

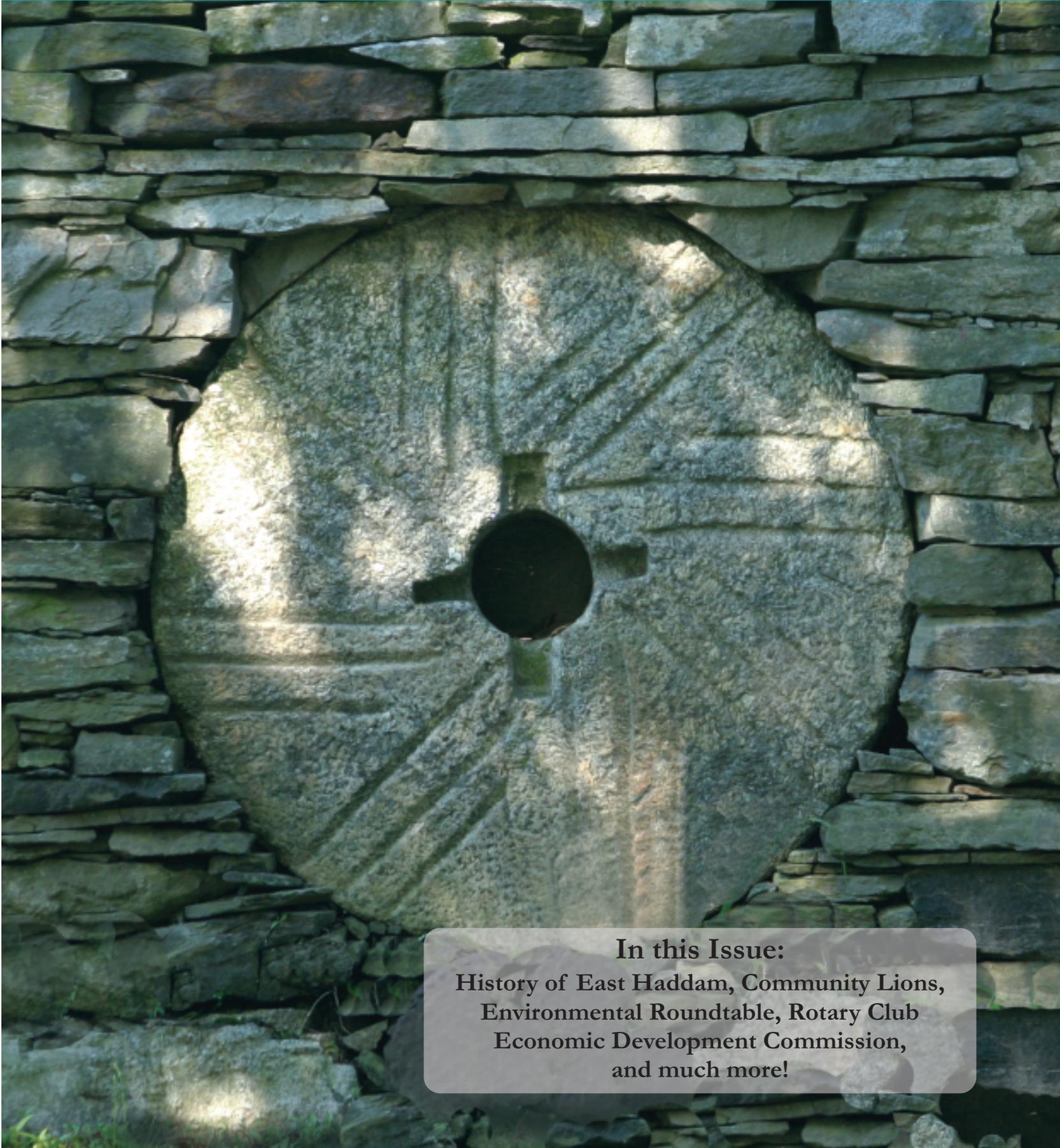
East Haddam



Events

Your Quarterly Town Magazine

Volume 2 Number 1 • Winter 2009

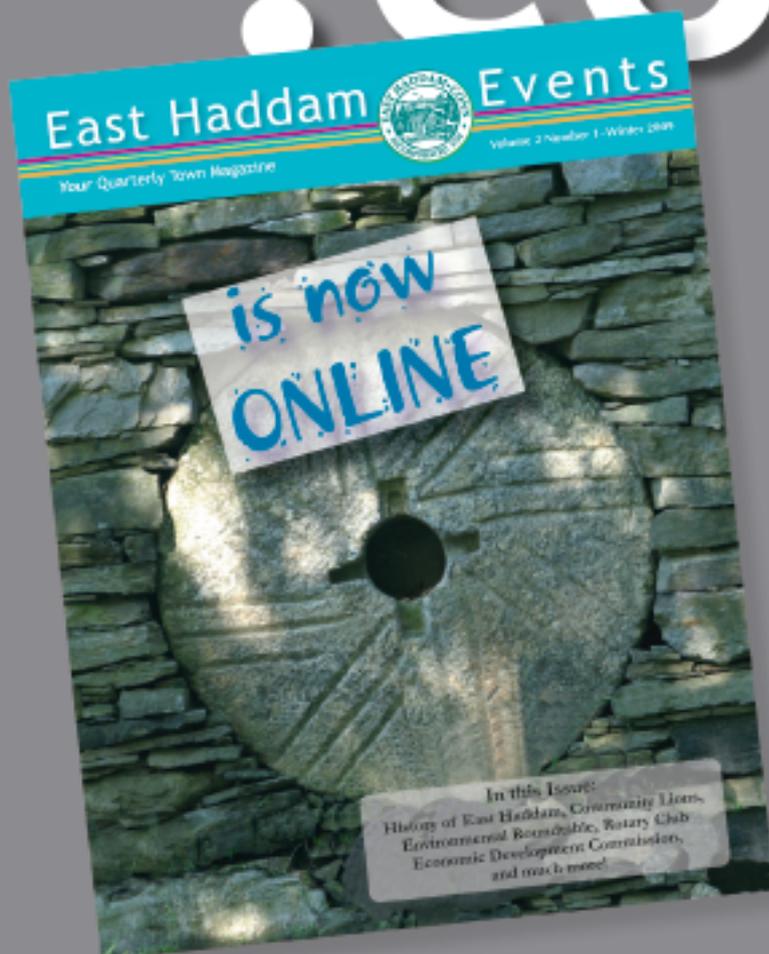


In this Issue:

**History of East Haddam, Community Lions,
Environmental Roundtable, Rotary Club
Economic Development Commission,
and much more!**

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From Your First Selectman, Mark B. Walter

Dear Fellow Residents,
Happy New Year!

I am pleased to report that our town is well positioned as we begin 2009. We've accomplished this with strong foresight, conviction, and by making the tough decisions in implementing the 2008-2009 budget. Town spending was held to under a 1% increase for 2008-2009, not including the bonding payments for the new middle school.

The New Year presents many challenges. It appears that we will not see an increase in our Grand List as we have in the past and we are likely to see less aid from the State. This means that as we plan for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, any increase in town spending whatsoever will likely mean an increase in property taxes. It is my position that we hold spending increases to the smallest amount possible or propose a budget with no increase at all. What does this mean? It means we have some tough choices ahead in the next budget year. Here are just a few of them:

- How large of an investment do you as a taxpayer wish to make to convert the former middle school into municipal space over the next couple of years?
- Do we look to expand our educational programs or do we appeal to the Board of Education and the school administration to explore ways to maximize the value to our current students, while minimizing the cost impact to taxpayers?
- Do we continue to be aggressive with our Public Works infrastructure improvements?

Let me assure you that I am up to the challenges we are facing. I pledge to work tirelessly on the town's 2009-2010 budget. As I prepare the Board of Selectmen budget, all expenditure requests will be carefully scrutinized. I believe the taxpayers of our town are at their limit.

Many of you may have lost your jobs or may be facing the prospect of losing your job. Many of you have had your work hours or overtime cut or reduced. I understand this and have challenged all of our boards, commissions and town departments to seek areas where they can cut spending in the current budget. Additionally, along with the Board of Finance, I have requested our various departments to present 2009-2010 budgets that include 5%, 10% and even 20% proposed cuts for next year and what the ramifications of those cuts might be.

In summary, expanding any programs in 2009, without cuts elsewhere to offset them, will mean increases in property taxes. My goal is to avoid this or at the very least minimize it. I humbly ask for your support on this goal. We as fellow citizens have many tough choices and decisions ahead of us. The good news is that we have dedicated volunteers serving on various boards and commissions and along with our town employees; they are up to this challenge.

Our continued focus on helping local businesses can be seen with the new coffee shop, Bagels Plus, which is now open for breakfast and lunch in Moodus; Banner Total Fitness Gym has opened to the public; The Gelston House now offers Sunday Brunch, and Nino's Restaurant now serves breakfast, 7 days per week. The new actor housing for Goodspeed Opera House is working its way through the local approval process. When the actors housing has been built, they have agreed to sell four properties on Main Street, meaning that those properties will

return to the tax rolls.

Additionally, we have recently appointed a nine member commission to review the numerous studies done over the years and act on the best plan to redevelop our East Haddam Historic Village area. We have applied for over \$12,000,000 in grants from the federal government for the Village area to improve traffic flow, walk ability and preserve historic charm.

We can all help our community by buying local to support local businesses. This economic recovery can start now by spending our income with businesses, contractors and services in our own town. This local support may allow local business owners to hire more employees or expand and each job created in East Haddam could make a big difference for our families and our community.

Lastly, there has been a lot of discussion and meetings have been held regarding a proposed dog park. The proposed park is working through the approval process with various land use departments and town boards. Opening a dog park will be decided by a vote of town residents at a town meeting early this year, once recommendations have been made from the various town boards.

Please join me in welcoming Karl Karabeinikoff as our new Animal Control Officer and Ken Grohbrugge as our new Assistant Animal Control Officer. Both men bring a long list of career accomplishments to these positions and will serve our town well.

Karl Karabeinikoff (left) is a retired police sergeant from



DMHAS PD, a division of the Connecticut State Police, where he worked for 20 years and has been a part-time police officer in East Haddam for the past 10 years.

Ken Grohbrugge (right) has been an East Haddam resident since 2005. He and his wife are the owner/operators of New Inn Kennels since moving to Connecticut.

Please contact me at any time. Your comments, suggestions, questions and/or feedback are always welcomed. I may be reached at (860) 873-5020 or admin@easthaddam.org.

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman

health care - banquet & community centers
 municipal - office - retail - industrial - historical
 multi-family - residential - adaptive re-use
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fellnerarchitects@sbcglobal.net

fellnerarchitects.com

Volunteer of the Month

Please join us in congratulating our most recent volunteers of the month: Logan Clarke, Roger Stube, and Karan Conover. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so in a letter to the First Selectman.

Moodus Sportsmen's Club Calendar

Ice Fishing Derby - February 8 - Pre Registration required. If there is no ice on the 8th the Derby will be postponed until February 15.

Earth Day Clean Up - April 4 - See additional notice on pg. 8.

Land Trust News

Lee May Joins Land Trust Board

Lee May, award-winning journalist and author, recently joined the board of the East Haddam Land Trust. Lee's journalism career spans three decades and includes assignments ranging from lifestyle features to the federal government. A gardening and food columnist at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution from 1992 to 2002, Lee wrote for the *Los Angeles Times* as a Washington correspondent covering the White House and other national stories.

Lee's collection of essays, *Gardening Life*, explores the tapestry of emotions and experiences that gardening evokes. In *My Father's Garden* recounts his coming-of-age and tells how he and his father nurtured a long-lost connection through their love of gardening.

Lee lives and gardens in East Haddam with his wife, Lyn, and their two cats. We are thrilled to have Lee's expertise on the Land Trust at this critical time.

Want to Help the Land Trust?

The East Haddam Land Trust currently holds almost 230 acres of land on its preserves and depends on volunteer stewardship to care for these parcels. Stewards assigned to a preserve will conduct activities including trail creation and marking, boundary marking and monitoring, and general trimming and safety work to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit by the public.

The Trust always needs volunteers for stewardship, so if you are interested, please contact the EHLT President (president@ehlt.org). Work parties for the preserves are generally held on the second Saturday of every month (usually 9 a.m. - noon). Details will be posted on the Events Calendar page on the web site (www.ehlt.org).

