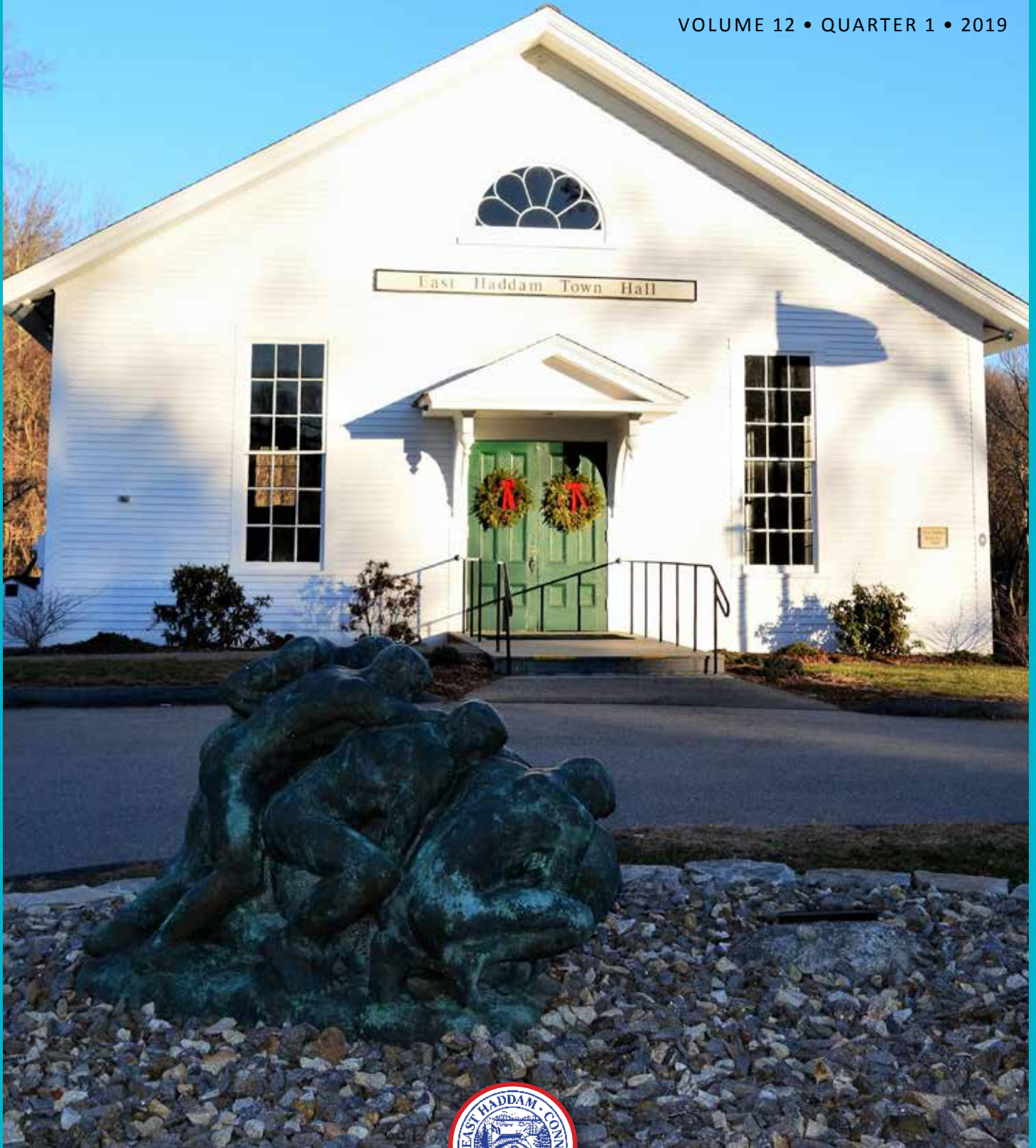


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First Selectman's Corner

We have begun the process of creating a 2019 - 2020 budget for the town of East Haddam. As always the challenges are great and the time short. On December 10, 2018 we got started with our tri-board meeting, earlier than ever before. At that meeting the citizens guide and budget process were presented and public input was accepted. A second opportunity for public input will occur on March 9, 2019, when the Board of Finance budget forum occurs. The goal is to always be open to suggestions, transparent in the process and attentive to detail. During the coming months articles will appear in the East Haddam News providing general information, giving insight into the process and the terminology. At the same time the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen will be holding workshops to review and adjust their proposed departmental budgets. They will then turn their results over to the Board of Finance for its review. The public is more than welcome to attend the workshops throughout the process and offer their comments. We will be moving forward using a zero based budget approach. Each department will need to start from zero and justify every expenditure. In the end we are seeking a balanced budget which meets the Town's needs and is fair to the taxpayer. We finished FY2018 with a \$504,773 general budget surplus due to carefully controlling spending and the State of Connecticut reconsidering proposed cuts in town aid. Crafting this year's budget will no doubt present its own difficulties. Meeting the costs of removing numerous trees, lost due to insect and drought damage,

will be significant. Repairs for the September storm will cost an estimated \$3,700,000 of which FEMA will cover 75%, with the town responsible for the remainder. To avoid surprises, we have reconvened our Financial Needs Roundtable Committee ensuring a comprehensive review and analysis for future capital needs. As with every budget fairness and balance while meeting the needs of our community will be the final goal. Years of careful planning and sound budgetary practice have given East Haddam an enviable financial position. We must now ensure that we continue that tradition.



Emmett Lyman
First Selectman

In 2014 East Haddam closed the Bone Mill Road Bridge over Hungerford Brook and then two years later the Connecticut Department of Transportation commenced work on two nearby Route 82 bridges, one crossing Hemlock Valley Brook and a second crossing Hungerford Brook. It has been a long and frustrating process to complete the necessary work to fully replace all three. **continued on page 3**

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events

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Dorothy Scott Gibb

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Visit our website at:
www.easthaddam.org

We hope you will find our website to be a useful tool to find updated information and explore our wonderful community.

First Selectman's Corner... continued from page 1



When earlier this year we were assured that all three would be complete in December, skepticism ran high. Just before Christmas, quite unexpectedly, Route 82 became a two-way road again, the traffic lights were turned off, barriers removed and the traffic once again flowed smoothly. Bone Mill Road Bridge is now done and the final step, installing guardrails, is nearing completion. It does help to make for a Happy New Year.

We want to welcome Suzan Smith as our new Economic Development Administrator. Suzan's endless energy and enthusiasm have already been shown to be an important asset for East Haddam. As a member of our Economic Development Commission she contributed to its many recent successes, she



Suzan Smith.

will now fill a new role while working to enhance our businesses. We look forward to the benefits her efforts will produce for both our Town and our business community.

We've had a very wet year, especially this past fall. I'm probably exaggerating but it seems like its rained cats and dogs every third day. In any case wherever water can collect, it has. The Hatch Lot Property,

238 acres, is an exception. Lying adjacent to the Dean easement of 280 acres you'll find you have 518 acres at your disposal. Together they offer endless miles of trails to explore, most of which are reasonably dry. Stone walls and ancient foundations are found in an endlessly varied woodland setting. Starting on the Hatch Blue Trail, adjacent to the Mill Road parking area, you can hike to an outlook with exceptional views of Long Island Sound as well as the Connecticut River and then continue on for hours. Be sure to get maps. With numerous trails, it can become confusing. Pack a lunch and visit two of our very best properties.

