

East Hampton **events**

VOLUME 9 • QUARTER 1 • 2024



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Town Manager's Corner

As I write this message, winter is hanging on, but spring is trying to take over; it will be almost 50 degrees today and we will have a major snowstorm tomorrow. Typical! We had a difficult winter with rain events causing the most disruption. Town staff is finalizing plans for the repair and replacement of a washed-out bridge and culvert on Wopowog Road that was lost during rains in early January. Hopefully, when this edition comes out, we will have received permission to proceed with the repair, a contractor selected and a definitive timeline for the major work. In addition, Town staff has also turned its attention to planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

Budget preparations are well underway, and staff is working on the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The Board of Education has released and is considering its plan for the next year and Town staff and I are working on a proposed plan for general government that will address the future of the community. As always, that process will involve a number of public meetings at the Board of Education, the Board of Finance and the Town Council culminating in a referendum of Town residents. Capital improvement and purchasing plans for upcoming years have been developed and are being reviewed to ensure the Town continues its long-range planning for the future. This year, the Town Council is working to ensure residents have more opportunities to participate in the budget process as there are many important decisions to be made. From additional joint

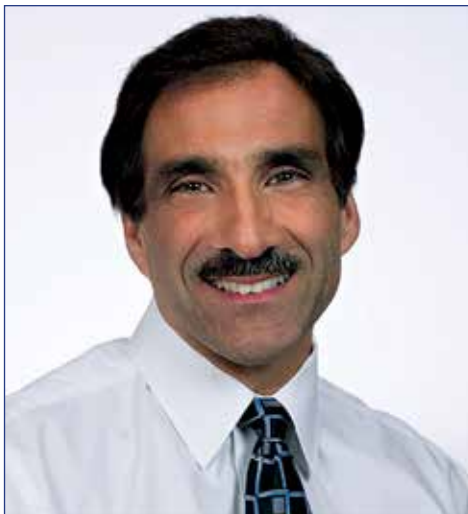
meetings of the Town Council and Boards of Education and Finance to listening sessions of individual or small groups of Town Council members, the public will have opportunities to understand the issues and voice its opinion during budget development. An article inside this edition will provide information on dates and other ways to participate. Residents and electors are encouraged to participate. Watch the Town's website for proposed budget information as the Town moves through this important planning effort.

As always, I hope you continue to appreciate the Events magazine and the information it provides. Please share thoughts you may have about the magazine with the Town Manager's Office or the Economic Development Commission as we are always looking for ways to make it as useful to the community as possible. Also, please support local businesses including those that advertise in the Events magazine. Not only do they help make our community the great place it is, but their support also helps the Town bring this quarterly publication to the community with limited cost.

David E. Cox, Town Manager



David E. Cox
Town Manager



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Office of the Assessor

REAL ESTATE CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

The Office of the Assessor is responsible for all real estate mailing addresses. Once a mailing address is updated in our office the change is updated in the Collector of Revenue's Office for tax and/or sewer billing. If you recently changed your mailing address, please visit our office or our Change of Address Form on the Assessor's page of our website at: www.easthamptonct.gov/assessor.

ELDERLY & TOTALLY DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for a tax credit on real estate; income guidelines apply and are adjusted each year.

Applications will be available starting February 1, 2024 and must be filed on or before May 15, 2024. Per the State of Connecticut, the maximum income for a single taxpayer has been set at \$43,800. The maximum income for a married couple has been set at \$53,400.

VETERANS

Low-income veterans or their widow(ers) may be eligible to receive an additional exemption per the State of Connecticut. Homeownership is not required. Additionally, a low-income veteran's exemption is available per local ordinance. Additional exemption information can be found at: www.easthamptonct.gov/assessor/pages/tax-relief-programs.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR BLIND OR TOTALLY DISABLED PERSONS

Connecticut law provides for a \$3,000 assessment exemption for taxpayers who are legally blind. Connecticut law also provides for a \$1,000 exemption for totally disabled persons who are receiving benefits under a federal, state or local retirement plan, which contains requirements comparable to those of the Social Security Administration.

RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM

Connecticut renters, who are elderly (over 65) or totally disabled, are eligible to apply for a rent rebate program. Qualified applicants may receive a rebate up to \$900 (married couple) or \$700 (single person).

The amount of the rebate is based on the amount of the applicant's qualifying income in the calendar year 2023, which must not exceed \$43,800 if unmarried, or \$53,400 if married.

When the application is filed, the applicant must submit proof of disability (if applicable), all payments made for rent, utilities, (electricity, gas, water and oil), in addition to proof of all income

continued on page 6

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Assessor... *continued from page 5*

for 2023. Applications are available at the Assessor's Office or on the www.easthamptonct.gov/assessor website. The filing period begins April 1st and ends October 1st.

HANDICAP EQUIPPED VEHICLES

In East Hampton, by municipal ordinance, privately used motor vehicles that have

been retrofitted to accommodate a handicapped person may be fully exempted from property taxes.

Office of the Collector of Revenue

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Office of the Collector of Revenue is currently preparing accounts to be billed for the upcoming fiscal year 2024/2025. It is important that we have your current mailing address so that you will receive your bill in a timely manner.

You may change your real estate and personal property address by filling out a Change of Address Form located on our website at: www.easthamptonct.gov on the Assessor's page. For motor vehicle address changes, you may visit the Department of Motor Vehicles website at: www.ct.gov/dmv and change your address online.

Connecticut law requires all residents with a vehicle registration, driver's license, or non-driver identification card to notify the DMV within 48 hours of any change of address.

If you should receive your real estate tax bill in July and are escrowing your taxes through your mortgage company please contact your bank immediately. Taxpayers who have not received a real estate tax bill and are not escrowing their taxes should contact the Collector of Revenue for a duplicate bill. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax CGS 12-130 and respective penalties should the account become delinquent.

Social Services

East Hampton Social Services aids and facilitates programs and applications for residents residing in East Hampton, Cobalt, and Middle Haddam.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

(CEAP-Connecticut Energy Assistance Program)

Contact the case manager to coordinate an appointment to apply for this program, which helps with your household's primary heating expense. If your household falls within the income guidelines, it is important to apply for this program. All applications are handled by appointment only. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated for this program. You must reapply every year. Please refer to the following site for specific details, as it will have the most up-to-date income limits and documentation requirements listed: www.crtct.org.

Please call Christine, the case manager, at: 860-267-4468, ext. 3208, to schedule your appointment for the processing of your 2023 / 2024 winter energy assistance application. It is important that you do not wait until you are in need of fuel, as approval of this program can take up to 45 days. If you are approved, any funds granted to you (for deliverable fuels), must be used by 4/1/24. Electric heat clients receive a credit on their statement before the close of the program.

EVERSOURCE

If you are struggling to keep up with your electric bill, please visit Eversource's site to determine if you are eligible for one of their many budget / programs they offer. Their site is filled with helpful information under their "Programs and Tips" link.

If electric heat is your primary heating source, please contact East Hampton Social Services to see if you may qualify for energy assistance. If you fall within the income guidelines, an appointment can be scheduled to process your application.