Of course, your generous donations to the trust help us to protect East Haddam's rural character. You can become a member of the trust by going to the membership section of our website or by responding to our town-wide

continued on next page

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Michael J. Quinn, Esq.
 Admitted in CT



Humbert J. Polito, Jr., Esq.
 Admitted in CT & RI

(860) 447-3300

567 Vauxhall Street Ext. Suite 230

Waterford, CT

4800350

membership appeal letter. Thanks to all our members for your support!

Come Walk the Airline Trail – East Hampton to Lyman Viaduct

Explore the Airline Trail! Now a greenway, this rail trail was once the most direct route between New York and Boston. Learn about the Airline’s history and its transformation from railway to greenway. Points of interest include the Cranberry Bog, marsh views, and the Rapallo and Lyman Viaducts. We will hike approximately five miles over relatively flat terrain. Hiking boots or good walking shoes required. Please bring water. Meet at the trailhead parking area at the Cranberry Bog on Smith Street in East Hampton at 1:00 p.m. on January 24, 2009. Poor driving conditions cancel the hike. Call leader by 12 noon if not sure. Leader: Kathy Golec, (860) 873-3206 or kmgolec@att.net.

Focus on the Bernstein Preserve

The 16+ acre Bernstein Preserve is a continuing effort to create a linear preserve along the scenic and historically significant Moodus River. The river winds its way back and forth along Route 149, finally feeding into Salmon Cove, and then on to the Connecticut River. The cove is also noted for wintering bald eagle populations, osprey and other raptors, numerous waterfowl, and abundant furbearers.

The preserve contains the remains of the old historic Atlantic Mill. The stonework, old turbines, head and tail races, sluice-way, and other mill remnants remain. The preserve is accessed via Land Trust property that serves as a driveway for the house on the east side of Route 149/Falls Road, about 100 yards south of Andrews Road. Park off the right of the driveway. Access to the preserve is through the bar-way at the end of the driveway.

**East Haddam Ambulance
Volunteers Needed**

The East Haddam Ambulance Association serves the emergency medical needs of our community, responding to approximately 550 calls each year. When you dial 911 for a medical emergency, you expect the ambulance to come. But it does so only because a dedicated group of your fellow residents (a few of whom are shown) is willing to give of their time and talents to make that a reality. A dwindling number of such individuals could lead to a day when the ambulance you expect doesn’t arrive, and the town will be forced to hire an outside service ... at a hefty price tag.

You can help prevent this scenario from unfolding and keep a volunteer spirit alive in our town. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact Tiffany at (860) 790-0575 or by e-mail at ehaa@att.net. No previous medical training is necessary, just a big heart. East Haddam Ambulance



members (left to right): Jennifer Spencer, Dean Anderson, Frank Glowski, and Kevin Cavallo



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Another Successful Halloween

The 13th Annual Project Safe Halloween brought out close to 500 children plus their families and friends. It was a beautiful evening, and the weather was just right for trick-or-treating in the gym and taking a hayride.

I wish there was room to list all of the people, clubs, businesses, and organizations that come together to put on this event. Without their financial contributions and participation this event would not be possible.

I would like to thank the other members of the committee who have dedicated their time for many years: Craig Mansfield, Holly Pattavina and Beth Schondorf. Without their continued support of this project the event would not run so smoothly.

Special thanks to Frank Polivka and his family for taking charge of the hayride for the past few years. It has become a family project and we are indebted to them for their efforts.

A final thank you to the children who attend and make all the work worth while. The smiles on their faces as they leave the gym make us look forward to the following year.

See you next year!

Maryjane Malavasi
Chairman, Project Safe Halloween

Holiday Closings

The Town Office Building will be closed on the following holidays:

- Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day
- Friday, April 10 - Good Friday

The Transfer Station will be closed on the following holidays:

- Monday, January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day
- Friday, April 10 - Good Friday



East Haddam Community Lions

P.O. Box 328, East Haddam, CT 06423
easthaddamcommunitylions.com

Did you know there are TWO Lions Clubs in East Haddam?

East Haddam Lions and The East Haddam Community Lions

They are TWO separate and distinct clubs working under the same banner of Lions Clubs International, with the same aims and goals serving this community.

Both clubs work in parallel; they are each individual, made special by their membership ... the volunteers who serve. Our clubs may have very different membership dynamics, but we all volunteer to give something back to our

continued on next page

community, our country, and our world. We wear our Lions pins with pride.

Our fund-raising projects may be different: Golf Tournament – Tea party, Auction – Fashion Show, Phone Book – Road Race (to name just a few!!). It is the community that benefits, two bites at the cherry ... Two Clubs, Yes But we are all LIONS.

Lions Clubs International: Worldwide, the Largest Service Organization, filling the needs of the communities they are in. Recognized for their work to eradicate preventable blindness ... they have saved the sight of 27 million people since 1991. They are also acknowledged as the #1, Non- Governmental Organization [NGO] worldwide in a comprehensive survey by the Financial Times. One-hundred percent of money donated goes back to the community or Lions-funded projects ... the Lion members cover ALL administration costs with their annual dues.

Want to know more? Check out our website at www.easthaddamcommunitylions.com.

Lions make a difference ... No one of us is as smart as ALL of us ... why not consider making us smarter?

Contact us at our website, or our Membership Chair, Lion Diane Bielski, at ddvp40@aol.com or 860 434-5611, to see how you can make a difference, too.

*Submitted by: Lion Linda Bradshaw
President, East Haddam Community Lions*

"Light-Up" The Holidays Thank You

The East Haddam Community Lions wish to thank the Rathbun Memorial Library and all the generous contributors whose creative donations of decorated trees, wreaths, and exhibits were displayed at the Library early in December. During the display period, a silent auction of these items was held to raise money for East Haddam Food Bank, Fuel Bank, and Youth and Family Services. You certainly lit a spark in our "Light-up" the Holidays display.

This was a new event for us and hopefully it was the acorn from which a mighty oak will grow; we look forward to "Lighting-up" the Holidays next year You have time to plan; look out for the information on our website: www.easthaddamcommunitylions.com.

East Haddam Community Lions

We hear that many voluntary organizations are dying - numbers are dwindling; people are too busy; it's outdated, boring, full of cliques, and deaf to new ideas. Lions Club International has changed its image, and so have we.

We have actively worked at making our club more user friendly, cognizant of the traditions and good works that have made our club strong and respectful of our valued membership, who have been cheer-leading the change. We are moving with the times!!

We are proud to announce EIGHT new Lions have joined our club since last August; we must be doing something right. With new members come new ideas, new enthusiasm, and many more hands; it also regenerates the existing membership. Our meetings are well attended, charged with new possibility ... definitely Alive.

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Town of East Haddam

7 Main Street ~ P.O. Box K East Haddam, CT 06423

Administrative Office Building

Fax: (1st floor) 860-873-5042, (2nd floor) 860-873-5025
New Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Selectman's Office

Mark B. Walter, First Selectman	873-5020	admin@easthaddam.org
Linda Zemienieski, Administrative Assistant		admin@easthaddam.org

Assessor's Office

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

Building Department

Keith Darin, Building Official	873-5024	building.dept@easthaddam.org
Carolyn Hart, Administrative Assistant		

Chatham Health District

Liz Davidson, Sanitarian	873-5101	health.district@easthaddam.org
--------------------------	----------	--

Finance Department

Finance Director	873-5022	finance.director@easthaddam.org
Dawn Snow, Administrative Assistant	873-5020	finance@easthaddam.org
Kathy Klinck, Treasurer	873-5022	

Land Use Offices

Jim Ventres, Administrator	873-5031	admin.landuse@easthaddam.org
Jim Puska, Zoning Enforcement Officer		zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org
Janet Lombardo, Administrative Assistant		landuse@easthaddam.org

Tax Collector's Office

Janet Tucker, Tax Collector	873-5033	tax@easthaddam.org
Sharon Kuhn, Assistant Tax Collector		

Town Clerk's Office

Deb Denette, Town Clerk	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 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Transfer Station - Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fred Thumm, Director of Public Works	873-5023	pwdirector@easthaddam.org
Richard Toolan, Road Foreman		
Shirley Dill, Administrative Assistant		publicworks@easthaddam.org
Don MacKenzie, Transfer Station Foreman	873-5030	

Other Departments

Scott Brookes, Fire Marshal	873-5004	admin@easthaddam.org
Tiffany Quinn, Parks & Recreation Director	873-5058	parkandrec@snet.net
Karl Karabeinikoff, Animal Control Officer	873-5044	

Resident State Troopers

Jeff Rhoades & Steve Bellandese	873-1226	police@easthaddam.org
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Probate Court

Paul Buhl, Judge of Probate	873-5028	
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Registrars of Voters

Holly Cummings & Patricia Thomas	873-5029	vr.easthaddam@po.state.ct.us
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Senior Services - 15 Great Hillwood Road

Joanne Rocznik, Municipal Agent	873-5034	seniors@easthaddam.org
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*Visit our Website at www.easthaddam.org for more information,
 including meeting minutes*

Events

MAGAZINES



Volume 2, Number 1

East Haddam Events
EAST HADDAM TOWN HALL
7 Main Street, P.O. Box K
East Haddam, CT 06423

PUBLISHER

Essex Printing Company
18 Industrial Park Road, PO Box 386
Centerbrook, CT 06409
860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259
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The entire East Haddam Community Lions Club wants to welcome and acknowledge publicly our club's new Lions: Lion John Bradshaw, Lion Arnie Davis, Lions Bill and Marty Dexter, Lion Dena Liedke, Lion Doug Swan, and Lions Paul and Sharon Will. (see photo on page 20.)

We gave them no breaking-in period; a niche can always be found for willing hands and open hearts. They are working to make a difference. People who give of their time, their money, their expertise, or their hearts to help someone who is less fortunate will always find a home with us.

Volunteers are not paid ... not because they are worthless, but, because they are priceless.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April Fools Road Race Scheduled March 29

The East Haddam Community Lions Club will host their 10th annual April Fools 5-K (3.1 miles) and 10.5-mile race on March 29 at 10:00 a.m. The race will begin at Nathan Hale-Ray High School on School Drive. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Trophies will be given to the first three runners in each category of the 5K and 10.5-mile races. There will also be a free children's fun run for children 7 years and under. Walkers are welcome to take part in the 5-K. T-shirts will be given to the first 100 registrants, and there will be free refreshments after the race. Pre-registration fee is \$15; registration on the day of the race is \$20. Make checks payable to East Haddam Community Lions Club, and mail to EHCL, PO Box 328, East Haddam, CT 06423-0328. For more information call (860) 873-0707 or (860) 873-9163.

For an application go to www.easthaddamcommunitylions.com.

It's Back! (Snow, that is)

We hear frequent complaints about the dangerous road conditions that result when people push driveway snow out into our public roads. We actually have an ordinance prohibiting this practice, which states, "No person shall plow, throw, put or cause to be thrown or put any snow or ice from any private property or from any area in the rear of said private property or in area between a private dwelling house or structure and the legally laid out sidewalk into any public highway in the town of East Haddam." Please keep this in mind this winter. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

Sand for Winter Ice

Residents of East Haddam are reminded that they may take only a small amount of sand from one of the municipal sand piles for their personal use in sanding steps, walkways, or ice patches in driveways. Piles are located at the corner of Haywardville and Early Roads and at the Town Garage, off Mt. Parnassus Road near Shagbark. For safety reasons, residents should not obtain sand during storm conditions when operators are loading trucks and entering and leaving the site.

It is understood that sand is provided for private, personal use and is not to be used commercially or for profit, or for any application other than as a safety precaution. Residents needing more than a few buckets of sand per winter should purchase their own supply.

Friends of Rathbun Library News

Thank you to all the Friends, and friends of Friends, who attended the annual holiday party on December 14.

We now move our attention beyond winter! Our annual plant sale will be Saturday, May 16 on the library's front lawn. If you are starting flower and/or vegetable seedlings during the coming months or thinning existing beds in the spring, the Friends would appreciate your extras.

Our annual sale of hardcover books will be Saturday, May 23, at the East Haddam Historical Society, part of the society's annual sale and the East Haddam Garden Club's plant sale. Donation dates for hardcover books in very good to excellent condition will be announced soon. The Friends thank all who have contributed so far to the annual Friends/Library Council Fund Drive.



