
- Attend schools and seminars to keep abreast of the codes, regulations, and new technology.
- Provide safety tips and give advice to the general public relating to fire safety and prevention.
- Upon receiving a complaint, inspect one and two family dwellings to assure the statutory requirements regarding smoke detection and warning equipment are satisfied.
- Provide and approve open burn permits for town residents.
- Perform annual inspections for all establishments

requiring initial or renewal liquor license permits.

- Approve and manage all fire department keyed access control systems in town. Update and code National Fire Incident reporting data and submit to State and National agencies.

- Evaluate and generate pre-plan data for occupancies located in town. Pre-plan data is utilized by responding emergency personnel to aid in the mitigation of emergencies by providing important details about the occupancy and hazard contents.

- Work closely together with Emergency Management Directors to establish and support Emergency Preparedness procedures and operations.

- Research and prepare grant opportunities for public safety training and equipment.

The Essex Office of the Fire Marshal requires permits for some of the following:

Removal and installation of underground fuel storage tanks. There is a \$30.00 fee associated with this permit and may be obtained in the Fire Marshal's office. An inspection is required for the installation and removal of underground fuel storage tanks. July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 there were 12 underground fuel tank removal permits/inspections.

Tent/event permit requirements:

There is a \$30.00 fee associated with each tent/event permit. The Fire Marshal inspects tents prior to the event and also determines the extent of fire protection needed based on the size of the tent and occupancy. July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 there were 23 tent permits/inspections completed. Explosives permits. There is a \$60.00 fee for a blasting permit. Blasting permits may be obtained at The Fire Marshal's office as well as guidelines for submitting applications. July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 there were 7 blasting permits issued. Open burning permits. There is no charge for open burn permits. Permits may be obtained at The Office of the Fire Marshal. Open burning is limited to the burning of brush only, on residential property upon which the permittee resides. Only brush (defined as shrubs, vegetation or prunings, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point) may be burned. Burning on property not zoned as residential is prohibited. Further regulations are detailed on the permit. July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 there were 68 burn permits issued.

Total revenue for permits issued by The Office of the Fire Marshal from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 was \$1,470.00.

John A. Planas  
Fire Marshal

## *Harbor Management Commission*

The Essex Harbor Management Commission (HMC) is responsible for Essex Harbor which includes the waters of the River from Deep River to Saybrook, and the Coves - North, Middle, South and Falls River. In this we are focused on the anchorages (including all moorings) and providing safe access and navigation.

HMC is also responsible for managing the Public Access points. While some of these Access Points offer small boat launching opportunities, most offer the simple opportunity to get to the waters edge and have an open view across parts of our harbor.

Much of the work for 2018/19 was centered on the re-decking and expansion of the Town Dock at the foot of Main Street. This project increased surface area of the dock, seating and dinghy tie up facility. Docking is limited to a maximum of four hours. This is a popular and heavily used site.

Our biggest responsibility is the anchorages that host more than 200 moorings each year - private, commercial and support. Applications, renewals and wait lists are handled through [onlinemooring.com/Essexct](http://onlinemooring.com/Essexct). This service also handles the permitting process for Small Vessel storage at Bushnell Access.

Fiscal year 2019 saw the conclusion of a comprehensive study of Essex Harbor and Thatchbed Island. This study included a survey of Thatchbed Island, hydrographic surveys of North Cove channel, Middle Cove channel, South Cove entrances and the eastern area off Thatchbed. Current studies of the Main Anchorage area from a Thatchbed across the Main River channel were also included.

In the Spring the HMC ordinance was updated along with our Harbor Plan.

HMC operating funds come from user fees, although we do have a sinking fund as part of the Town Budget.

Meetings are open to the public and we welcome comments. Meetings are the fourth Thursday (except Nov & Dec, which are the third), at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Jeff Going  
Chairman

## *Health Department*

The Town of Essex has a full-time local Health Department which is responsible for upholding the Regulations of CT State Agencies and enforcing CT Public Health Code and local ordinances. The Health Department mission is to create a healthy environment for residents through promotion of essential public health services, prevention of epidemics and disease, protection against environmental hazards, and promotion and encouragement of healthy behaviors. The Health Department uses local public health statistics to provide residents with targeted health education materials and general information aimed at supporting a healthy community. The Health Department is actively involved with local & regional partners in emergency response and preparedness planning.

Environmental health services include inspections of food service establishments, temporary food service events, daycares, salons, public swimming pools and bathing areas, responding to complaints and addressing a variety of environmental hazards. Lead poisoning prevention activities, asbestos & radon awareness, private drinking water well safety, and promoting healthy home renovation & maintenance projects are just a few of the activities that contribute to a healthy community. The Health Department has the legal authority to levy fines and penalties for public health code violations and to grant and rescind license permits (such as for food service establishments or septic systems).

The Health Department reviews many types of projects and proposed land use activities for compliance with the CT Public Health Code. Projects include proposed new restaurants, new commercial or home construction, and other renovations and building additions. Plan review is required for Changes in Use of a building, lot line changes, construction of accessory structures (i.e. pool, sheds, underground fuel tanks, etc.) or any activity which increases wastewater design flows from a building. Often, these projects require soil testing to assess feasibility and capacity of an on-site septic system.

In 2018-19, Health Department conducted inspections and multiple re-inspections at the 40 food service establishments in Town and inspected numerous temporary foodservice events such as Lobster Bake, Shad Bake, RiverFare, Thomas the Tank Engine, farmers market, etc.

*Continued on the next page*



## ***Health Department***

*Continued from the previous page*

Health Department staff completed 96 plan reviews, 41 soil tests, 31 septic system repairs, issued 5 well drilling permits and 15 new septic system permits. The staff conducted inspections at barbers/salons, 6 public swimming pools and monitored bathing water at Viney Hill Brook Park for the 2018 swimming season.

The Health Department actively participates in Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) planning and statewide drills with State partners in Region 2, ESF-8, and MDA 39. During local severe weather events or emergencies, this department partners with local leadership, emergency management office, first responders, and key community partners to collectively ensure public health and safety.

Lisa Fasulo, MPH, REHS/RS  
Director of Health



## ***Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission***

Essex Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission is chaired by Fred Szufnarowski. Along with Mr. Szufnarowski are Dan Lapman (vice-chairman), Andy Roussel, Ernest "Bill" Cook and Jim Leo as regular members with Stephen Knauth and Beth Currie as alternates.

The Commission regulates all proposed activities within a wetland or watercourse and on lands within 100 feet of those areas. In accordance with CT General Statutes the Town developed Regulations involving activities in these areas. Using a 'best practices' approach the Commission, along with its Enforcement Officer, administers the regulations to protect the Town's resources and help owners enjoy the use of their property. The Commission meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall.

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the Commission conducted one site inspection and issued eight inland wetland permits. The majority of the permits involved activities within upland review areas. The Inland Wetlands Officer issued five administrative approvals for activities within upland review areas.

## ***Park and Recreation Department/Commission***

The Essex Park and Recreation Department, working under the direction of the Park and Recreation Commission, strives to provide safe and aesthetically pleasing parks to the residents and visitors of Essex; as well as enriching recreational programs for youth and adults. Residents and visitors are offered approximately 90 acres of parkland that includes: 9 park areas, a state of the art playground, eco-friendly restrooms, 3 park shelters, a walking path, 2 fishing piers, basketball court, tennis courts, 3 baseball and softball fields, a dog park, and swimming hole. We also accomplished many parks improvement projects this past year. Most notable, the new roof on the Ivoryton Village Green Gazebo.

The department provides many recreation programs for people of all ages. These programs are offered in a wide range of interests including: Youth Sports, Youth Camps, Adult Sports, Fitness, Special Interest, and After School Enrichment. In addition, activities are also provided by the department indirectly through partnerships with various organizations (Essex Little League Baseball, Valley Soccer Club, Ticks Lacrosse, Essex Land Trust, Essex Board of Trade, Ivoryton Alliance, and many other community groups). Furthermore, many local organizations are scheduled and issued Park Use Permits for various park and facility use each year.

A further priority of the Department is bringing to the community a variety of special events. This past year we held the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival, Essex Eggstravaganza, Summer Concerts Series, and Essex go Bragh. We were fortunate to have the support of a number of local businesses and residents.

The Park and Recreation Commission meets quarterly at Essex Town Hall, we welcome hearing from the public on questions or concerns on our operations and how we may assist you. Friend us on Facebook! During the past fiscal year, we achieved our goal of quality parks and programs and continually strive to make Essex a great place to live, work, and play.

Mary Ellen Barnes  
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. Alan Kerr was elected as chairman in December, and George Sexton was elected Vice-Chairman. Ralph Monaco, Erin Bogan, and Gary Riggio are the other regular members. Alternates are Jane Siris, Hope Proctor, and Al Wolfram. John Guskowski of CME Associates continues to serve the Commission as Consulting Town Planner. During the fiscal year 2018-19, the Planning Commission undertook the following efforts:

Continued implementation of the Plan of Conservation & Development (PoCD). The Plan was the result of numerous public forum sessions and over two years of Commission effort in research and writing, culminating the documents public hearing and adoption in October of 2015. The PoCD will guide Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, and Conservation efforts for the next decade, and can be found on the Commission's web page ([www.essexct.gov/planning](http://www.essexct.gov/planning));

Specific actions for implementation of the PoCD included: Developing a regulatory mechanism to encourage redevelopment and intensification of development in the key "nodes" identified in the PoCD. This mechanism is an Overlay Zone, and the Planning Commission drafted a proposed regulation covering the Bokum Corner node in the area of the Plains Road/Westbrook Road/Bokum Road intersection. The Zoning Commission will be considering this amendment; The drafting and adoption of an Affordable Housing Plan as mandated by CGS §8-30j. This Plan identifies both policy changes to encourage more affordable housing as well as specific properties that may be suitable for more high-density development. The final document may be found on the Commission's web page as well; The Commission has also worked with the Zoning Commission on a reorganization of the Zoning Regulations.

Working, based on a successful STEAP grant application, to improve the sidewalks and streetscape along Main Street in Centerbrook from the Steam Train to Cumberland Farms, as well as a separate Community Connectivity grant to complete missing links in a continuous sidewalk network connecting the Connecticut River in Essex Village all the way to Bushy Hill Road in Ivoryton.

Alan Kerr, Planning Commission Chairman  
John Guskowski, Town Planner

## *Probate Court -Saybrook District*

The Saybrook District Probate Court serves the nine towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook, which have a combined population of approximately 62,000. Judge Jeannine Lewis presides over hearings, and is supported by seven staff including Sharon Tiezzi, Chief Clerk, Marge Calltharp, Stella Caione (fka Beaudoin), Margaret (Peggy) Schroeder, Helene Yates, Jackie Craco, and Rose Nolin. Former Chief Clerk, Valerie Shickel, retired on June 28, 2019 after 34 years of service in the probate system, and is enjoying retirement by sailing and spending time with friends. Sharon Tiezzi has confidently stepped into the Chief Clerk position with 25 years of probate experience and deep community roots.

The court is located on the second floor of the Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook, and is open from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Paperwork for children's matters can be filed in the Old Saybrook location; however, all hearings for children's matters, with the exception of adoptions and name changes, are heard by Judge Lewis at the Connecticut Children's Regional Probate Court located at 1501 East Main Street, Meriden. Utilizing this court location enables families to benefit from the services of two full-time social workers, called Family Specialists, who assist in developing healthy custody and visitation arrangements that provide healthier outcomes for children and their families. Additionally, the judge travels to the homes or residences of persons who are unable to appear in court due to infirmity or disability.

During the reporting year, the Saybrook District Probate Court administered matters with respect to the following areas of the law: 1419 decedent's estates; 265 conservatorships; 118 trusts; 102 guardianships of the intellectually disabled; 84 children's matters including termination of parental rights, temporary custody appointments, and guardianships; 32 name changes; 31 compromise of claims/appointments of a guardian of the estate of a minor; 13 adoptions; and 10 custody of the remains applications. The court also performs many administrative functions, and processed 75 fee waivers for indigent individuals to allow full access to its services regardless of ability to pay.

In addition to the daily work of the court, Judge Lewis speaks at community and statewide forums on the topics of: general probate, planning for incapacity, recent consumer scams and how to avoid them, and the Connecticut Standards of Practice for Conservators.

## Public Works

It is our responsibility to maintain the Town's infrastructure including its roads, the right-of- ways of our highways and its properties. Keeping our streets safe and clean is our top priority but we also understand the importance of keeping our Town beautiful. Safety includes responding to weather-related incidents such as, snow and ice control, roadway storm clean-up, residents' concerns, and special event support

Throughout every season our crew is kept busy with tasks ranging from: drainage maintenance and repair, road preservation and reconstruction, sidewalk maintenance and reconstruction, street sweeping, snow plowing, tree trimming and mowing of Town parks and road edges. Our Town contains 42 miles of road, which can be challenging for our Crew, so we thank and appreciate all those who maintain their frontage. Your pride is evident and encouraging to us and your neighbors.

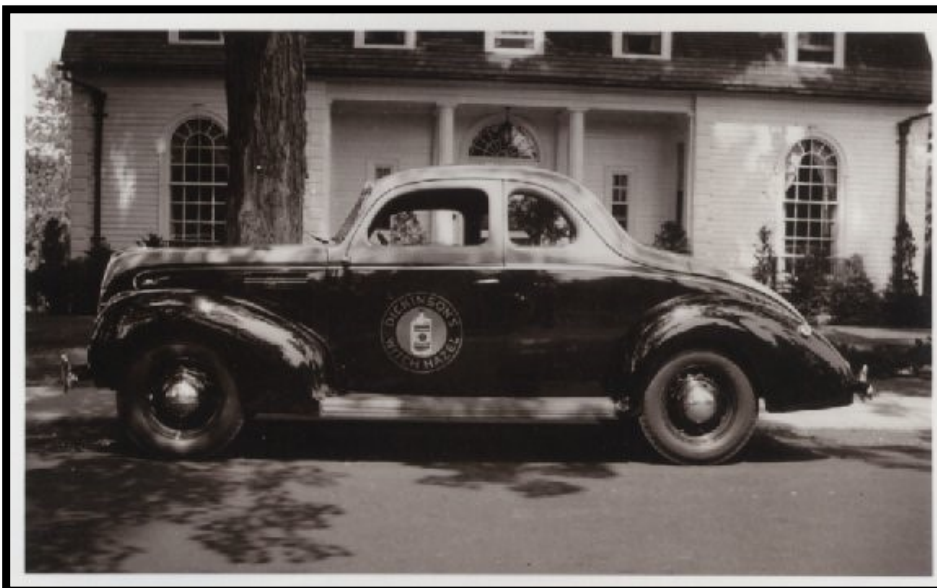
This has been a busy year with a focus on completing a Small-Town Improvement Project in Centerbrook and Connectivity Grant to connect sections of our sidewalks. Centerbrook includes over 2,500 feet of sidewalk replacement and decorative lighting to match Ivoryton and Essex Village. Our Connectivity Grant includes a concrete sidewalk being installed in front of the old Pratt Read factory in Ivoryton and modification to Champlin Square. We will be adding crosswalks to Champlin Square which will make it safe for pedestrians to navigate. Aside from the grant improvements, we have also replaced 1,500 feet of sidewalks on various roads throughout Town. Many of you may not know that our Town has 10 miles of sidewalk connecting all three Villages. It is very important to us to maintain these walks as we aspire to be a healthy and pedestrian friendly community. In the road and drainage department we are following our capital plan on street replacement and preservation. Many neighborhoods in the South end of Town were chip sealed, allowing us to cover miles of road surface at an affordable cost. Paving projects will soon begin to adjust the intersection of Walnut Street and Mares Hill. This design will open the radius of the turn and widen the narrow section.

Looking ahead, there are several paving projects we have scheduled for spring and summer 2020. It will be a big year for road reclaiming and replacement on various streets. As you all know, traveling through Centerbrook has been quite the inconvenience with all the construction. The road surface of the water line installation we be repaved for a smooth ride. Final road paving of the entire surface will take place in the spring. Thank you all for your patience while we improve Centerbrook. The final product will be an appealing addition to the Town and safe for pedestrian travel.

Lastly, we continue to monitor our condition assessment of infrastructure. In the lower River Valley of Connecticut we get many freeze and thaw cycles. This constant change in winter creates harsh conditions for our roads to withstand. When spring approaches and road work again begins, we strive to increase durability with every repair we make. Our long term Capital Plan is a guide but we react and repair all parts of our infrastructure as needed. We intend to do this in a methodical and diligent way to control costs, while also providing continuous improvement and safety. Our goal is to have a proactive approach to our

repairs and maintenance program. Please bring any concerns to our attention as they are very important to us and we will respond with courteous service and action.