In addition, even if electric is not your primary heating source, you may qualify for winter protection or medical protection. Please call the office to discuss at: 860-267-4468, ext. 3208.

APPLICATIONS & RENEWALS FOR DSS SERVICES

East Hampton Social Services continues to assist residents with applications and renewals for DSS services. While we are not affiliated with the State's DSS, many times we can provide assistance via the

connect.ct.gov site. If you are in need of assistance with either, please call the office to discuss.

FOOD INSECURITY

If you are an East Hampton resident and are experiencing food insecurity, please contact the local Food Bank at: 860-365-5978. They are open Mondays & Thursdays from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.



If you utilize the Food Bank, and do not also receive SNAP benefits, please contact EH Social Services and you can be assisted with applying for this benefit. It is highly encouraged for you to apply for SNAP even if you also utilize the East Hampton Food Bank. In addition, if you apply and qualify for SNAP, that will also prequalify you for energy assistance benefits.

For anyone in a position to give back, the Food Bank is completely run and operated by volunteers and donations, so please contact them if you would like to donate

food or make a monetary donation.

To determine if your household qualifies for discounted broadband/internet service through the **Affordable Connectivity Program**, please visit: fcc.gov/acp.

UNABLE TO PURCHASE BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR A CHILD?

Please call Christine at 860-267-4468, ext. 3208 or email cwiesner@easthamptonct.gov if you have a child, living in East

Hampton, who has an upcoming birthday, and you are unable to purchase gifts. We have miscellaneous toys, games, dolls, etc. remaining in our office, from generous donors.

Registrar of Voters

APRIL 2, 2024 –

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY (PPP)

Only voters who are registered to the political party holding the primary are eligible to vote.

If a voter is currently Unaffiliated, they can change their party affiliation up to the day before the Early Voting period which starts Monday, March 25.

EARLY VOTING

Early Voting in Connecticut will begin in 2024, with the first opportunity coming in March, for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP). The PPP will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple Street, East Hampton.



Early Voting for the PPP will be held on Tuesday, March 26, Wednesday, March 27, Thursday, March 28, and Saturday, March 30 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Dr, East Hampton. Go to the Registrar of Voters Office on the 2nd floor.

Curbside voting will be available for those voters that qualify (temporarily incapacitated). Signs will be in front of the Town Hall building giving instructions.

Voters will be given a ballot to complete. Once a completed ballot is turned in, you will not be able to change your vote prior to the election. Ballots will be counted on Election Day at the polling location.

Town Clerk's Office

LAND RECORDS

The Town Clerk's office offers 24/7 Land Records access online at: www.searchiqs.com. Land records and maps are viewable free of charge, but you will be charged a fee if you wish to print the record.

DOG LICENSES

A friendly reminder to contact your veterinarian to confirm your dog is up to date with all its vaccines. All dogs over six months must be licensed by the 30th of June of each year. A current rabies certificate is required to license your dog. All dog licenses must be renewed annually during the month of June. You may renew your dog license online, in person or via mail.




SPORTS LICENSES

As fishing season is upon us, please visit our office to obtain your license or online at: <https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

The primary will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at East Hampton High School from 6:00 am-8:00 pm. Absentee Ballots will be available at our office starting Tuesday, March 12, 2024.




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ALL AGES PROGRAMS

MONDAY MOVIE MADNESS: Spring Break Edition

Monday, April 8 at 6:00 pm

Join us in the Library Community Room for dinner and a movie!

Bring blankets and get comfy for a screening of the 1993 classic film, *The Sandlot*. Pizza will be served.

All-Ages Book Bingo!

Monday, April 29 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us at the library for an evening of Bingo to win free books! Refreshments will be provided. Drop ins welcome.

Praying Mantises

April-June

The Library is hatching Praying Mantises this year! Our special guests will arrive in late April and will remain with us as they hatch, grow, and become adults. Check out the Praying Mantis-themed story in our Storywalk® at Seamster Park.



SAVE THE DATE:

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Sale dates: Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1

Donation Drop-Offs: The Friends of the Library will be accepting donations of gently used books from Saturday, May 18 through Thursday, May 30 during normal Library hours.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Take Your Child to the Library Day: All Ages

Saturday, February 3

Celebrate the library and all that it has to offer you and your child! Join us for a day of hands-on activities and prizes. See website for more details.

Early Literacy Programs

Drop-ins and siblings always welcome. See our website's calendar of events for full list of dates.

Bubbles and Beats: Ages 18 months - 5 years

Most Mondays at 10:30 am in the Library Community Room

Join us for an early literacy program with an emphasis on MOVEMENT. Sing songs, dance to favorites, pop some bubbles, and find your happy place!

Toddler Time: Ages 18 months - 3 years

Most Wednesdays at 10:15 am in the Library Community Room

A storytime just for toddlers that includes music, a short book, and lots of free play!

Stories and Songs: Ages 3-5 years

Most Wednesdays at 11:15 am in the Library Community Room

This program features longer stories and a simple craft, and is a great way to interact with other families in the community.

Baby Rhyme Time: Ages 0 - 18 months

Most Thursdays at 10:15 am in the Library Community Room

An early literacy program for children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers, this program combines music & movement, bounce & lapsit, fingerplays, puppets, and play time.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

THE LIBRARY IS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BY DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN, AND WE WANT YOUR INPUT! WHAT DO WE DO WELL? WHAT COULD WE DO BETTER? LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

TAKE OUR SURVEY:

- Online via our website or our social media pages
- In person at the Library

JOIN A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:

- Saturday, March 2 at 10:30am
- Friday, March 15 at 11:00am
- Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30pm

All dates at the Library!



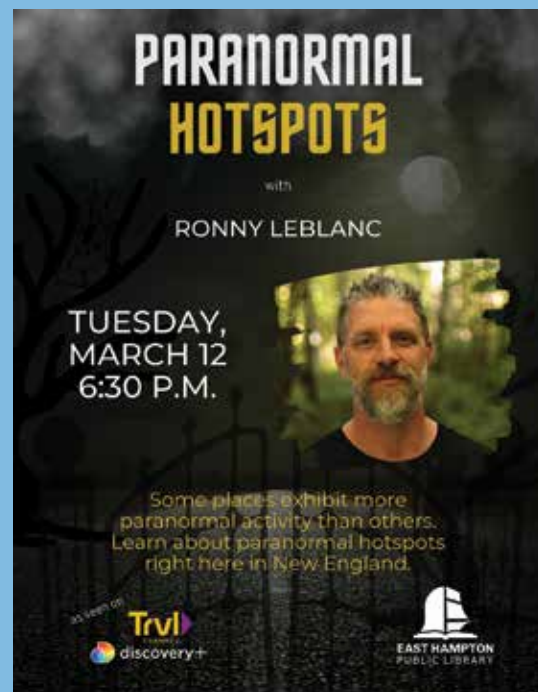
East Hampton Public Library Spring Events

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Family Storytime: Ages 3 - 5 years

Select Saturdays from 10:30 - 11:30 am

March 9, March 30, April 20

Join us on select Saturdays for stories, songs, and open-ended play in the community room! Participants will also have the chance to work on a craft to bring home.