The Rathbun Library is located at 36 Main St., East Haddam, (860) 873-8210.

Submitted by Betty Gross

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East Haddam, CT 06423

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Annual Town Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 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, the current 2008/2009 town budget, and the 2007/2008 summary financial report. The full 2007/2008 year-end audit can be viewed on line at www.easthaddam.org. This year's cover recognizes the donation from Joseph Clark of the Heinz Warneke "Last Supper" to the East Haddam Historical Society. The sculpture is a plaster model commissioned by the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Feel free to stop in for your very own copy of the Annual Town Report.

Ray of Light Farm Thanks You!

Looking back at 2008, we've much to be thankful for. 'Tis the season for making lists, so here is Our List of Thank You's...

- First and foremost, thank you to the amazing animals that grace our stalls, placing their trust in our humble hands.
- Staff members and volunteers, you are equally vital to our existence as a source of enrichment in the community.
- Visitors, patrons, sponsors, and donors - public and anonymous, you have astounded us with your kindness and generosity in the face of today's economic challenges.
- To local businesses including Nathan Hale Pharmacy, Shagbark Lumber, Staehley Farms, and Salem Ice Cream, who support us throughout the year.
- To local schools, thank you for helping us spread the word about our community programs to your students and their families.
- A special thank you to the family and friends of Carol Thereault, who made contributions to a Memorial Fund in her name. So many were touched by Carol's life, and we are moved by your generosity. Ray of Light will use these funds to help program participants with special needs. More information about the scholarship will be available on our website.

*We wish you all best wishes for the year to come,
Your Friends at Ray of Light Farm*

Visit Us: 232 Town Street (Rte 82), East Haddam, CT
860-873-1895 www.rayofflightfarm.org
Farm Hours: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily (Closed Wednesdays)

Conservation Corner: *Walking the Patrell*

On June 7, National Trails Day, I joined Rob Smith of the East Haddam Land Trust as he hosted a guided hike on the Eightmile River - Patrell preserve. It was a delightful surprise to learn all that I did on the hike. Rob highlighted several geological features like kettle ponds and eskers, explaining the roles the glaciers took in forming these. He interspersed the talk with plant and tree identifications as well as historical details known about the property from 200 years ago. He showed us an early American house foundation, pointing out the newer edition that was added after the house was completed. I enjoyed listening to Rob explain how the area would have looked when the house stood. He also showed us the old road that existed prior to the completion of Rt. 156 and explained old road measurements.

Rob's talk brought the preserve to life, and, as a result, I have returned on several occasions with friends to show them these special features. While I do not provide as much information as Rob, everyone that I have taken there has enjoyed the walk immensely and felt as I did that the details add to a richer hiking experience.

The East Haddam Conservation Commission is currently working on building a natural resource inventory on the Eightmile River - Patrell preserve and invites all interested natural scientists to join in the effort. I encourage you to watch for announcements of Conservation Commission sponsored activities on preserves in your neighborhood. The Conservation Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the River House.

Submitted by Shannon Hawkins

Earth Charter Monthly Meeting Topics

ECCoLoV, the local chapter of the international Earth Charter Initiative and America's Earth Charter US, has announced its plans for the first quarter of 2009. The group, headquartered in East Haddam and serving the entire lower CT River Valley, meets monthly to learn and discuss topics that reflect the values of the Charter itself – fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society for the twenty-first century.

On February 8 at 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall, neighbor and friend George Fellner, AIA. LEED AP, of Fellner Associates Architects, Higganum, will engage us in conversation about "Green Homes: Strategies for Sustainable Design." He will review the realities of energy and climate as well as many related items that have to do with green building and living.

For March 8, still at 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall, our own Connie Sattler, who narrowly missed being sent to one of Hitler's concentration camps and became separated from her

parents for many years, will join us as a special guest. We will screen the award-winning film "Paper Clips," a heart-moving documentary about one middle school in Tennessee that set out to learn about the Holocaust and gained international praise. Mrs. Sattler will then address the group about her own story. Bring Kleenex!

The April 12 meeting will feature Roger Smith, Campaign Director of Clean Water Action, and Coordinator of the Connecticut Climate Coalition. Energy and politics will be his topic, similar to his Summit workshop presentation.

Town-Wide Clean Up Day: An Earth Day Celebration

April 4, 2009

The Moodus Sportsmen's Club and the East Haddam Scout Troops are sponsoring an Annual Town-Wide Clean Up Day to be held on Saturday, April 4. The goal is to coordinate an effort to clean up the streets, lakes, streams, and other public access areas in the Town of East Haddam.

If you wish to join this effort, meet us at 8 a.m. at the East Haddam Town Hall on Town Street, or begin working on your street at whatever time is best for you. The Transfer Station will be open to accept trash from this project.

All participants are invited to a picnic at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club starting at 1 p.m. Traditional picnic items such as hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, coffee, and soda will be served along with the seasonal bounty only a sportsmen's club could serve. At this time we will inventory the items collected and discuss solutions to reduce pollution, trash, and other problems. If you or anyone in your family or an affiliated group is interested in participating, please call Jim Ventres at 873-5031 (the cooks need to know how much food to prepare). Please remember that any work along the streets requires adult supervision and that all volunteers should wear bright colors. Please join in this community effort to keep our landscape clean.

Justice of the Peace

The term for a justice of the peace is four years. This past July each major party (Democrat and Republican) endorsed six individuals to serve as JPs. Six unaffiliated JPs were also appointed. Their term is January 5, 2009 to January 7, 2013.

Congratulations to the following Justices:

Robert Bennett • Joanne B. Bernard • Harriet G. Cummings
Maryann Czaja • Edwin P. DesRosiers • Randolph W. Dill
Bruce M. Dutch • Lynn C. Eimutis • John C. Gibson
Elizabeth J. Gross • Jacquelyn M. Hall • Alan Hanks
Janet I. Heisler • Everett L. Herden, Jr. • Robert L. Johnson
Mary Ellen Klink • Bradley P. Parker • Brenda J. Quinn

- Deb Denette, Town Clerk

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission

The East Haddam EDC is pleased to announce the following:

Bagels Plus is now open for breakfast and lunch at Gristmill Plaza. Owned and operated by Vijay and Bhavna Mehta, operators of Bagels and Beyond in Colchester, they specialize in breakfast offerings such as fresh store-made bagels, egg sandwiches, wraps and Baronet brand coffee. Espresso, cappuccino, teas, hot chocolate, and juices are also available. At lunchtime, visit them for panini sandwiches and delicious wraps. They are open 7 days a week: Monday - Friday 6:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Banner Total Fitness Gym, located at Banner Country Club in Moodus, is open to the public with state-of-the-art cardio and strength equipment, group fitness classes, and personal training. Hours are Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The co-ed facility offers month-to-month or one-year memberships, with discounts for couples, seniors, full-time students, and corporate rates. Manager Linda Stanford would be pleased to discuss the details or arrange a tour for you; call her at (860) 615-4050.

Gelston House Restaurant offers a Sunday brunch from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with fresh fruit, pastries, salads, shrimp cocktail, roasted vegetables, omelets and crepes, steak, pork,

fish, and chicken entrees and more. This all-you-can-eat buffet is \$19.50 per person, \$11.50 for children under 12, and free for kids under 5.

Hayden Wines in East Haddam Village is under new ownership. Owners Ken Diehl and Kirk Fontaine offer a wide variety of micro brew and imported beers and specialty wines. The wine selection includes organic with no sulfates and local or Connecticut-grown varieties. Their hours are Monday - Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Thursday - Friday 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Nino's Restaurant on Town Street has now added breakfast, seven days a week, opening at 6:00 a.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. on weekends. Owner Miza Sadiku offers made-to-order eggs and omelets, pancakes, waffles, and French toast with home fries, bacon, ham, and sausage. Weekend specials include seasonal favorites such as pumpkin pancakes and fruit-topped Belgian waffles.

See the EDC website www.easthaddam.net for a complete East Haddam business directory. Also, check the calendar section for upcoming events.

Contact the EDC at info@easthaddam.net or P.O. Box K, East Haddam, to have your business listed here or to enter our drawing for a FREE ad in the next East Haddam Events Magazine.

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**Visit the Calendar section to find
out about upcoming events.**

Town Business Night (for East Haddam business owners)
January 29th, 7:00pm, Grange Hall

Chowder Cookoff
March 14th, starts 11:30am, EH Village

Green Committee Suggests “Easy Ways to Go Green”

By Ken Simon, Chairman

The Green Committee has produced two flyers that support our mission of making East Haddam one of the greenest towns in the state.

At this time, gas prices have significantly declined from their recent historic highs. We all know this is not a permanent situation and that the cost of auto fuel will once again increase. With this in mind, we have compiled information in “East Haddam Rides Together,” a flyer that contains tips and resources to facilitate carpooling for town residents who commute to jobs out of town.

We have also produced “Easy Ways to Go Green,” a flyer that lists some fifty ways that residents can reduce their impact on the environment, save money, and conserve resources. You’ll find information on ways to recycle your stuff, conserve your energy consumption, keep things local, and other valuable tips.

Both flyers are available at the Town Office, libraries, and local businesses. You can also download the flyers at <http://ehgreen.wetpaint.com/page/Final+Flyers>.

We are pleased to say that the Board of Selectmen recently passed a resolution for East Haddam to become a “20% by 2010 Clean Energy Community.” This voluntary statewide initiative supports renewable energy usage from sustainable means such as wind, solar, water, and other sources.

To reach the town’s goal of using 20 percent clean energy, please consider signing up for the Green Energy option on your electric bill. For every 100 East Haddam households that sign up for clean energy (at either 50 or 100 percent of total usage), the town will receive a free solar panel to be installed on a town building. The additional cost on your electric bill will be about \$4 to \$8 a month, depending on which option you choose. As of this writing, 71 households have signed up, so we’re very close to earning that first solar panel. Check out the insert in your monthly electric bill or go to www.cl-p.com and click on Going Green for more information.

By now, you will have received a mailing from the Green Committee that offers a valuable energy audit of your home through the Home Energy Solutions program. The mailing was generously funded by CL&P. Many residents have already signed up for this service, where trained energy experts will inspect your home for energy leaks, proper insulation, appliance efficiency, and other ways you can save money and energy. In addition to identifying energy waste, the audit team will provide services such as duct sealing, weatherization, compact fluorescent bulb installation, and water-heating measures at no additional cost other than the low co-pay. For more information on this program, visit www.CTEnergyInfo.com.

As of this writing the eleven-member committee has one unfilled position. If you would like to help East Haddam become more eco-friendly, please consider volunteering to join the committee. Our meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the River House.

For more information, please visit the town web site, where you can view minutes of past meetings, or call me at 873-3328.



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Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Committee Launches "RiverSmart Homes" Program

The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee kicked off its new "RiverSmart" program November 21, 2008. All residents of the three towns of the Eightmile watershed are invited to take a pledge to follow eight simple steps to keep the watershed where they live the exceptional resource that it is. Residents of the three principle towns that make up the watershed will receive a mailed brochure outlining steps such as reducing lawn and garden chemicals, pumping septic systems, creating vegetative buffers, and landscaping with native plants.

Recipients are invited to go to the Eightmile River website, www.eightmileriver.org, take a RiverSmart Pledge, and receive an information packet about protecting the river and a small, sturdy street sign that states "RiverSmart Household" to display on their property. "The future health of this extraordinary river depends on the folks who live in her watershed. If they understand how their day-to-day activities affect the river, and if they make a commitment to partner with us in stewardship, the future of our river will be bright," said Anthony Irving, Chairman of the Steering Committee. "The people of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme gave us their strong support over the years it took to win Wild and Scenic designation. Now we need for them to pitch in with the small things we can all do each and every day as good watershed citizens," Irving continued.