Ryan Welch  
Director of Public Works



*Dickinson's Witch  
Hazel automobile  
outside company  
office.*

## *Pumpout Boat Program*

### **Motto: KEEPING THE RIVER CLEAN....ONE BOAT AT A TIME**

The Essex facilitated Lower Connecticut River Pumpout Boat Program had another successful summer season assisting local and visiting recreational boat owners with a mobile site to off load their holding tanks. "We will come to you".

Our service area is from the East Haddam Bridge to Old Saybrook (not out into the Sound).

Our boats, if on duty, can be reached for service either by VHF Radio channel 72 (if we are in range to hear the call) or by phone: 860.463.9753. If no answer; just leave a message.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day we are on the water every day except Fridays (a make up day). Before and after these holidays we are on duty weekends only; though we are available for special events.

Funding is thru the Federal Clean Vessel Act and is implemented in Connecticut by the DEEP.

During the 2018 nationwide Clean Vessel Act Winter Conference, we received another innovation mention. This one as being the first

Program to spec out the installation of a bow thruster in a "smaller" (under 25') pumpout boat.

Our activities are increasing every year. We are up 51% in the last three years. For example: We offloaded over 115,232 gallons last season equating to 535 Tons of septic waste (Fecal Coliform) and more importantly; 96.49 Pounds of NITROGEN from entering the Lower Connecticut River. From a 2017 DPH Study: "Sewage contains pathogens (disease causing organisms) and if improperly disposed, may result in health hazards and nuisance conditions."

As a sidebar, this season one of our boats was able to respond to a MAY DAY and assisted the Coast Guard in dragging the small boat to shore, righting it and dewatering it there. The three people on board and a dog were rescued from the water by a passing boater.

Joel P. Severance  
Pumpout Boat Program Manager

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## *Registrars of Voters*

This has been an eventful year for the Registrars office! Lois Ely, long-time Democratic Registrar, has retired and Caitlin Riley has been elected as the next Democratic Registrar! We thank Lois for her many years of service to the voters of Essex and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement! We welcome Caitlin and look forward to working with her!

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. Removals from the list are made due to death and electors moving out of town.

The Annual Canvas 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 5, 2019, there were 5,277 registered voters in the Town of Essex. This number is broken down as follows: Democrats-1,758; Republicans-1,402; Unaffiliated-2,045; Other-72.

On August 14, 2018, we held Democratic and Republican Primaries to select candidates for Governor and other statewide offices. November 6, 2018, we held the State Election. Due to a close vote for our district State Senator office we had to hold a re-canvass which determined that Norman Needleman (our 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman) was the winner! Congratulations to Norman! May 7, 2019, we held the annual Region 4 Budget Referendum which passed handily.

Essex has always been known for its high voter turnout, especially in comparison to the statewide averages. We encourage all eligible voters to get out and vote! If you are not registered, please register to VOTE—it is easy and there are various options available to register, including in person at Town Hall, by mailing a registration card and on-line thru Secretary of The State's site—<https://voterregistration.ct.gov/olvr/>

We 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.



## ***Resident State Trooper/Essex Police***

Policing and public safety in the Town of Essex is the responsibility of the Essex Resident Trooper's Office. The Resident Trooper's office is located in the Essex Town Hall, and consists of three full time Police Officers and three part time Police Officers. In addition, there are four part time Harbor Patrol Officers. The Police Boat can be found patrolling the Connecticut River, coves and marinas on a regular basis. When in operation on the river, the Police Boat can be reached on channel 16 of the marine radio or via State Police Troop F in Westbrook.

Supervision of police personnel is the responsibility of the Resident State Trooper. The Resident State Trooper is provided to the Town under contract with the State of Connecticut. In addition to the Resident Trooper and his patrol vehicle, the Town of Essex benefits from the use of the State Police infrastructure, radio system, reporting and filing systems as well as many other law enforcement support services. The Essex Animal Control Officer also falls under the supervision of the Resident Trooper.

For the reporting year 2018-2019 the Resident Trooper and Essex Officers have been responsible for investigating many different motor vehicle and criminal complaints. In addition, they have responded to an array of miscellaneous calls for service. It is always a priority to maintain an active role in the community, providing police personnel for public events such as parades, road races and organized Town events.

The department in conjunction with other Town agencies has taken part in Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), safety talks, and car seat inspections to name a few. For this reporting year the Resident Trooper's Office and State Police have responded to 8126 calls for service. Below is a list of calls personnel responded to:

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total Calls for Service	8126
Total Accidents with Report	88
Total Accidents without Report	14
Total Fatal Accidents	2
Total Minor Injury Accidents	4
Total Accident DWI's	5
Total Onsite DWI's	3
Total DWI's	8
Total Criminal Complaints	121
Total Nonreportable	6454
Total Motorist Assists	204
Total Citations Primary Charge	560
Total Warnings Primary Charge	671
Total Marine/Boating Enforcement	76

Resident Trooper's Office is committed to addressing public safety issues, and police related concerns as quickly as possible, thereby making Essex a safer community to live and work.

TFC David Tretter  
Resident State Trooper



## ***Retirement Board***

The Essex Retirement Board (ERB) acts as the fiduciary and administrator of the Town's three retirement benefit assets: Town of Essex Retirement Plan, Town of Essex Police Retirement Plan, and the Town of Essex Merit Service Retirement Plan (a LOSAP plan) for Volunteer Firefighters. The role of the ERB is to primarily perform a fiduciary and oversight function over the Town's retirement and merit service plans in order to ensure effective and fair oversight of the plans, their investments, funding, procedures and distribution of benefits to eligible employees and volunteer participants.

ERB is authorized under terms consistent with the plans; to consist of at least three (3) members but not more than five (5) and members are appointed by the First Selectman for the purpose of administering the Plans. The current Chairperson is F. Ellen Whaley – Wexler, term expiration November 2020. Current at large members are: Ethan Goller, Peter Decker, term expiration November 2021; and Stacia Libby, Mary-Louise Polo, term expiration November 2023.

ERB meets monthly, generally on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall in the early evening. The 2019–2020 annual schedule, agendas and minutes are posted on the Town's website.

The fund balances at the close of the 2018-2019 fiscal year were: \$5,041,663 for the Defined Benefits Retirement Plans for Town Employees and Police, and \$1,129,670 for the Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Firemen. The Town made contributions to each plan of \$545,666, and \$119,366 respectively during the fiscal year.

Hooker & Holcombe in West Hartford, CT provides investment advisory and actuarial services for the Town plans. Additionally, H&H provides a pension administration portal for eligible employees and Volunteer Firefighters. This interactive portal allows participants to view their current and estimated future plan benefits.

Copies of the Town plans, amendments, investment portfolio, RFP's/proposals, Board minutes, audit and actuarial reports are available to the public for inspection either on the Town website or at the Town of Essex – Finance office upon request.

F. Ellen Whaley-Wexler  
Chair

## Social Services

Town of Essex Department of Social Services' mission is to enhance the quality of life and self-sufficiency of people in need of financial and social services. We provided leadership, advocacy, planning and delivery of many services in partnership with public and private organizations.

Essex Social Services provides services with respect, compassion and accountability, committing to not only the delivery of integrated social services but focusing on meeting basic human needs and promoting services that foster self-sufficiency and economic independence. We serve as your bridge. We connect you to the essential resources of the community. These resources provide the support you may need, such as food, shelter, educational and employment opportunities, personal safety and access to health care services. The available services are diverse and support all ages.

Essex Social Services has long-standing tradition of collaborating with community partners to enhance services to town residents. Our partners, along with many others, include Shoreline Soup Kitchen, Community Renewal Team, Salvation Army, Estuary Council, FISH, Child and Family Services, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, Operation Fuel, along with the Essex Community Fund, who is a major donor to our Essex Emergency Assistance Fund, which assists local residents with fuel, food, shelter and other emergency services.

In addition, we coordinate the many generous efforts and contributions of our local churches, civic organizations, businesses, and individuals on behalf of the children and families of this community with our CHANGE FOR CHANGE drive that supports our Holiday Gift Card Program.

The Department of Social Services will continue to strive to seek out new ways to improve and enhance operations and to expand activities to better meet the needs of the community while maintaining a positive, compassionate, and cost-efficient environment.

Mary Ellen Barnes  
Social Services Representative

## Sustainability Committee

### Sustainable Essex Report on FY 2018-19 Sustainability Goals

#### **Decrease electric consumption by 20% from the baseline year of 2010.**

Results: Compared to the 2010 CY baseline of 872,489 kWh, electric consumption for town owned buildings and streetlights **decreased 25%** (248,498 kWh) for FY 2018-19.

#### **Increase use of Clean Energy for town buildings to 20% for FY 2018-19.**

Results: During FY 2018-19, **34%** of the electricity consumed by the town was generated by solar panels on the elementary school and the hazardous waste building.

#### **Decrease fossil fuel consumption by 5%.**

Results: Compared to the 2010 CY baseline of 524,389 MMBtu (37,960 gallons of fuel oil), the town decreased its fossil fuel consumption to 464,132 MMBtu. The primary driver for this **11% decrease** was a switch from less efficient oil-based heating systems to a natural gas-based system at the Essex Elementary School and a propane-based heating system at the Public Works complex.

#### **Increase the number of recyclables in tons.**

Results: Using the FY 2010-11 baseline of 691.31 tons, there was an **increase of 12%** to 776 tons in FY 2018-19.

#### **Increase amount of household hazardous waste collected from FY 2010-11.**

Results: There was a **decrease of 20%** in the number of pounds of hazardous waste collected, from 6,600 to 5,280 pounds. An average contributing household brings in 20 pounds of HHW, therefore the number of households is estimated to have decreased from 330 to 264 for the report period.

#### **Other Accomplishments:**

Since joining the statewide Sustainable CT initiative in May 2018, Sustainable Essex has achieved over 300 points in a broad array of areas. We look forward to receiving a Bronze Certification award to recognize this achievement in November! Among our sustainability achievements are hosting a Community Resiliency Building Workshop led by the Nature Conservancy, working on projects to increase pedestrian and bicycle access between the villages, and reducing energy use in municipal building by using renewable energy.

## Sustainability Committee

*Continued from prior page*

Building on the article, "Watching our "Waste" Line in Essex", written earlier this year for the Essex Events magazine, this fall we will begin to study ways to reduce the amount of waste the town produces. We'll explore ways to educate residents and develop local solutions for the ever-growing problem of plastics. Since plastics are often not recycled, much of it ends up in landfills, incinerated, or in our oceans. Among the other areas of focus will be reducing town energy consumption, improving hiking and biking pathways and improving food security through projects like building pollinator pathways.

To work on these projects, we plan to make use of Sustainable CT's new Community Matching Fund program which provides one-to-one matching funds for sustainably related projects.

Please join us to help create and support more great places to live, work, and play in Essex. For more information, contact Betsy D'Amico at the Town Hall.



## Town Clerk's Office

This past fiscal year the Town of Essex held the following meetings: Twelve Town Meetings, four Public Hearings, one State Election and one Regional District #4 Budget Referendum.

The following is a list of recordings for the 2018-2019 fiscal year for the Town of Essex:

Birth Certificates:	41
Death Certificates:	78
Dog Licenses:	620
Land Records:	1,227
Marriage Licenses:	56
Survey Maps:	18

Monies disbursed by Town Clerk to the State of Connecticut:

Sports License Fees:	\$ 617
Dog Fees	\$ 4,461
Marriage Surcharge Fees:	\$ 1,462
Preservation Fees – State Library:	\$ 3,602
Land Records – State Treasurer:	\$56,415

Monies to the General Fund:

Conveyance Tax:	\$227,389
Town Clerk Fees:	\$ 88,192

The land records are on our public computers in the Town Clerk's office for your search as well as being able to print the documents out. You can also subscribe to the Connecticut Town Clerk's Portal which is open 24/7 at <https://connecticut-townclerks-records.com>

We issue annual stickers and punch cards to the Town's Transfer Station.

Don't forget when you reach the age of 65; you are entitled to receive a free Sports License annually.

VETERANS.....Please note that by September 30<sup>th</sup> you can file your DD214 (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. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Joel Marzi, Town Clerk  
Yvonne Roziak, Assistant Town Clerk



## Town Counsel

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 this office handled the many miscellaneous matters customary for Town operation, such as Town Meeting calls, interpretation of statutes, review and approval of Town contracts and the like.

October 1, 2018 was a Revaluation year. Fortunately, only four property owners took an Appeal of their new assessment to Superior Court. All four of the properties are residential. Since no commercial property owners appealed, no commercial appraisal for the Town, involving considerably more expense, will be required.

The amounts in dispute are relatively minor, and even if the Court found in favor of the property owners, such finding would have a miniscule effect upon the Grand List. The success of the revaluation is a credit to the Assessor and to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

The dispute regarding whether the westerly end of Evans Lane is a public highway continues. The Town of Essex filed a Declaratory Judgment suit on May 23, 2017. The nature of the Declaratory Judgment action is to ask the Court to decide the question of what is public highway or not. Resort to the Court was only taken after two years of efforts by the Town to settle the matter privately. Continued efforts to settle have remained unsuccessful. The case is now scheduled for trial commencing September 24, 2019.

The "Piano Factory" property remains a matter of concern. The Town Fire Marshal has found multiple violations of the Building Code and the Building Official has barred occupancy of the building until Fire Code and Building Code violations have been abated. The property owner has appealed the Orders to the State departments having jurisdiction. The validity of the Orders is expected to be upheld.

There is no pending or threatened litigation of any kind against the Town, or its officials, which would have any negative effect upon the Town, its reputation or financial condition.

David M. Royston  
Town Counsel

## Tree Committee

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 and private donations. During the period of 2018-2019 we have planted 14 trees bringing our total of trees planted since 1993 to 296.

The tree type and location are as follows: One Ivory Silk Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) in front of Ivoryton Playhouse, three Eastern Red Buds (*Cercis Csanadensi*) at corner of Dennison Road and North Main Street, one Cherry (*Akebono*) at EES, one Eastern Red Bud (*Cercis Csanadensi*) at EES, one Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum*) at 36 West Avenue, Essex one Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis*) Winter King at foot of Main Street Essex Village, one Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) at corner of Route 154 and West Avenue, two Eastern Red Buds (*Cercis Csanadensi*) at 14 Prospect Street, Essex, one Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) in front of Hubbard Park North Main Street, Essex, one Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Csanadensi*) at 36 South Main Street, Essex, one Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) at 13 Dennison Road, Essex.

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 Selectmen to serve without pay for terms of three years duration. The Essex Tree Committee has six meetings per year.

Augie Pampel,  
Chairman/Tree Warden



Former Essex Fire Station on Prospect Street

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

Water Pollution Control Authority spent a portion of the year studying Main Street Essex Village on what systems were in place, may need to be replaced, and what kind of capacity may be present for future repairs and/or growth.

Through work with our Health Director, Lisa Fasulo, all known cesspools in Town have either been replaced or are in the process of replacement.

Additional private upgrades have been completed by added aeration systems, building new systems and repairing others to improve capacity.

We continue the water monitoring sampling process in test holes throughout Essex Village to assure ground water stability is maintained.

Water Pollution Control Authority meets the third Monday of each month at 5:00 PM on the second floor of the Essex Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Susan Malan, Chair, Commissioners: Wendy Arnold, Randel Osborne, Leigh Rankin, Mark Reeves, Alvin Wolfram.

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

The Essex Zoning Board of Appeals is chaired by Mr. Tim Fergusson. With Mr. Fergusson are Barbara Sarrantonio, Ward Feirer, Brian Weinstein and Philip Schaller. Alternate Members are Phil Beckman, Richard Rybak and George Wendell. 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 authority 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.

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year there were a total of twenty-three public hearings held before the ZBA. The Board granted seventeen variances and denied four. One Coastal Area Management application was approved. Two applicants withdrew their proposals.

## ***Zoning Commission***

The Zoning Commission is chaired by Larry Shipman and has eight seats. With Mr. Shipman are William Reichenbach, Jim Hill, Russ Smith and Mark Reeves as regular members with Jeff Lovelace, Robert Day, III and Tom Carroll serving as alternates. The Commission meets on the third Monday evening of each month at 7:00 PM.

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 applications for Special Exceptions and various site plan reviews. The Commission can also modify past approvals.

During the 2018 – 2019 year the Commission held ten public hearings. It approved eight special exceptions or site plan reviews. Also, seven petitions to amend the zoning regulations and/or change a map boundary

## ***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.

During the 2018 – 2019 fiscal year the Zoning Official approved 138 zoning permits and 5 administrative wetland permits.

## SECTION III—Community & Service Organizations

### Ancient Order of Weeders

Since our founding thirty eight years ago as a non-profit organization, the Ancient Order of Essex Weeders have planted and cared for the plant beds at the gateway into Essex in the middle of Route 154, running between the north and southbound exits of Route 9. Our group invests considerable time and energy to care for an ever expanding range of annuals, ornamental grasses, flowering shrubs and evergreens along this entire corridor.