Fun with Food! Ages 3 - 5 years

Wednesday, April 3 at 10:30 am

We'll share a food-themed story, practice basic math skills while making a fruit pizza, and then eat our delicious creations! Registration required.

SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

Registration is required for some of these events and is available on our website.

DIY Days: Grades K - 8

Select Saturdays from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a toy, game, or treat together. No registration required, just drop in!

March 16 - Floam

April 6 - DIY Squishy

April 27 - Bird Feeder

May 18 - Paint a Suncatcher



St. Patrick's Day Paint Night: Grades K - 5

March 11 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Channel your inner artist with Amy Ordonez of Studio 13 as she leads participants through creating a colorful and festive St. Patrick's Day painting! Registration required.

STEMtastic: Science Magic! Grades 1 - 5

Wednesday, March 27 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Amaze your friends and mystify your parents (in a good way!) by learning how to use science to make magic.

Learn mind-boggling magic tricks while exploring science concepts such as magnetism, chemistry, surface tension, and gravity. Registration required.

STEMtastic: Bubble Mania! Grades K - 3

Wednesday, April 10 from 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Children measure, experiment and explore the science behind making and blowing the best soap bubbles. Skills learned and phenomena explained in this program include light and color, chemical composition, surface tension, measurement, geometry, and more! Registration required.

STEMtastic: Rainforest in a Bottle Grades 1 - 5

Monday, April 22 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Celebrate Earth Day at the Library by creating and decorating your own working ecosystem inside a terrarium! Registration required.

STEMtastic: Weather Watchers Grades 1 - 5

Monday, May 6 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Learn to be a meteorologist and make your own tools to measure the weather! Registration required.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Grades 1 - 5

Select Saturdays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm

March 2, April 13, May 4

Show off your gaming skills and meet other kids that like to play! All skill levels welcome. Registration required.

Ready to Read Book Club: Grades K - 2

Select Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

April 3, April 24

We'll share our favorite early reader books and play games to improve literacy skills. Registered participants will receive a free book to take home.

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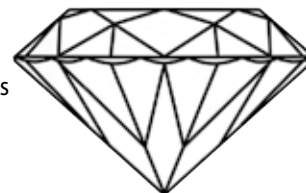
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Library... continued from page 9

Learn to Play the Ukelele! Grades 2 - 8

Tuesday, April 9 from 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Let musician Julie Stepanek teach you how to hold, tune, strum, and play simple songs on the ukelele, no previous experience required! Ukeleles provided.

Caregivers welcome to participate. Registration required for each participant.



CHILDREN'S TAKE-HOME PROGRAMS

Take and Makes

Each month the library debuts two take home activity kits for children, one for ages 3-5 and one for school age children, with all of the supplies needed to make a fun craft! Registration required.

MIDDLE GRADE PROGRAMS

Registration is required for middle grade programs unless otherwise noted.

Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot: Grades 5 - 7

Select Wednesdays at 4:30 - 6:00 pm

March 13, April 10, May 8

No previous playing experience or past participation required—every program event is a new standalone game in a new world!

We will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot: Grades 5-7

January 10, February 7 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Come along for a short D&D adventure!

No previous playing experience or past participation required—every program event is a new standalone game in a new world!

We will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

Tower Power Hour presented by Teen Advisory Board: Grades 4 - 6

Tuesday, April 23 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

With members of our Teen Advisory Board, join a team to build a tower. Whose team can build the highest tower before time runs out?



TEEN PROGRAMS

Registration is required for teen programs unless otherwise noted.

Pizza & Poetry: Grades 6 - 12

Tuesday, April 2 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

April is National Poetry Month. Collaborate on creating some book spine poetry, add to our "poetree", and browse poetic displays.

Register and come in for pizza and try some poetry writing, crafts and other activities.

Dungeons & Dragons: Grades 8 - 12

Select Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

May 1, 15, June 5, 19, July 3, 17

A new session of Dungeons & Dragons begins in May. Teens in grades 8-12 who are interested in a longer adventure that continues from week to week can participate in our traditional D&D night.

No previous playing experience or past participation is required for either option.

We will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Grades 6 - 12

Select Saturdays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm

March 16, April 6

Why stay home and play all alone when you can join friends in the Library Community Room and play competitive Switch games all together? Try new games, make new friends, have some fun!

Teen Advisory Board: Grades 6 - 12

Select Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

March 19, April 16, May 21

Have you noticed recent changes to our teen space? Those changes are a result of input and decisions made by our Teen Advisory Board!

We've got new comfy furniture and a cozy corner to hang out in all because the TAB group came together to make things better. Tweens and teens in grades 6-12 can have a say in programming, collection development and more!

Interested in joining and making a difference at the Library and in your community? Contact Teen Librarian Keri Blanda for additional details!

Teen Movie Matinee: Age 13 +

Friday, April 12 at 2:00 pm

Come on in for an afternoon movie showing complete with popcorn!



Bored? Games!: Grades 4 - 12

Wednesday, March 20 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Short day of school! Spend your afternoon in the Library Community Room with friends, enjoying a variety of board games. There will be snacks and prizes!

Sock Monster Stuffie: Grades 6 - 12

Tuesday, May 14 at 5:30 pm

Local artist Pamela Hanks will bring all the supplies you need to make a super cute sock monster stuffie, you just need to bring your creativity! Space is limited.

Teen Take & Make: Grades 6 - 12

Each month, the Library debuts a Take and Make activity just for teens! Inside your kit you'll find instructions and supplies to make a fun art or craft project. Registration opens on the first of the month, pickup follows on the second Tuesday of the month.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration is required for adult programs unless otherwise noted.

Cookbook Club

First Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm

Every month has a theme, from a culinary world tour to re-inventing the basics, you're sure to find something new and tasty. Bring a prepared dish, 12 copies of the recipe to share, and come hungry! We'll sample and talk about each recipe and take home new ideas.

NEW! Tech Help with Sam & Nicole

Thursdays, March 7 & 28, April 18, May 9 & 30 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Do you need help setting up a new Kindle? Would you like to know how to access podcasts, use the camera, or do any of the other numerous things our modern technology can do? We can help! No registration required, just bring your device with you.

LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham

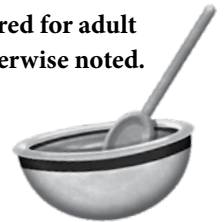
Saturday, March 23 at 10:15 am, Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 pm, Saturday, May 11 at 10:15 am

Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Community Room. All levels welcome, there is a modification for every ability. Bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

Book Club

Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm

Come together to read and discuss the monthly selection. Copies of the month's book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.



Belltown Book Brunch

Fridays, March 15, April 19, May 17
at 11:00 am

Belltown Book Brunch meets monthly in the Library Community Room. Chat about what you are currently reading, hear about what else is new and popular, plus enjoy a breakfast treat and some coffee or tea in the company of other avid readers. Register or drop in.

Paranormal Hotspots with Ronny LeBlanc

Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 pm

Find out why some places exhibit more paranormal activity than others with Discovery+ and Travel Channel star Ronny LeBlanc from the hit shows "Expedition Bigfoot" and "Paranormal Caught on Camera."