The West Branch of the Eightmile River rises in East Haddam and flows through the Devil's Hopyard State Park. It is joined south of the park by the East Branch, which rises in Salem. It flows through Lyme and empties through Hamburg Cove into the Connecticut River. The watershed comprises 40,000 acres, or about 30 percent of the three towns. The towns have worked closely over ten years, first to study the river, and then, based on data that show it to be a river of exceptional quality in many respects, to guide it through the process of designation as a federal Wild and Scenic Watershed. This process took five years and required passage of two bills through Congress in Washington. The first bill authorized a detailed study, and the second bill awarded official designation, which recognized the river's outstanding qualities in six areas. This final step after passage was the signing of the designation bill by the President in May of this year. Designation will bring federal resources in support of protection of the Eightmile River.

East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme each supported designation with strong votes in favor of designation and the guiding Management Plan at separate town meetings. The Management Plan includes specific steps to keep the river healthy, such as education and the creation in each town of Riparian Corridor Overlay Zones, which regulate permitting for some activities within 100 feet of the larger streams and 50 feet of the smaller streams in the watershed.

continued on page 13



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From the Office of the Tax Collector

Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants Blum, Shapiro & Company, PC have completed their audit of the Tax Collector's Office for the fiscal year ending on

June 30, 2008. The audit was very successful and the office was found to have completed the year in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. A total collection of \$19,709,896.53 resulted in an overall collection rate of 99.03%. This is the fifth year in a row that the office has had a collection rate of over 99%. We would like to thank the taxpayers of East Haddam for their continued support of the Town.

We would like to again remind residents that during the month of December, the Office of the Tax Collector mailed Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills for vehicles on the 2007 Grand List, in accordance with section 12-7b of the General Statutes of Connecticut. These bills are for new or used vehicles purchased after October 1, 2007 but prior to August 1, 2008. All Supplemental taxes are due in one installment, to be paid during the month of January 2009. Taxes become delinquent after February 2, 2009 and at that time are subject to interest of 1.5% per month (18% per year) calculated from the original due date of January 1, 2009. There is a minimum penalty of \$2.00 on each delinquent tax bill. Taxpayers are advised to call the Tax Collector's Office at (860) 873-5033 if they purchased a vehicle in the time period noted above and did not receive a bill or if they have questions regarding the payment of taxes. E-mail may be addressed to tax@easthaddam.org. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest on the unpaid amount. The Tax Collector's Office is for the collection of taxes only. Any questions regarding assessments or the sale of vehicles should be addressed to the Assessor at (860) 873-5026 or by e-mail to assessor041@easthaddam.org. To remove or prorate a tax bill, the Assessor will require two forms of proof, one of them being a plate receipt.

Also due in January 2009 is the second installment of Real Estate or Personal Property tax bills that were mailed out in July 2008. No second bill will be sent on these accounts. If you are a new owner of real estate property and need a copy of your tax bill, please contact the Tax Collector for a copy.

Payments may be made in person at the Town Office Building, 7 Main Street, East Haddam, CT or by mail to the Tax Collector, P.O. Box 376, East Haddam, CT 06423-0376. We will resume our normal business hours starting on January 5, 2009. Those hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. The office is open throughout the lunch hour. Anyone requiring a paid receipt must send the Payment Copy of the tax bill, the payment, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please retain the Taxpayer Copy of all tax bills for your records. You will need that information for your federal and state income tax. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN TAX RECORDS.** Any payment postmarked after February 2, 2009 will be considered delinquent and subject to interest.



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Eightmile River, continued from page 11

The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Steering Committee, made up of representatives of East Haddam, Salem, and Lyme, local land trusts, and the Department of Environmental Protection, meets bimonthly to oversee the programs and activities called for by the Wild and Scenic designation. Interested citizens are encouraged to log on to www.eightmileriver.org for more information.

Garden Club News

The public is invited to attend a meeting of the East Haddam Garden Club on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. at the First Church of Christ Congregational, Town St., East Haddam. The speaker will be Gunilla Norris, author of *A Mystic Garden: Working With Soil, Attending to Soul*, a collection of musings about the four seasons of her garden in Mystic and our relationship to nature and to our gardens. Refreshments will be served, and garden club membership information will be available.

Club members created more than eighty Thanksgiving centerpieces for the East Haddam Food Bank in November. They also decorated the Goodspeed Green and the Shagbark Triangle for the holidays.

The club's annual plant, bake, and tag sale will be Saturday, May 23, at the East Haddam Historical Society's annual event.

For more information about the garden club, contact Betty Gross at 873-8732.

Alert Now Instant Messaging System

Dear East Haddam School Community Members,

As winter approaches, we may once again be challenged by inclement weather that can interrupt our regular school-day schedule. The East Haddam School District has fully implemented a computer-based instant messaging system, known as Alert Now. This system can notify up to 5000 phones and e-mail accounts in less than thirty seconds. Alert Now is used for weather notifications and for any other school or district-wide emergency notification.

The Superintendent of Schools, in conjunction with state and local authorities, determines the need for a school cancellation, late arrival, or early dismissal due to inclement weather. Alert Now is then activated and a message is sent to everyone on the Alert Now list in East Haddam.

If you would like to receive Alert Now notifications by phone and/or e-mail, please contact the East Haddam Board of Education offices at: 873-5090.

*Wishing you and your family a safe
and healthy winter season!*



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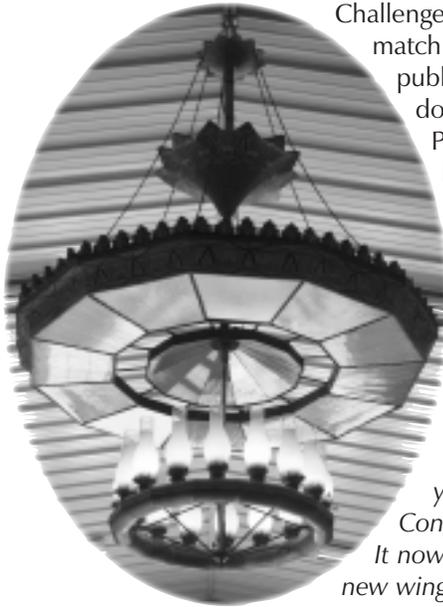
WINTER HOURS

Mon - Wed 11:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thurs - Fri 11:00 a.m. - 9 p.m. / Sat 9:00 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Historical Society

The East Haddam Historical Society Museum, open all winter and early spring by appointment, thanks its many volunteers, donors, and visitors for a successful 2008. It is available for rental, which includes a kitchen, excellent parking, tables and chairs, and, of course, docent-led tours of the multi-room collection. We continue to be interested in the community's concerns about history and preservation. Anybody who would like to contribute to the 2009 Board

Challenge, where the directors match every dollar from the public, please send your donation to the EHHS, PO Box 27, East Haddam, CT 06423. For further information, call 860-873-3944.



This is the Civil War-era chandelier, donated by Amos Shepard, which hung for many years in the First Congregational Church. It now lights the museum's new wing.

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Rathbun Memorial Library: WinterFest 2009

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As a participating library under the countywide grant from *The Middlesex Foundation*, the Rathbun is hosting a

"Green Art Invitational Exhibit"

for local artists whose works celebrate the natural landscape and/or utilize recycled materials in their artwork.

Artists such as Laurie Alt, George Cormier, Bonnie LeMay, Joyce Senesac, and Lisa Tellier will be participating in the show with an opening reception on Thursday, January 22, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Another aspect of the Green Grant program will be ongoing programs featuring recycling and nature as the main themes, including the popular *"Green Minds"* book & film discussion series later in February (dates/times TBA).

Children's programs will also feature a "green" element, all in an effort to raise awareness and responsibility.

Did you know that you can order library materials online, as well as renew your materials, keep a reading history of what you have read, share with others reviews of what you enjoyed, download audio books, and more. All you need is your Rathbun Library card number and you are good to go, 24/7.

Computer and Internet instructional sessions continue. Why not get a group together and we can customize instruction for you? This is a great idea for parents of school children who would like to learn more about specialized researching on the Web and other resources. Call us and let's talk (873-8210) or email at:

reference@rathbun.lioninc.org.

Check out all the library events and announcements on www.rathbun.lioninc.org; also, don't forget to sign up for our new Electronic Newsletter - all in an effort to make *your* life easier!

East Haddam Free Public Library

The East Haddam Free Public Library would like to thank all local businesses and patrons who donated items for our annual auction in October. Monies raised from this auction will benefit the library with new materials.

The library will be continuing our knitting club, which was part of a grant from Youth and Family Services. Adults and teens are welcome to attend on the first and third Wednesday nights each month. All beginners and advanced people are invited to participate.

The library is holding its ongoing campaign to fill our "Giving Tree" with new or handmade hats, mittens, scarves, and socks to help warm the needy this winter. Last year the tree was filled three times, with the proceeds going to local charities. We will be collecting donations until February 2009.

Origami class is held the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Adults and children (accompanied by an adult) are welcome.

On Wednesday, January 14, from 5:30-7:00, the library had an information booth set up at the East Haddam Elementary School's open night. We at the library want you to know more about us, to thank you for your continuing patronage, and to welcome new patrons.

Kids are invited to read with the Reading Education Assistance Dogs. The R.E.A.D. program improves children's reading and communication skills by reading to a dog. The dogs and library staff hope to see you at the East Haddam Free Public Library on Saturday, January 24, between 10:30 and 12:30 for this fun and educational program.

Two copies of Meep Finds His Way, a new children's picture book illustrated by Maureen Heidtmann, the library's Head of Children's Services, are here at the library and ready to be checked out.

The library would like to remind the public that for the winter, when the schools are closed due to inclement weather, the library will be closed also. If unsure, please call the library at 873-8248.

Library Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10-8, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10-4, Saturday 9-1.

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East Haddam Preschool Open House & Registration

The East Haddam Preschool will be holding an open house on Tuesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. This will be an informal time to learn about our 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs, our school, and our teaching philosophies and to meet our teachers and ask questions. We will also be taking registrations for the 2009-2010 school year. The preschool is located in a picturesque white house at 14 Plains Road in Moodus. For additional information, please call us at (860) 873-8250. Come Learn Under the Apple Tree with Us!

Middle School Conversion Committee

The Middle School Conversion Committee (MSCC) has made significant progress recently. Members of the MSCC, led by Patty Stricker, have completed a full inventory of the remaining items formerly used by the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School. These items have been recorded and a full report has been made to the Board of Selectmen. The items that are in good condition will be used in the Town Offices or donated to other town agencies.

On November 20, a Town Meeting was held to approve the funding for engineering and architectural services necessary to assess the old middle school and provide a plan for its reuse as town offices. After a number of thoughtful questions from the townspeople, the amount of \$205,500 passed unanimously. Funding for Phase I of the project, in the amount of \$64,000, was allocated to the committee at this time. Until the entire project is approved at a future town meeting, the balance of the contract will not be spent. The MSCC hopes to be able to bring options forward as soon as possible. A series of public forums will be held before a final project is submitted for town approval. At the same Town Meeting, the number of members was increased to nine regular and two alternates.

The MSCC encourages townspeople to attend our meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Town Office Annex at 7:00 p.m.

Please check our website: www.ehmscc.com for regular updates and meeting notices or to send comments and questions. We welcome your input!

Middle School's First Lego League Robotics Team Are Winners

Custom Robos, the First Lego League Robotics Team of Nathan Hale Middle School, East Haddam, has won both the "Champions" Award and the "Team Award." Both awards were won at the Bash at the Beach competition in Old Lyme and Ragged Mountain competition in Berlin on December 6. They were won based on the team members' inspiration and motivation along with their respect and professionalism to

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Donna Gilbert ★ Mimi Gill ★ Nancy Good ★ Tessa Nelson
Rosanne Pipoli ★ Hope Matthies-Rayner ★ Kim Robinson
Leslie Strauss ★ Joan Strickland ★ Ian Tovey ★ Emily Wright



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everyone involved in the competitions. Because of both of these high-level awards, the team qualified for the State Competition at Central CT State University, where they proudly took home the Innovations and Solutions Award.

Teacher Mrs. Tina Bernard and Co-Coach Mrs. Michelle Haynes are the team organizers who guided the boys to their recent successes. What is next? Stay tuned...

Any company or individual who would like to give support or help sponsor the team can e-mail for more information: tina.bernard@easthaddamschools.org or call 860-873-5081 ext 122.

Article and photo: Elizabeth Loomis



Photo left to right: Michael-Daniel Aiudi, Philip Hayes, Josh Guidobono, Ethan Damuck, and Brian Beauregard. Back Row: Michelle Haynes (left) and Tina Bernard (right).