Emmett J. Lyman, First Selectman

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--	--	---

A Note from the Assessor

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet in March 2019 to hear appeals on real estate assessments. Requests to the Board are due by February 20, 2019. Written requests should include the property owner's name, name and address of the person appealing the assessment, type of property being appealed (*real estate or personal property*), reason for the appeal, and opinion of value. Although any written request is accepted, forms are available at the East Haddam website: www.easthaddam.org. The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is: 1 Plains Road, PO Box 385, Moodus, CT 06469.

The Assessor's Office will begin taking

applications for the Homeowners Credit Program and Additional Veterans Benefits on February 1, 2019. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2019. Income limits for 2018 are \$36,000 for a single person and \$43,900 for a married couple. These include Social Security. Applications for the Homeowners' Local Option program will be accepted from February 1, 2019 to May 15, 2019. The age and proof of income requirements are the same as for the state programs but the income limit is \$50,000 per household.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31, 2019 to receive exemption benefits. Qualifying income for Additional Veterans Benefits is the

same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted until October 1, 2019.

Any person or entity starting a new business in town should notify the Assessor's Office so that we can send a personal property declaration in the fall. Personal property assessments are based on the declarant's filing. The Board may decline hearing any appeal whose assessment is over \$1,000,000. These assessments can be appealed in Superior Court.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessor's Office at: 860-873-5026.



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Looking for a new primary care provider?



Left to right: Derek Donovan, PA-C; Caroline Weimann, APRN; Shelley Burchsted, MD and Malcolm Gourlie, MD

Office located at **27 William F. Palmer Road** in Moodus.

Middlesex Health Primary Care, East Haddam welcomes Caroline Weimann, APRN

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Registrar of Voters



State Senate race recount.

November 6, 2018 was our first General Election with 4,702 voters casting their ballots at our new Municipal Office Complex. In spite of the heavy turnout (71% of registered voters) and rainy weather conditions which made it less than ideal, voting took place with little disruption.

As a result of the close district-wide State Senate race, a recount was mandated and needed to be done in a very short timeframe. The Registrars would like to thank all the poll workers who were summoned and worked very quickly to get the job done before the deadline. It certainly was reconfirmed after this recount that “every vote counts.”

The Registrars and Town Officials will continue to work together to be sure our voting process works as smoothly as possible. One suggestion we think will help with the parking situation will be to enter the parking lot in one direction and exit in another. We also ask our voters to contact us before any election if you move within the Town. It will speed up the check-in process if we have your correct address.

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Annual Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 are available now in the Town Clerk's Office.

This book is filled with valuable information regarding meeting dates, Boards and Commissions, reports from all Town Departments and 2017-2018 summary financial report. The full 2017-2018 year-end audit can be viewed online at: www.easthaddam.org. Feel free to stop in for your very own copy of the Annual Town Report.

Absentee Ballots for Referendum

AN ELECTOR MAY VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT DUE TO:

1. the elector's absence from their town for all of the hours of voting;
2. illness or physical disability;
3. active service in the US armed forces;
4. religious tenets forbid secular activity on Election Day; or
5. service as a polling place official in a town other than their own.

When a Referendum is called with less than three weeks notice, (Town meeting calls the Referendum) different criteria for the issuance of absentee balloting result.

Also, at referendum a non-registered taxpayer may vote if they are an American citizen and own property on the last published grand list valued over \$1,000.

The Town Clerk is statutorily charged to have ballots available within four business days after the question(s) to be voted on

are finalized (this occurs at the Town meeting that sends the question to referendum).

ABSENTEE BALLOTING IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS

The ballot may not be issued until an application for the ballot has been received. At a referendum called with less than three-weeks notice, ballots cannot be mailed.

For additional information, or to obtain the application for an absentee ballot, call 860-873-5027 or come into the Town Clerk's Office. Forms may also be downloaded from the town's website at: www.easthaddam.org (elections under Town Clerk) or www.sots.ct.gov (elections & voting, voter resources, absentee ballot and procedures, application for ballot).

As of this writing, a referendum regarding the budget is anticipated to occur on May 7, 2019.

Debra H. Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk

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Town Clerk - Vital & Statistical Information

Year	Number of Births	Number of Marriages*	Number of Deaths
1998	102	69	76
1999	104	82	84
2000	115	83	82
2001	85	90	69
2002	113	75	84
2003	119	74	70
2004	105	85	66
2005	97	87	75
2006	94	80	80
2007	79	83	88
2008	85	67	68
2009	77	101	69
2010	74	91	77
2011	64	66	64
2012	65	83	77
2013	69	94	83
2014	80	58	95
2015	80	67	78
2016	56	87	75
2017	65	67	98
2018	79	98	93

**includes civil unions where appropriate.*

The East Haddam Town Clerk's Office produces the original birth certificate for any birth that occurs within the Town. Certified copies of original birth certificates are received in the Clerk's Office when the birth occurred within the State of Connecticut and the mother is a resident of East Haddam.

Original death certificates are received in the East Haddam Town Clerk's Office for any death that is pronounced within the Town's borders. Certified copies are filed with the Town when the decedent is a resident and the death occurred within the State of Connecticut.

The East Haddam Town Clerk's Office produces the original marriage certificate for any marriage that occurs within the Town's borders. Certified copies are received when either the bride or groom are a resident of the town, and the marriage occurs within the State of Connecticut.

For questions regarding vital statistics, please contact the Clerk's Office.

Deb Denette,
East Haddam Town Clerk

Holiday Closings

**THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
& TRANSFER STATION WILL BE CLOSED
ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:**

Monday, February 18 - Presidents' Day
Friday, April 19 - Good Friday

*Regular hours will resume
on the next business day.*

Budget Information

DATE/LOCATION

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 7:00 pm
Nathan Hale-Ray High School

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 8:00 pm
Town Hall

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, Time to be Determined
Municipal Office Complex

DESCRIPTION

Budget Public Hearing

Annual Town Budget Meeting

Budget Referendum

Economic Development

East Haddam EDC & EHBA are proud to announce the Business of the Month from November 2018 and December 2018



NOVEMBER 2018 BUSINESS OF THE MONTH:

Higher Grounds: Having been in the coffee house / café business for 10+ years, proprietor Kim Page moved her business to East Haddam in 2016. She has transformed the little building at 32 Main in the East Haddam Village area of town (next to the East Haddam Post Office) into a relaxing place with good home-made food and beverage. There is an outside deck and firepit area

for additional areas to meet and eat. With a passion for organic and natural foods; all the coffee is organic and locally roasted. All the pastries, cookies, goodies are made fresh on site. The breakfast and lunch items use organic, locally sourced ingredients.

To bring the entire focus on the ideal of a fresh, local and relaxing environment, Kim has provided for local artists with an art gallery upstairs and acoustic events held regularly. Whether it is the Friday open mic and lite fare event or a Sunday acoustic brunch, you will enjoy a wonderful repast with friendly people who truly love what they are doing. A favorite place for visitors, locals and many of the Goodspeed casts when in town.