For many years our group has also been happy to assist our good friends Essex Garden Club by weeding and watering the plants they install at the silent policeman at the top of main Street in Essex Village. We are most thankful for their generosity. Starting in 2018, the Weeders also began working in cooperation with Sullivan Landscaping to care for the perennial flower beds on the south corners of the gateway that were commissioned by The Essex Foundation.

The Essex Weeders are flattered and humbled by the many compliments we receive from folks driving by while we work on Thursday mornings. Thanks to all of you for the vocal support!

Ray Coyle  
Lead Weeder  
Ancient Order of Essex Weeders

### Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut

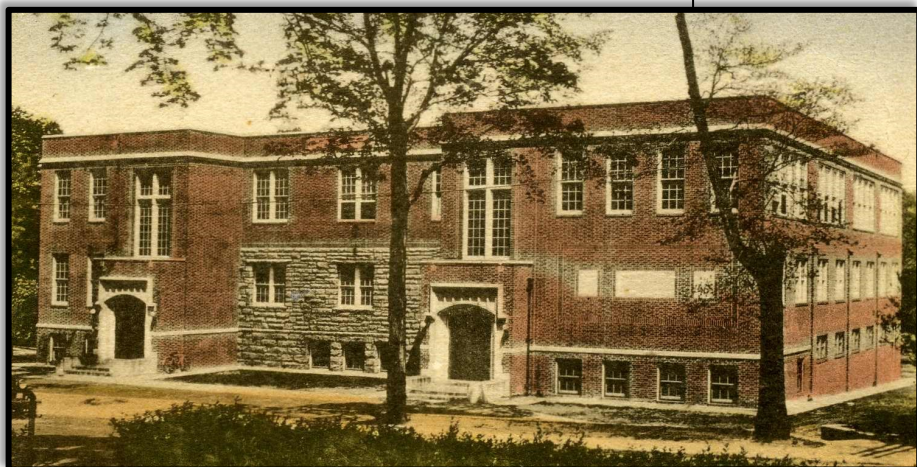
Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT is the area's oldest children's non-profit organization in Southeastern CT, a cornerstone Agency helping children and families since 1809. Our mission is to nurture children and families to develop their strengths through service, partnership and advocacy. With over 10,535 children and families served each year, the Agency aims to provide high- quality and holistic mental health treatment to all members of the Middlesex Community from children to adults.

Child & Family Agency announced new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Allison Blake, in January of 2019. Previously, Dr. Blake served as commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families for nearly eight years. She is a member of the National Board of Directors of the Child Welfare League of America and International Social Services, USA Branch. Dr. Blake is excited about growing the great work that CFA started many years ago.

Child and Family's Essex Auxiliary has proudly devoted itself to supporting the Agency for over 25 years and promotes fund raising and advocacy programs to benefit the services and capital projects of the Agency. Most recently, the Auxiliary raised funds to create an indoor/outdoor therapeutic area at the Agency's Essex office. This space will provide peaceful areas for clinicians to provide high quality counseling to children and adults. Our Essex location offers a variety of programs, services, and therapeutic models with the goal of not only nurturing children and families but our entire community.

The Auxiliary encourages and welcomes new members. The Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of each month (September–June) at Essex Yacht Club at 6:30 PM. Visit our website at [www.childandfamilyagency.org](http://www.childandfamilyagency.org) to learn more or call Pat Mackenzie Thompson, Auxiliary Chairperson, or Matt Vangieri, Senior Director of Development.

Mathew Vangieri  
Sr. Director of Development



Pratt High School—West Ave., Essex, CT

## Connecticut River Gateway Commission

The Lower Connecticut River Valley was recognized by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1973 as one of the State's most important natural, recreational and scenic areas. In 1974, the Commission was established and became operational with membership from eight towns, two regional agencies and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

The Gateway Conservation Zone is 30 miles long and includes portions of its eight member towns (Chester, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook, including the Borough of Fenwick) within view of the river. The Nature Conservancy has designated the lower Connecticut River as one of its "Last Great Places"; the river's tidelands were recognized as an "internationally significant" habitat for waterfowl under the terms of the international Ramsar Convention; the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior has recognized the Lower Connecticut River Valley as "one of the most important ecological landscapes" in the United States; and in 1999, the River was designated as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers by the President of the United States.

The Gateway Commission concentrates much of its attention on the protection of the valley's scenic qualities. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with others to acquire over 1,000 acres of land through purchase or donation of scenic easements, development rights and fee simple titles.

The Commission is also empowered to adopt common zoning standards for height, setback and lot coverage, which member towns adopt and enforce within the Gateway Conservation Zone. The Commission reviews and acts on zone changes, regulations changes and variance applications affecting land within the Conservation Zone referred to it by local boards and commissions. No zone change or change in regulations affecting land within the Conservation Zone can become effective without the Commission's approval.

Members as of June 30, 2019 included: Margaret Wilson and Jenny Kitsen of Chester; Nancy Fischbach of Deep River; Crary Brownell and Joel Ide of East Haddam; Claire Matthews and Mary Ann Pleva of Essex; Susan R. Bement and Mike Farina of Haddam; J. Melvin Woody and Wendy Hill of Lyme; Peter Cable and Suzanne Thompson of Old Lyme; Bill Webb and Tom Gezo of Old Saybrook; Raul de Brigard of RiverCOG; and David Blatt of the Connecticut DEEP (Commissioner's Representative). Fenwick Borough has been designated an ad hoc member and is periodically represented by Borough Warden Newton C. Brainerd.

For more information, contact River COG Deputy

Director and Gateway staff J. H. Torrance Downes at (860) 581-8554 or at [tdownes@rivercog.org](mailto:tdownes@rivercog.org). Contact information can also be found on the web at [www.ctrivergateway.org](http://www.ctrivergateway.org).

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## Connecticut River Museum

Fiscal 2018-2019 was another eventful year for the Museum.

The sailing ship *Onrust*, a recreation of Adriaen Block's vessel of trade and discovery, made its arrival at the beginning of summer and entertained and enlightened thousands of our visitors who learned of this intrepid Dutchman and his travails and accomplishments on his fourth voyage to North America – the one in which he became the first European to sail up the Connecticut River to present-day Hartford in the summer of 1614.

Summer Adventure Day Camps, with wide-ranging themes from history to the environment, delighted hundreds of lucky children. The Antique and Classic Boat Society held a rendezvous on our docks and alongshore. *Thursdays on the Dock* provided thousands with live musical entertainment with the magnificent River in the background and the moored boats lit with early evening setting sun.

Our busy schedule of gallery exhibitions began with *The Thirsty River: Four Centuries of Drink, Life, and Reform in the Connecticut River Valley*, followed by the *Stanley Kolber Photography Exhibit*.

In concert with the Rotary Club of Essex, the Shad Bake again took place on our grounds.

In August, the Museum held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Conquer the Current*, with three races; 26-miles from Portland and 10-miles from Eagle Landing in Haddam, ending in front of the Museum. It was a huge success and plans were made to hold it again in 2019.

With the fall and more northerly winds, school groups returned. *Onrust* wintered in Essex and Steve Cryan's annual Holiday Train Show re-appeared on the third floor. Winter lectures, vacation workshops, Eagle Watch tours (in partnership with RiverQuest), the Privateer's Bash, Evenings at the Lay House, followed one after the other until spring.

In spring and early summer, many of the nearly 5,000 school children visited, learned, and enjoyed close encounters with and upon the Connecticut River, thanks to our expert and talented educators.

RiverFare under the tent on the River's edge was our first program of spring and our guests enjoyed sampling the wares of several local food and drink vendors, enjoying each other's company, and glad that winter was over.

*Continued on the next page*



Our summer exhibition, mounted in late spring in the Bud Scott gallery in the 1878 Dock House third floor, was entitled *Myths and Legends of the Connecticut River Valley* where visitors came to explore the history, mystery, and wonder along New England's Great River.

The Museum is proud to be a part of and draws its strength from the Community of Essex and we look forward to continuing to welcome its citizens to our house and grounds.

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## ***Essex Ambulance Association***

On January 01, 1977 a small dedicated group of volunteers began to provide ambulance service to the Town of Essex. Much has changed since that day. Patient care technology continues to move forward and training requirements have steadily increased with the inclusion of new skills and interventions allowing our members to deliver more definitive care. Members train to respond to any type of emergency including situations that carry serious personal safety concerns, we are fortunate to have a dedicated group that is committed to providing the best care to our residents and visitors.

Members are required to maintain State of Connecticut certification as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Initial training requires up to 200 hours of classroom instruction and practical skills instruction, followed by written and practical skills testing. Recertification requirements are increasing next year, requiring 40 hours of continuing education every two years. In addition members are required to have specialized training in topics not covered by their certification training.

Our members responded to 814 calls last year, including medical emergencies, traumatic injuries, overdoses, lift assists, cardiac arrests and psychiatric emergencies. We also participated in local events, provided assistance at fire scenes

and responded when requested to assist our mutual aid towns.

Our current ambulances range in age from 10 to 25 years. With an aging fleet maintenance and repair costs are constantly increasing. We are in the process of planning for the purchase of a new ambulance to replace our 1994 Horton. Fund raising will be a critical component of our planning.

Essex Ambulance is funded by donations, memorial gifts and billing income. We receive assistance from the Town to help offset worker's compensation insurance costs, along with a recently established sinking fund to assist with the purchase of a replacement ambulance over the next 10 years. We remain very grateful for the support of the Town of Essex and all the citizens who donate so generously to our organization.

Reimbursement rates are not keeping pace with increased costs for equipment and vehicle replacement. Assistance from the Town and the continued support of our residents and businesses will be a critical part of our ability to continue to move forward.

The members of the Board of Directors and Corps would like to express our appreciation for the continued support of our residents and local businesses. Equally important we thank our staff, members and their families for their continued commitment to their community.

Thank you again for your continued support.

D. G. Fitton, President  
Judi Reynolds EMT/EMSI,  
Chief of Service





## *Essex Art Association*

Essex Art Association, a non-profit art gallery in existence since 1946, is housed in a historic, yellow building near the center of Essex. Since the building is unheated, the gallery is seasonal but very active during the warmer months. Initially founded as a place for artists to share and sell their work, EAA has continued that tradition. The Association is known for its friendly atmosphere, welcoming all artists to participate, and inviting the public to attend openings and visit the gallery at no charge.

Traditionally our season begins in April with an inspirational exhibition of artwork by the students from Valley Regional High School. Five more exhibitions make up EAA's schedule between May and September. Two of the exhibitions are juried shows, accepting 80 artworks from many submissions. Two of the exhibitions are open shows where all work is accepted. The fifth show is an exhibition of Elected Artists' work only. During the month of October, the gallery is rented to EAA members for personal use, such as exhibitions of their own work.

Biannually in conjunction with the December Child and Family "Holiday House tour" the Association has a one-day art exhibit of smaller paintings offering free warming chili and hot cider to any and all house tour attendees.

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 Essex community is recognized and appreciated.

### EAA Council Members:

Pam Carlson, President and Member Executive Committee  
Jerry Reed, Vice-President and Member Executive Committee  
Susan Malan, Treasurer and Member Executive Committee  
Chip Rutan Past-President and Member Executive Committee  
Peggy Price, Secretary and Member Executive Committee  
Rachel Carlson, Member  
Elin Dolle, Member  
Ellen Gaube, Member  
Barbara Morrissey, Member  
Kay Brigante, Member  
Janet Rayner, Administrative Director

*It's not Peapod, but this A&P on Main Street in Essex was the place for local folks to get their groceries.*



## Essex Board of Trade

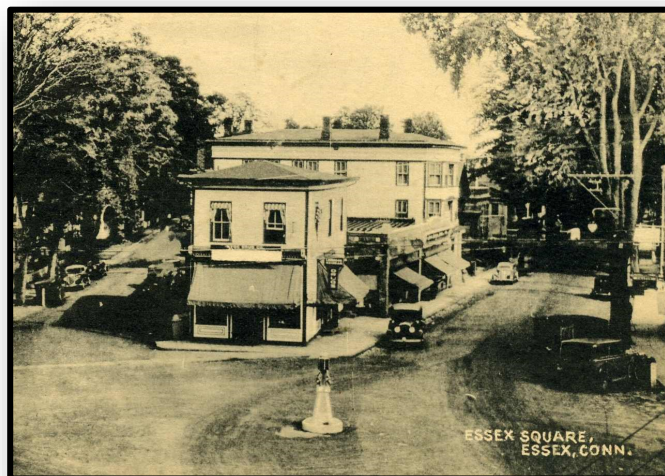
The Essex Board of Trade (EBOT) is the local business organization comprised of members from the manufacturing, banking/financial management, real estate, health and wellness, food/beverage, lodging, and retail, as well as various professional services. We also have a number of members who represent our area tourist attractions, notably the Ivoryton Playhouse, Essex Art Association, Essex Steam Train, and The Connecticut River Museum. Our membership is primarily made up of "for profit" businesses, but also has a number of "non-profit" members as well. From its inception, first as the Essex Merchants Group, then incorporated in the mid 1990's as the EBOT, the mission is to bring businesses together from the three villages, to promote commerce throughout the entire township.

To the surprise of many, the Essex Board of Trade is not an arm of our town government. No resident's tax dollars have ever been allocated to the EBOT to do what we do. It is through the yearly dues paid by our members and the sponsorship dollars which are raised for various events that allow us promote our town. Our members belong because of the value we offer their businesses: the opportunity to network with fellow members on a monthly basis, the opportunity for the business or organization to "host" events, as well as "boosting" our members fundraising events, and our continuously promoting the vitality of our villages to residents and tourists alike. When one sees "The Essex Ed Parade", the American flags on lamp posts in the summer, scarecrows in the fall, "Dogs on the Dock", the holiday garlands on lamp posts, as well as the "Essex Stroll" in December, it is our members that have paid, coordinated efforts, and contributed manpower to making the villages look festive, fun, and attractive.

2018 marked our first year organizing and promoting a capital campaign. From our success in this initial fundraising endeavor, it allows us to enhance our [essexct.com](http://essexct.com) website, with its moniker, "Experience Essex". With the exception of the Town website, [essexct.gov](http://essexct.gov), the EBOT provides the only online portal designed to promote Essex, its attractions, shops, restaurants, and industries.

This spring/summer season the EBOT, aided by the masterful and amazing marketing assistance of a member, we began "Al Fresco Thursdays". This was an opportunity to showcase Essex village in particular to residents and visitors that might not ordinarily come into town in the evening, as stores would be closed. Through this series of Al Fresco Thursdays each month, we hopefully have been able to reacquaint the public with the restaurants

in Town offering outdoor dining. Essex Park and Recreation offered free yoga in the park, and the shops remained open these evenings, offering lite bites, and beverages, as well as in store specials.



The special event committee meets regularly to plan the monthly "Business After Hours", and seasonal events. Through the promotion of seasonal events, our group advertising, as well as our use of social media, we are continually building greater public awareness of the Town of Essex, both on the state level, as well as throughout New England.

Our Board of Directors as well as our general membership meet monthly to discuss our members events and promotions, receive updates from our elected officials on local government plans and objectives, discuss the business climate and trends, as well as occasionally hearing from guest speakers on topics of interest to the membership.

We rely on the volunteerism of our membership to assist in coordinating each of our events, making them affordable and successful. Through the updating and enhancements to our website, [essexct.com](http://essexct.com), our group advertising, our "Facebook" and "Instagram" pages, ("Essex Board of Trade") we work to consistently be a reminder in the minds of our visitors and residents of the vitality in town, and the importance of supporting local businesses, organizations, museums, restaurants, and theatre.

We strive to give a clear picture of small-town life with its history and traditions, and hopefully enticing our "guests" to perhaps move to our Town, open new businesses, all while adding to our local culture and economic base.

Jim D'Alessio, VP Essex Board of Trade  
J. Alden Clothiers

## Essex Community Fund

Essex Community Fund (ECF) has a long and rich history of positive impact and commitment to our Community as evidenced by almost seven decades of consistent community-based support and service. While we support a broad range of locally based non-profits, our primary focus has always been on the health of our residents, youth and adult enrichment programs, in addition to addressing emerging needs.

All annual donations (100%) that ECF receives from our individual donors stay within our community to serve the residents of our three villages. We also expand the impact of donor's gifts by forging effective public/private partnerships, such as our Matching Challenge Grant to support a critical fuel assistance program for low income residents managed by the Town.

- **Evening of Giving** – In April of this year we celebrated our Evening of Giving. Over 25 grants, totaling over \$38,000, were distributed to local non-profit organizations that support the residents of our community.

- **Stuff-A-Cruiser Events** – The Essex Police Department and ECF joined together to collect non-perishable food items for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries. 2800 pounds of food was collected at our two events.

- **Cheers for Charity Beer Festival** – Our Second Annual Cheers for Charity Event at the Essex Steam Train was a big success. With 25 breweries in attendance and a sold out crowd of 250 people, a great time was had by all. Next year's event is March 21, 2020, mark your calendars!