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Senior News

Because a new year has started, we are all making resolutions. I am sure that many people have included "More Exercise." We have two treadmills, a stationary bike, an elliptical trainer, and a rowing machine. The room is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. We also have Pilates on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:15 a.m. and Tai Chi on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome.

Special Events at the Senior Center:

- Tax assistance will be available at the Center. Call 873-5034 for appointment dates.

- January 22 from 1 to 7 p.m. - Blood Mobile

- February 9 - Valentine's Party starting at noon.

Entertainment by Tom Callahan (Connecticut's first state troubadour.) Public is welcome. A \$5.00 donation is requested to cover the cost of the entertainment and the meal. Reservations are required by calling the kitchen at 873-5197 between 10 and 2.

- March 9 - Monthly meeting with entertainment by the Swinging Stars from the Groton Senior Center.

- March 17 - Corned Beef & Cabbage to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Entertainment to follow. \$5.00 donation. Reservations are required.

- March 22 from 8 to 11:30 - Pancake breakfast to benefit the FFA.

- April 13 meeting will feature a tribute to Rod Stewart.

Seniors are reminded that if the schools are closed due to weather the senior center is closed and no meals will be delivered.

Nathan Hale-Ray High School Music Department

The Nathan Hale-Ray High School Music Department has been very busy this fall. The choirs performed Disney Medleys at the Fall Festival Concert in October. The bands traveled to the Elementary School for a concert and performed in the Veteran's Day Parade in Hartford in November. The Winter Concerts were a huge success during the first week of December, with six ensembles performing in two nights. Most exciting is that a national music education journal called *Teaching Music Magazine* had an article about Hale-Ray's Tri-M Music Honor Society and the leadership training that Mrs. Evans provides for all of its members in the November issue. It is very exciting having our music program being nationally recognized! Watch for the high school and middle school Jazz Band Concert at the end of January and our annual Chamber Music Concert at the Goodspeed Opera House in February.

My Father's House Retreat Center

39 North Moodus Road, P.O. Box 22, Moodus, CT 06469

FRI. JAN. 23 8 p.m. til **SUN. JAN. 25** 1:30 p.m. **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** with JESUS RETREAT by Fr. Bill McCarthy and team; special workshop on Healing

FRI. JAN. 30 7:30 p.m. till **SAT JAN. 31** 1:30 p.m. **BRIDE of CHRIST RETREAT** by Fr. Martin Jones; come celebrate the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

1st SUNDAY

(after the 1:30 Mass) 3:00- 4:30 p.m.

Catholic 12-STEP Healing Program with FR. BILL & TEAM from My Father's House. Each Meeting will include teaching, sharing & prayers for healing - open to everyone (not just AA).

EVERY THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. **WEEKLY HOLY SPIRIT BREAKFAST** - Join us as we give honor, praise, and glory to the Holy Spirit, followed by Holy Mass at 11:30. Come, taste & see this powerful communal celebration. Different speakers each week.

Currently offering **BIBLE STUDY** on ST PAUL.

1st THURSDAY

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. **MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP/PATRICIAN Meeting** - MEN & WOMEN. Why not join us this month?

EVERY 2nd THURSDAY

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. **ST. MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP** to pray for our children, family, and loved ones before the Blessed Sacrament.

4th TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. **PRAYER CENACLE** with OUR LADY, QUEEN of the HOME - using the book *Our Lady's Message of Mercy to the World*.

Check out our website www.myfathershouse.com for upcoming Parish Missions. Call us to have your Family Reunion here. Lodging & Meals available.

www.myfathershouse.com sbsheldon@sbcglobal.net

Phone: (860) 873-1581

Curves

Curves of Moodus invites you in for the New Year!

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Events Magazine Food Editor

Pizzeria Da Vinci

8 Locations, including:

- Higganum, 7 Killingworth Road, 860-345-2251, M-Sat 11-9/Sun 3-9
- Deep River, 181 Main Street, 860-526-0884, M-Thurs. 11:30-9/Fri-Sat 11:30-10/Sun 3-9
- Moodus, 25 Falls Road, 860-873-2299, 4-9 every day

Old Lyme location to open in Spring 2009

Menus, locations & hours available on website: www.davincict.com

Looking for authentic, Italian thin crust pizza? Well look no farther than your closest Pizzeria Da Vinci! Branch owners Drew and Carrie Sassi opened their first Pizzeria Da Vinci restaurant just six years ago, and the ninth will be opening in Old Lyme this spring.

Drew and Carrie, an energetic and friendly young couple, are hands-on owners and were hard at work behind the counter in Higganum when I arrived. Their business is booming, and Carrie pointed out that sticking to what they do best - take out food with great counter service and a menu of pizzas, generous salads, grinders and calzones - has allowed them to keep their prices down even though the cost of ingredients has gone up.

As branch owners, the Sassi's own three of the Pizzeria Da Vinci locations outright, and Carrie's brother owns a fourth. They've licensed the other locations, allowing trusted friends and former managers to help them expand the business. While there are minor variations on the menus at the various locations, the shared menu selections are all made from the same recipes as part of the Pizzeria Da Vinci brand.

Pizzeria Da Vinci makes its thin crust dough fresh, and offers over twenty topping choices on its regular pizzas. Pizzas come 12", 16" or 18", and cost from \$7.95 to \$13.50 with one topping. Additional toppings are \$1.50 to \$2.00 each. Single slices are available daily. Specialty pizzas cost from \$10.95 to \$17.95, and come in sixteen tasty variations.

My favorite, The Da Vinci, offers a mouth-watering combination of mozzarella, fresh spinach, sun-dried tomatoes, roasted garlic, feta cheese and spices. My kids enjoy both the tangy BBQ chicken pizza; a red pizza with mozzarella and white chicken marinated in BBQ sauce, along with the pepperoni pizza, topped with spicy pepperoni, lightly herbed sauce and mozzarella. If you have a really hungry crew on your hands, the Baked Potato Pizza, topped with mozzarella, sliced red potatoes, bacon, sour cream, garlic and spices will fill them up, as will the Mangiare Tutto, with meatball, pepperoni,



bacon, peppers, onions, mushrooms and olives. Vegetarians also have lots of choices, with plenty of vegetarian toppings available for regular pizzas, six vegetarian specialty pizzas, a Veggie Pesto grinder, and several hearty salad variations. Salads are large enough to feed two as a meal or four along with a pizza, and range in price from \$5.50 to \$9.95. Foxon Park soda, a regional specialty brand, is also available.

At the Deep River location, Thursday and Saturday nights are "Pasta Nights," and two daily soup choices are available from October through Good Friday of each year.

Whether you are looking for a satisfying take out meal for your family or a quick slice and a salad, it's time to give your closest Pizzeria Da Vinci a visit!

- Lorna Dicker

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www.eventsmagazines.com

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Welcome! New Community Lions Club Members



Back row:

Bill Dexter, Doug Swan and John Bradshaw.

Front Row: Arnie Davis, Marty Dexter, Sharon Will,
Dena Liedke and Paul Will.

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to all
who took the time
to submit photos
for cover considerations.
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Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission
is seeking new volunteers to assist with
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economic resources of the town,
consistent with the town's historic
character, quality of life
and natural environment.

Contact the Selectmen's Office
for an application.

East Haddam/Moodus Little League



Paid Umpire Positions

Positions are available for East Haddam/Moodus Little League umpires. If you are between 12 and 19 years old, our League is expanding our paid youth umpiring program. You can umpire as many or few games as you wish and we will integrate them with your schedule.

This is ideal for middle-school- and high-school-aged baseball and softball players or former players looking to make a few extra dollars. We will be offering an umpire training clinic in April, so no previous umpiring experience is necessary.

If interested or if you just have questions, please contact the Little League Umpire Coordinator, Joseph Corbett, at (860)301-2996 or e-mail him at Joseph.J.Corbett@gmail.com

Little League Registration

East Haddam/Moodus Little League Registration for the 2009 Little League season will be held on Wednesday, January 28 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, January 31 from 2-4 p.m. at Nathan Hale Ray High School in Room 149. Snow date will be Tuesday, February 3, 6-8 p.m.

There is a \$15.00 discount for any registration filed on or before February 3, 2009. Children who will be between the ages of 5-16 as of April 30, 2009 for baseball or December 31, 2008 for softball, are eligible to play. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required for first-time registrants.

Registration forms will be sent home with children attending the Elementary and Middle Schools. We encourage you to mail in your registration forms. Forms will also be available on our web site at www.eteamz.com/easthaddammoodus.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Bryan Perry 873-9240.

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East Haddam Parks & Recreation www.easthaddamparkandrec.com

Women's Volleyball - Women's volleyball is held every Wed. at the Middle School gym from 7:00-9 p.m. The fee is \$10 per player, per season. Women's volleyball will run through May 26, 2009. Adults only, please. A minimum of 10 players are needed to hold this program.

Men's Basketball - Men's basketball is offered throughout the winter to all East Haddam residents. Nonresidents are accepted as long as they are accompanied by an East Haddam resident each week (one guest per resident). This program offers pick-up basketball games on Wednesdays at the high school gym from 7-9 p.m. for men age 18 and over, Sundays at the middle school gym from 9-11 a.m. for men aged 30 and over. The cost is \$10 per resident, and \$20 per nonresident.

Yoga - This is a comprehensive yoga class designed to suit the needs of beginner to moderate-level practitioners. Bring a yoga mat and props as necessary to make you comfortable and wear loose, comfortable clothing. Please refrain from wearing perfumes or colognes. Questions can be directed to your yoga instructor, Nancie LaPier, at 344-9299.

March 11-May 27, 2009, Twelve-Week Program - \$65.00

Wednesday Eves. from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Grange Hall on Town Street

Community Music Circle - Bring your acoustic instruments and/or your voice. We will play songs that are easy to learn and play and lend themselves to improvisational solos. All acoustic instruments are welcome: guitars, mandolins, auto-harps, percussion toys, hand drums, harmonicas, etc... I'll provide 1 electric bass to be played softly. Or just come and listen - all are welcome. Questions to: swahilipete@sbcglobal.net. Every 4th Mon., from 7-9 p.m. at Grange Hall on Town Street

Elementary School and Middle School Day Camp - Registration will begin on Sat., April 25th, from 10-2 at the Elementary School. Registrations will be accepted in person or through the mail after April 26. East Haddam Day Camp will be held this summer from July 6, - August 14. There are many great changes coming to camp this year...stay tuned! The Elementary School camp is open to East Haddam residents in grades 1-5 (as of the fall of '09); the Middle School camp is open to East Haddam residents in grades 6-8 (as of the fall of '09). The cost will be \$75 per week, per child. There will be a sibling discount of \$10 per child, per week. After-Care will be \$7 per day, per child; there are no discounts. Payment plans will be offered.

Adult Co-Ed Soccer - Open to all East Haddam residents age 18 and older. This program will continue year round, returning to outdoor soccer when the weather permits. Sun. and Wed. nights from 6-8 p.m. - ages 18 and older. (Please join us at any time!) Elementary School gym - \$10 per resident, \$20 per nonresident, per season.

DEP Safe Boating Class - This class will prepare you to apply for your State of Connecticut boating license and personal watercraft certificate. You must attend all four classes. At the end of the class, you will be given a test; if you pass, you will be given a form to submit to obtain your boating license. A maximum of 50 students will be accepted, so please register early. East Haddam residents are given first priority to register. Spring Dates To be Determined. High School cafeteria. \$10 per person.

Performing Arts Classes - Acting classes run for seven weeks, meeting once a week (excluding skip dates). Some of the topics/activities include the following: exciting theater games, improvisational exercises, acting terminology, concentration exercises, voice and speech, sense memory, subtext, stage skills, and script work. At the end of the session there will be an informal performance to demonstrate what participants have been working on. For our past and more experienced performers, these classes will be challenging and offer new and exciting activities! Who: students in K-6th grade - Session 1: Feb. 6-March 27 (no class Feb. 20), Session 2: May 2-June 13. / K-2nd grade-4:15 - 5 p.m. / 3rd-6th grade-5:05 - 6 p.m. Elementary School cafeteria. \$90 per child.