Several things to note about Higher Grounds. Kim is a CT Notary, so stop by if you need something notarized. They sell gift certificates, and if you are looking to host a small group gathering such as wedding shower, baby shower or a Sweet 16 party... they can reserve the space for you at very reasonable rates. Higher Grounds is at 32 Main Street, East Haddam, CT 06423. Phone: 860-615-6112. Like them on Facebook.

continued on page 10

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Municipal Office Complex

Main Number: 860-873-5020

Fax Numbers: (Finance/Selectmen) 860-873-5025,

(Land Use/Building/Health) 860-873-1565,

(Town Clerk/Assessor/Tax Collector) 860-873-5042

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,

Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to noon

Selectman's Office

Emmett Lyman, First Selectman 860-873-5021 admin@easthaddam.org
Linda Zemienieski, Executive Assistant admin@easthaddam.org

Assessor's Office

Loreta Zdanys, Assessor 860-873-5026 assessor@easthaddam.org
Patty Veselak, Administrative Assistant

Building Department

Vincent Garofalo, Building Official 860-873-5024 building.dept@easthaddam.org
Ruth Ziobron, Administrative Assistant

Chatham Health District

Sanitarian 860-873-5101

Finance Department

Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Director 860-873-5022 financeadmin@easthaddam.org
Dawn Snow, Finance Assistant 860-873-5040 finance@easthaddam.org
Kathy Klinck, Treasurer 860-891-8502

Land Use Offices

Jim Ventres, Administrator 860-873-5031 admin.landuse@easthaddam.org
Zoning Enforcement Officer zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org
Nancy Talbot, Administrative Assistant landuse@easthaddam.org

Tax Collector's Office

Denise Dill, Tax Collector 860-873-5033 taxcollector@easthaddam.org

Town Clerk's Office

Deb Denette, Town Clerk 860-873-5027 townclerk@easthaddam.org
Beverly Christopher, Assistant Town Clerk

Public Works Department

fax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm
Transfer Station Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm
Elizabeth Lunt, Public Works Administrator 860-873-5023 pwadmin@easthaddam.org
Steven Hedler, Public Works Superintendent pwsuper@easthaddam.org
Shirley Dill, Administrative Assistant publicworks@easthaddam.org
Don MacKenzie, Transfer Station Foreman 860-873-5030

Other Departments

Don Angersola, Fire Marshal 860-873-5004 firemarshal@easthaddam.org
Brian Auld, Fire Chief 860-891-8400 firechief@easthaddam.org
Lisa Conroy, Parks & Recreation Director 860-873-5058 parkandrec@easthaddam.org
Michael Olzacki, Animal Control Officer 860-873-5044 animalcontrol@easthaddam.org
Suzan Smith, Economic Development Administrator 860-891-8503 edcadmin@easthaddam.org
Craig Mansfield, Emergency Management Director 860-873-5103 ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org
Ronald Turner, Director of Operations 860-873-6010 ronald.turner@easthaddam.org

Resident State Trooper - Troop K East Haddam Police

860-465-5400 police@easthaddam.org
860-873-5041 police@easthaddam.org
Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate 860-295-6239
Linda Neal, Clerk lneal@ctprobate.gov

Registrars of Voters

Lucy Salicrup & Martha Hansen 860-873-5029 registrars@easthaddam.org

Senior Services

15 Great Hillwood Road
Brad Parker, Municipal Agent 860-873-5034 seniors@easthaddam.org
Patricia Puia, Program Assistant 860-873-5034
Food Bank 860-891-8100

Visit our Website at www.easthaddam.org for more information, including meeting minutes

EHEDC & EHBA... continued from page 9



DECEMBER 2018 BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Dutch Oil and Propane: Dutch Oil and Propane are a family run business in Moodus. Serving the community for over 20 years, having begun in May of 1997 this company has continued to expand. Since 2008 they have been located at 35 William F. Palmer Road. They expanded the propane department and most recently purchased the Brownell Co. lower mill and renovated it for propane storage and a warehouse facility. With 32+ employees, 10 trucks, Bruce Dutch prides himself on their commitment to customer service and expertise in heating oil and propane, oil-fired & propane boilers, furnace and water heater replacements and repairs, LP conversions and HVAC tune-ups, service & installations. They do roto brush air duct cleaning and specialize in Kohler generators to keep your family comfortable when the power goes out. On call 24/7 for emergency service, you can count on Dutch Oil & Propane to be at your service!

As a local business they exemplify their commitment to East Haddam with many community and service projects. Having served on numerous boards and commissions and as a member of East Haddam Fire Department, Bruce continues to support the community. Dutch Oil has been a supporter of East Haddam Community Lions, East Haddam Farmers Market, East Haddam Business Association, Gillette Castle, NHRMS & NHRHS sports programs, Project Graduation and they began a scholarship program in 2016 for deserving students in the community. Bruce Dutch worked to provide the lighted flagpole at the Senior Center. He has also given away heating systems to those in need and are always looking to make the community a better place for all of us. Dutch Oil & Propane is located at: 35 William F Palmer Rd. Moodus, CT 06469. Phone 888-388-2497.

IRS Urges Public to Stay Alert for Scam Phone Calls

IRS SPECIAL EDITION TAX TIP 2015-18, October 21, 2015

The IRS continues to warn consumers to guard against scam phone calls from thieves intent on stealing their money or their identity. Criminals pose as the IRS to trick victims out of their money or personal information. Here are several tips to help you avoid being a victim of these scams:

- **Scammers make unsolicited calls.** Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave "urgent" callback requests through phone "robo-calls," or via phishing email.
- **Callers try to scare their victims.** Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don't get the money.
- **Scams use caller ID spoofing.** Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim's name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.
- **Cons try new tricks all the time.** Some schemes provide an actual IRS address where they tell the victim to mail a receipt for the payment they make. Others use emails that contain a fake IRS document with a phone number or an email address for a reply. These scams often use official IRS letterhead in emails or regular mail that they send to their victims. They try these ploys to make the ruse look official.
- **Scams cost victims over \$23 million.** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 736,000 scam contacts since October 2013. Nearly 4,550 victims have collectively paid over \$23 million as a result of the scam.

THE IRS WILL NOT:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

IF YOU DON'T OWE TAXES, or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" webpage. You can also call: 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

IF YOU KNOW YOU OWE, or think you may owe tax:

- Call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you.

Phone scams first tried to sting older people, new immigrants to the U.S. and those who speak English as a second language. Now the crooks try to swindle just about anyone. And they've ripped-off people in every state in the nation.

Stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. Tax scams can happen any time of year, not just at tax time. For more, visit "Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts" on IRS.gov.

continued on page 12



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IRS Scam Phone Calls... continued from page 11

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on IRS.gov.

IRS YOUTUBE VIDEOS:

- Tax Scams - English | Spanish | ASL

IRS PODCASTS:

- Tax Scams - English | Spanish

Subscribe to IRS Tax Tips

This article is designated as historical and is no longer updated. Article Last Reviewed or Updated: 09-Nov-2018.

Harvest House Enjoys Successful Year

Harvest House is a unique community service program in East Haddam. Its underlying concept is rooted in the New England tradition of a community Sunday Dinner.

Volunteers from 14 community service organizations and churches as well as eight individuals and families agree prepare and host a dinner which is held at the parish hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Main Street

in East Haddam Village. The menu of each sit down dinner is determined by the hosts, and is served by their volunteers. The Harvest House dinner is an opportunity for any East Haddam area resident to enjoy a hot dinner as well as to engage in delightful conversation and fellowship in an inviting atmosphere.