ECF continuously identifies, brings awareness to and gathers additional financial and volunteer support for emerging community needs. With the help of ECF's volunteer Board and others, we work in partnership with local non-profit organizations, churches, companies and the Town of Essex. Through these collaborations, ECF is able to support existing or new programming that addresses the various challenges our citizens face.

Many of our donors contribute year after year. They endorse ECF's stewardship of their donations, whatever the size, and entrust ECF to ensure that their donations provide our local non-profits with the support they need to best serve the residents of Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook. ECF would like to thank our donors, for without your support, this vital work would not be possible.

For more information on Essex Community Fund, please visit our website at [www.essexcommunityfund.org](http://www.essexcommunityfund.org).

Robert Stack  
President

## Essex Fire Engine Co. #1

The fiscal year of 2018-2019 has been a busy one for the volunteers of Essex Fire Engine Co #1. We responded to more than 650 requests for assistance including medical emergencies, structure fires, rescues, hazardous materials emergencies, public services, and much more. Members have also spent additional hours making sure the equipment is maintained and in excellent condition, providing storm standby and preparations, training, and insuring the department is in compliance with local, State and Federal requirements.

The volunteers of Essex Fire have continued to put in countless hours to stay on the cutting edge of training. We have successfully completed courses for Fire Fighter 1, Emergency Medical Technician, and Emergency Medical Responder certifications. Members have also dedicated many additional hours to specialized rescue training and advanced fire fighting skills and tactics.

This year Truck 671 our 1994 Sutphen aerial underwent major repairs and upgrades. We are hopeful that this work will allow the truck to serve the Town of Essex for an additional 10 years. This additional service life will represent a significant cost savings to the Town of Essex.

We are always in need of new members to fill the roles of fire fighters, emergency medical technicians/responders, apparatus operators and administrative staff. Please consider joining our ranks. For more information, visit [www.essexctfire.org/membership/](http://www.essexctfire.org/membership/) to review our FAQ's, email our membership committee or download an application. We also invite you to stop by fire headquarters at 11 Saybrook Road on any Wednesday evening around 7:30 PM to see what the volunteer fire service is all about.

To stay updated with the most current happenings at Essex Fire you can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/essexctfire/>. I welcome you to contact me with your comments or suggestions at [chief@essexctfire.com](mailto:chief@essexctfire.com).

Aron Schumacher, Chief of Department  
Essex Fire Engine Co#1



## *Essex Garden Club*

Essex Garden Club is a nonprofit organization whose goals are to promote civic improvement and beautification of our Town, to offer education programs to benefit both the membership and the broader public and to develop partnerships with community organizations which share similar missions. We are currently an organization of over 120 members. We welcome new members living in the villages of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton, who are interested in gardening and working in the community.

May Market was a successful springtime event at Essex Town Park again this year. The proceeds from May Market were used to support the club's civic projects, to provide education programs in the elementary school, horticultural programs in the middle and high schools, camper-ships for children and scholarships for high school graduates and college students pursuing studies in environmental sciences. In addition, the Garden Club provides resources for adult and children's programs at the Essex and Ivoryton Libraries. The club also donates resources each year for a new tree to be planted in town.

Our civic projects focuses on Garden Club members actively participating in beautifying and maintaining spaces in our Town including the Essex Town Park, Dickinson Park, along with three traffic islands; the Foot of Main, the silent policeman, and at South Main Street. In addition the members gathered greens at holiday time to decorate the merchants window boxes, urns and planters in all three villages of Essex. Annual plants were purchased and delivered to various places in the villages, including the Essex Fire Department, the Centerbrook Post Office, the Ivoryton Village Gardeners and the Ancient Order of Weeders. Members also planted and maintained containers at Town Hall, around the Silent Policeman, and at the Town Park. We also designed and installed a beautiful memorial garden at the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall.

Essex Garden Club awarded 4 scholarships for a total of \$5,000. Bushy Hill Nature Center was given \$3,360 to provide 6 youth camper-ships, and the Park and Recreation Summer Program was awarded \$3,875 to provide 31 camper-ships for children.

Augie Pampel  
President

## *Essex Historical Society*

Essex Historical Society's Board of Directors, volunteers and staff sought ways to improve access and collaboration in 2018-2019. Essex's only historic house museum, Pratt House (19 West Ave.), welcomed many visitors and school programs, all with free admission, weekends, June - September. EHS strengthened its guide program, always eager for more guides! Pratt's historic landscapes include the kitchen gardens maintained by Essex Garden Club and its back field contains the Town's Community Garden, including a reproduction barn. A grant from Guilford Savings Bank allowed EHS to create a short, narrated video of Pratt House's second floor, attic and rear ell spaces, allowing visitors with disabilities to 'virtually' access them. Thanks to a capital campaign supported by private donors, EHS installed a handicapped-accessible restroom, a hospitality corner, a better rear entrance and an energy-efficient HVAC system.

EHS's main office and library at the Hills Academy History Center (22 Prospect Street) is open to the public Tuesday and Thursday mornings year-round. Our volunteers help more than 200 people each year with history-related projects. This year, EHS named Hills Research Library in honor of longtime EHS President Sherry Clark. EHS engaged new audiences - we held our Annual Meeting at the offices of Overabove in Centerbrook's Witch Hazel Works. Attendees enjoyed seeing how our new online magazine for our Follow the Falls program can be accessed through our website. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, our Walking Tour program will now include guided tours of River View Cemetery. With the historic societies of Chester and Deep River, we hosted a superb "Salute to Veterans" in honor of the end of WWI, featuring a slide show of historic (and contemporary) photos of area service members accompanied by spirited, patriotic music.

Popular programs continued: Walking Tours; Tri-Town Vintage Baseball Game; Holidays at Pratt House; Trees-in-the-Rigging street parade and carol sing; and annual lecture series co-hosted with Essex Meadows and Essex Land Trust on 2019's topic, "Follow the Falls: Beyond the Shipyard." EHS continues collaborative partnerships with Connecticut River Museum, Essex Elementary School, Valley Regional High School, Ivoryton Library, Essex Board of Trade and Essex Land Trust, among many others. Our area partners have requested our walks or talks and you may have seen our marchers and vintage autos in town parades. We are always happy to work with new partners! Please visit [www.essexhistory.org](http://www.essexhistory.org) for more info. Thank you for your community support!

Melissa Josefiak  
Director, Essex Historical Society

## ***Essex Land Trust***

We have grown from a small organization, working out of borrowed space and a safety deposit box, to one managing 650 acres and 55 trails spread over 23 preserves. We have been going through a three-year process that began with a self-assessment guided by the Land Trust Alliance, the national accrediting organization for land trusts. We reviewed and documented our past experience and adopted best practices from the Land Trust Alliance. We updated our strategic plan, using the national accreditation process to guide our efforts. We submitted our application in September 2018, reviews have been completed, and are awaiting a final determination in August, 2019.

Operational Income for calendar 2018 was \$186,000 with \$29,000 coming from dues and the balance from Donations, Grants, and Bequests. Expenses were \$186,000 with the largest portion attributable to mowing, tree removal, and treatment for invasives on several properties.

Membership in the land trust remains at a stable level of 380 family membership, of which 155 are Conservators for Life and there are additionally 24 Corporate members.

Our 50th anniversary hike took place at Windswept Ridge, celebrating the re-opening of this 47-acre preserve. New trails constructed during the early months of the year now connect our newest parking area off Rt. 153 with entrances on Windsor Lane in Centerbrook and Old Dobbin Lane. We offered the popular kayak trip and the annual Town Park picnic and Concert by The Corinthian Jazz Band, as well as a number of guided hikes and informative conservation lectures.

The Land Trust has joined up with Essex Historical Society in developing the Follow the Falls initiative, which aims to feature the history of Essex by focusing on the role of the Falls River. The first phase of the project culminated in the historic examination of the Williams Complex and Shipyard dating from 1689 to 1845, in Falls River Cove, along with the unique perspective and location offered by Osage Trails donated to the land trust by Elizabeth "Diz" Callender.

Steward Dana Hill was recognized for his long-term involvement on caring for various land trust properties including Canfield Meadow Woods and more recently Johnson Farm. Two new board members were elected to 3-year terms: Jeff Croyle

will be responsible for Nominations and Volunteers and Stephanie Gatto will be Secretary. Tom Rutherford was reelected to a new 2-year term and Chet Arnold, Geoff Furtney, and Paul Greenberg to new 3-year terms. Other board members continue serving their current terms. Board classes were confirmed by voice vote.

Jim Denham  
Communications Chair



## ***Essex Lions Club***

Essex Lions Club is proud to have served the Town of Essex for over 69 years. During this past year, in keeping with the Lions support of vision-related organizations, contributions were made to the CT Lions Eye Research Center, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, and the CT Low Vision Center. We also paid for eye exams and eyeglasses for Essex residents who could not afford them. During the past year, the Club made donations to various organizations including the Essex and Ivoryton libraries, the Essex Fire Department, and the Essex Ambulance Association, as well as donations to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and the Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau.

During the year, we hold three major fundraisers. The always popular Essex Lions Lobster Bake is held on the first Saturday of August. We have our annual Thomas the Tank Engine food concession at the Valley Railroad. At the Ivoryton Pumpkin Festival we serve free hotdogs, and at the Ivoryton Illuminations we have our concession stand. Finally, we send out the Essex Eye Charities letter to the community and, as always, get an excellent response.

The Club looks forward to another year of service, and thanks all who so generously donate in many ways to help us in our continued efforts to support our community.

The Essex Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6:00 PM at The Essex Memorial Veterans Hall in Centerbrook. The public is welcome to join us at any time. The Club does not meet during the months of July and August. For further information e-mail: [info@bogaertconstruction.com](mailto:info@bogaertconstruction.com).



## *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 also in Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. Since 1974, the ECSI's mission has been to promote senior's quality of life, community involvement, and independent living. Last year the ECSI provided over 80,000 nutritious meals including nearly 57,000 home delivered Meals On Wheels, and over 16,085 congregate meals, 382 rides to medical outpatient appointments outside the nine-town Estuary Region. Also, 1,678 individual received free preventative health screenings, and participated in social and exercise programs too numerous to count. Our "Choices" senior counseling position that helps seniors connect with other services available to them in the community as well as navigate the Medicare/Medicaid and Prescription Drug programs has been busier than ever especially at open enrollment time.

In addition to our essential senior service, ECSI is a fun place for mature residents to exercise, dance, play cards, go on trips together, get a massage or facial, hear an interesting lecture, attend an art exhibit, get a haircut, take a painting class, join a book club or writers group, volunteer, shop at the Thrift Shop, use our fitness center, or just sit and enjoy our beautiful view. ECSI has a lovely, large facility that welcomes residents of the Estuary region 50 years old or better. All in all we had over 110,032 visits to our center in the reported timeframe for meals, activities, support and fun.

During the reporting period for the Town of Essex, the Estuary served 40 residents a total of 5,250 home delivered meals and an additional 59 residents joined us for 1,395 congregate meals. Our Emergency Medical Outpatient Transportation provided 9 individuals with 34 rides to medical appointments. We had a total of 9,816 visits by a total of 844 people overall to the center from residents of the Town of Essex.

ECSI is funded in part by contributions from the generosity of the nine towns in the Estuary Region, Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act, grants, donations, and fund raising efforts. I would like to thank the Town of Essex for your continued support of our programs.

For information and schedules of our services and programs, please call 860-388-1611 weekdays from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM or visit our website at [www.ecsenior.org](http://www.ecsenior.org). If you do not already receive our monthly newsletter, please call us and we'll be happy to add you to our mailing list or send it electronically. The newsletter is also downloadable from our website. We are pleased to continue to serve the residents of Town of Essex and be an integral part of services for seniors in the Estuary Region.

Stan Minigone, Executive Director

## *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 under the name 9 Town Transit (9TT) and XtraMile.

The Estuary Transit District is governed by a board of directors. Each member town appoints one representative who serves in a voluntary capacity to adopt policy, set budgets and conduct long term planning for the district. Regular board meetings are held on the third Friday of every other month at 9:30 AM at the Estuary Transit District. All meetings are open to the public.

ETD's five deviated fixed routes serve the main corridors of the region and provide connections to public transit providers serving the surrounding regions. In addition, ETD provides door-to-door service throughout all nine towns of the Estuary region as well as the towns of Durham, East Haddam, and Haddam through its Dial-A-Ride service. All ETD services are open to all persons with no age or disability restrictions.

ETD's services are subsidized by Federal, State and Local funding. This allows for inexpensive fares of \$1.75 for deviated fixed routes, \$.85 for people with disabilities, and \$3.50 for Dial-A-Ride. Students of participating state colleges and universities may ride any deviated fixed route for free with a UPass. ETD also receives a Title III grant through the area agency on aging which allows area senior citizens to ride any ETD service on a donation basis in lieu of the fare. Nearly 100,000 passenger trips we provided during the fiscal year.

ETD also began a taxi voucher program for seniors and people with disabilities. The program allows participants half priced taxi trips to anywhere in Connecticut. Wheelchair accessible taxis are also available as part of this program.

Beginning in May of 2019, ETD began a pilot Microtransit service in Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Essex under the XtraMile brand. XtraMile provides on-demand service within the service area to passengers who schedule the bus through a smartphone app or by phone, with no advance scheduling required. The service area was designed to connect the Westbrook and Old Saybrook train stations to residential areas and employers in the region. The pilot will run free of charge through November 2, 2019.

After completing a needs assessment and site selection for a new operating and maintenance facility in FY 2017-2018, plans were put on hold. ETD is now working with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments on a study of the countywide transit needs and determine the best model for providing public transit in the 17 town region going forward. This study began in early 2019 and is expected to be completed in April 2020. As part of this study, there will be multiple public outreach events occurring during FY 2019-2020 to assist in formulating a plan for the future of public transit in the region.

Joseph Comerford, Executive Director

## *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. Folklore says 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 house's front window 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.

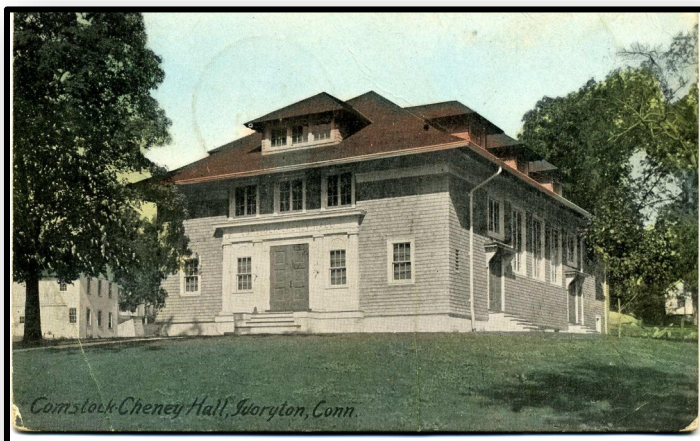
Residents of our three towns wanting rides and having no other means of transportation may call 860-388-2693 up to noon the day before their appointment (Friday noon for a Monday ride) to schedule a ride for the following day. The destinations are within the triangle of Middletown to the north, Guilford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

In calendar 2018, FISH provided 943 round-trip rides to the residents of our three towns. Essex residents accounted for 452 or 48% of the total. Of our 50 drivers, 33 are residents of Essex. Rides through August 2019 are 18% higher than in the same period in 2018.

Our officers and Directors for 2019 are: Henry May, President, Stuart Warner, Vice President, Mary Samburg, Secretary, and Barbara Ryan, Treasurer. Also, Directors are Dana Hill and Leo Zavatone. John Heiser and Tony Carrano are our dispatchers.

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

Henry May  
Driver and President



Comstock Cheney Hall, Ivoryton, CT

## *Ivoryton Playhouse*

The history of the Ivoryton Playhouse is based in community. Built in 1911 as a recreation hall for workers at the Comstock Cheney piano factory, it was, and still remains, the heart of the village. Today, over 100 years later, the Playhouse is still proudly centered in the community - the village of Ivoryton that is so much a part of our history and the Shoreline community who so generously support our mission and programs.

The Playhouse has grown from a largely summer stock theatre into a thriving year-round professional theatre producing seven professional shows a year, showcasing talented directors, actors and musicians from all over the country. The theatre is owned and operated by the Ivoryton Playhouse Foundation, Inc., a Connecticut non-stock corporation with Section 501(c)(3) status. In 2018, the annual revenue of the Ivoryton Playhouse exceeded \$2 million and the theatre ran at 82% capacity.

Summer 2018 began with a rockin' production of *Grease* followed by the Broadway classic *A Chorus Line* in August. These wonderfully choreographed musicals with super popular songs exploded onto the Ivoryton stage achieving critical acclaim and sold out houses. September featured *Once*, a dreamy, unforgettable story about going for your dreams and the power of music to connect us all. And finally, our 2018 professional season closed with the world premiere of a haunting new play called *Queens of the Golden Mask*. The Playhouse ended 2018 with a production of *Coney Island Christmas* – a heartwarming show by Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies featuring professional actors and members of the local community.