American Red Cross Babysitting Class - Become a safe, certified quality babysitter. Participants will learn many skills and techniques for child care. Taught by a certified, American Red Cross instructor. Feb. 24, March 3, 10 from 6:15-8:15 p.m. at Middle School. Students must be aged 11 before the

class begins. \$55 per student, a textbook is included.

When I'm in Charge - A safety class for children ages 9-11 who may be home alone. American Red Cross certified class and instructor; children will be introduced to many topics that need to be discussed to be home alone safely. Jan. 28 or March 25 from 6:15-8:15 p.m. at Elementary School. Cost: \$30 per participant

East Haddam Park and Recreation Open House - Parks and Recreation will host an Open House on April 25th, at the Elementary School gym. This is also the first day of Day Camp registration. You will be able to meet many of our program instructors, try some of our programs, watch live demonstrations, and enter in free raffle drawings. We will be there to answer questions and help you register for all of the Park and Rec. programs; April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at East Haddam Elementary School.

Summer Employment - Are you interested in a summer job with East Haddam Park and Recreation? We will begin taking applications on January 5. Beginning April 1, we will conduct interviews to complete the hiring process. We will accept applications for the following positions:

Lifeguards - must be 16 years of age and have a minimum of the American Red Cross Lifeguard certification.

Camp Counselors - must be 15 years of age to work at the Elementary School camp and 18 years of age to work at the Middle School camp.

To request an application, please contact Tiffany at the Rec. Office at 873-5058.

Park and Rec Fees and Registration Procedures

Do you want to register for a great program...or several? You may use the registration form to register for any of our programs except the following: Day Camp, Soccer, Basketball, Performing Arts, swimming lessons...these programs have a specific registration form. In order to register, just mail in or drop off your completed form and the appropriate fee. Forms are also available on the web site: www.easthaddamparkandrec.com. The web site contains program information, registration forms, up-to-date information, and details. If you have a question, suggestion, or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Tiffany at the Rec. office at 873-5058, or by e-mail at parkandrec@snet.net. Office hours are generally Monday through Friday, 8:00-2, but please call ahead. Forms can also be dropped off at the Selectman's Office during business hours. Please try to preregister, as this helps us to serve you better. We can plan better programs when we know how many people to expect.

Spring Tennis Lessons - First Serve Tennis Academy will be offering youth tennis lessons this spring! These classes will be taught by certified professional staff, tennis pros, and college players. Participants must provide their own rackets; balls and other equipment will be provided.

Kiddie Tennis-Ages 3-6 with limited or no experience- Sat., 10-11 a.m.; fee \$100 per student. *Level 1 Tennis*- Ages 7-9-beginner to advanced beginner- Sat., 11a.m.-12 p.m.; fee \$145 per student. *Level 2 Tennis*- ages 10-13-all strokes and spins covered as well as basic strategy- 12:30-2:00 p.m.; fee \$145 per student. All classes will be held at the "Old" Middle School tennis courts. Class Dates: Saturdays, April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 30, June 6. Rain dates- June 13 and 14.

Summer Soccer Camp - When: June 29-July 3, 2009- 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Hale Ray High School Soccer fields for boys and girls who have completed grades 1-6. \$130 for the week. The East Haddam Soccer camp program is in its sixth year. This is a full-day camp that runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each player at the camp will receive a ball at the beginning of the week and will keep the ball when camp is over. *The first 50 campers to sign up will receive a ball with a special camp logo at no extra charge!

Boot Camp Fitness - Boot Camp Fitness is a challenging, total-body, cross-training program that focuses on your cardiovascular health, muscle strength, agility, and endurance. The classes use a variety of techniques, very simple equipment, and even the local landscape for cardio exercises, such as running hills and sprints plus strengthening such as push-ups, lunges, squats,

and pull-ups. Classes will end with core strengthening and stretching. Basic Training is great for those who haven't been working out and need to start at a slower pace. *Basic Training: Level 1* - Bring a towel and a water bottle. *Bootcamp Fitness: Level 2* - We work out in all conditions; be prepared to get wet and dirty. Bring a towel and a water bottle, and free weights. Classes will be held Jan. 13-Sat., April 4. Tues and Thurs. at 6:30 p.m.; Sat. at 8:00 a.m. Winter classes will be held indoors. Please pre-register, you will receive a phone call with location information. Cost: 3x week- \$225, 2x week- \$180, 1x week \$95, drop-in fee \$10 per session.

Getting Paid to Talk - A single evening class that takes a realistic and entertaining look at the positive and negative components of building success as a voice-over actor in your area. Our instructor will discuss both creative and business aspects of the field. In addition to having an opportunity to hear voice acting demos from working professionals, each student will have the opportunity to record a real script under the direction of our producer. Each student's recording is then played back at the end of the session as a class finale. A minimum of 8 and a maximum of 25 students are needed to hold this class. Class will be held at the Middle School on Feb 2.

Soccer Referee Certification - If you are interested in becoming a USSF-certified, entry-level, grade 8 youth soccer referee, classes will be held through the Haddam/Killingworth Soccer Club at the HK Middle School on Rte 81 in Killingworth. You must be 13 years of age by 6/30/09 to take this class. Upon successful completion of the class, you will be qualified to be a sideline or center referee at age-appropriate recreation and travel soccer games. Classes: Feb. 23, March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16 and 18 from 6-9 p.m. Please e-mail Shelly at xmastreesrus@sbcglobal.net to register.

Fitness 4 Kidz Programs - are taught by Kim Cale, a professional Youth Physical Fitness Instructor. These programs teach kids the importance of physical activity and fun ways to achieve healthy lifestyles. *Itsy Bitsy Fitness* - for children ages 3-5, without a parent, 35-45 minutes of structured physical fitness. It building their gross motor skills. Wed., 9:30-10:15 at the Grange Hall on Feb. 4-April 8. 10 weeks at \$100 per child. *Mommy and Me Funtastic Fitness* - for children ages 3-5, parent and child class, 35-45 minutes of structured physical fitness, building gross motor skills. Wed., 9:30-10:15 at the Grange Hall on Feb. 4-April 8. 10 weeks at \$100 per child.

Funtastic Fitness grade 4-8 - 1 hour of pure fun! This class consists of circuit training, obstacle courses, and exercise drills. These are high-intensity cardiovascular workouts combined with weight-resistance exercises. Middle School cafeteria from 2:30-3:30 on Fridays, Feb. 6-April 10. Parents must pick up children on time. Class is 10 weeks for \$100 per child.

Funtastic Yoga grades 4-8: 45 minutes of building strength, flexibility, self confidence, proper posture, and breathing techniques through a variety of yoga poses. Middle School cafeteria from 2:30-3:15 on Thursdays, Feb. 5-April 9. Cost is \$100 per child. *Funtastic Yoga grades 9-12*: 45 minutes of building strength, flexibility, self confidence, proper posture and breathing techniques through a variety of yoga poses. High school cafeteria from 2:30-3:15 on Monday, Feb. 2- April 6. Cost is \$100 per child. *Speed Agility and Quickness*: 1 hour of Pure Power! This SAQ training class is designed to improve sports performance. This program will enhance the athletes' peak performance using advanced training tools like Plyometrics, speed training drills, and agility training equipment. Middle School cafeteria on Mondays at 6 p.m. on Feb. 1-April 6. Cost is \$100 per child for the 10-week class.

Teen Bootcamp- Get fit, stay in shape for spring sports with this co-ed bootcamp class. An after-school program for all teens of any fitness level. Banner Total Fitness, 1 Banner Road, Moodus - 6 week session - Wed. & Fri. 3:00-4:00 (Jan 28-Mar. 6) \$65.00 - 6 weeks - Class is Free to Gym Members

Total Body Challenge - Total body workout using resistance bands, stability balls, and free weights to challenge all muscle groups with short bursts of cardio to get the heart rate pumping and burn calories. Banner Total Fitness Gym, 1 Banner Road, Moodus. Mon. 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. & Sat. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. 6-week session starts January 26 - March 7. Registering for one class - \$42.00. Two classes - \$65.00. Class is Free to Gym Members.

Music on the River - Begin planning for another incredible summer of music and entertainment! Our band selection committee is working on book-

ing the events for the summer! These concerts are free. We do not use any town funds to offer these concerts; they are completely supported by community, patron, and business donations. If you are interested in making a donation to support Music on the River 2009, please send a check to East Haddam Park and Recreation, P.O. Box 278, East Haddam, CT 06423. Thank you for your generosity, and we'll see you in July!

"My Gym" Is coming to East Haddam! A franchise in Glastonbury, will be offering a mobile program for the East Haddam Community! *Gymsters & Tots*- 45 minute Parent Participation Class for children ages 23 months - 3-1/4 years. The gross motor abilities of early 2-year-olds are often characterized by more confident running, jumping on two feet, and an overall improved spatial awareness of their bodies. This is the earliest age group with which we work on fine and gross manipulatives in a structured format. The youngsters are elated as they sing, dance, play games, watch puppet shows, take turns on special rides, and have "Surprise Time!" The 45-minute program is jam-packed with pre-gymnastics, structured games and adventures. *Mighty Mites and Whiz Kids* - 45 minute Independent Class for children ages 3-1/4 - 6 years. Greater independence, a sense of responsibility, social awareness, and a feeling of vulnerability are emotions frequently experienced by youngsters of this age, all of which are addressed in this stimulating program. With greater independence comes the ability to participate without the parent, and our Mighty Mites and Whiz Kids are lavished with positive reinforcement for self-reliance and following directions. Strength, flexibility, and agility are increased. Both programs will be offered as a ten-consecutive-week session for \$119 per child. Sat., Feb. 7-April 11, 2009. The Gymster/Tot program requires a min. of 3 students and a max of 16. Classes from 10:15-11:00. The Mighty/Whiz program requires a min of 3 students to run and a max of 12. Classes will be held from 11:15-12:00. Grange Hall, Town St., East Haddam. For more information please contact: My Gym Glastonbury (860) 633-8700 or Tiffany Quinn, at the Rec. office at 873-5058.

A HUGE thank you to our soccer coaches! They dedicated their time every week to attend practices, and games. The kids had a great season, thanks to these adults! Jerry Boynton, Lynn Liska, Ron Perry, Leah Hetzel, Wanda Maurer, Pam Ciccarello, Jason Torrence, Ben Manfull, Tim McPhearson, Josh Ward, Ray Sevigny, Angela Spradlin, Kim Dominy, and Deb Tischo. A thank you to the parents that pitched in a helping hand for these coaches during practices as well! Without your time, talents, and energy, we would not be able to offer these programs to the youth soccer players in East Haddam!

Tiffany Quinn, Director of East Haddam Parks & Recreation, earns Certified Youth Sports Administrator Certification

Tiffany Quinn recently joined more than twenty other recreation professionals from across the country at an Academy for Youth Sports Administrators (AYSA). The event was held October 22 - 24 in Seattle, Washington. This special Academy was created through a partnership between the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) and the Washington Recreation and Park Association. The National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) is America's leading advocate for positive and safe sports and activities for children. By attending the academy, Quinn earned the coveted title of Certified Youth Sports Administrator (CYSA). The Academy is a twenty-hour professional certification program that offers cutting-edge information on critical issues facing youth sports today. To date, more than 1,800 CYSAs have graduated from the academy. Some of the topics covered at the academy are youth sports philosophy, professional development, volunteer management, child-abuse prevention, parent management, conflict resolution, insurance and risk management, and program evaluation and marketing. The academy is the leading advocate for higher education for youth sports administrators, with its number-one goal to provide attendees with the tools they need to build the body of knowledge necessary to positively impact the youth sports experience for all children.

Please join me in congratulating Tiffany on her achievement, as well as her commitment to continuous improvement of the town's recreation programs.

John J. Gowac
Member East Haddam Parks and Recreation Commission

Second East Haddam Environmental Roundtable



Joan Nichols, Connecticut Farm Bureau, and Sue Merrow take questions from Roundtable participants.



Heidi Green, 1000 Friends of Connecticut, discussing Smart Growth

Thirty citizens from eighteen local organizations concerned with the East Haddam's environment and rural character came together on November 8 for the second East Haddam Environmental Roundtable, sponsored by the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee.

The Roundtable had four objectives: to update one another on progress made toward the goals of each organization, to capitalize on opportunities for groups to collaborate with each other, to continue discussion of Local Agriculture/Food Production/Food Security, and to learn more about Smart/Responsible growth, one of the topics identified at the first Roundtable.