In 2018, 223 volunteers served 819 dinners to 681 patrons. Harvest House is always

seeking new volunteer hosts for its dinners. As of this time, there are six open Sundays for those who would like to become involved. They are: March 17, March 24, April 14, May 5 July 28, and Aug 11. Harvest House Coordinator, Bill Barney, invites interested organizations and individuals who may wish to host a Harvest House Sunday dinner to contact him at: harvesthouse@ststeves.org for information.



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Get to a healthier place.

23rd Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2, 2019 for the 23rd Annual Old Saybrook Chili Fest, when Main Street will be lined with chili competitors vying for the highly coveted title of "Best Chili."

Chili Fest is a much-anticipated winter event, attracting nearly 3,000 visitors. The money raised from Chili Fest supports multiple charitable causes. The first is the C. Wilfred Hunter Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Old Saybrook Chamber of Commerce to area students pursuing college or post high school education. Additionally, the top three winners earn a donation to their designated charity. Over the years, this event has generated more than \$50,000 for the community.

The Chili Fest competition is open to the community. Professional chefs as well as non-professionals compete for votes, with the public casting ballots for their favorite chili. In addition to the popular vote, a panel of independent judges will conduct a taste test and announce the "Judges Choice" Award. Applications and instructions for entering Chili Fest may be found on the Chamber web site, www.oldsaybrookchamber.com/chili-fest.

Tickets are \$10 and serve as a voting ballot. They may be purchased at ballot stations along Main Street and at the Chamber office at 1 Main Street the week preceding the event.

Chili Fest is presented by Guilford Savings Bank and is held rain, snow, or shine along Main Street, Old Saybrook.



Parthenon Diner took home the "Judge's Choice" Award last year for their "Chili-Chili-Bang-Bang" shredded buffalo chicken chili. Shown are John Sousoulas, owner, with Sue Mallory and Kylynn Kirk.


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East Haddam
Youth & Family Services, Inc.

East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

www.ehyfs.org ~ 860-873-3296 ~ youthandfamily@ehyfs.org

Holiday Campaign!

On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, we thank the many people, groups, businesses and organizations that contributed to the success of our 2018 Holiday Campaign.

Once again, because of the tremendous generosity of the East Haddam community, we were able to provide holiday gifts for 49 families, including 100 children and youth.

In addition, the East Haddam Food Bank provided Thanksgiving baskets for 88 families and Christmas baskets for 86 families.

Thank You, East Haddam!

Youth Helping Youth

Our youth leadership group completed another Sticker Shock campaign just before the holidays! East Haddam teens covered almost 500 packages of beer, wine coolers, and other alcohol beverages with a sticker reminding adults that buying alcohol for minors can have serious and costly results. The campaign was timed to coincide with winter break when young people are more likely to attend parties.



CHOOSE WELLNESS

Understanding wellness can be challenging. Traditionally, the existence of wellness has been equated simply with the absence of illness or disease. Today, we have come to realize that true wellness involves a holistic approach to our lives that includes our physical, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being. We are beginning to recognize and accept that wellness combines the elements of choice and action. Even in the presence of long-term illness or disability, it is possible to be mindful of our over-all well-being by managing those conditions in a way that reduces the chance of complications or relapses. Wellness, in this sense, describes living the best possible life we can.

This year, East Haddam Youth & Family Services and the East Haddam Local Prevention Council are launching our "CHOOSE WELLNESS" campaign to address not only substance use, which impacts our youth and their loved ones, but also the underlying factors that might influence their use.

We will be offering presentations, articles and workshops on topics such as stress management, anxiety, depression, alternative ways to manage pain, movement and exercise, health care self-advocacy and more.

We will be presenting a workshop on parent advocacy by Michael J. Kalinowski, M.D. on February 20, 2019.

Look for information in early February on our websites (ehyfs.org, ehlp.org), facebook.com/ehlp or call EHYFS at 860-873-3296.

East Haddam Local Prevention Council

East Haddam
Local Prevention Council



Growing a Healthy Community

The East Haddam Local Prevention Council (EHLPC) is an alliance of individuals and groups working together to create a strong, safe and substance free environment for East Haddam youth.

Building that healthy environment takes a collective voice from all parts of our community. We need the insights, skills, and participation of a wide range of local stakeholders to achieve our goals and building community collaboration is integral to addressing our local needs.

By developing opportunities and building positive relationships, we decrease the risk of youth drug and alcohol use.

The East Haddam Local Prevention Council is seeking representatives from our community to volunteer their time in the service of our youth.

What's Happening?

Benchmark NIH Survey Finds Marijuana Use Significantly Higher Among 10th Graders, Vaping Also Significantly Increasing

In the past few years, marijuana use is up significantly, by 10%, among 10th graders, and current vaping of marijuana is up 63% for eighth and tenth graders and 53% for twelfth graders, according to new numbers from the largest drug use survey in the United States. The 2018 Monitoring the Future survey, compiled by researchers at the University of Michigan and funded by the National Institutes of Health, is the benchmark for student drug use in the United States.

Over the past two years, marijuana use among tenth graders rose 10%, a significant increase. Additionally, despite common belief that nicotine use among youth is down, nicotine vaping rose 87% on average across all age groups.

"The marijuana industry's efforts to glamorize and normalize marijuana appears to be working. After a decline in use, marijuana use is on the rise again over the past few years, particularly among 10th graders, and especially with respect to vaping," said Dr. Kevin Sabet, president and founder of Smart Approaches to Marijuana, and a former three-time White House drug policy advisor. "And today's marijuana isn't what it used to be: THC levels can be 50 times higher than in the past, especially when vaped. We call on regulators to stop the sales of 99% THC vapes and edibles, the two most likely modes of administration after smoking, and to press pause on further proposals to commercialize THC."

In addition, the study found that the percentage of youth who say they would use marijuana if it was legal has increased, and that 12th graders admitting to driving after using marijuana is significantly higher. Marijuana use has been known to more than double the chance of being in a car crash.

"The commercialization of the marijuana industry and its partnership with groups such as Juul and other Big Tobacco organizations like Altria is now cultivating youth-friendly methods of use, as evidenced by the huge increases in marijuana vaping rates. Legalization today is about enriching Big Tobacco, plain and simple."

Today's marijuana is especially harmful to adolescents and is known to have a whole host of damaging effects on developing brains. Adolescent marijuana use severely impacts the ability of our youth to learn, greatly increases the risk of serious mental illness, impairs memory, and can even result in a loss of up to eight IQ points.

Article Courtesy of Smart Approaches to Marijuana

East Haddam Library System

Libraries are the center of culture, technology and information.

The libraries will always be the center of culture, technology, and information. Books are the bedrock of any good library, and our wonderful town libraries are still the best place to go for the newest releases and most treasured classics. However, as our community continues to grow, the libraries will continue to grow alongside it. That is why new technology, engaging programming, and exciting new materials are always being introduced. There are a lot of ways to use the libraries, even patrons who visit frequently are sometimes surprised by all the libraries have to offer, for example...

DID YOU KNOW that 15% of the Library System's total circulation comes from Digital Materials?

Using your library card, you have access to over 22,000 eBooks, digital audio books, and digital magazines. To access eBooks & digital audio books, download the "Libby by OverDrive" app on your phone or tablet, and enter your library card information. You can browse what's available or search for something you're interested in. Anything you checkout is automatically returned in 2 weeks, so there's no need to worry about late fees. Digital Magazines are available using the "RB Digital" app, and the best part about digital magazines is that anything you check out is yours to keep (no returns). You can also access these resources on your computer using the library's website.