March soon rolled around again and the Playhouse opened its' 2019 season with the music of Burt Bacharach and Hal David with *Burt & Me*. A thought provoking production of *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* followed in April into May. Ivoryton was blessed with a parade of beloved songs in June when *Godspell* took the stage. Featuring such unforgettable songs as "Day by Day", "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" and "Learn Your Lessons Well", *Godspell* was directed by Playhouse Artistic/Executive Director Jacqueline Hubbard.

In addition to producing great entertainment, the Ivoryton Playhouse was, once again, a leader in the community partnering with local non-profits including YMCA, HOPE Partnership and Sister Cities Essex Haiti amongst others. The theatre was also proud to work with Little Wonder in 2018 and 2019 providing free theatre tickets to cancer patients and their families.

To learn more about the Ivoryton Playhouse, please visit [www.ivorytonplayhouse.org](http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org).

## *Ivoryton Village Alliance*

The Alliance was formed in 2009 by a group of local business owners interested in planning a seasonal holiday event for the community. Now entering its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Alliance is involved in several popular events during the year. The Farmer's Market which is held on the green every Saturday from the middle of June until the end of September; the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade; The Pumpkin Festival at the end of October which is sponsored by the Essex Park and Rec and supported by the Alliance and the Ivoryton Illuminations which is held the first Saturday in December. It is comprised of merchants, non-profits and Ivoryton residents working together to make our village a great place to live. We are always looking for volunteers who can contribute their time, energy and ideas to enhance the quality of life of Ivoryton and its people. Interested?

### **IVORYTON JULY 4<sup>th</sup> PARADE**

Ivoryton's 14<sup>th</sup> annual July 4<sup>th</sup> parade was a huge success as always. Gary Riggio was this year's well deserving Grand Marshal. Year after year, Gary has generously volunteered his time, his imagination and his equipment to our annual Holiday Illuminations event. Without him, all lights would be at eye level, and Santa himself would be earthbound. Ivoryton Village has certainly benefitted from Gary's community spirit and involvement.

### **THE IVORYTON FARMERS MARKET**

Who could have guessed that what started as a handful of tents in Aggie's parking lot (now the Blue Hound) in 2012, would emerge as one of the best known Farmer's Markets on the Shoreline. It all started when Aggie Waterman and Leo Feroletto wanted to attract people to Ivoryton Village. Inspired by the popularity of open air markets, they enlisted the help of the Ivoryton Village Alliance, rounded up some vendors and kick-started the Ivoryton Farmer's Market. Like the headwaters of a great river, the beginnings of the market were rocky and turbulent. Vendors would fail to show up; customers would be few and far between and the weather was always a wildcard.

Through the years, though, the market has persisted and grown. It has moved from Aggie's parking lot to Summit Street and then to the Ivoryton Green, where it resides, today. We have seen vendors try their hand at selling their wares at our market, and laying the foundations of

profitable small businesses. Amateur musicians, who performed at our market have gone on to start successful music careers. Many alumni of the Ivoryton Farmer's Market have moved on to bigger venues and we wish them the best. Others have moved on in other ways. Lee Warren of Thankful Circle Farms was known for growing fantastic greens and his (crooked) Killingworth Carrots. Lee was one of our original vendors, but he succumbed to cancer a few years back and we still miss him.

This was our eighth season. What Aggie and Leo began some years ago, has become an established community event and the vendors, performers and customers have grown into a family. The 2019 season was a great one with many of our established vendors returning as well as many new vendors offering exciting new products. As always we had music performing in the gazebo by some of the most talented musicians in the area. If you have never been to the Ivoryton Farmer's Market, you are invited to join us and become part of the Ivoryton Farmer's Market family.

Finally, there is the Ivoryton Illuminations. At the opening day event, Ivoryton's famous flying Santa delights children of all ages, giving presents to all who visit him. Local community groups (including Lions Club, Rotary Club of Essex, local churches and schools, (among others) as well as ICRV Radio, the Elf Hunt and petting zoo make it a day never to forget.

The light show is on for the whole of December and is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State. We have one of the largest living Christmas trees in Connecticut, beautifully decorated, as passers by, enjoy over 500,000 lights dancing to music.

Today the Alliance has over 50 members and is more committed than ever to promoting the Village of Ivoryton in positive ways.

## Libraries - Essex Library Association

Following 11 years of service, Richard Conroy retired as Executive Director of the Essex Library. The board conducted a competitive national search and welcomed Deborah Smith to the helm in July 2019. Smith holds an MLIS from Kent State University and has 20+ years of experience in libraries and education.

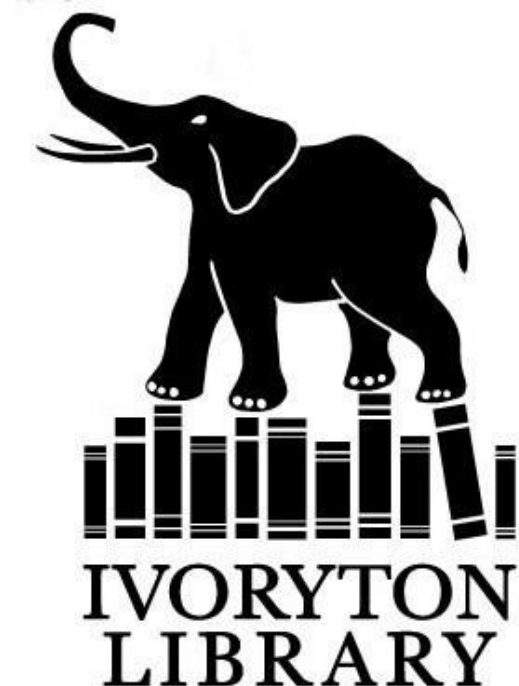
In 2018-19, the library served more than 50,000 visitors and loaned 64,000 items from a circulating collection of 38,000 materials. The library makes available an array of online materials, including e-books, audiobooks, films, and Acorn TV. In addition to our full complement of book clubs and interest groups, a generous donation from two residents enhanced funding of 39 unique adult programs with 1,312 attendees. The library hosted talks by 13 authors including Christopher Buckley, Tovah Martin and Alex Prud'homme, and premiered the film *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*. Children's and Teen circulation exceeded the statewide per capita average. The library had 7,700 visits for youth services and staff conducted weekly visits to preschools, daycare centers, and Essex Elementary School. We also worked with John Winthrop Middle and Valley Regional High schools, where we are a Community Capstone Partner. A grant from The Bauman Family Foundation funded acquisition of four children's computers with touch screen capability and faster modem speeds; students who are required to submit the majority of homework online now have increased access at the library to school videos and IXL Region 4 software. A stipend from the Guilford Savings Bank also funded remodeling of the children's non-fiction areas.

The library again engaged widely with area partners, including: Essex Garden Club, Essex Fire Department, Essex Parks and Recreation, Tri-Town

Youth Services, Essex Meadows, Essex Safe Harbor Marina, Connecticut River Museum, the Center for Pediatric Dentistry, Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Ivoryton Library, Children's Museum of West Hartford, Eastern Connecticut Ballet Company, AARP, the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut Historical Society, and Connecticut DEEP. We also continued an 11<sup>th</sup> successful year of the Centerbrook Architect's Lecture Series. Through the Friends of the Essex Library, we worked with more than 65 volunteers. The Friends received state level recognition for their January fundraiser, "Putt Fore the Essex Library."

In August 2018, Reagan Callahan joined the staff as a Library Assistant. The library employs three full-time and eight part-time staff; seven employees either hold or are pursuing a terminal professional degree (MLS, MLIS). The library receives half its budget from the Town and consistently delivers an excellent return on investment, exceeding twice the statewide per capita averages for adult program attendance, number of library visits, print and audiobook circulation, and collection turnover. The library is proud to continue offering residents top notch and varied services, delivered by a trained and professional staff.

Deborah Smith  
Executive Director



## *Libraries—Ivoryton Library Association*

The Ivoryton Library Association was formed in 1871 as the Centerbrook Circulating Library (since the name "Ivoryton" was not yet in use.) Last year, a committee was formed, headed by Donna Lee Gennaro, to plan a year's worth of exciting events to celebrate our upcoming *sesquicentennial*, or 150 year anniversary in May 2021. More information will be forthcoming.

We hope you had an opportunity to visit us this year. Our library building continued needed repairs with new porch steps added this spring. We received a third Neighborhood Assistance Act grant and, with an additional private donation, were able to replace/renovate 2 large windows upstairs. We continue to research grant opportunities to fund these upgrades and improvements.

We are so fortunate to exist in the vibrant village of Ivoryton! Village-wide events in which we participated: 4th of July Parade, the Haunted Library at the Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival and Letters to Santa and Cards to Soldiers at Ivoryton Illuminations in December.

Summer Reading activities included visits to the American Girl, Stars Wars and Harry Potter universes. The Children's Room hosted year-round weekly storytimes, monthly musical storytimes and afternoon LEGO and STEAM programs.

For adults, we continue to offer classes in Italian, French and Spanish during the school year, and celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> year of our Mystery Book Club, Tea and Murder. Our meeting rooms were used by 4 separate tutor/students on a weekly basis and hosted meetings of various local groups and organizations. Please contact us with inquiries on the use of these spaces.

Many thanks to our Local History Committee: Betty Austin, Mary Catherine Colburn, Jean Johnson, Shirley Malcarne, Wini Olson, Doreen Schwab, Barbara Smith, Claire Tiernan and Rosemary Waldron. Thanks also to our weekly volunteers on the circulation desk, Mary Russell and Bill Tubbs.

We are very grateful for the support shown us by the Town of Essex and our patrons and members. We supplemented this support with various fundraisers, including our annual Used Book Sale, the Ivoryton Pumpkin Chase 5K in October, Trivia Night in March and September and our 5<sup>th</sup> House and Garden Tour – Through the Garden Gate, as well as our annual membership appeal.

Elizabeth Alvord  
Director

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

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore (LVVS) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency dedicated to tutoring area residents to read, write and speak English to help them improve their life and work skills. This year we tutored 10 students from Essex and benefitted from the good work of 31 volunteers from the town. In addition we trained 35 new tutors this past year. Overall, LVVS tutored more than 185 students, spending 13,018 hours of volunteer's time to deliver 10,403 hours of instruction.

Our student's stories best illustrate the impact of our efforts. This is the story submitted by an LVVS student who has lived in the U.S. for 4 years and has worked with an LVVS tutor for the past year to reach her goals. She came in 1st place in the High Beginner category for our annual Student Essay Contest. She has moved up one level in her reading and listening comprehension and is working on taking her citizenship test. She also obtained her driver's license with the help of her tutor.

"I am from Colombia. Since I started to live in the United States it was very difficult to communicate. That is why I felt I need to know good English. Since I started LVVS my life has change a lot. I feel a little more confident to go to the doctor, to do grocery shopping, talking on the phone and even reading books with my 6 year old son. And also LVVS is helping me to learn the 100 questions to take the citizenship test and is teaching me how to write too. I am very grateful with LVVS help. I love living in the United States. It is a beautiful country."

The support of our area towns means we can help build more success stories each year. Yet we have a great deal of distance to make up in our goal to eradicate illiteracy. A 2013 assessment by the American Institute for Research shows over 9,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 64 who lack basic literacy skills in the valley shore area – including over 410 in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton alone. Our goal is to increase our capacity incrementally in the coming years to allow us to serve 100% of the literacy needs of our communities and to make this year the finest in our history.

Joanne Argersinger  
Office Manager



## Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Government

RiverCOG, one of Connecticut's nine Councils of Governments, is governed by the chief elected / executive officials of its 17 member towns: Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook. The RiverCOG is responsible for planning of regional land use, transportation, emergency preparedness, environmental conservation, economic development, and homeland security. RiverCOG also provides regional services such as household hazardous waste collection.

Current officers for RiverCOG are Anthony Salvatore (Cromwell), serving as Chairperson, Lauren Gister (Chester) as Vice-Chairperson, Ed Bailey (Middlefield) as Secretary, and Noel Bishop (Westbrook) as Treasurer. First Selectwomen Cathy Iino (Killingworth) and Bonnie Reemsnyder (Old Lyme) join the RiverCOG officers on the Executive Committee.

Fiscal year 2019 was an eventful year for RiverCOG. Our activities included:

- Provided interim land use and zoning services to several municipalities in the region
- Helped initiate an Environmental Review Team to combat aquatic invasive species in the Connecticut River
- Our Executive Director, Sam Gold, named Chairman of the CT Association of COGs and served on the Board of Sustainable CT and the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

- Hosted four interns
- Attended many hearings on proposed legislation and provided testimony on multiple bills
- Continued working with our Regional Planning Committee to review possible intermunicipal impacts due to proposed zoning text and map changes
- Continued hosting of the Gateway Commission, the guardian of the ecological and visual values of the Lower Connecticut River region
- Continued work as the fiduciary for the Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Region 2
- Added a new Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Cromwell, collected 100,735 pounds of regional household hazardous waste, continued paper shredding events and partnering with the state on recycling efforts for plastic wraps and bags
- Initiated regional transit study to look at better integration of 9 Town Transit and MAT
- Began an update of our website, [www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org)
- Hosted inaugural Repair Café and rain barrel and compost bin sales
- Regional LOTCIP projects begun and/or completed
- Completed new Metropolitan Transportation Plan (the transportation plan for our region)
- Began hosting and staffing of the non-profit Lower Connecticut River Land Trust

Sam Gold  
Executive Director



*Essex Square Theatre, Essex, Conn.*

## *Rotary Club of Essex*

Rotary Club of Essex was chartered in 1955 and currently has 32 active members. Money for our mission to support local, national and worldwide needs is raised mostly through local fundraising events, primarily our nationally famous Shad Bake which has been held for 61 years. In 2014 we initiated a joint venture with the CRM providing an inviting new venue for the Bake. Local businesses also provide support at some of our events, and private contributions help sustain our activities. Major donors at our Shad Bake this year included A.J. Shea Construction, Essex Savings Bank and Financial Services, Tower Laboratories Ltd., Middlesex Health, BrandTech Scientific, Inc., Brown & Brown, Emme & Jonathan Deland, and Essex Dental Group.

International: Founded in 1905, Rotary International has a broad and diverse global reach with 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to more than 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries. We have partnered with Rotary Clubs in the U.S. and the Rotary Foundation in a worldwide campaign to raise funds for fighting disease, provide clean drinking water, expanding access to quality medical care and sanitation, supporting education, and growing local economies.

Local: Support for our local community during the last year included Essex Cub Scouts, FISH, Ivoryton Alliance, Tri Town Youth Services, and the Essex Fire Engine Company, and many other groups.

The Essex Rotary Scholarship Foundation provided \$27,000 in scholarship this year. Qualified applicants are members of non-Rotarian families, living in Centerbrook, Essex or Ivoryton. The application is available for download on our website, [www.rotaryclubofessex.com](http://www.rotaryclubofessex.com).

We meet every Tuesday at 6:15PM 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, visit us at a meeting, look at our website, [www.rotaryclubofessex.com](http://www.rotaryclubofessex.com), visit the Rotary International website at <https://www.rotary.org/>, or email [rlevne2@comcast.net](mailto:rlevne2@comcast.net). We are always looking for new members who will help us improve our world and be inspired by our Rotary motto, "Service above Self"

Richard Levene  
Club Secretary

## *Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries*

Founded 30 years ago in Essex, SSKP's mission is to provide food and fellowship to those in need and to educate our community about hunger and poverty. Essex residents may attend a free grocery distribution once a week at one of our 5 food pantries and are welcome to a free hot meal every day at one of our 9 meal sites. Serving 11 shoreline towns, our sites are located in faith communities. We operate with the assistance of over 900 volunteers.

Last year 7,699 shoreline neighbors registered at one of our food pantries. Most needed to come every week for food. In 2018 we provided enough food for over 1 million meals - distributing 1,202,809 pounds of groceries. Our pantries offer fresh meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, bread, dairy, and canned and packaged foods. Those who attend do not need to prove they are in need; all in our 11 towns may simply come and be served.

Many residents of the Town of Essex continue to need our help. Last year 529 of our pantry guests were residents of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. During 2018, we provided food and fellowship to all who came to the three meal sites in the Town of Essex, serving 4,517 freshly cooked meals at the Baptist Church of Essex, St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex and Trinity Lutheran Church in Centerbrook.

Most of those we serve are employed and work hard, but still struggle to make ends meet. One out of ten are seniors; others are disabled or suffering from physical or mental illness. 59% of the pantry registrants last year were families of four or more, 36% were infants, children or teens, and 18% were living alone.