The various groups have an impressive list of accomplishments and goals:

- The Earth Charter's 2008 summit was a success and featured participation in a global satellite program about climate change.
- The Conservation Commission is seeking a grant for removal of invasive plant species and is collaborating with East Haddam Land Trust and the school system.
- The Historic District Commission is making a photo inventory of all structures in the historic districts and including some other important sites.
- The East Haddam Land Trust is working toward assembling a walking trail along the Moodus River.
- The Open Space Committee has implemented changes in its property review procedure to ensure properties in all parts of the town are given equal consideration. The committee reports that non-town sources of funding for open space are becoming scarce, and it has initiated a search for new funding sources.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission has completed work on the revised Plan of Conservation and Development, which was adopted at a town meeting on August 27, 2008. They are now reviewing existing regulations to better preserve rural character and visiting previously approved subdivisions to see what regulation changes could be made to accomplish this.
- The Eightmile River Management Committee recently held a summit for the land use commissions of the three towns to discuss implementing the Eightmile River management plan.

- The Garden Club has initiated discussion with the Senior Center for a horticultural therapy program.
- The Green Committee has initiated several educational efforts, including a flyer on "Easy Ways to Go Green," carpooling info, appropriate small-scale agriculture, and contact with CL&P for an energy audit and to sign up for "clean energy."
- The Water Pollution Control Authority worked with the Chatham Health District to develop a septic system pump-out ordinance and is working with Wildwood Association (Bashan Lake) to resolve wastewater problems.
- The Board of Selectmen is making an effort to get local produce into schools and will inventory environmental grant opportunities.
- The Sanctuary is focusing on environmental and ecological education with demonstration projects such as a composting toilet and a geodesic greenhouse for year-round food production.
- The Economic Development Commission is encouraging economic growth consistent with East Haddam's historic and rural character. The town website business directory now lists 250 East Haddam businesses and the EDC is regularly publishing a visitor's guide promoting "shop locally" and now have the staff to reach out to local businesses.

The Roundtable gathering enjoyed two timely presentations: Joan Nichols of the Connecticut Farm Bureau led a discussion of local agriculture. Ms. Nichols praised the group for its support of agriculture and recommended Planning for Agriculture, recently jointly published by the American Farmland Trust and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities as a source for towns that want to preserve local agriculture (See www.CTPlanningforAgriculture.com.) She reported that agriculture viability grants are available for municipalities as well as various tax benefits for farmland and farm equipment. Among steps she suggested East Haddam should consider are the adoption of a "Right to Farm" ordinance and establishment of an Agriculture Commission to promote and support local agriculture.

Heidi Green, President of 1000 Friends of Connecticut, spoke about Smart Growth. Ms. Green emphasized the long-term benefits of responsible growth over sprawl. She pointed out that Connecticut is losing farmland and its 18- to 34-year-old population faster than any other state and that Connecticut currently has high housing, energy, and transportation costs because we have allowed ourselves to sprawl. Towns like East Haddam are growing fast and have to build schools and provide other municipal services, while cities are being abandoned. Connecticut's reliance on the property tax to fund local government is a major cause of sprawl. Because towns are under pressure to grow their grand lists, they often make short-sighted land use decisions (big box stores and fast food establishments are examples of such decisions). Rural towns, like East Haddam, too often allow residential development far from services and infrastructure. Ms. Green urged that legislators need to know that we want better, responsible, "smart" growth policies and pointed out that the "Grow Connecticut Smart" campaign is a way to sign up to use your voice to influence the policy making process.

The focus of the spring 2009 Roundtable will be local agriculture.

Are You Getting the Maximum Tax Refund?

EIC Program Rewards Some Low-Income Workers with Significant Tax Refund

Hundreds of millions of dollars are left on the table each year by people who are eligible for - but fail to claim - the federal Earned Income Credit (EIC). The EIC is a refundable federal tax credit for working individuals and families who have earned income under \$38,646. It reduces the amount of tax owed by such people, and it may result in them receiving a tax refund.

Who can get the EIC and how much is it worth?

Families who are raising one child in their home and had a family income of less than \$33,995 in 2008 can get an EIC of up to \$2,917. Families who are raising more than one child in their home and had a family income of less than \$38,646 can receive up to \$4,824. Workers who are not raising children in their home but are between ages 25 and 64, and had an income in 2008 below \$12,880 can get an EIC of up to \$438.

Free Tax Assistance - Free tax preparation for low-income workers is available through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

For more information on Connecticut's VITA program or EIC, call Jodonna Powell, IRS's Connecticut Territory Manager, at 860-756-4660 (Jodonna.G.Powell@irs.gov) or visit www.cbpp.org/eic2009/.

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EAST HADDAM NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

WELCOME TO OUR TOWN!

On behalf of *Events* Magazines, welcome to East Haddam. Whether you are new to Connecticut or just to East Haddam, you will find wonderful people and places to visit in town.

Below are important phone numbers. Please tear out this page and keep it for future reference.

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www.eheducationfoundation.org
 East Haddam Garden Club873-8732
 East Haddam Lakes Association860-531-6070
 East Haddam Republican Town Committee ...873-9240
 Friends of Gillette Castle State Park
526-2336 (434-2603 Judy)
 Friends of Rathbun Library.....873-8310
 Friends of East Haddam Public Library.....873-8248
 Hadlyme North School Society
P.O. Box 328 Hadlyme CT 06439
 Moodus Fife & Drum.....873-8837
 Rotary Club of East Haddam860-537-6070
 St. Bridget's of Kildare Knights of Columbus
 Council 9358873-9663

CONSUMER PROTECTION.....860-566-2294

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 Eileen Daly.....860-399-7342
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 Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School873-5081
 Superintendent873-5090

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Rotary Club of East Haddam

What is it all about?

In 1945, twenty-five charter members, seeing a need for a service organization in the community, came together to form the Rotary Club of East Haddam. Their foresight, vision, and dedication brought forth this dedicated group.

The very next year, they formed a sister association, the East Haddam Scholarships, Inc. Through fundraisers, donations, and the legacies of others, this fellowship has awarded over 100 four-year and two-year scholarships, as well as hundreds of spelling, oratorical, writing, and math awards throughout the years.

In 1975, the Rotary Club donated to the town its first emergency vehicle. When this vehicle was replaced, the original was given to another town, where it was used for many more years.

In 1994, the club dedicated the Edgar D. Williams Memorial Park and Gazebo to the community. This is a four-acre site on Lumberyard Road.

Every year the club coordinates the food drive for needy families in towns through the support of East Haddam's school-children. Now Rotary works with Liberty Bank and the East Haddam Food Bank in putting together Thanksgiving food baskets. This past year approximately ninety families received a Thanksgiving food basket.

In 1995, through Project Protect Every Child, all children who were eligible were identified and offered free immunizations.

Boy Scout Troop 22 has been sponsored by the Rotary Club for decades. Each year the Spaghetti Dinner at the American Legion furthers this cause.

The club was actively involved in starting an Interact Club at Nathan Hale-Ray High, where students can serve the local committee and the world through the vast resources of the club and Rotary International, the world.

In the past, each spring and fall, Rotary has sponsored a boy and a girl from the high school to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Seminar, where corporate trainers, educators, and motivational speakers train our youth for the future.

For many years the club has run the Rotary Skating Pond, at the base of Mount Parnassus Road. Each year, in addition to the regular maintenance, a Town-wide Skating Party is held there.

We are not alone; East Haddam Rotary Club is part of Rotary International, with a total membership of 1.2 million service-minded leaders in over 27,500 clubs in 187 countries and geographic regions.

In the past, East Haddam Rotary has sponsored incoming and outgoing International Youth Exchange students to countries such as India, Belgium, Venezuela, France, the Netherlands, and Japan. Students come here from Mexico, Venezuela, France, and Germany. Through its Ambassadorial Scholarship Program, Rotary International is the largest awarder of international scholarships in the world. Through its Polio Plus program, 123 countries have become Polio-Free. With Rotary's help through local members, and along with supplying project funding, together, the World Health Organization and Rotary were able to gain the confidence of the world's families.

The East Haddam Rotary Club helped fund a Solar-



Photo by Brian Denette

Powered Water Purification Pilot Project in Africa with other clubs. This project is awaiting matching grants from Rotary International.

Every year Rotary donates dictionaries to every third grade student in the East Haddam Elementary School.

The History of The East Haddam Scholarships, Inc.

The year was 1946. The elementary school teacher sat at her desk in the late-afternoon study hall with a headache. In the back row an eighth-grade student sketched her. Some might say that he wasn't doing what he was supposed to be doing, but, in truth, he was. The student, Gene Soja, knew he could and would become an artist. The teacher, Ceil Sullivan Banner, the wife of resort-owner Jack Banner, also knew it. Mrs. Banner shared the artistic experience with her husband.

continued on page 28

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Rotary... continued from page 27

The boy had definite artistic abilities - she would have loved for him to further his education. She imagined how other people in town could have felt.

Jack Banner had an idea. He would ask his club, the East Haddam Rotary Club, to start a scholarship fund, the East Haddam Scholarship Fund, Inc. Jack, then owner of Banner Lodge, would hold an annual banquet, the proceeds of which were to accumulate into a trust fund to be administered by a governing body, headed by educators, some Rotary Club members, and other townspeople, but chartered to include any community members who wished to belong.

The first year, Jack raised \$300. However, he wasn't alone: Mrs. Mamie O'Brien gave a dollar; Sherwood Cone gave two; the Fire Department, \$25; Sam Pear, \$25; Wilson Brownell, \$20; Joe Blaschik, \$1; and the Hebrew Sisterhood, \$10.

Then, people who belonged to Rotary or who shared the ideals of the scholarship fund bequeathed funds. The Mary

Peck estate left \$21,000. Wilbur Root and his wife and Lawrence Wilkerson were some of the major early contributors. Many people began leaving sums to the fund in their wills or in the memory of loved ones. The greatest thing about this fund was, it didn't matter how much anyone gave, whether it was \$1 or \$20,000; at the annual meeting of the incorporators, when the Board of Directors was selected, everyone had ONE vote. This remains true to this day.

Gene Soja wasn't wasting his time that afternoon. He knew it, and fortunately, his teacher knew it. He won the four-year scholarship on June 8, 1950. He went on to study at the Pratt Institute in New York and became a commercial artist for the Upjohn Corporation. Later, he started two art studios. Gene Soja is only one of the many stories involved with the Scholarship Fund. Since its inception, over \$250,000 has been given out. Yet without him, and the others, and many of you, none of this would have happened.

The East Haddam Rotary Skating Pond

No, Virginia, there is no Miller's Pond. That is to say the skating pond in East Haddam is not and never was a Miller. In fact, there is no Miller's Pond anywhere in East Haddam, although it was once a Smith. The pond at the base of Mr. Parnassus is now the Rotary Pond.

Years ago it was a cranberry bog, seasonally flooded and harvested. Years later, it was flooded for a different reason. Ed Smith harvested ice from it and stored it in his icehouse, which stood where the parking lot stands now. The ice had a purpose. The Maus family would collect about sixty-five to seventy ten-gallon, 115-pound milk cans and transport the milk from the thirty-seven dairy farms in town to the Brock-Hall Dairy in New Haven. The drive to New Haven took a long time then, and the ice was a definite necessity.

It seems, Ed Smith's son was very fond of ice skating. Ed flooded the pond every fall. His son and many others used it. One day someone fell, and the private skating pond came to an end. The Rotary Club of East Haddam purchased the parcel from Ed Smith, one of its finest members. The rest is history.

Since that time, the club maintains the lighting, mows the pond each fall, floods it, and sometime during each winter sponsors the Town-Wide Skating Party, one of the few times we all get together as a community, just for fun. With the help of club members and many volunteers, firewood is also provided for the skaters' use. We are proud of East Haddam's skating pond.

The skating pond is unique for another reason. There among the numerous varieties of orchids are two very rare species of native orchids that weather beneath its ice and reappear each spring. Our club has known about them for a long time. The drainage ditches that Bill Hood, Sumner Brownell, Rudy Hoffman, and Mort Gelston dug seemed to make them flourish. In 1971, wild flower photographer Frank Burton noticed them also and noted, "I do not know of any other spot which grows these two very rare native orchids." We treasure them, as we do the pond. This coming winter, weather permitting, the skating pond will be there. Bring your skates and your children, and enjoy it.