Cabin Fever Series - Presented by the Chatham Historical Society

Saturday, March 16 at 11:00 am

Connecticut State Historian Emeritus Walter Woodward's presentation "Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments That Shaped a Great State" concludes the Chatham Historical Society's annual Cabin Fever History Series.

Music in the Library

Our popular Music in the Library program

will continue this spring with a performer and date to be announced soon. Keep an eye on our events calendar and social media for details.

Adult Take & Makes

Each month, the Library debuts a Take & Make activity just for adults! Inside your kit you'll find instructions and supplies to make a fun art or craft project. Registration opens on the first of the month, pickup follows on the second Tuesday of the month.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Video Game Collection

The Library has expanded its video game collection for the Nintendo Switch to also include games for PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X! Perfect for a family game night, trying a game before you buy, or a marathon gaming session.

Museum Passes

Check out one of our museum passes and visit great local attractions like the Connecticut Science Center, the Eric Carle Museum, the Lutz Children's Museum, the New England Air Museum, Niantic Children's Museum, and more - all for a discounted rate!

Fox Ledge Farm



Riding Lessons
Beginner - Grand Prix
Dressage & Balanced Seat

2024 Schooling Shows
June 19, July 17 & August 21

Children's Summer
Day Camp
August 6 - 10

29-A Daniels Road
East Haddam, CT 06423

eqarts@snet.net
www.foxledgefarm.net

860.873.8108

The Middle Haddam Public Library

COME VISIT YOUR 2ND LIBRARY IN TOWN!

2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam, CT

Hours:

Monday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Tuesday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm,
Thursday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Friday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

www.middlehaddamlibrary.com

We have many exciting things happening in our library.

Yoga: with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga

Please register at: tensummitst@gmail.com
Monday at: 9:00 am & Tuesday at: 7:00 pm,
Saturday at: 9:00 am, Cost: \$15.00

Mahjong: Monday's at: 10:30 am, Open to all!

Fiber Arts: Thursday's 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery. Open to all!

ComuniTea: 2nd Saturday of month 10:00 am
- gathering to visit patrons & neighbors, have a cup of tea or coffee



Meeting Room Space for small gatherings available and local artists displayed on the walls.

Historic Middle Haddam Library
WE HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER!

Like us on Facebook  

I can Help YOU Maximize this SELLER'S MARKET



Alexis Devlin
Realtor,
Broker



860-214-9859

AlexisDevlin@bhhsne.com



20+ Years Experience in the Local Real Estate Market

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES
NEW YORK PROPERTIES
HUDSON VALLEY PROPERTIES

2024 - 2025 Fiscal Year Budget

BUDGET

Preparations for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget are well underway and residents and electors will have more opportunities to engage this year. By early March, the Town Council, the Board of Education and the Board of Finance will have met together at least twice to discuss financial matters for the upcoming year and to review early drafts of the Town's Budget. By mid-March, both the education and general government budget sections will be released formally in draft form as recommended by the Superintendent and the Town Manager.

BALANCE

As always, budget time is challenging as the community must consider the requirements, needs and desires for the community and balance the cost of providing for those required activities and other needs and enhancing those desired opportunities against the ability and willingness of the community to pay for them. Early versions of the education budget show that the community will be experiencing increased costs for special education to respond to new mandates and additional student services. Early work on the general government budget, including the Capital Improvements Plan, shows many of the same themes from the past.

PUBLIC SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, & TECHNOLOGY

Public safety matters will again be significant in the upcoming budget. The East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) has requested assistance to help cover its expected losses in the upcoming year as its response model changes to meet the community's needs. To help it respond to more than 700 calls each year, the EHAA has begun to rely on paid staff as well as the long standing volunteers who respond to medical emergencies. The revenue challenges created by the state-established billing rates are causing the Association financial losses, which they have asked the Town to partially cover. The Police Department is also seeking additional assistance and will be seeking one additional police officer in the upcoming year, increasing the number of full time Officers to 18. This request has been denied in each of the last two fiscal years. Based on the number of officers employed by the Town, frequently, only two officers are on duty during a given shift. When there are multiple calls for service at the same time, the situation can become a difficult public safety issue for the residents and officers, especially because the Town's Police Department holds the R1 First Responder License for the Town and are the initial first responders all medical issues in Town.

In addition to these items and countless other challenges in the budget process, the community is faced with increasing costs for capital infrastructure maintenance and replacement. The Town's five-year Capital Improvement Plan contains not only roads and other infrastructure of that sort, but it also includes vehicle and equipment replacement, building maintenance and technology replacements. Costs for these items have increased significantly in recent years and the community is challenged to find ways to fund this work and these replacements.



THE FINAL DRAFT

It is anticipated that the final draft budget will be complete by mid-March and the Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 18 beginning at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall.

As that week progresses, the Board of Finance will hold workshops on various parts of the budget on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday followed by deliberations at meetings later in March and April. Residents and electors are welcome to attend these meetings and to watch for other opportunities to understand the budget and to provide input on its preparation at formal meetings and at informal gatherings at locations around the community.

Additionally, residents can submit written comments through the Town website, by sending an email to: budget@easthamptonct.gov or by recording an audio or video message to the Town Council by clicking the link on the right side of the Town's website home page in the "Get Involved" section. The Board of Finance will forward its recommended budget to the Town Council in mid-April. The Town Council will finalize a draft for consideration by the Town electors at referendum, which should occur in May or June.

Visit our Town Website at:
www.easthamptonct.gov

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



East Hampton Senior Center

105 Main Street, East Hampton, CT 06424 | 860-267-4426

Email: seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



facebook.com/easthamptonseniorcenterct



WEEKLY EVENTS

Mexican Train:

Tuesdays at 1:00 pm in March-April
(returns to Mondays in May)

A fast-paced dominoes game involving chains and trains and stations. It is a fun, and easy to learn. Walk-ins welcome. Pre-registration not required. Free

Quilting: Mondays at 9:00 am

New Members welcome. Bring your own project or work on a collaborative community service project.

BINGO: Tuesdays at 1:15 pm

A wide variety of games are offered. Cost: Up to \$3.00 depending on how many cards played.

Bible Discussion Group: Tuesdays at 1:00 pm

Non-denominational group meets to share their ideas of identified scripture. New members always welcome.

Cross Stitch Embroidery: Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

Learn basic counted cross stitch. Class size is limited, pre-registration required. One-time \$5.00 supply fee due at sign-up.

Writer's Workshop with Elizabeth

Virtual and in-person on Thursdays at 11:15 am OR every Thursday (March 7, 21; April 4, 18; May 2, 16) at 10:00 am

Open Art Studio: Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Artists bring their own projects/supplies and critique each other's work, if asked, to help through the process.

It is a quiet well-lit environment to work on your individual project.

Yoga: via Zoom and in-person at the Senior Center Wednesdays, at 1:00 pm

This yoga class stretches your mind, body and soul. Call the Center for more information. \$20.00 fee for 10-week session. Next session begins March 6th. The next session will begin May 22nd.

Setback:

Mondays and Thursdays at 1:00 pm

No partners needed. Please register ahead of time. Games start promptly at 1:00 pm.