Support from the Town of Essex is making a real difference in their lives. Today we can provide enough food for a meal for just 31¢, so your annual funding of \$5,000 provides enough food for over 16,000 meals for Essex families who are struggling. On behalf of all the residents of Essex we serve, we are truly grateful for this generous support.

Amy Hollis  
Executive Director



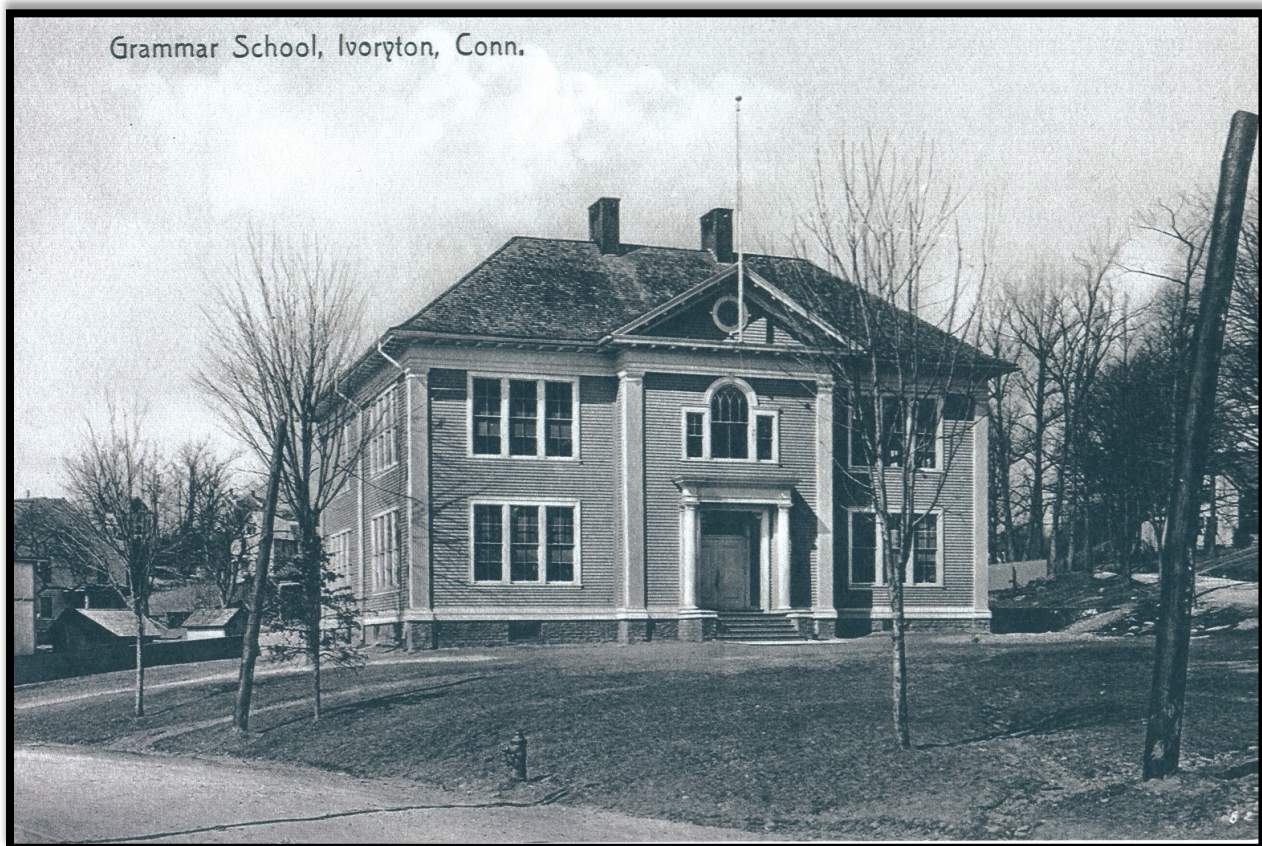
## *The Essex Foundation*

The Essex Foundation continued its stewardship in 2018-2019 by supporting a number of diverse and local projects, and honoring the memory of Elizabeth "Diz" Callender. Diz's generous bequest to the Foundation upon her passing helped seed the spectacular display of daffodils that bloomed for the first time in Spring 2019 around the northern border of Sunset Pond along West Avenue. The idea for the daffodil project came from Diz's passion for planting daffodils. The first phase of the project kicked off in October 2018 with the planting of 15,000 bulbs. The second phase includes expanded bulb planting in the Sunset Pond area as well as at the Route 153/154 intersection in October 2019. Additional funding came from The Paul Foundation (owners of the Sunset Pond property), Centerbrook Properties, and individual donors. Diz's bequest is also seeding educational opportunities for area residents. Her predeceased sister Mary shared the same passion for Essex and its natural beauty. The Essex Foundation established The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Annual Scholarship, with a \$3,000 award available each year to one Valley Regional High School graduating senior or graduate, or an Essex resident who is pursuing studies related to land conservation and preservation at a two or four-year college, a

technical school, or graduate school, or taking accredited courses in biology, botany, agronomy, ecology, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, or environmental science. Silvia Gopalakrishnan, a 2019 Valley graduate, was this year's recipient. The Essex Foundation also provided funding for five scholarships for the Essex Park & Recreation summer camp at Essex Elementary School; for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Bumpy Warner Youth House on Bushnell Street used by the Boy Scouts; and for other scout-related projects. In addition, the second phase of the overhaul work on the Town Clock housed in the tower of the First Baptist Church was completed and co-funded with the Town of Essex.

The Essex Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex residents. It is funded through donations from the community and strives to fill needs not met by other organizations or sources. In general, funds are granted for special purposes that usually require quick action and have an immediate impact, such as buildings, equipment, land, and programs, but not to recurring expenses. More information can be found online at [www.theessexfoundation.org](http://www.theessexfoundation.org) or by emailing [contact@theessexfoundation.org](mailto:contact@theessexfoundation.org).

Bruce Glowac  
President



## Tri-Town Youth Services

Tri-Town Youth Services provided Direct Services to 154 youth this year, which included facilitation of two youth advisory boards (41); training of Peer Advocates (25); connecting Valley mentors with elementary students (9 pairs); hosting a summer program for middle school students (31) and providing babysitter training or employment assistance (32). Tri-Town hired a part-time (18 hour) Youth Program Coordinator to run Youth in Action, a service-learning club at JWMS and Reach Out teen mentoring at the local elementary schools. Tri-Town's Clinical Director continued to provide case management to youth referred to the Juvenile Review Board (15) and counseling services that addressed residents' parenting and relationship concerns (14). Local youth sought help to manage anxiety, depression, grief, bullying and trauma from abuse. We referred youth to outside agencies to address substance abuse. In all cases, Tri-Town's professional staff worked with clients to identify underlying problems and provide tools to build resiliency, restore relationships and reach personal goals at school and in life.

Tri-Town's Prevention Coordinator and AmeriCorp Prevention Corp Member offered 12 programs to community members this year, including presentations at Drivers Ed Parent Nights, Narcan Training, Vaping 101 and "Marijuana: Weeding Out Fact from Fiction" with Alicia Farrell. Additionally, Tri-Town conducted its bi-annual survey of middle and high school youth, which revealed a sharp increase in teen tobacco use (via vaping), and increases in mental health issues, namely anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. These statistics align with state and national trends, and Tri-Town Youth Services is working closely with Region 4 Schools on early identification, screening and referral to services so that all young people in our community can be resilient and find a sense of peace and personal fulfillment.

Tri-Town assisted with the launch of the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Enrichment Program at Deep River Elementary School this year. This social emotional learning curriculum was designed by educators and experts in neuroscience to teach self-regulation through the study of courage, gratitude, forgiveness and compassion. Throughout the year, Tri-Town provided preschool, parent and community presentations about Choose Love. In the coming year, the agency will support the roll out of the program at Chester and Essex Elementary schools.

Our special thanks to all of the community members who support Tri-Town Youth Services by giving your time, lending your expertise or making a financial contribution. We're grateful for the Town's investment in the work we do to serve local families.

Allison Abramson, Executive Director

## Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley

Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley is a non-profit organization dedicated to home and community-based health care. In FY 2018-2019, we received 343 referrals for home care in our service area; 25.6% of those home visits to patients in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton.

After a turbulent year in regulatory proposals for the home health care industry, Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley has been looking toward 2019/2020 on the changes that still lie ahead. Provisions in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included major reforms for home health care, including a new 30-day payment model by 2020 and elimination of front-loaded payments by 2021. We continue to assist our patients in developing emergency preparedness plans in the event they need to evacuate or shelter in place. We continue to provide weekly walk-in blood pressure screenings, monthly B12 injections, and community educational sessions. Flu shot clinics were held at ten Essex locations including Essex Town Hall as part of our wellness program. We distribute monthly health promotion newsletters via email and co-sponsor a health fair annually. We are pleased to report we received the *Home Care Elite TOP 500* distinction this year and continue to maintain our focus on quality patient care. We highly value our patients and continue to generate positive patient satisfaction.

We are the parent organization of Lower Valley Care Advocates whose staff provides private care services for surgical recovery, caregiver respite, and home management. Special programs are designed to help the frail elderly, terminally ill, disabled, and clients with dementia remain in the comfort of their own homes. 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 860-767-2695 for further information.

Our staff wishes to acknowledge the commitment of our volunteer board of directors: Judy Heiser, Dan Tavares, and Debbie Bliska from Essex; Ted Heiser, Peg Lieberman, Rueben Manning and Susan D. Murphy from Chester; Bob Sampson, from Mystic; and Claire Walsh from Deep River. Finally, a special thank you to all Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook residents who support the work of VNLV.

Please visit our website ([www.visitingnurses.org](http://www.visitingnurses.org)) or call us at 860-767-0186 for service information or flu clinic dates and locations.

Susan Maxwell, MSN, RN, C-COS  
Executive Director

## SECTION IV—Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
August 1, 2018  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:55 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Glowac and Libby were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: That the Town of Essex adopt the Tax Overpayment Ordinance. Copies of said ordinance are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

**SECONDED:** Stacia Libby  
**Aye** 5 **Nay** 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation to the 2017-2018 Capital & Sinking Funds Budget in the amount of \$125,000 for town-wide road construction projects.

**SECONDED:** Stacia Libby  
**Aye** 5 **Nay** 0

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac**  
**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
September 5, 2018  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:57 PM. Bruce Glowac was elected Moderator. Selectmen Glowac and Libby were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve an appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from the Harbor Management Sinking Fund for the purpose of renovation and re-decking of the Town Dock as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

Yea 6 Nay 0

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Stacia Libby**  
**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk

Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
October 3, 2018  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:43 PM. Jim Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby was in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

Finance Director Kelly Sterner introduced a motion to consolidate the first nine items into a single vote.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**  
Yea 5 Nay 0

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 to the Fringe Benefits-Retirement for the Police Pension Plan budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 to the Fringe Benefits-Retirement for the Merit Service Pension Plan budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.



## *Town Meeting Minutes*

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to the Fringe Benefits-Other Post Employment Benefits budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 to the Capital & Sinking Funds-Fire Department budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to the Capital & Sinking Funds-Police Vehicle budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to the Capital & Sinking Funds-Ambulance budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to the Capital & Sinking Funds-Harbor Management budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to the Capital & Sinking Funds-Open Space budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a special appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 to the Capital & Sinking Funds-Infrastructure/Bridges budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$21,338 to the Town Clerk budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$46,894 to the Highway Department budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018 as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

**SECONDED: Kelly Sterner**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Maryann Pleva as an alternate member to the Gateway Commission. Term to run from September 2018 to September 2020.

**SECONDED: Kelly Sterner**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Claire Matthews as a regular member to the Gateway Commission. Term to run from September 2018 to September 2020.

**SECONDED: Kelly Sterner**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Kelly Sterner**  
**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



## Town Meeting Minutes

There was a discussion to consolidate the nominations of all appointments into a single vote rather than by individual approvals. This would be done after the call of each candidate followed by any discussion.

**Moved: James Francis Second: Paul Kotowski**  
**ALL IN FAVOR**

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Adrienne Forrest** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Kathleen Tucker** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Richard Helmecki** as a regular member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **David Winstead** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **George Sexton** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Edward Cook** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Janet Peckinpaugh** as a regular member to the Economic Development Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2020.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Terry Stewart** as a regular member to the Harbor

Management Commission. the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Barbara Sarrantonio** as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **John Senning** as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Jim Leo** as a regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Beth Currie** as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Brian Weinstein** as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Richard Rybak** as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Larry Shipman** as a regular member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Mark Reeves** as a regular member to the Zoning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Wendy Arnold** as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

## Town Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Susan Malan** as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the Board of Selectmen of **Mark Reeves** as a regular member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2021.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of **Alan Kerr** as a regular member to the Planning Commission. Term to run from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2023.

**Moved: DG Fitton      Second: James Francis**  
**ALL IN FAVOR**

Upon the motion of James Francis, seconded by Keith Crehan, meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
December 19, 2018  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:59 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

The following Resolutions were Read, Seconded and VOTED:

RESOLVED: That the Town endorses and supports the upgrades to the emergency communications radio dispatch system to allow interconnectivity through Valley Shore Emergency Communications, Inc. (VSECI) amongst 11 Member Towns. Member Towns where Phase II and Phase III work will be completed are Deep River, Lyme, Chester, Old

Lyme, Middlefield, Durham, Essex, Haddam, East Haddam, Killingworth, Westbrook.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 5      Nay 0**

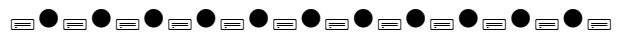
RESOLVED: That the Town identifies Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman, as an individual authorized to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts, and documents associated with the Urban Act Grant.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 5      Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac**  
**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
February 20, 2019  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 6:57 PM. Jim Francis was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby was in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately seven (7) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: That the Town adopt an Illicit Discharge and Connection Stormwater Ordinance.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 6      Nay 0**

RESOLVED: That the Town adopt an Amendment to the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission Ordinance.

**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**  
**Yea 6      Nay 0**



## Town Meeting Minutes

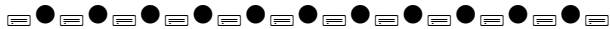
RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Jason Wlochowski as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2021.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 6 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac**  
**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
March 20, 2019  
Meeting Room A

Selectman, Bruce Glowac called the Town Meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Peter Decker was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby was in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately five (5) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Andre Roussel to fill an unexpired term as regular member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2019.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**

**Yea 5 Nay 0**

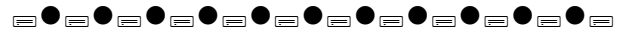
RESOLVED: To consent and approve of the appointment by the First Selectman of Steven Knauth to fill an unexpired term as an alternate member to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Term to run from the date of this meeting to December 2021.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac**  
**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



Town of Essex  
Special Town Meeting  
April 3, 2019  
Meeting Room A

First Selectman, Norman Needleman called the Town Meeting to order at 4:48 PM. Kelly Sterner was elected Moderator. Selectmen Libby and Glowac were in attendance along with Finance Director Kelly Sterner. The Town Clerk read the call of the meeting. There were approximately six (6) people in attendance.

RESOLVED: That the Town adopt the Amended and Restated Ordinance Creating the Harbor Management Commission.

**SECONDED: Stacia Libby**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

RESOLVED: To consent and approved as recommended by the Board of Selectmen the Eversource Permanent Access Easement located at 1 Dump Road, Essex.

It was noted that another easement across this property also exists.