Whatever you do, make sure, when spring arrives, and the pond is drained, you take a walk out there and enjoy those orchids; we treasure them, too.

Photo: Rotary Club Pond by Nancy Sowa circa 2004.



From the Assessor

The October 1, 2008 Grand List of all real and personal property is anticipated to be certified on January 31, 2009. Assessment notices will be mailed for all personal property and only real estate that had increases due to improvements on the property. Any persons who wish to appeal their assessments may appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals in March 2009. Requests to the board are due by February 20, 2009. 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 web site: www.easthaddam.org. The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is P.O. Box 623, Moodus, CT 06469.

The Assessor's Office will begin taking applications for the Homeowners Credit Program and Additional Veterans Benefits on February 1, 2009. To qualify, total income must not exceed \$30,500 for a single person and \$37,300 for a couple (joint income), including Social Security and Medicare. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2009.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31, 2009 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, 2009. Any questions should be directed to the Assessor's Office at 873-5026.

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History of East Haddam

Haddam and East Haddam were once one colony. It was about 1662 when this tract of land, lying fifteen miles from the mouth of the Connecticut and 30 miles south of Hartford, was purchased from the Indians by a party of young men for a value not exceeding \$100.00. The name of Haddam, which was given to the town about 1668 was presumably taken from the name Great Haddam in England. There were no settlements on the east side of the river until around 1670. There was but one ecclesiastical society before 1700 when the inhabitants formed the second. But it was not until 1754 that the community was formally and agreeably divided into two towns, the colony on the west bank keeping the name of Haddam and the one on the east taking the name of East Haddam.

The original settlers of East Haddam laid out the town into nine sections, each three-fourths of a mile square, and the roads were laid out that distance apart as boundaries. Among some of the old turnpikes or post-roads were the East Haddam and Colchester Turnpike" granted in 1809; a post road from Middletown through Chatham, to East Haddam Landing, and thence to New London; and one from Norwich to New Haven granted in 1817.

This town, lying along the eastern bank of the Connecticut River, is situated at one of the most beautiful points of the valley. It is about eight miles square, containing 39,900 acres, extending from the town of Chatham on the north to Lyme on the south, with Salem on the east and the Salmon and Connecticut Rivers on the west. The Salmon River is the one from which the power is developed that is used in turning the draw of our new bridge, and the Connecticut is well known for its beauty. The meanderings of this river with high ledges on one side, meadows on the other and rolling hills in the background are well known sources of charming picturesqueness. The diversified scenery has always been an object of admiration to travelers who have visited many other states. From some of the higher elevations, which are between 500 and 600 feet above sea level, the landscape furnishes excellent material for the artists, as well as those who are looking for quiet and rest.

As we enter the town, whether from the river steamers or by crossing the new bridge, we find ourselves at East Haddam Landing, formerly Goodspeed's Landing. The building just at the right of the approach to the bridge is owned by the Hartford and New York Transportation Co. This was formerly known as Goodspeed's Opera House, and contains the freight offices of the Transportation Company, general store, the Post Office, office rooms, (in some of which the Bridge Commission's work has been carried on), and a large hall. Facing the old ferry landing is a well kept slope on the summit of which stands the commodious hotel, Riverside Inn. In years gone by this inn was known as the Gelston House and later as the Hotel Swan. But the appearance of this lawn contrasts greatly with the appearance of the same lawn in the early forties, when ship-building was carried on extensively here.

At the Landing, manufacturing is carried on to some extent; but during the Summer months the whirl of machinery is drowned

by the "honk" of autos and the din of merry vacationists.

Numerous summer homes and bungalows have been erected all along the river. The residents take advantage of the fertility of the soil and agriculture is one of the chief occupations in this part of the town. On account of having easy access to the New York and Hartford markets by means of the river, produce may be raised here at the minimum cost and receive the maximum price in the cities.

Following the macadam road which runs northerly along the river bank, we pass many neat and attractive homes on either side of the highway. These are exemplary of many of the homes in the town. We also pass the St. Stephens Episcopal Church whose stone structure is indeed a credit to its architect. This church can boast of having the oldest bell in existence suspended in its tower. The bell was cast in 815. Above us on our right, but hidden from our view, stands the old Episcopal Church, an old landmark of the town, commanding a most slightly view up and down the valley. We have now reached the Upper Landing and on our left we see the large four-story brick building with its broad verandas, which is known as the Champion House. From this point in the drive there is an unobstructed view directly up the Connecticut River for nearly six miles. Leaving the river and traveling along a shady drive for a distance of four miles, one reaches the village of Moodus, but before we spend much time here, let us run over to the little village of Leesville, located on the Salmon River. Here it is that the electricity is generated that turns the draw of our new bridge. This hamlet, which is in the northwestern corner of the town, lies along the east bank of the Salmon River (a tributary of the Connecticut), the scenery of which rivals that of the Connecticut. To see this river in the Summer time, flowing placidly along, one could hardly realize that during the previous Spring it had been a rushing torrent and had risen to such a height that it flooded cellars and highways along its course, so that the portion below the power house, after it submerged the island looks more like a lake than a river.

Leaving this village we may climb the steep hills until we come to North Moodus. Here we see some of our best farms. On these rolling fields tobacco growing and general agriculture is carried on. On the hills over which we have climbed, sheep and cattle roam, from which the farmers derive profitable returns. Continuing our journey for a short distance we arrive at Moodus Center, which we could have reached by retracing our steps from Leesville to the macadam road. In traveling this route, we would have passed Mt. Tom Camp, where many linger through the Summer, enjoying the unrestricted freedom of country life. The village of Moodus has been long noted for the mysterious vibrations of the earth's surface which agitate the river, and the rumblings are heard for a radius of many miles. In fact, the name is a contraction of the Indian word "Machimoodus", meaning place of noises. From this legend one of the hotels of the village, the Machimoodus House takes its name. The village, however, supports another hotel, the Carrier House, which has always received liberal patronage.

The Moodus River turns the spindles of numerous mills, which change the bales of cotton into bundles of twine. This river is not very large, but lakes and reservoirs store quantities of water, which furnish an adequate supply at periods of low water. Beside the twine industry, the machine and buckle shops do an

extensive business.

There are three churches at the Center, the denominations represented being Baptist, Catholic and Methodist. The school has recently been removed and graded, the capacity being doubled. Since 1888 there has been a Free Public Library, which contains over 7,000 volumes and numerous periodicals. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions and town appropriations.

Leaving the Center; the eastern part of the town may be reached by two routes, either by going directly east on the macadam road, which for a short distance is shaded by luxurious maples, and passes many of our numerous factories at the "Falls"; which locality derives its name from the beautiful falls of the Moodus River in its course from the reservoir and Lake Bashan; or taking a southerly route, we go to Little Haddam, where the Congregational Church, one of the oldest in the community raises its spire so that it may be seen from neighboring towns. This building was erected in 1794.

Through the wooded ways in an easterly direction we reach the Bashan district. A large part of this district is covered by the waters of lake Bashan. Around this lake in the past few years numerous cottages have been built and many campers enjoy fishing and boating on its quiet waters. The scenery here is delightful and the view furnished by the reflection of the moonlight on the surface of the lake causes honey-mooners to sit on the banks and reflect, hoping their future may be calm and smooth as the ripple-less lake.

Continuing on our journey to the eastward, we come to Millington, which was for a number of years the most thickly settled and influential portion of the town. At Chapman's Mills is the head of Eight Mile River, which empties into Hamburg Cove. For

a hundred feet the wild leaping of Chapman's Falls over the rocky ledges adds immeasurably to the romantic beauty of the weird scenery in this locality. Following the river, at the foot of the Falls down over Kettle Hill, along the old Coal Pit, where grateful birches now lighten its once dark depths, we come to the Hop Yard. Kettle Hill is so called from the holes in its crest, formed by the action of water whirling around, and which the early inhabitants took to be the kettles where the devil brewed his broths of "toil and trouble". The Devil's Hop Yard is a romantic dell extending over a few acres of ground, shaded on one side by a precipitous range of ledges; and spreading out along the borders of the brook by the wildest and most fantastic forms in Nature, makes an ideal spot for the yearly dance at which may be heard the strains of "The Devil's Ball". The river flows from here down through the district known as North Plains, which is situated in the southeast corner of the town. General farming and lumbering are carried on here. From this section the Norwich and New London markets are more easily reached. Following the Lyme line, in a westerly direction toward the river, we reach Hadlyme, two-thirds of this society being in the town of East Haddam. At this point one of the two remaining ferries on the Connecticut River still plies, crossing same between four and five miles below the East Haddam Bridge.

The town has been growing and prospering during the last century, and now that we are connected with the other half of the State, and will soon be connected by trolley with the nearby cities, it is only necessary to say that "History repeats itself", and in this progressive age, East Haddam will come to the front as one of the leading towns in the Connecticut Valley.

*Published 1913 - Official Program of the
Formal Opening of the East Haddam Bridge*

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Voter News



Early birds waiting for polls to open

Congratulations are due to the 85 percent of East Haddam registered voters who turned out to do their civic duty! Thanks to our Moderator Joel Ide, and his assistants, Lloyd Neudecker, Ed Blaschik, and all who helped make the election smooth and successful.

East Haddam voters overwhelmingly seemed pleased with their experience at the polls during the fall 2008 Presidential Election, held at the old Hale Ray Middle School on the corner of Plains Road and Wigwam Road in the Moodus section of East Haddam.

The Registrars received many comments praising the effi-

cient and courteous treatment voters received from the poll workers.

Although the stairwell was crowded before 6 a.m., early voters found the line moved swiftly when the polls officially opened. Some voters commented that although the parking lot appeared full, and they were worried that a long line awaited them, they were processed and able to vote very quickly.



Everyone in place

The Registrars worked hard to create a smooth traffic pattern and were pleased to have the cooperation of so many willing and efficient poll workers. Volunteers from Hale Ray High School and Middlesex Community College were very welcome and provided some great assistance.

The Registrars would also like to thank members of the town crew who helped move and set up equipment, the Selectman and Board of Education who helped to keep the school open and available so that the election could be held where the Presidential Preference Primary had been held, as is required by state law.

All voters should stay tuned to the town hall news and web site for the location of the fall 2009 town election. The registrars will work with the East Haddam Board of Education to decide which school will be used for a polling place, as the old Hale Ray Middle School will be shut down for renovation. Referendum, however, are still planned for our venerable old Town Hall.

*Hollie Cummings and Patricia Thomas
East Haddam Registrars of Voters*



*East Haddam voter using the scanner voting machine.
(Yes, it's Senator Dodd)*



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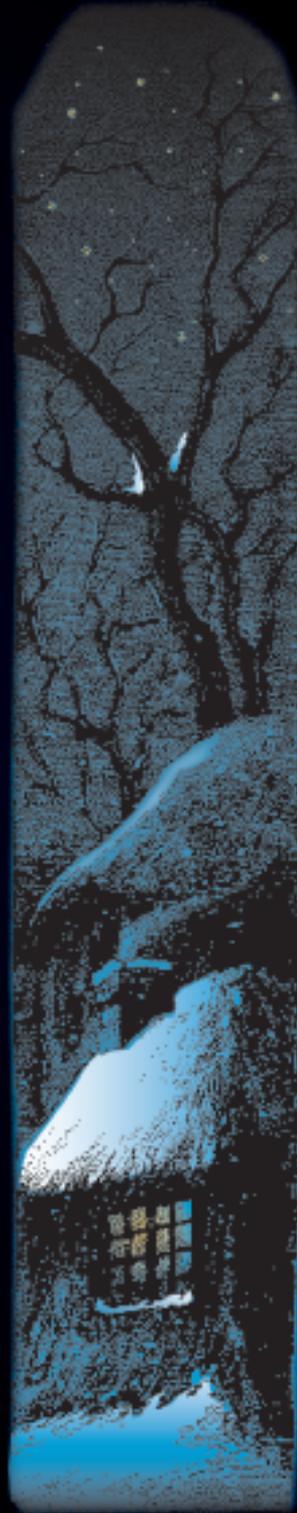
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