Textile Group: Fridays at 1:00 pm

Don't let the title throw you! Our knitters and crocheters bring in their projects and socialize while they create. They are a great resource for each other when you get 'stuck!' New members welcome!

Mahjongg: Fridays at 10:00 am

This group challenges each other with this strategy making game. Stop by and check it out!

Cribbage Games: Fridays at 9:30 am

Join the gang for a friendly early morning game.

Wonderfully Wicked Women (WWW) meet the first and third Monday of the month at 10:00 am

A time to make friends and share memories and learn a little on the way! This ever-evolving group is open to new members at each meeting. Check our calendar for the dates.

Mighty Magnificent Men (MMM) will be meeting twice a month now, the second and fourth Monday at 10:30 am

The men gather to talk the talk! New members welcome.

T'ai Chi: New session began March 7th. 8-week class runs on Thursdays 10:30 am

to 11:00 am via Zoom presentation.

When you sign up you will be sent the link weekly by the instructor or you can take the class at the Senior Center, using the big screen TV and Zoom. Cost: \$50.00 per session.

Balance and Strength Class: Wednesdays and Fridays

Mary Henderson will lead you through a series of exercises to help strengthen and improve your balance. The current session finishes March 22nd. Check at the Senior Center for the dates of the next session.

AARP Tax Assistance is offered for free at the Senior Center!

Call the Center for an appointment on Mondays on March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1.

The East Hampton/CRT Community Café is open Monday through Friday. Lunch is served at 12:00 pm.

You can reserve your seat on-line, on MyActiveCenter.com. or call the Center. Please call before 11:00 am for more information at 860-267-4426 ext. 230. The Estuary provides cafe meals and Meals on Wheels. This Elderly Nutrition program is a federally funded Title III grant. A form-5 registration form must be completed and returned to the Senior Center staff five days before signing up for meals. Reservations need to be made at least 24 hours in advance, before 11:00 am the day

continued on page 14

Seniors... *continued from page 13*

before. A \$3.00 donation is requested, although no one age 60+ will be turned away for lack of donation. For Meals On Wheels please call 860-388-1611 ext 217.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Family History meets the third Friday at 10:30 am on March 15, April 19 and May 17

Mr. Ken Doney will help you with your research of your family lineage. He will have monthly presentations and one on one interactions. Please call the Senior Center for more information. Please bring your own mobile device so you can research your family!

Art with Karen

Sunday, March 24, April 28 and May 19 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Karen will lead you through the basics of painting in acrylics. No painting/art experience required. All supplies are provided. Cost: \$5.00 for supplies due at the day of class. Pre-registration required.

Book Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am

Call the Senior Center for more details.

AARP Safe Driver Class:

Friday, March 22 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

AARP volunteers offer this 4-hour class to help you hone your driving skills. Cost: AARP members \$20.00 and Non-members \$25.00. Please register for class by calling the Senior Center. Payment is not due until the day of the class.

“Learn How To Play The Ukulele”:

April 5 at 11:00 am

A very special program with Julie Stepanek. Come join the fun! Cost: \$5.00 per person. Sign up soon, space is limited.

Line Dancing:

March 19, April 16 and May 21 at 10:00 am

Learn along with us by video! Come join our ‘homespun class’ and learn with us. Be sure to sign up!

Design & Create: March 14

What is a Memory Box? Part 1; March 28 Design a Memory Box? Part 2; April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23.

Watch for more details for upcoming months.

Chatham Health Chat: March 26 Communicating with Healthcare Providers & Navigating the Healthcare System:

Solo Senior Edition - April 23, May 28.

All meetings are at 10:30 am.

Please sign up in advance although walk-ins are welcome. Watch for upcoming details for April and May topics.

Mary Lee Brody

Bake off Cooking Demonstration: Thursday, March 22 at 1:00 pm.

Class fills quickly. Signup with \$3.00 payment.

Blood Pressure Screening March 18, April 15 and May 20 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Offered by Chatham Health District. No appointment necessary.

Movie Day at the Center:

2nd Friday of the month at 1:00 pm

March 8 Barbie
April 12 Elvis
May 10 TBA.

Take the time to relax and enjoy the movie de jour! Please sign up in advance.

Volunteer Celebration on April 10

Poetry with Center School Children: April 25

Watch for more details.

Pictionary: March 8 at 10:00 am

A charades-inspired word-guessing game. All in the name of fun.

Scrabble Event:

Friday, March 15 at 1:00 pm

Scrabble is a word game in which two to four players score points by placing tiles, each bearing a single letter, onto a game board divided into a 15x15 grid of squares. The tiles must form words that, in crossword fashion, read left to right in rows or downward in columns and are included in a standard dictionary or lexicon.

DAY TRIPS:

Wednesday, April 3

Thrifting and Lunch in Old Saybrook. Suggested transportation donation \$4.00.

Wednesday, April 17

Tea at Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown. Cost is \$21.00 for admission and transportation.

Wednesday, May 1

Windham Walmart Shopping from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

PRE-REGISTRATION

All trips and activities require pre-registration. This is to ensure your seat and reservation has been made for the event. Pre-registration also allows staff to call if there is a change in the event or if the event is cancelled.

PAYMENT

We would appreciate exact change or check payable to the Town of East Hampton at the time of registration.





East Hampton Lions Club

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

ANYONE is welcome to partake in the East Hampton Lions Food Share food pantry in conjunction with the Food Bank. There is no income requirement and no proof of residency.

The selection varies with options of fresh fruit & vegetables, yogurt, juices, cereal and some snacks & bakery goods. The pantry is held at St Patrick's parking lot from 9:00 am – 9:30 am. Please bring your own bags.

The upcoming dates for Food Share will be:

Thursdays, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9 and May 23.

SCHOLARSHIPS

It's time for high school students to fill out the Lions Club scholarship application. Presently the Lions present four \$1,000 scholarships to a high school student that resides in East Hampton. Please visit the East Hampton High School's guidance office to obtain an application.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

If you have a walker, wheelchair, bed, etc. that you no longer need

and would like to donate to the Lions, please call Lion Mary Krogh at: 860-977-5760. If you NEED one of these items also call Lion Mary.

EYEGASSES

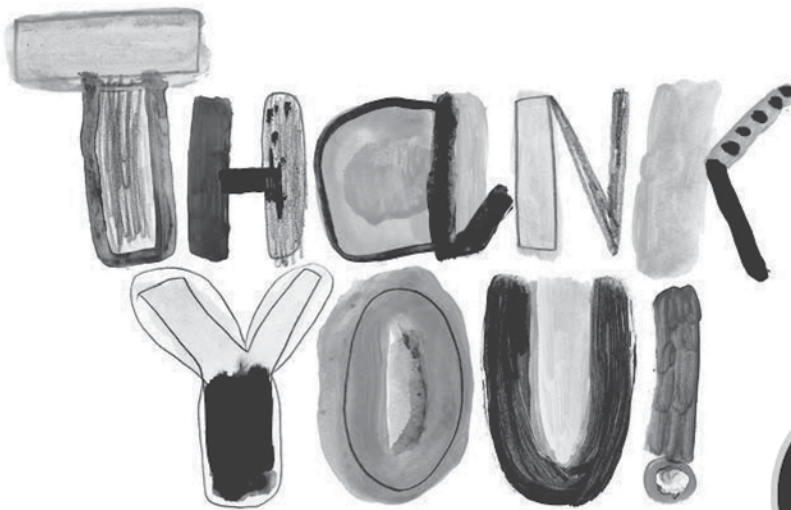
If you need eyeglasses and cannot afford them, the Lions are willing to help. A referral from either the school nurse or our Town's Social Service Department is required. Please contact them and if they feel you do need financial help, they will refer you to the Lions. Your identity is not provided to the Lions Club, only that there is a person in need.