DID YOU KNOW that the libraries have free wi-fi, public computers, and one-on-one tech help?

With so many people discarding their PCs & printers in favor of tablets and smartphones, the library computers have never been more popular. The computers available at the library are a great public service for those things that just cannot be done on a portable device - printing packing labels, boarding passes, navigating websites that aren't mobile-friendly, and more. Around 30 people each day use the library computers for these reasons and more. The libraries also have free wi-fi and make great locations for getting work done. For the technologically impaired, one-on-one

help is available for PCs, laptops, smartphones, etc. Simply call either library to setup an appointment.

DID YOU KNOW that since the "cord-cutting" movement began the libraries' DVD circulation has tripled?

In 2009, the libraries circulated 4,929 movies - in 2018, that number was 14,773. It makes sense. Netflix, Amazon, and Hulu are great, but the focus is increasingly on original content. And if your goal is to save money, it doesn't make sense to purchase multiple streaming services. The libraries have all the latest shows & movies, and they're all free - most items are available the same week they're released. It's a great way to supplement your streaming service, and perfect for movies that you're only going to watch once.

MODERN LIBRARIES are becoming more and more like community centers.

They are gathering places for people to do serious research, but also to meet and have meaningful social interactions. Whether it's tabletop games for teens, storytime for kids, or workshops & presentations for adults - the libraries foster an exchange of ideas and information as centers for lifelong learners. They also provide a unique blend of enlightenment and entertainment for everyone in your household. Kids can leave with a stack of picture books and bedtime stories, young adults can check out graphic novels and books tailored to their reading level, parents can pick up the latest bestselling novel, and the whole family can grab a movie to enjoy together. The libraries are for everyone, and strive to meet individual needs as a way of serving the whole community. Large print books for the visually impaired, audio books for long distance commuters, free digital materials for technophiles, and free computer help for technophobes. It's an exciting time to have a library card in East Haddam. For more details about the library, visit our website: www.EastHaddamLibrarySystem.org or stop by in person and see what the libraries can do for you.

East Haddam Parks & Recreation

Despite the chilly temperatures, we have many ways to help you stay active this winter! Our programs include pickleball, first aid/CPR classes, men's 30+ and 18+ pick-up basketball, yoga, fitness boot camp, children's cooking and sewing, babysitting class, disc golf, fencing, and preschool science and art programs. Please visit our website at www.easthaddamrec.com or follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Easthaddamrec/> to get the latest information on our programs.

And even though it's still the middle of winter we are already preparing for the summer. We are accepting applications for camp staff and lifeguards. The application deadline is March 1st. Job descriptions and applications can be found on the website at: www.easthaddamrec.com, or call the office if you would like one mailed to you. Registration for summer camp will open in the beginning of April. More details and program information will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

To register for East Haddam Parks and Recreation programs online...

- Step 1: Go to www.easthaddamrec.com and click on the tab to register.
- Step 2: If you do not have an account yet, please create one. Fill in your information and add each family member as a participant.
- Step 3: Register for available programs and pay with credit card.

East Haddam's Earth Day April 6, 2019

Town Wide Clean Up with Picnic to Follow!

The Moodus Sportsmen's Club and the East Haddam Scout Troops are sponsoring the Annual Town Wide Clean Up Day to be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019. The goal of these organizations is to coordinate an annual effort to pick up the streets, lakes, streams, and other public access areas in the Town of East Haddam. Would your organization or individuals in your organization be willing to participate? We are still in search of families and groups to pick up sections of the streets in which they live on. Is there a section of town that you or your group would like to take over the stewardship? Could you and your neighbors adopt a street?

We plan to start the pickup at 8:00 am. If you wish to join our groups, meet us at the East Haddam Town Hall on Town Street at 8:00 am or start from your own street. At the conclusion of this pick up day, an invitation is extended to all participating to a picnic at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club starting at 12 noon to 1:00 pm. Traditional picnic items such as hot dogs, baked beans, coffee and iced tea and lemonade will be served along with the seasonal bounty only a sportsmen's club could serve. At this time we can inventory the items collected and discuss solutions to reduce these problems. We also will have educational information about the Town's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities that are available to all.

East Haddam Elementary School

On January 2nd, the East Haddam Elementary School students and staff returned to school after their winter break. This school community continues to flourish with the support of many volunteers and PTO-sponsored events.

The elementary school is also processing fall 2019 kindergarten registrations. A Google form link will be activated this month on the school's website: <http://easthaddames.ss9.sharpschool.com/> and information packets will be mailed to families in February. To begin the transition for incoming kindergartners, a parent/guardian orientation evening is scheduled in March, and the school's Connecting with Kindergarten and Kindergarten Experience will be scheduled in March and April. In June, the children will also participate in a practice bus ride.

Additionally, the preschool team offers developmental screenings for young children currently residing in East Haddam, to ensure students receive appropriate services and support prior to entering kindergarten; website links to this information can be found under Preschool Program and Screenings.

The elementary school is in the process of planning events, and guest readers, for Read Across America week. On Friday, March 1st, the school will host visiting author Angela DiTerlizzi to culminate Read Across America week. Ms. DiTerlizzi is a famous author who writes rhythmic, charming picture books. Two students per grade level will be chosen to attend the author's PTO-sponsored luncheon.



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East Haddam Community Lions Club

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Race into Spring with the East Haddam Community Lions April Fools 5K and 1/2 Marathon Road Race. The races will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 with a start/finish at the East Haddam Senior Center in Moodus. Please

go online to find out the various registration fees. T-shirts will be handed out to the first 200 who register. The race is USATF certified with chip timing, mile splits, scenic routes, water stops and food for runners. Volunteers and police will be along both routes to support the runners and direct traffic. Student discounts are available. Check out the flyer at: <http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/easthaddamc/page-10.php>. Register online at: <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=9803>. For more information email: ehclrace@yahoo.com. SEE YOU AT THE RACES!



A beautiful table setting at the Royal Wedding English Tea Party in 2018.

The fun and always delicious English Tea Party will be held on May 11, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church in East Haddam, 2:00 pm. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday afternoon with your mom, sister, aunt, daughter or friend! Check out ehcl.org for this year's theme. Tickets are \$25. The 2018 Tea Party was sold out, so get your tickets early. Call or email Lion Diane to reserve your seat at: ddvp40@aol.com or 860-434-5611.

EHCL 'Light Up The Holidays' Auction and Holiday Party fundraiser was held on December 8th at the Rathbun Library. Over 70 individuals/groups donated a holiday decoration, centerpiece, wall hanging, gift basket, or a gift certificate for auction. With a generous contribution of \$1,000 from the Leos and your contributions and support we raised over \$3,000! The Tech Gadget Raffle drawing was held on the same evening. The items won were a 50" TV,

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For more information about Community Lions events and fundraisers, and if you are interested in becoming a Lion, contact Lion Chris at: cvvalkenburg@snet.net.

The East Haddam Lions Club

The Lions have a number of projects planned for 2019. Perhaps the most anticipated is the annual auction & tag sale in July.