**SECONDED: Bruce Glowac**  
**Yea 5 Nay 0**

**MOTION TO CLOSE: Bruce Glowac**  
**SECONDED: Norman Needleman**

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joel Marzi  
Town Clerk



# SECTION V - Financial Information

## Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

### Finance Report

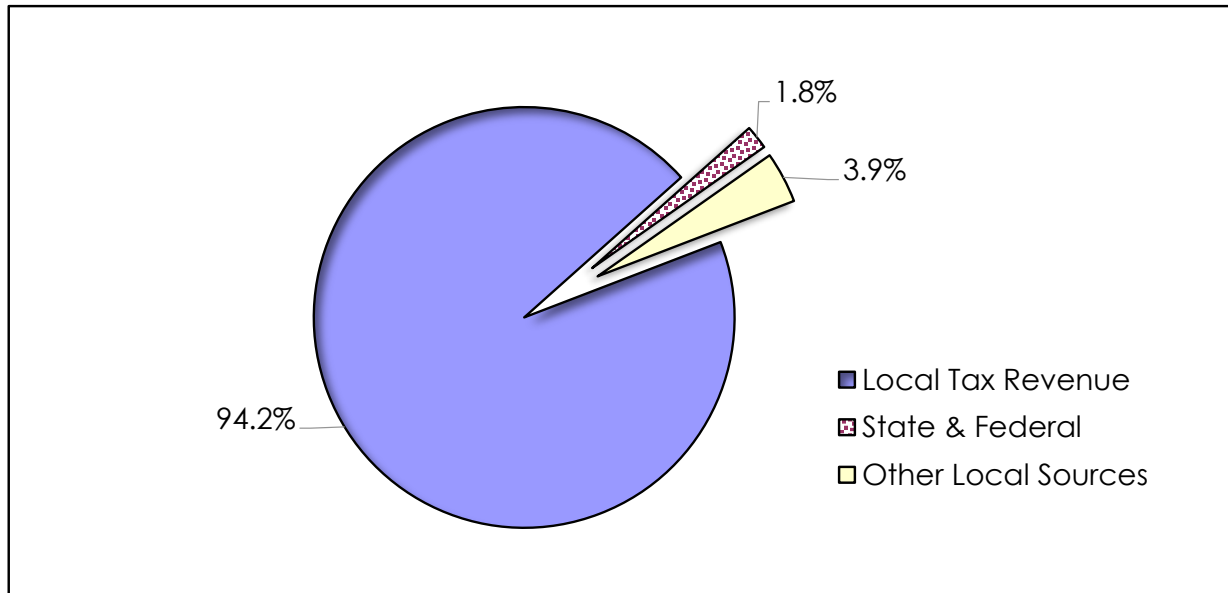
#### Historical Data - Revenue

*(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			
2019-20*	1,062,738,700	1.05	22,996,179	(0.70)	99.00	21.65	478,402	620,700	24,095,281
2018-19	1,051,675,920	0.67	23,158,278	2.93	98.90	21.85	449,653	965,451	24,573,382
2017-18	1,044,700,428	0.41	23,179,381	5.24	99.05	21.96	468,951	988,362	24,636,694
2016-17	1,040,470,701	0.35	22,498,997	3.54	98.89	21.58	560,049	818,718	23,877,764
2015-16	1,036,820,170	0.51	22,025,102	3.28	99.05	21.08	714,155	689,425	23,428,682
2014-15	1,031,550,311	(7.93)	21,730,417	4.67	99.04	20.99	792,404	688,487	23,211,308
2013-14	1,120,431,426	0.02	21,326,486	5.85	98.69	18.99	827,756	747,553	22,901,795
2012-13	1,120,189,036	0.33	20,761,480	5.47	98.97	18.47	894,632	785,568	22,441,680
2011-12	1,116,538,776	0.57	20,147,562	6.55	99.02	17.98	741,531	581,334	21,470,427
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	1.67	17,239,184	11.44	98.91	16.90	919,922	1,277,775	19,436,881

\* Budgeted figures

#### FY 2018-2019 Revenue Breakdown



# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Historical Data - Expenditures

*(figures are actual unless otherwise noted)*

Fiscal Year	Selectmen's Expenditures			Education Expenditures				Total Essex Expend.	% Increase
	Town Admin.	% Increase	Debt Pmt (P & I)	Elementary School	Regional District 4	Total Education	% Increase		
2019-20*	7,185,023	(4.31)	1,060,151	7,463,976	8,334,539	15,798,515	(0.33)	24,043,689	(1.54)
2018-19†	7,508,460	3.22	1,060,151	7,200,903	8,650,035	15,850,938	(1.86)	24,419,549	(0.17)
2017-18†	7,274,090	7.13	1,036,483	7,430,471	8,721,064	16,151,535	1.21	24,462,108	3.14
2016-17†	6,790,149	1.66	968,896	7,503,288	8,454,525	15,957,813	1.12	23,716,858	1.49
2015-16	6,679,061	3.50	908,881	7,588,815	8,192,147	15,780,962	0.41	23,368,904	1.50
2014-15†	6,453,373	2.61	854,369	7,603,406	8,112,489	15,715,895	0.53	23,023,637	1.22
2013-14†	6,289,526	2.13	824,579	7,551,034	8,081,772	15,632,806	2.60	22,746,911	2.17
2012-13†	6,158,576	4.25	869,741	7,534,205	7,701,887	15,236,092	2.91	22,264,409	3.04
2011-12	5,907,651	7.14	895,238	7,400,069	7,405,135	14,805,204	3.91	21,608,093	4.49
2010-11	5,513,713	(1.36)	917,916	7,109,503	7,138,437	14,247,940	2.09	20,679,569	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	7.89

\* - Budgeted figures

† - Includes STEAP Grants &/or Special Appropriations

### Pension Trust Funds

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

	Defined Benefits Retirement Plan for Town Employees/ Plan for Police	Merit Service Retirement Plan for Volunteer Fire Responders
<b>Fund Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 4,598,233	\$ 1,043,321
<b>Contributions:</b>		
From General Fund and Members	554,004	119,366
<b>Income:</b>		
Net Investment Income/(Loss)	200,622	46,256
Investments Market Value - Gain/(Loss)	141,884	31,259
<b>Total Beginning Balance, Contributions &amp; Income</b>	\$ 5,494,743	\$ 1,240,202
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Retirement Benefits Paid	407,065	96,407
Administration	46,014	14,127
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	453,079	110,534
<b>Fund Balance at End of Fiscal Year</b> (market value)	\$ 5,041,664	\$ 1,129,669



# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Revenues

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2017-2018 Actual	Fiscal Year 2018-2019			FY 2019-2020 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>TAX COLLECTION</b>					
Property Taxes	\$ 23,031,956	\$ 22,859,318	\$ 23,009,977	\$ 150,659	\$ 22,946,179
Interest and Lien Fees	147,425	50,000	148,301	98,301	50,000
Total Tax Collection	23,179,381	22,909,318	23,158,278	248,960	22,996,179
<b>STATE &amp; FEDERAL</b>					
Veterans' Tax Relief	2,833	3,962	3,086	(876)	3,962
Education Cost Sharing Grant	87,043	105,065	99,852	(5,213)	101,966
Town Aid Road Grant	214,693	214,693	214,517	(176)	214,693
LOCIP	74,239	47,242	47,259	17	40,493
PILOT Grant	71	10,393	10,393	-	10,393
Municipal Revenue Sharing	74,547	74,547	74,547	-	74,547
Pequot Grant	12,209	-	-	-	-
Misc. State and Federal	3,317	3,500	-	(3,500)	3,348
Total State & Federal	468,951	459,402	449,653	(9,749)	449,402
<b>LOCAL REVENUES</b>					
Interest Income	76,383	55,000	140,671	85,671	75,000
Miscellaneous Permits	4,459	3,500	6,003	2,503	3,500
Phone "Access Line" Tax Share	20,508	25,000	20,083	(4,917)	25,000
Transfer Station Fees	79,036	80,000	83,210	3,210	80,000
Building Permit Fees	261,674	125,000	205,400	80,400	125,000
Circuit Court Fines	2,473	4,000	1,670	(2,331)	4,000
Zoning Permits	9,204	7,100	10,071	2,971	7,100
Zoning Board of Appeals	2,100	2,160	1,940	(220)	2,160
Planning Commission Receipts	160	2,500	-	(2,500)	2,500
Conveyance Tax	205,065	110,000	227,389	117,389	110,000
Park and Recreation	-	4,500	920	(3,580)	4,500
Miscellaneous Receipts	105,192	15,000	93,922	78,922	25,000
Town Clerk Fees	137,542	115,000	111,178	(3,822)	115,000
Inland Wetlands Permits	1,800	1,440	1,760	320	1,440
Regional Recycling Fees	74,517	62,000	51,708	(10,292)	62,000
Health Department Fees	8,250	7,500	9,525	2,025	7,500
Total Local Revenues	988,363	619,700	965,451	345,751	649,700
<b>TOTAL REVENUE ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 24,636,695</b>	<b>\$ 23,988,420</b>	<b>\$ 24,573,382</b>	<b>\$ 584,962</b>	<b>\$ 24,095,281</b>

# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	FY 2017-2018	Fiscal Year 2018-2019			FY 2019-2020
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>					
Selectmen	\$ 165,996	\$ 207,297	\$ 149,295	\$ (58,002)	\$ 218,070
Assessor	117,713	119,585	117,877	(1,708)	121,278
Central Services	231,639	219,178	214,107	(5,071)	221,388
Elections	41,773	49,426	49,426	-	46,071
Probate Court	3,460	3,460	3,460	-	3,460
Tax Collector	106,455	115,444	112,129	(3,315)	118,450
Town Clerk	188,172	182,020	182,020	-	175,252
Finance	172,099	183,618	182,390	(1,228)	188,507
Zoning Enforcement Agent	68,678	70,901	70,604	(297)	72,834
Fringe Benefits	1,212,888	1,346,273	1,342,304	(3,969)	1,037,117
General Insurance	176,903	191,914	165,733	(26,181)	185,414
Legal Services	67,487	74,000	72,273	(1,727)	78,500
Public Restroom Facilities	15,538	18,750	16,067	(2,683)	18,750
Technology	184,993	223,997	223,997	-	222,942
Board of Assessment Appeals	1,218	1,430	715	(715)	1,430
Board of Finance	34,483	35,500	33,880	(1,620)	110,500
Conservation Commission	12,474	12,922	12,922	-	13,250
Economic Development Comm.	12,667	21,600	20,228	(1,372)	14,100
IWWC Commission	5,905	6,340	5,992	(348)	6,540
Land Use Administrative	95,919	102,127	100,903	(1,224)	107,835
Park & Recreation	181,327	187,808	187,808	-	187,362
Park & Recreation Comm.	1,141	1,100	380	(720)	1,100
Planning Commission	62,616	63,590	61,692	(1,898)	64,110
Tree Committee	5,987	6,000	6,000	-	7,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	6,515	5,450	4,211	(1,239)	5,450
Zoning Commission	12,984	10,914	10,914	(0)	7,110
Total General Government	3,187,030	3,460,645	3,347,327	(113,317)	3,233,821
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
Ambulance Association	18,390	21,624	17,540	(4,084)	18,700
Animal Control	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Building Department	75,222	77,600	77,600	-	80,171
Emergency Management	19,901	21,400	15,380	(6,020)	21,400
Emergency 911	120,894	118,919	118,919	-	120,088
Fire Department	344,650	357,473	355,994	(1,479)	370,612
Fire Marshal	49,021	48,667	48,143	(524)	50,567
Harbor Patrol	19,307	25,486	24,943	(543)	25,400
Police Services	355,154	382,144	377,274	(4,870)	395,400
Resident State Trooper	180,927	189,857	181,678	(8,179)	197,660
Water	168,298	174,299	173,287	(1,012)	174,220
Total Public Safety	1,361,764	1,427,469	1,400,757	(26,712)	1,464,218

continued on next page

# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Expenditures *(continued)*

DESCRIPTION	FY 2017-2018 Actual	Fiscal Year 2018-2019			FY 2019-2020 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
<b>HEALTH AND WELFARE</b>					
Estuary Transit	\$ 19,140	\$ 19,620	\$ 19,620	\$ -	\$ 20,015
Health Department	102,663	114,691	112,306	(2,385)	126,834
Transfer Station	264,779	274,339	263,017	(11,322)	280,420
Social Services	101,363	107,305	96,469	(10,836)	106,904
Visiting Nurses	66,850	66,874	66,850	(24)	66,874
Water Pollution Control	1,202	2,600	1,354	(1,246)	2,600
Total Health and Welfare	555,997	585,429	559,617	(25,812)	603,647
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	398,370	404,347	404,347	-	412,434
<b>HIGHWAYS &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Highways	899,862	973,463	973,463	-	928,404
Town Garage	22,753	29,500	15,612	(13,888)	-
Total Highways and Transportation	922,615	1,002,963	989,075	(13,888)	928,404
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>					
Principal Payments	735,000	730,000	730,000	-	910,000
Interest and Finance Charges	301,483	330,151	330,151	-	301,612
Total Debt Service	1,036,483	1,060,151	1,060,151	-	1,211,612
<b>CAPITAL AND SINKING FUNDS</b>	774,389	817,500	807,335	(10,165)	542,500
<b>GRANTS &amp; SPECIAL APPROP.</b>	73,924	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN</b>	8,310,573	8,758,503	8,568,611	(189,893)	8,396,635
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Elementary School	5,427,366	5,404,670	5,233,353	(171,317)	5,291,471
Reg. School Operating	7,944,804	7,914,737	7,914,737	-	7,732,420
Reg. Supervision District	2,003,105	1,967,550	1,967,550	-	2,172,505
Reg. Bond & Interest	776,260	735,298	735,298	-	602,119
Total Education	16,151,535	16,022,255	15,850,938	(171,317)	15,798,515
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ 24,462,108	\$ 24,780,758	\$ 24,419,549	\$ (361,210)	\$ 24,195,150

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

DESCRIPTION	FY 2017-2018 Actual	Fiscal Year 2018-2019			FY 2019-2020 Budget
		Budget	Actual	Variance	
Total Revenue	\$ 24,636,708	\$ 23,988,420	\$ 24,573,383	\$ 584,963	\$ 24,095,281
Total Expenditures	24,462,108	24,780,758	24,419,549	\$ (361,210)	24,195,150
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 174,600	\$ (792,338)	\$ 153,834	\$ 946,173	\$ (99,869)

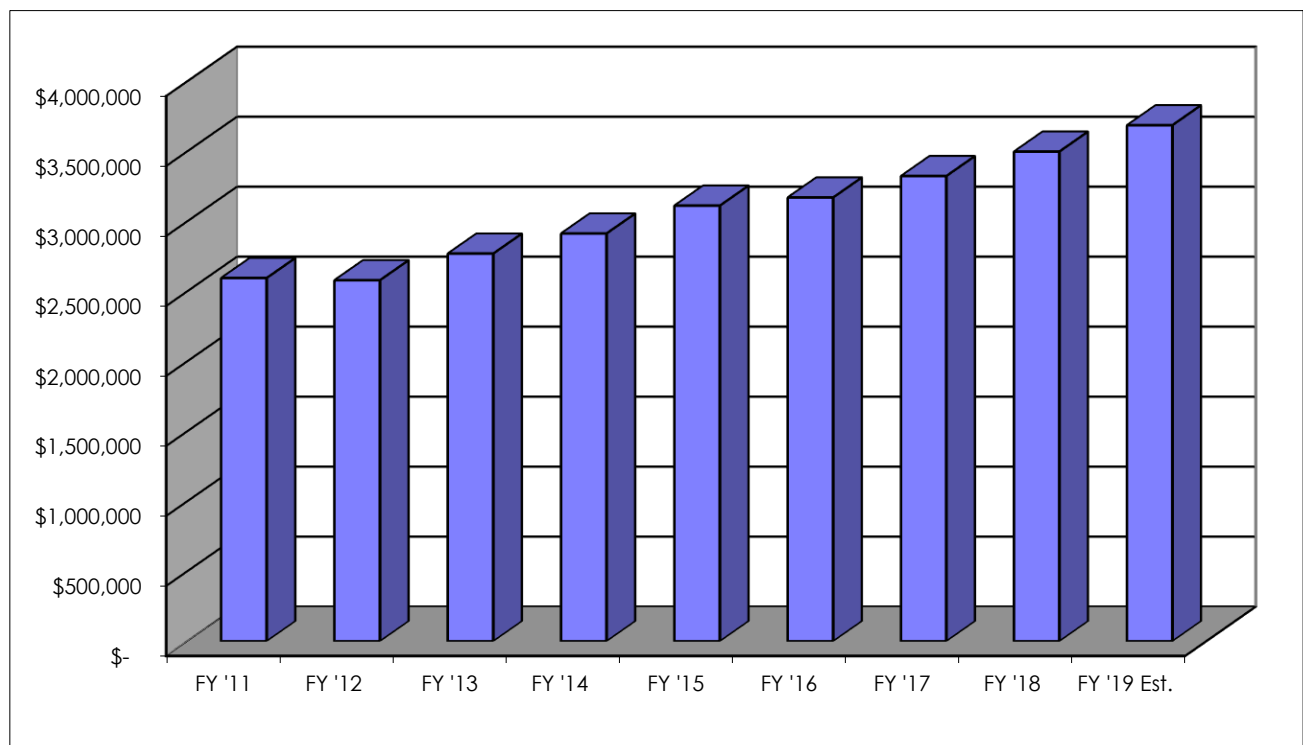
# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Finance Report

### Capital Project Sinking Fund Balances

Fund Name	Beginning Balance at 7/1/2018	From General Fund	Interest Rec'd. /Other	Expenditures	Ending Balance at 6/30/2019
Fire Truck	\$ 581,992	\$ 210,000	\$ 10,476	\$ 106,576	\$ 695,892
Trucks & Equip.	2,838	-	47	-	2,885
Police Vehicles	51,219	35,000	1,092	-	87,311
Assessor Revaluation	144,126	12,500	-	63,440	93,186
Wastewater Study	127,327	-	2,099	-	129,426
Harbor Patrol Boat	46,363	2,500	806	-	49,669
Park & Recreation	116,788	30,000	2,420	-	149,208
Municipal Property	141,053	25,000	2,738	-	168,791
Open Space	106,758	20,000	2,090	-	128,848
EES Capital Improv.	222,448	105,000	3,946	43,138	288,256
Harbor Management	65,667	5,000	-	40,000	30,667
Infrastructure/Bridges	50,000	55,000	907	-	105,907
Ambulance Assoc.	25,000	12,500	453	-	37,953
Totals	\$ 1,681,579	\$ 512,500	\$ 27,074	\$ 253,154	\$ 1,967,999