DO YOU ENJOY WALKING ???

On the district level the Lions sponsor **Journey for Sight**, a walk on the beach in Niantic on Saturday, April 27. 50% of your pledges will go to the Lions and the other 50% may go to the charity of your choice. Other organizations - come join us !



Helping Our Community Thrive...



Through support for local nonprofits who make our towns a little better every day...

Through partnerships with businesses who want to make a difference...

Through volunteers who reach out and give a hand up...

Through community members who put their hearts and dollars to work for a better today, and brighter tomorrow for all.

Help make a difference where you live, work or play. Call us at (860)347-0025. Or visit us at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Middlesex County

Live Local. Give Local.



RiverCog

Household Hazardous Waste Collections & Paper Shredding Events for 2024

Free household hazardous waste collections for East Hampton residents will take place from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on the following Saturdays:

April 20, 2024

Clinton Public Works Garage, 117 Nod Rd., Clinton

May 11, 2024

East Hampton Water Pollution Control, 20 Gildersleeve Dr., East Hampton

June 15, 2024

Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, 49 Lyme St., Old Lyme

July 20, 2024

Woodside Intermediate School, 30 Woodside Rd., Cromwell

August 17, 2024

Deep River Public Works Garage, 206 Winthrop Rd. (Rt. 80), Deep River

September 14, 2024

Middlesex Community College, 100 Training Hill Rd., Middletown

October 12, 2024

Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Rd., Higganum

Free paper shredding events for East Hampton residents will take place from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on the following Saturdays:

May 4, 2024

East Hampton Water Pollution Control, 20 Gildersleeve Dr., East Hampton

June 22, 2024

Westbrook Town Hall, 866 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook

September 7, 2024

Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield

October 5, 2024

Chester Fair Grounds, 11 Kirtland Terrace., Chester

To learn more details, directions, and acceptable materials please visit: www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste or email us at info@rivercog.org, or find us on Facebook: facebook.com/rivercog.

**Want to reach EVERY home in town?
CALL Events Magazines at:
860-767-9087**

East Hampton Town Directory www.easthamptonct.gov

Animal Control (24 hour dispatch).....	860-873-5044	Land Use	860-267-7450
Assessor	860-267-2510	Recreation	860-267-7300
Board of Education	860-365-4000	Police Department (non-emergency).....	860-267-9544
Building.....	860-267-9601	Probate Court	860-295-6239
Chatham Health District	860-365-0884	Public Library	860-267-6621
Chatham Historical Society.....	860-539-0988	Public Works.....	860-267-4747
Collector of Revenue.....	860-267-2300	Registrars.....	860-267-6720
Emergency Management.....	860-267-0088	Senior Center	860-267-4426
Finance Department	860-267-7548	Town Clerk	860-267-2519
Fire Marshal	860-267-0088	Town Manager.....	860-267-4468
Food Bank	860-365-5978	Water Pollution Control Authority	860-267-2536
Housing Authority	860-267-8498	Youth & Family/Social Services.....	860-267-9982
Human Resources	860-267-4468		



CONTACT INFORMATION

www.easthamptonct.gov | 860-267-7300

MAILING ADDRESS & PHYSICAL LOCATION

1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT. 06424

MISSION STATEMENT: *The East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing innovative program opportunities and well-maintained facilities that enrich the East Hampton community.*

STAFF

Shawn Mullen, Recreation Director
smullen@easthamptonct.gov
Sheri Yorker, Program Lead
syorker@easthamptonct.gov

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah McKinney, Chairperson
 Tim Adams Courtney Hyte
 Kim Crabbe Daniel Roy
 Natalie Hurt Jessica Rurka

AFTERNOON ADVENTURES

After-School Program

860-367-5429 – Memorial School location

YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

860-267-9982

SEARS PARK FACILITIES

All rental request forms are available online at: www.easthamptonct.gov.

PAVILION

Residents of East Hampton can rent the

Pavilion for events for full or half-day rentals. The fees are \$75 / half-day or \$125 / full day. All reservations require a security deposit of \$125.

LION'S PICNIC SHELTER

Sears Park patrons may use this shelter when it is not reserved. Reservations are posted daily on the small kiosk next to the shelter with the specific reservations for that day. There is no cost to reserve the shelter; however, a completed reservation form is required.

SEARS PARK BOAT RACK RENTALS

If you would like to rent a boat rack for a canoe or kayak at Sears Park seasonal rentals for the 2024 season will be available starting on January 2, 2024. The cost for the season is \$100 and rentals run from May 1 – November 1, 2024. All rentals are first come first serve, forms and information are available at: www.easthamptonrec.com or at the Recreation Office.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM A. O'NEILL PERFORMING ARTS GAZEBO

The Gazebo can be used for small family-oriented performances and programs such as small musical performances, magic shows, plays, variety groups, etc. Music concerts are restricted to acoustic, instrumental or small jazz venues. Weddings and other special celebrations will be considered. Venues are lawn seating. The gazebo will not be used for loud bands and/or concerts. The fees are \$75 per day and a \$25 additional fee is added if electrical or stage lighting is required. All reservations also require a \$125 security deposit.

REGISTRATION & PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program enrollments are accepted online at: www.easthamptonrec.com. Registration forms are available online at www.easthamptonrec.com or at the Parks and Recreation Office. All registrations must

continued on page 18

Park and Recreation Spring Events



include payment. Payment is required at the time of registration. All registrations are taken on a first come, first serve basis. We accept MasterCard and Visa. Please make checks payable to East Hampton Parks and Recreation. Cash payments should be made in the office only. Please do not try to register or pay program instructors unless indicated.

Registration confirmations are available by email if subscribed to on your main account page at: www.easthamptonct.gov. No other confirmations are provided; however, if you have registered with us and paid, you will be on the final roster.

Program Refund Policy

If you are unable to attend a program you have registered for, please contact us. You must contact us 7 days before a program starts to receive a 100% refund. Cancellations inside of 7 days will receive a 50% refund or be issued an account credit for another activity. After the program starts no refunds will be issued. Our ability to refund money for trip cancellations depends on our contractual agreement with the travel companies. Program times are subject to change based on enrollment numbers. Programs will be cancelled if the minimum enrollment number is not reached.

Applications for reduced-tuition scholarships are available at the Parks and Recreation Office and Youth and Family Services. All information is strictly confidential. This is an application process. Only programs run directly by East Hampton Recreation qualify.