The club is already collecting donations for the event. If you have any "big ticket" items that you would like to donate - especially automobiles, boats & RVs, please contact the East Haddam Lions at EastHaddamLions@gmail.com.

This past December, the Lions Club

once again sold Christmas trees to families all over East Haddam. In addition to selling trees, the Lions donated and prepared over 100 holiday feast baskets at the East Haddam Food Bank. They also arranged for their good friend, Santa Claus, to visit Chestelm. Special thanks to Lions Zac Jezek, Jim Prue, Dave Carpenter, and the Leo Club for helping East Haddam have a simply wonderful Christmas time.

The Lion Club 2019 Phonebook is on

the horizon. If you have been left out of the phonebook in the past, please contact the lions.

Lions Club scholarships will soon be available for East Haddam residents graduating from High School this year. Please contact your guidance counselor for more information.

If you have any questions about the Lions, upcoming events, etc. please contact Lion Michael Gilroy at: GilroyM@gmail.com.

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Middlesex to Rebrand

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It is often difficult to explain these many different parts and how they all fit under the Middlesex Hospital umbrella, but one thing has become clear. Middlesex's current brand name no longer accurately reflects what Middlesex does and what it can provide.

In an effort to help the community better understand, Middlesex's branding will soon change to include the name Middlesex Health and a new logo that better represents the organization's incredible growth.

Middlesex is one of the few independent nonprofit health systems remaining in Connecticut, and it has evolved and expanded for the good of its patients,

becoming a more comprehensive health partner. It's become Middlesex Health.

Middlesex remains committed to the communities it serves, and it will continue to provide the same high quality, compassionate care and personalized service that you've come to expect.

Over the next few months, you will begin to see the new brand name and logo on Middlesex signs and other materials, including staff uniforms and informational brochures. There will also be a new TV commercial, and Middlesex will soon launch a new, more user-friendly website.

A change like this does not happen overnight. The transition will take time to complete. Please be patient.

Moving forward, Middlesex remains a strong, independent health system - one that strives to always be your first choice for health care. Your health is of the utmost importance, and these improvements are being made to better serve you.

The Law Office of SCOTT W. JEZEK

Scott W. Jezek, Esq.
Deborah L. Barbi, Esq.
Terrance D. Lomme,
of Counsel

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East Haddam Ambulance Association



The past few months have been busy for EHAA Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) with on-going education, training, and community events.

EHAA has a few members that recently finished an EMT Course at Middlesex Community College. Students learned about patient assessment, cardiac arrest management, airway management, patient

immobilization, diabetic emergencies, respiratory emergencies and trauma.

The 4th Annual Evelyn Comer & Alumni Free CPR Clinic will be held on Saturday, February 16 at 9:00 - 11:00 am at the East Haddam Municipal Office Complex. The event will take place in the gym. Please preregister at: www.easthaddamrec.com. East Haddam is a HEARTSafe Community and by offering CPR Clinics, our town maintains our HEARTSafe Community status.

EHAA is always looking for new members. Please visit our new and improved website. Our website has information about the history of EHAA, how to become an EMT or EMR and a course listing of CPR/First Aid classes held monthly right here in town. Please visit www.easthaddamambulance.org. EHAA is also on Facebook. Please search East Haddam Ambulance and "Like Us."

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East Haddam Garden Club

HOLIDAY GIVING

On November 19, members partnered with Chestelm Adult Day Services (ADS) to create over 100 Thanksgiving Centerpieces for the East Haddam Food Bank. Both groups met at the Grange and the Club provided all supplies and materials. ADS clients also created a centerpiece to take home, and everyone enjoyed the fun interactions with members.

The Club also redecorated our outdoor installations (Blue Star Memorial, the three planters across from Two Wrasslin Cats and Town Tavern, and the Urn near the Goodspeed) for the holiday and winter season. At our holiday luncheon in December, members contributed over \$800 to the East Haddam Food and Fuel Banks.

RECENT PROGRAM

During the fall, members enjoyed an informative presentation (open to the public) on “Hydroponics: 4 Types and a Small System Anyone Can Use” by Kim Syrel. Our Program Committee continues to schedule a variety of exciting and informative programs and trips... so please consider joining us.



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Above left to right: Chestelm ADS clients David, Mercedes, and Richard pose with one of their holiday centerpiece creations.

By April 1, 2019, applications will be available from the guidance offices at the following schools: Nathan Hale-Ray, Mercy, Xavier, Vinal Technical, The Williams School, Greater Hartford Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Franklin Academy. Completed applications must be received by April 26, 2019.

PLANT AND BAKE SALE

Watch for the brightly painted bikes around town in early spring with details of our annual plant and bake sale. This is our biggest fund raiser, and you can

get beautiful bargains galore! We are currently determining the location and date, so keep an eye out for details.

Looking Ahead to 2019

SCHOLARSHIP

The East Haddam Garden Club will be awarding one scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to an East Haddam resident senior graduating in 2019. Students must be at least a two-year resident of East Haddam to be considered for the scholarship. Students can be from Nathan-Hale Ray or any other high schools in the area. The recipient will be selected based on: extracurricular activities, community service, teacher recommendations, essay, GPA, and other criteria established by the scholarship committee.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Just when everyone is beginning to “Think Spring” our 2019 programs begin. On Wednesday March 27, the public is invited to “Climate Change and its Effects on the Local Environment” presented by Juliana Barrett, PhD from UConn. This free program begins at 7:30 pm at the Senior Center (preceded by a short business meeting for members.) Refreshments will be served.

continued on page 24



OPEN HOUSE
for prospective students
March 29th, 2019
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East Haddam Garden Club... continued from page 23

The next program is for members, but if you wish to attend as a guest and/or are interested in joining the Club, let us know (contact Maureen Gillis at: 860-287-6228). On April 24 at 11:30 am at the Grange, our program is "Zen Tangle Drawing" (presented by art teacher Carol Dunn.)

ARBOR DAY

The Club is also looking forward to its participation in the annual Arbor Day Program at the elementary school; and continuing to help out middle school students with their butterfly and vegetable gardens.

GARDEN CLUB INFO

In 2019, the Club will celebrate 90 years of beautifying our community!

The East Haddam Garden Club is a fun loving group, dedicated to Our Mission, which is:

- To stimulate the knowledge of gardening and related activities
- To aid in the conservation of natural resources in order to preserve our heritage while promoting civic beauty in our community
- To assist in educating the youth in our community on matters relating to our purpose; and
- To promote charitable activities in our community

The East Haddam Garden Club currently has over 40 members; new members are always welcome... attend one of our monthly programs or two and get to know us. Check out our Facebook page (The East Haddam Garden Club) or call Maureen Gillis or any club member for more information.

I-Park Where Art Meets Nature

Expansion of Facility to create Visitors' Center and ADA Trail

I-Park, New England's premier open-air and in-studio laboratory for creative pursuits in nature and the arts, breaks ground this winter on the renovation of its Hopyard Road campus. Plans include an expanded, ADA-accessible visitors' center as well as an ADA art + nature walking trail down to the pond. Thanks to funding by the Connecticut Department of Economic Development, I-Park received a \$110,000 Good to Great grant to partially fund the renovation of its facilities and trails. Plan to visit us this season at one of our events!