### Unassigned Fund Ending Balance by Fiscal Year





# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Finance 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
2018	2019-20	136	146	282	283	611	929	381	41.01%
2017	2018-19	151	146	297	322	607	946	418	43.68%
2016	2017-18	152	158	310	333	612	969	432	44.58%
2015	2016-17	183	148	331	315	605	946	420	44.40%
2014	2015-16	184	193	377	332	631	988	438	44.33%
2013	2014-15	194	213	407	357	617	994	446	44.87%
2012	2013-14	214	237	451	366	623	1007	465	46.18%
2011	2012-13	245	232	477	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	235	557	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%

\*Total includes Magnet school and out of district placements

### Regional School District #4 Budget History

	Fiscal Year 2015-2016	Fiscal Year 2016-2017	Budgeted 2017-2018	Budgeted 2018-2019	Adopted 2019-2020
Region. School District 4 Expenses	\$15,253,001	\$15,986,290	\$ 16,534,060	\$ 16,597,818	\$ 17,102,304
Supervision District Expenses	<u>1,658,586</u>	<u>1,674,259</u>	<u>1,787,731</u>	<u>1,771,488</u>	<u>2,002,146</u>
Total Operating Expenses	16,911,587	17,660,549	18,321,791	18,369,306	19,104,450
Revenue	449,340	438,652	500,338	249,487	249,487
Debt Service	<u>1,860,625</u>	<u>1,819,825</u>	<u>1,741,275</u>	<u>1,683,375</u>	<u>1,468,225</u>
Total Billings - Region-wide	18,322,872	19,041,722	19,562,728	19,803,194	20,323,188
Total Billings-Essex Share	8,192,147	8,454,525	8,721,064	8,650,035	8,334,539
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Region	242,888	718,850	521,006	240,466	519,994
Increase from Prior Year (\$) - Essex	79,658	262,378	266,539	(71,029)	(315,496)
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Region	1.34%	3.92%	2.74%	1.23%	2.63%
Increase from Prior Year (%) - Essex	0.98%	3.20%	3.15%	-0.81%	-3.65%
Number of Students	988	946	969	946	929
Total Operating Exp / Student**	\$ 17,117	\$ 18,669	\$ 18,908	\$ 19,418	\$ 20,565

\*\*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

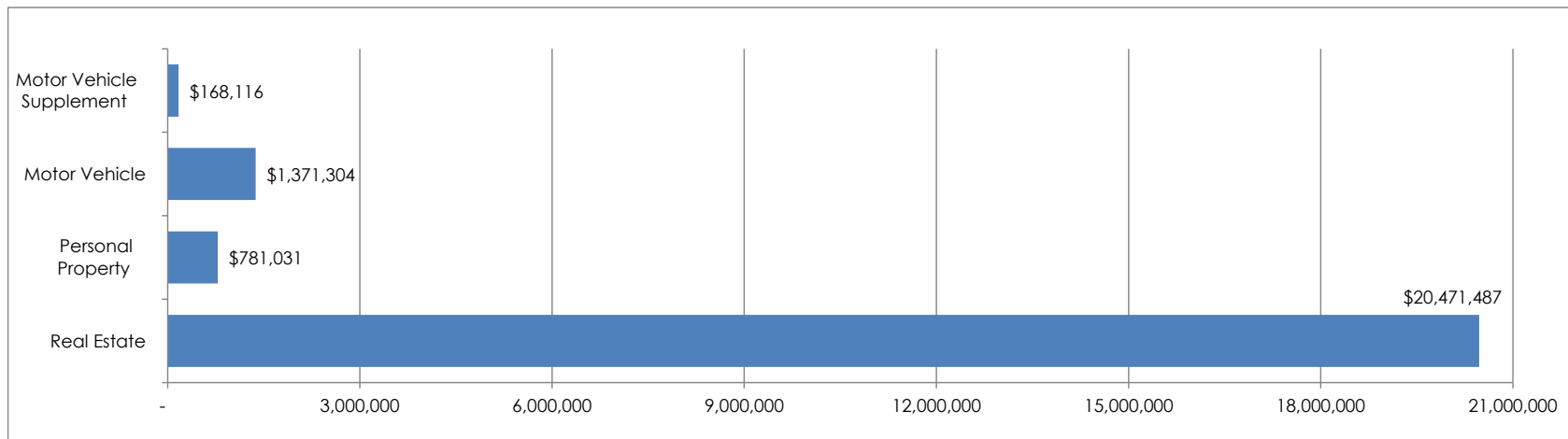
# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Tax Collector's Report

### Schedule of Property Taxes by Grand List Year June 30, 2019

GRAND LIST YEAR	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2018	CURRENT YEAR LEVY	Lawful Corrections		Transfers To Suspense	Balance To Be Collected	COLLECTIONS			TOTAL	UNCOLLECTED TAXES 6/30/2019
			Additions	Deductions			TAXES	INTEREST	LIEN FEES		
2017	-	23,052,675	44,895	64,980	-	23,032,590	22,791,091	52,024	-	22,843,115	241,499
2016	219,177	-	2,576	3,103	-	218,650	96,216	22,366	480	119,062	122,434
2015	136,524	-	2,101	-	45,191	93,434	41,748	15,874	288	57,910	51,686
2014	52,020	-	-	-	-	52,020	19,837	12,219	240	32,296	32,183
2013	29,405	-	-	-	-	29,405	14,344	9,478	144	23,966	15,061
2012	24,664	-	-	-	-	24,664	12,409	11,641	120	24,170	12,255
2011	15,701	-	-	-	-	15,701	8,570	6,908	120	15,598	7,131
2010	7,895	-	-	-	-	7,895	4,538	3,712	48	8,298	3,357
2009	4,444	-	-	-	-	4,444	1,197	1,688	24	2,909	3,247
2008	6,141	-	-	-	-	6,141	1,151	1,830	24	3,005	4,990
2007	3,989	-	-	-	-	3,989	852	1,508	24	2,384	3,137
2006	744	-	-	-	-	744	744	1,450	24	2,218	-
2005	713	-	-	-	-	713	713	1,518	24	2,255	-
2004	682	-	-	-	-	682	682	1,575	24	2,281	-
2003	164	-	-	-	-	164	164	39	24	227	-
Total	502,263	23,052,675	49,572	68,083	45,191	23,491,236	22,994,256	143,830	1,608	23,139,694	496,980

### FY 2019 Collections for Grand List 10/1/17 by Type



# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### 2018 Grand List Annual Report

	REAL ESTATE	
	Grand List Year 2017	Grand List Year 2018
Gross	\$ 948,135,260	\$ 959,898,480
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 894,000	\$ 906,000
Veterans' Additional	114,000	144,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	418,500	420,750
Disability	11,000	13,000
Blind	6,000	6,000
Other	-	45,540
Net	\$ 946,691,760	\$ 958,363,190

	PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	Grand List Year 2017	Grand List Year 2018
Gross	\$ 52,813,980	\$ 53,886,270
Exemptions:		
Farm & Mechanics	\$ 30,620	\$ 17,520
Manufacturers*	15,692,500	15,834,840
Misc.	-	-
Solar Energy/Pollution Control	2,890	1,000
Net	\$ 37,087,970	\$ 38,032,910

	MOTOR VEHICLES	
	Grand List Year 2017	Grand List Year 2018
Gross	\$ 70,686,060	\$ 71,793,520
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 184,250	\$ 228,050
Veterans' Additional	77,000	81,050
Disability Reimb.	1,000	1,000
Disability	20,640	30,110
Other	-	-
Manuf. Truck Reimb.*	3,825,330	5,110,710
Net	\$ 66,577,840	\$ 66,342,600

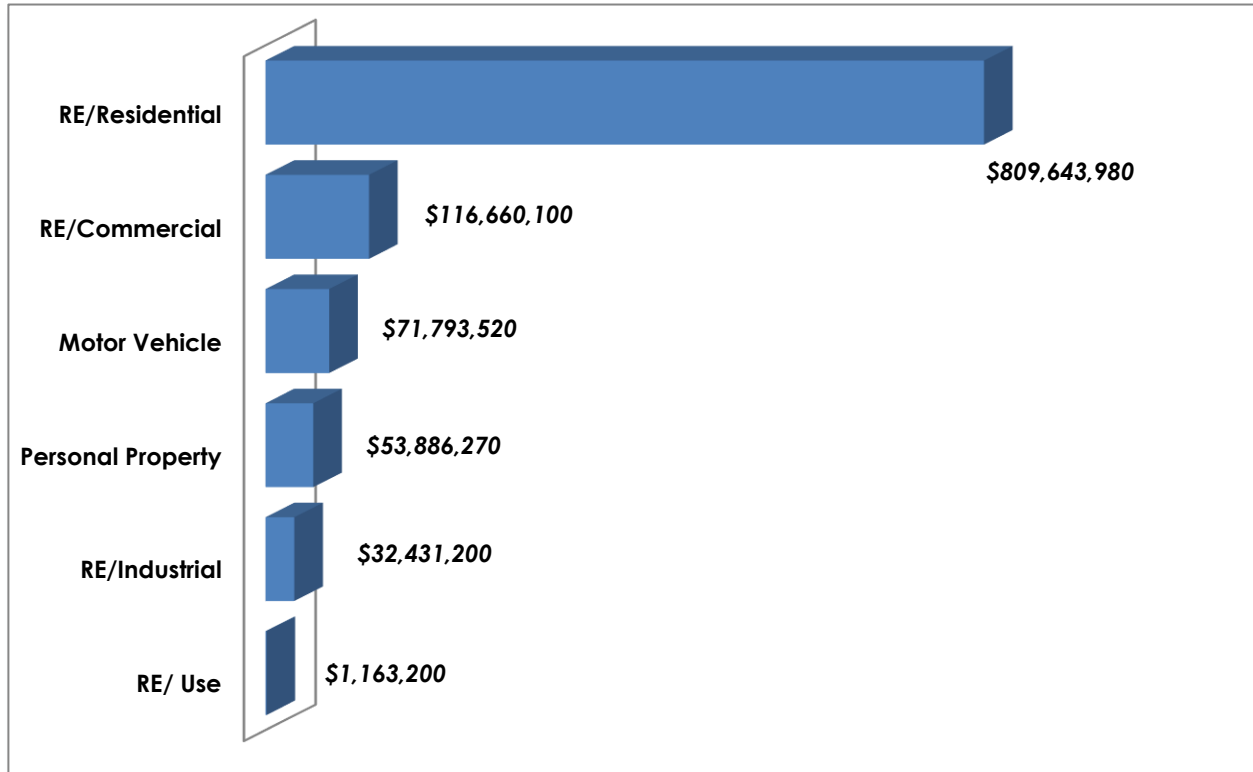
	TOTALS	
	Grand List Year 2017	Grand List Year 2018
Gross	\$ 1,071,635,300	\$ 1,085,578,270
Exemptions:		
Veterans'	\$ 1,128,870	\$ 1,134,050
Veterans' Additional	205,940	144,000
Vet. Add. Reimb.*	441,000	501,800
Blind	9,000	6,000
Disability	36,210	44,110
Other	30,580	64,060
Manufacturer & Truck*	18,107,780	20,945,550
Net	\$ 1,051,675,920	\$ 1,062,738,700

\*No longer being reimbursed by State of Connecticut

# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### Grand List 2018 Assessment by Category



### Comparative Grand Lists - Net Taxable

Item	Grand List Year 2017	Grand List Year 2018	Increase/ (Decrease)
Real Estate	\$ 946,691,760	\$ 958,363,190	\$ 11,671,430
Personal Property	\$ 37,087,970	\$ 38,032,910	\$ 944,940
Motor Vehicle	\$ 66,577,840	\$ 66,342,600	\$ (235,240)
Total	\$ 1,050,357,570	\$ 1,062,738,700	\$ 12,381,130

### Tax Revenue Comparison

	Grand List Year 2017	Grand List Year 2018
Net List	\$ 1,050,357,570	\$ 1,062,738,700
Mill Rate	21.85	21.65
Grand List Tax Revenue	\$ 22,950,313	\$ 23,008,293



# Town of Essex 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Assessor's Report

### Gross Top Ten Taxpayer Accounts

#	Taxpayer	Primary Activities	10/1/2018	# of accts
			Assessed Value	
1	Essex Meadows, Inc	Health Care Living Facility	\$ 23,330,460	4
2	Lee Company	Manufacturing	17,123,100	4
3	Conn Light & Power Co.	Public Utility	8,843,590	1
4	SHM Dauntless LLC	Marina	5,293,840	7
5	All Waste Inc.	Refuse Collection	4,731,150	40
6	Essex Savings Bank	Financial Services	4,377,220	9
7	Nalas Engineering Services	Chemical Processing	4,358,240	1
8	Griswold Inn LLC	Inn & Restaurant	3,552,900	5
9	Cline Stephen R. Successor	Real Estate Development	3,360,500	5
10	Macbeth Ventures LLC	Real Estate Development	2,779,400	2
Total			\$ 77,750,400	

Historical Mill Rates	
Grand List Year	Mill Rate
2018*	21.65
2017	21.85
2016	21.96
2015	21.58
2014	21.08
2013*	20.99
2012	18.99
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
*Revaluation	

Important Annual Dates for the Assessor's Office	
February 1	We begin accepting applications for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Program and Additional Veterans' Benefits.
May 15	Deadline to file for the Elderly Homeowner/Circuit Breaker Tax Benefit Program and local options.
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 Veterans 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.

# ESSEX TOWN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Telephone Number 860-767-4340 (unless otherwise noted)

## Selectmen's Office

Norman M. Needleman—First Selectman, X114 .....nneedleman@essexct.gov  
Maria Lucarelli, X112 .....mlucarelli@essexct.gov  
Alyson Finnegan, x145 .....afinnegan@essexct.gov

## Animal Control Officer

Caitlyn Sikora, x160 .....csikora@essexct.gov

## Assessor

Jessica Sypher—Assessor, X124 .....jsypher@essexct.gov  
Betsy D'Amico, X123 .....bdamico@essexct.gov

## Building Department and Fire Marshal

David DeLeeuw—Building Official, X117 .....ddeleeuw@essexct.gov  
John Planas—Fire Marshal, X146 .....jplanas@essexct.gov

## Finance and Treasurer

Kelly Sterner—Finance Director, X122 .....ksterner@essexct.gov  
Dana Novorio, x116 .....dnovorio@essexct.gov  
James Francis—Treasurer .....jfrancis@essexct.gov

## Health Department

Lisa Fasulo—Health Director, X118 .....lfasulo@essexct.gov  
Zachary Faiella, X151 .....zfaiella@essexct.gov

## Land Use—Administrative

Darcy Roper, X144 .....droper@essexct.gov  
Kerry Berardinelli, X119 .....kberardinelli@essexct.gov

## Landfill/Recycling Center—860-767-1926

Mike Birner and Wilbur Armstead

## Park and Recreation

Mary Ellen Barnes—Director X110 .....mbarnes@essexct.gov  
Tim LaChance, x148 .....tlachance@essexct.gov

## Public Works—860-767-0715

Ryan Welch—Director .....rwelch@essexct.gov  
Boris Churyk, Richard Gallacher, David Martin, Dwight Massey

## Registrars of Voters

Caitlin Riley, X142 .....criley@essexct.gov  
John Heiser, X142 .....jheiser@essexct.gov

## Resident State Trooper and Essex Police—860-767-1054

David Tretter—Resident State Trooper .....dtretter@essexct.gov  
James Paul Kenefick—Corporal .....jkenefick@essexct.gov  
Todd Belcourt—Corporal .....tbelcourt@essexct.gov  
Christopher McCarthy—Officer .....cmccarthy@essexct.gov  
Karen Reilly—Officer .....kreilly@essexct.gov  
Robert Hart—Officer .....rhart@essexct.gov  
Judson Howes - Officer .....jhowes@essexct.gov

## Social Services

Mary Ellen Barnes, X201 .....mbarnes@essexct.gov

## Tax Collector

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

## Town Clerk

Joel Marzi—Town Clerk, X129 .....jmarzi@essexct.gov  
Yvonne Roziak, x128 .....yroziak@essexct.gov

## Town Hall Operations

Andrew Harrington, X136 .....aharrington@essexct.gov

## Tree Warden—860-388-7209

Augie Pampel .....apampel@essexct.gov

## Zoning Enforcement

Joseph Budrow—Enforcement Agent, X115 .....jbudrow@essexct.gov

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

**Town of Essex**  
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

### **Transfer Station & Recycling Center**

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