A portion of your enrollment fee may be put into your Special Revenue Program account for the East Hampton Recreation Department to maintain or enhance this program or other programs. This fund is not associated with the General Fund of the Town of East Hampton



FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INFORMATION

EAST HAMPTON LITTLE LEAGUE

- www.easthamptonlittleleague.sportssignup.com
ehllplayeragent@gmail.com
- For boys and girls ages 6 - 18 (by July 31 of the current year)
- Registration takes place in January
- Practices for the season begin in late March
- Opening day is in April
- Fall season begins in September and is open for children ages 8 years and up

YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING

- www.ehyouthfootball.org
- For boys and girls ages 7 - 14 email: info@ehhawks.com

EAST HAMPTON SOCCER CLUB TOWN RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

- www.easthamptonsoccerclub.org
- For boys and girls pre K-8
- Spring season is late March-June Registration for spring takes place in January
- Fall season is late August-October Registration for fall takes place in June

TRAVEL SOCCER

- www.easthamptonsoccerclub.org
- For boys and girls ages 8 - 18
- Email Soccer Club for tryout information

JOSEPH N. GOFF HOUSE

- Contact: Dean Markham 860-918-4400

EPOCH ARTS

- www.epocharts.org
- email: info@epocharts.org
- Contact: Elizabeth Namen 860-365-0337

Recreation Programs

PROGRAMMING

Programs are being added to the schedule as we have dates finalized. As they are finalized they will be posted to www.easthamptonrec.com. We have many great offerings scheduled for the upcoming seasons. Check out our website for all programs.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Our many awesome summer programs will begin posting to our website in early March. There are many different options for all different age groups. See www.easthamptonrec.com for a complete listing..

OUR MAIN SUMMER CAMP OPTIONS

Sears Park Summer Camp for grades 2-7 and Little Wonders Summer Camp for grades K-1 were posted for registration the first week of March. We plan to begin these programs June 17.

Camp Hours:

- Sears Park Camp: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Little Wonders: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.

These programs operate for 8 weeks.



SHOWS AT THE BUSHNELL

EAST HAMPTON PARKS & RECREATION

SNOW WHITE

APRIL 20TH 2PM
THE BUSHNELL

ORCHESTRA, SECTION D, ROW P, Q, R

\$56 PER TICKET

EAST HAMPTON PARKS & RECREATION

WICKED

\$86.00 PER TICKET

MAY 9TH 7:30PM
THE BUSHNELL

MEZZANINE, SEC. F, ROW H, J, K, L

EAST HAMPTON PARKS & RECREATION

BEETLEJUICE

JUNE 2ND, 1PM
THE BUSHNELL

BALCONY, SEC. E, ROW H, J, K, L

\$42 PER TICKET

MORNING AND AFTERNOON ADVENTURES Before & After School Program

Afternoon Adventures meets at Memorial Elementary School before and after school each day from 7:00 am - 8:30 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Students in grades K-5

may attend the program. Program attendance options are 2 days a week, 3 days a week, or 5 days a week. Registration is done on a monthly basis, either online or at the Parks and Recreation Office. You must enroll for the whole month each month and pay in advance. There are a limited number of openings in this program.



Please send your child with a healthy snack each day. The children have time for play outside (weather permitting) every day or time in the gym. Everyone does homework or quiet reading; then they enjoy crafts, games, special guests and play with staff and their peers until pickup time. Care is provided on scheduled school half days from when

school gets out until 6:00 pm for no additional charge. A discount is offered if doing both before and after school.

Options are: 2 days a week, 3 days a week or 5 days a week. When doing part time note the days of the week at checkout. Rates for the months are firm, there are no adjustments if your schedule does not align or you miss days of school.

Students from Center School are bussed to Memorial School in the afternoon, and from Memorial School to Center school in the morning.

Location: Memorial Elementary School.

Dates: First day of school to last day of school.

Times: 7:00 am - 8:30 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

If you are registering for both before and after care, put the before care portion in your cart first, and the after-school portion will be discounted 10% at checkout.



For pricing, please visit:

www.easthamptonrec.com
or call the office at: 860-267-7300.

Got Scrap & Junk Cars?

Belltown Recycling

Call for Pricing & Pick-Up
Inhouse Dumpsters Available

Your Best Source for New & Aftermarket Body & Mechanical Parts



With Thousands of Parts in Stock! Tires, Batteries, w/6-Month Free Replacement, Starters, Alternators, Engines, Transmissions & Body Parts

OPEN Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm; Saturday 8 am - noon

Call for Prices Today:

860-267-7140

www.belltownrecycling.com

Tony Flannery & Family - Owner

24 Old Coach Road

East Hampton, CT 06424



The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends children be seen by a Pediatric Dentist by the First Tooth or First Birthday!

Establish your child's dental home now and call us for an appointment!

35 Halls Hill Road • Colchester

860.537.6655

"Creating happy healthy smiles one child at a time."

www.CDANLC.com

Prevention Partnership



As a Local Prevention Council, the East Hampton Prevention Partnership is dedicated to reducing substance abuse among young people. The mission is to foster a culture that values the wellbeing of East Hampton's youth. The Partnership strives to instill self-acceptance, self-confidence and goal setting to promote healthy choices. In collaboration with community stakeholders, we offer educational programs and outreach initiatives.

EHPP is starting a new **Prevention Club** at the Middle School. The club aims to bring together a group of students, where they talk about substance use in young people and learn facts about substances such as alcohol, marijuana, and nicotine. It also seeks to teach students to break away from social norms and peer pressure they are experiencing or will experience in the future. Meetings are

held every other Wednesday after school. Three of the coalition's teen peer advocates along with Brooke, the Prevention Coordinator, will run the club.

High School students are encouraged to join the **Bring Change to Mind** youth committee, where students run peer-to-peer campaigns to promote a healthy lifestyle and mental health among their classmates. Bring Change to Mind meets every other Monday after school.

We also encourage community members to join the **Prevention Coalition**. Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of every month. Join the Coalition and help our mission of reducing substance abuse among East Hampton's youth.

Please email or call the Prevention Coordinator, Brooke Clavet, at: bclavet@easthamptonct.gov or 860-267-4468 Ext. 3227 to get more information if you would like to participate.

Department of Public Works

The winter season is well underway. Traditionally, the "winter season" is identified as the period from November 15th until April 15th. During this timeframe when not actively conducting snow removal operations, the majority of the department's efforts are spent battling icing conditions, maintaining drainage and gravel roads, clearing roadside brush, maintaining vehicles in service ready condition, and stock piling supplies and materials for the next weather event and the upcoming construction season. During this time the Department remains vigilant and ready to take on what may come. This is also a time of planning for the Public Works Department where plans, budgets and schedules are being developed for the upcoming construction season. Some of these construction projects include replacement of a washed-out culvert on Wopowog Road, drainage replacement on Main Street and Forest Street along with drainage and paving work on Lakewood Road. Stay tuned for more to come on these projects as we approach springtime.



Residents are reminded to refrain from parking on the road during snow and storm events. Cars parked on the road substantially hinder and delay snow removal operations. Please find an off-road location to park your vehicles. Please also be reminded all garbage and recycling carts should be placed behind the curb/edge of road and removed promptly when emptied as these obstacles can also be a significant impediment.