2019 SEASON

Sunday Open Studios

May 19 | June 30 | July 28 | August 25 |
October 27 | November 24

Connecticut Trails Day + Plein Air Paint Out

June 1 (Rain Date June 2)

Environmental Art Biennale

Self-Guided Art + Nature Walk |
September 22

Illuminations: A Woodland Gala

September 21

Open Studios and Connecticut Trails Day are open to the public and admission is free, thanks to a generous donation from the Community Foundation of Middlesex



Old Memorial Growth by John Melvin, 2018
on view during the 2019 season.

County. Visitors of all ages are welcome to enjoy art in nature while they chat with the artists and walk the trails.

MORE INFORMATION

We are looking to expand our Board of Directors, seeking financial and in-kind contributions (especially a 7-passenger vehicle) and as always, we need volunteers. Please contact: info@i-park.org or 860-873-2468.



Visitors engaging with Instrument for Inquiry into the Melody of the Landscape, by Matthew Trueman.

I-Park Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, was established in 2001 by Joanne Paradis and Ralph Crispino, Jr. with a mission to nurture artists and the creative process. Set on a 450-acre nature preserve, I-Park is an artists-in-residence program, funding over 900 artists to date in the visual arts, architecture, music composition/sound art, moving image, creative writing, and landscape/garden/ ecological design. www.i-park.org.

Land Trusts' 13th Photo Contest

Use your camera lens to show off the intriguing sights in the towns of East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Salem. Land trusts in these towns sponsor this annual Photo Contest to highlight the wonderful scenery and historic features, and to foster a greater appreciation of the culture of these towns.

Amateur photographers may enter a total of three photos in the contest, choosing from the following categories: Landscape/Waterscape, Wildlife, Plants, Cultural/Historic, Black & White, Youth Age 14-18, Youth Age 13 years and younger, and a new category of photographs of Land Trust Properties. Entrants will find links to East Haddam Land Trust preserves at: www.ehlt.org, and links to preserves in other sponsoring towns at landtrustsphotocontest.org. Entries are judged by art and photography professionals. Winners in each of the categories receive cash prizes. All entries are exhibited at an April 2019 reception and winning photos are displayed at various locations through 2019.

East Haddam Land Trust is extremely grateful to Ballek's Garden Center and Two Wrasslin' Cats Coffee House and Café plus the following businesses and individuals for their investments in the



"Kathryn Lee Cannon "Winter Sunrise: 2018
1st Place Landscape."



Gabe Waldo "Cloud" 2018
Honorable Mention Youth."

Land Trusts' Photo Contest: All-Pro Automotive, Art Emporium of Old Saybrook, Ashlawn Farm Coffee, Ballek's Garden Center, Denali Outdoor, Essex Savings Bank, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, OWCM Group Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Riverquest CT Expeditions, Alison Mitchell. These generous donations make the photo contest possible.

Entries are accepted from January 2 through February 28, 2019. Find the contest rules and entry forms, links to Land Trust Properties in each town, and photos of previous winners at: www.landtrustsphotocontest.org.

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Aliens Among Us



"DEEP Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone Examines East Haddam Kudzu."

While thumbing through the DEEP magazine "Connecticut Wildlife" recently, I came across an article headline that stopped me in my tracks. "Kudzu Found in East Haddam." You don't have to know much about invasive species to know that kudzu is one of the most devastating to any landscape where it gains a foothold. Its viney tentacles grow as much as a foot a day and reach lengths of one hundred feet as they spread over the landscape and choke out trees and native vegetation in their path. Its huge, deep taproots, weighing several hundred pounds, make eradication a serious challenge. Fortunately for those of us who love our East Haddam landscape pretty much the way it is, the DEEP is on top of this alien invasion with ongoing removal and monitoring.

The fact the kudzu had found its way all the way to East Haddam was a good reminder of the serious environmental degradation caused by invasives, the non-native species that gain a foothold in their new environs and compete with our native plants and animals for sunlight, water and food. From gypsy moths, to Dutch elm disease, to chestnut blight, to bittersweet, to our latest unwelcome guest, the emerald ash borer (which threatens to eliminate in our lifetime another one of our iconic native trees, the stately ash), the list is long and complex. To witness an invasive species run amuck, look right and left as you cross the Putnam Bridge (Rte. 3) from Wethersfield into Glastonbury to witness acres of forest choked to death by bittersweet. We all know the environmental dangers of climate change, but when warming climates meet invasive species, it opens new avenues

of invasiveness. Until now, I had smugly assumed that kudzu could not survive in my hometown.

By now you are asking what's to be done to protect our landscape and open spaces. Your Conservation Commission is always monitoring invasives on our town-owned properties and moves quickly to eradicate them. A recent project by Commission member Gary Wilson rooted out a nasty weed called phragmites from the Hatch Lot parking area and replaced it with native *Viburnum* whose berries feed our native wildlife. You can familiarize yourself with common species like bittersweet and multiflora roses and rip them up before they spread their seeds. (And please resist the urge to decorate your home with those pretty red and yellow bittersweet berry vines. It only spreads the seeds.) Whenever you have the opportunity to support programs that educate about invasive species or organize eradication projects, please step right up. Here is excellent information from The Nature Conservancy about what you can do in your own backyard or neighborhood:

The best way to fight invasive species is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. You can help stop the introduction and spread of invasive species. Help protect native plants and animals by following these six easy guidelines:

- Verify that the plants you are buying for your yard or garden are not invasive. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. Ask your local nursery staff for help in identifying invasive plants!
- When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water.
- Clean your boots before you hike in a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds and pathogens.
- Don't "pack a pest" when traveling. Fruits and vegetables, plants, insects and animals can carry pests or become invasive themselves. Don't move firewood (it can harbor forest pests), clean your bags and boots after each hike, and throw out food before you travel from place to place.
- Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or other exotic animals into the wild. If you plan to own an exotic pet, do your research and plan ahead to make sure you can commit to looking after it.
- Volunteer at your local park, refuge or other wildlife area to help remove invasive species. Help educate others about the threat.

If you would like to know more about what the Conservation Commission does and how you can help, contact me, Sue Merrow at: Amorrow@snet.net or check out our page on the Town website.

Save Our Lake



The Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group, Inc. (MRPG) is a local non-profit, 501C (3), community membership organization working to protect and improve the health of Moodus Reservoir, located in the village of Moodus in the Town of East Haddam, CT.

TIPS for a clean and healthy lake:

1. Use unsalted sand on surface walkways close to the shore to avoid contamination.
2. Always use low phosphorous fertilizers to minimize the chance for algae blooms in the water.

Our campaign to raise funds for purchase of the Eco Harvester continues. To date we have raised approximately \$40,000 towards our goal of \$100,000. We still have a long way to go. The Eco Harvester machine is the most effective and environmentally safe method of removing the invasive aquatic plants that are growing rapidly, potentially threatening swimming, boating and fishing.

We apply for and have received grants and we have run social events with food and music, raffles, T-shirt sales, and donation cans at local businesses. Watch local media for coming public events. We welcome businesses willing to support our efforts.

ALL WELCOME TO MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION SOCIAL
March 30th, 7:00 - 10:00 pm.

East Haddam Sportsmen's Club.
BYOB.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to: "MRPG, Inc.," c/o Tim Varriale, Treasurer, 76 Falls Bashan Rd, Moodus, CT 06469.

To donate online, go to our website at: www.moodusreservoir.org or <https://www.facebook.com/Moodus-Reservoir-Preservation-Group-488742444530491/> or at: www.paypal.com.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday at the East Haddam Sportsmen's Club, 7:00 pm. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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Dr. Robert Ballard - The Race to Save the Human Race by Sigrid Kun



Above center,
increasing our oceans'
productivity can
provide the way to
human survival.



Above right, each Nautilus
expedition includes scientists,
student interns, and educators.

Just back from the last leg of a 7 month-long expedition by his Corps of Exploration, Dr. Robert Ballard was at his Lyme, CT home - busy summarizing the 2018 series of expeditions by his 64-meter exploration vessel, the E/V Nautilus. Yes, he discovered the Titanic in 1985 (old news, he says, of what was actually a cover for a top secret naval operation). Yes, his work caused a wholesale change in how science was taught by uncovering the secrets of plate tectonics and hydro thermal vents (a revolutionary revelation evidencing that sunlight wasn't needed to support life). And the 30-year naval veteran and /geologist/undersea robotics developer/explorer has for so many years revealed to the world human history lost beneath the sea - with over 35 National Geographic television specials and countless books. After 150+ expeditions, starting at age 17, retirement isn't in the works for the 76-year old.

Our Oceans - The Last Frontier

Dr. Ballard's unrelenting pursuit of ocean education and exploration through his non-profit organization, the Ocean Exploration Trust ("OET"), is urgent. There are sobering facts: 95% of the Earth's population lives on less than 5% of the Earth's surface; farmland is being replaced with housing tracts; while 95% of all living space is located in largely unexplored international waters. But 90% of all large, predatory fish have been hunted down and killed. The carrying capacity of our planet is already at the brink. By 2050 we will not have enough food to feed everyone.

The Wichita, Kansas-born explorer explains that the Earth's waters, largely unexplored, are the human race's final hope. "I'm worried about the human race," he says. "The big question is, will the human race survive? The Earth will be fine. The planet is a creature. It was born. It evolves. It will die. It just has a long life expectancy. But there's no Plan B for the human race." The key, he says, is to move from hunting/gathering in the ocean to creating productive waters via deep sea farming - just as society thousands of years ago moved away from hunting and gathering on the Earth's lands and into organized food production. Every Ballard/OET/Nautilus expedition provides vital information as to how our Earth's waters can provide for the survival of humanity. The programs run on

multiple tracks; internships, community STEM and STEAM (to include the Arts) programs, and fellowships. Each ocean expedition includes scientists, student interns and educators as part of the Nautilus corps. The OET website is maintained on a 24/7 basis while the Nautilus is at sea to provide for live communication and interaction. During the last expedition, over 24,000 questions were answered live. Each expedition cultivates a new set of students and mentors (both on and off-board). "The key is to do it wave after wave after wave," he says. To make a difference you needed to reach millions of students.

No Boundaries

Dr. Ballard's message, however, is about more than just the ocean. Life's lessons include understanding one's self. Dr. Ballard is dyslexic. For quite a while, he didn't even know it. It took the book "*The Dyslexic Advantage*" to explain me to me. It was a strange but enlightening experience. Those affected (which is 10% of the population) are often loathe to admit it. To him, it is a gift - an interesting advantage. "I created a dyslexic world that I excel in," he explains. Dyslexia has caused him to rely on visualization and memorization. "It's perfect," he says. "In the sea, it's all dark...it's pitch black. But the water goes away and I see everything." He recalls a dive in 1986 to explore the Titanic. Everything went wrong. No sonar. No tracking. Landing 12,000 feet below surface in the mud, there were no signs of the Titanic to the other crew members. "It's over there," pointed Ballard. And, indeed, the Titanic was.

Dr. Ballard is also a keen proponent for empowering women. As he puts it "males as top leaders is by their design." Empowering women, he maintains, is a key to saving the human race. Accordingly, he mandates that 50% of his team be comprised of women.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Dr. Ballard is a problem solver - from 15 years spent restoring an earlier home to jigsaw puzzles (even when the 1,000 pieces are the same shade of blue, with no border pieces, holes in the puzzle, and extra pieces just for kicks.) But he doesn't have the ultimate answer. Will the human race survive? "I am a realist. The Earth is becoming aware of us and deeming us as a threat," he observes. "We still have time but indications are we are going in the wrong direction." What can we do? "Look at the first 12 feet around you. Look at what you are doing," urges the avid recycler. "Leave things better than you found them. That's what my grandmother taught me."

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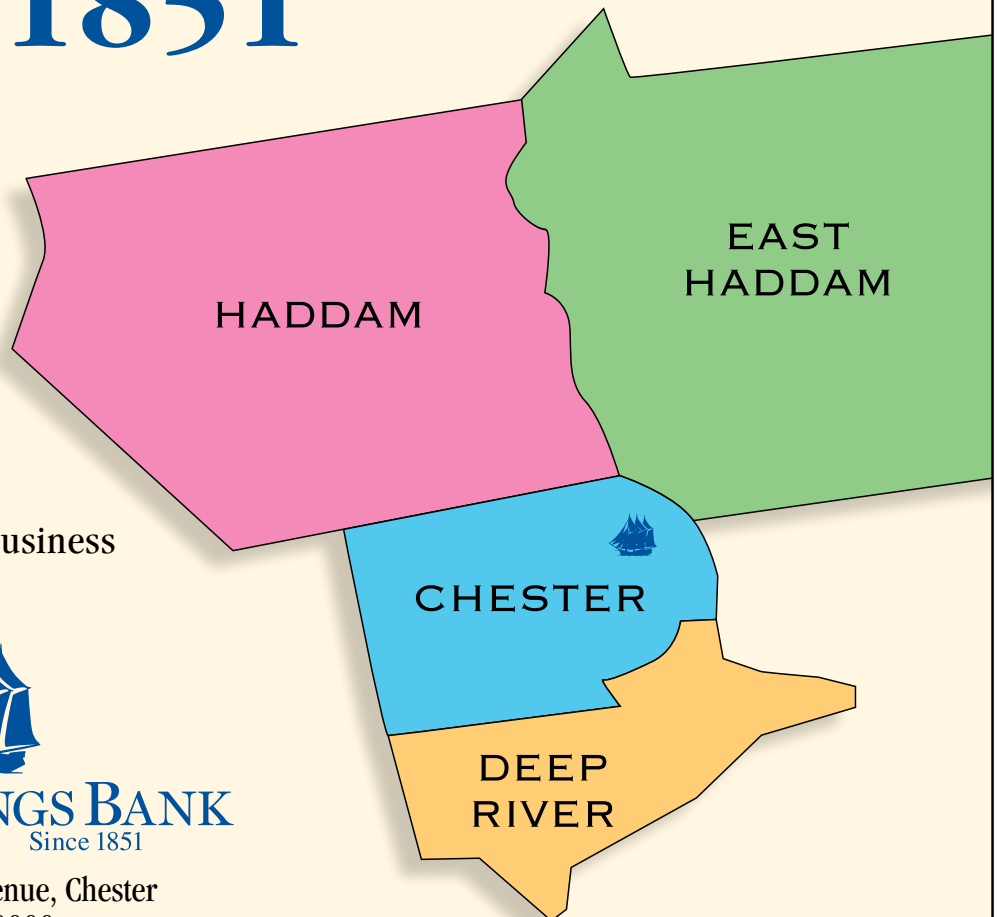
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