East Hampton Police Department



town have been very generous and the Department hopes to have the new K9 trained and on patrol sometime in May. The new handler for the K9 will be Officer Steven Wawruck.

The Police Department would like to remind everyone that with warmer weather upon us, we all need to exercise additional care as we travel about the town. We will start to see an increase in pedestrian traffic and motorists need to pay special attention to the pedestrian crosswalks in town. Motorists need to be mindful of the posted speed limits and take extra precautions when traveling around high traffic areas, such as the lake or areas where children may be playing. The Department receives numerous complaints every year from residents about speeding vehicles all over town. We place the Speed Monitor signs at the high traffic locations in town to notify motorists of their speed, in hopes of slowing them down. Please slow down, the life you save may be your own.

K9 Ardo officially retired on January 31, 2024, after seven plus years of dedicated service to the Town and the East Hampton Police Department. Ardo was given an official retirement party to include a cake in the shape of a dog bone. Ardo will enjoy his retirement while living with his handler, Officer John Wilson.

The Department is in the process of getting a new K9 to replace Ardo, and with the assistance of the Rotary Club in town, they have taken over the fundraising efforts. The residents and businesses in

East Hampton Ambulance Association

Can We Get to Your House?



Police, Fire and EMS cannot help you if we cannot get to you. You can make it easier if you can take a few steps outlined below. This will ensure we can provide the fastest response to provide assistance.

- **Make sure** there is adequate outside lighting and the lights are on so we can find your house at night
- **Make sure** the house number is visible from the road. If the number is on the mailbox, it should be visible from both sides. We may come to your house from other direction. The highly reflective signs available from the fire department are best. If the number is on your house and is next to a bright light, the number may be hard to see from the road.
- **The driveway** is recommended to be 12 feet wide and have 13 foot overhead clearance. Otherwise we could damage our vehicle coming to assist you, or damage our antennas we rely on for communications. This means that you should consider clearing all branches and foliage next to the driveway.
- **Emergency vehicles** can weigh up to

25 tons. A solid surface is needed to prevent the truck from getting stuck in the snow or mud.

- **Make sure** the driveway and sidewalks are clear of snow. We can't bring stretchers and other equipment to you quickly if we have to shovel the driveway.
- **If possible**, the driveway should have a turnaround at the end or else we may have to back up further delaying care.
- **Stones or posts** at the end of the driveway may aesthetically pleasing but can make it difficult to make the turn into the driveway.
- **Make sure** inside doorways to the home and hallways are clear so stretchers and stair

chairs can be used to move patients who cannot move on their own. We will move furniture, rugs and boxes if we need to, but can delay care or transport.

- **Be sure** the outside stairs and the yard are secure. We don't want injuries to first responders to occur due to loose boards and stones.
- **Lastly, pick up** after your dog. We don't want to track it into the house, the ambulance, or the hospital.

We don't expect you to redo your driveway with all these features, but the more you can do, especially with home recognition, the faster we can help your family.

REFLECTIVE SIGNS

Additionally, through partnership with East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, they sell reflective signs to assist with the problem of finding a home.

These signs are easily identifiable and the signs are also reflective in order to be

visible at night. The Fire Department can install them for you as well and installation is free for Senior Citizens!! There are instructions on the form, which can be found at the link below that describes how to place your sign order and where to drop it off.

www.easthamptonct.gov/

fire-department/pages/house-numbering-campaign

Thank you to those who have purchased one of these signs to help our first responders find addresses. And for those who haven't yet, please invest in helping our first responders find you or your loved ones more easily.

Volunteer Fire Department Myth Busters (Part 2)

This is the second in a series of articles intended to dispel some of the pre-conceived notions that have developed over time regarding the effectiveness of volunteer fire departments. These commonly held misconceptions can foster a lack of confidence that the community is adequately protected. The first article addressed the levels of training that all firefighters, whether volunteer or career, are required to achieve; this article will concentrate on the equipment firefighters have at their disposal to perform their duties.



MYTH #2: "Volunteer Fire Departments Operate with Inferior Equipment"

FACT: No, they don't!

While acknowledging that some volunteer departments in extremely rural areas across the United States may depend upon hand-me-down apparatus and outdated equipment held together by the equivalent of band-aids and baling wire, the apparatus, tools and

equipment utilized by mainstream volunteer fire departments are subject to the same industry standards and regulatory requirements as their municipal, career-staffed counterparts.

Codes and standards intended to minimize the risks associated with fire and to protect those that are called to extinguish them have been developed by an industry organization known as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NFPA utilizes over 250 technical committees to research, create and distribute recommendations on a wide variety of fire-related safety and procedural topics. More often than not, these NFPA "recommendations" are adopted by federal and state agencies (Labor Departments, OSHA) as "regulations" that flow down to individual career and volunteer departments. These fire service organizations are then regularly monitored by the agencies having jurisdiction for compliance.

continued on page 22

Volunteer Fire Department... *continued from page 21*

NFPA standards and OSHA requirements apply to just about everything one can find under a firehouse roof (*including the building itself!*)

FOR EXAMPLE:

- **All individual** firefighter turnout gear (helmet, coat, pants, boots, gloves, hood) must be inspected annually and replaced every ten years (or sooner, if damaged);
- **All apparatus** pumps must be tested annually for flow rate, pressure and duration; in the event of failure, the apparatus is removed from service and cannot be returned until fixed and successfully retested;
- **All ladders** are strain tested annually and failures must be discarded and replaced;
- **All fire hose** (of which the EHVFD has

"It's a poor workman who blames his tools ..."

over five miles of) is pressure tested annually and failures must be replaced;

- **All SCBA units** ("Scott Packs") are tested annually, and each individual firefighter is fit-tested every year with their specific SCBA mask;
- **And the list goes on...**

But, like other agencies, with regulation comes cost: a new set of turnout gear is \$6000.00; a new set of rescue extrications tools is \$57,000.00; a new aerial truck will cost \$1.4 million and will take three years

to get it. So, it becomes a delicate balancing act between what departments need or want and what municipalities can reasonably afford. In East Hampton, achieving that balance has been a collaborative effort among the residents (who have been extremely supportive of the Fire Department,) town officials (who have creatively found pathways to progress to meet the Department's needs,) Department leadership (who pragmatically separate needs from wants) and the Department membership (who painstakingly take great care of the equipment they have.)

So, Myth Buster #2: Volunteer fire departments do not operate with "inferior" equipment (and that is especially true of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department).

Chatham Historical Society

PLANS FOR 2024

Here is a list of the Chatham Historical Society (CHS) History Walks, Activities & Talks planned for 2024.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the CHS three museum buildings at 6 Bevin Blvd. that are open from 2:00 - 4:00 pm on the first Sunday of each month from April to December. You can get a free tour of the thousands of items that chronicle the history of East Hampton.



Kristy Roloff and two daughters, Lydia & Kira, on a past Chatham Historical Society History Walk to the Cobalt Mine. Photo by Marty Podskoch.

Residents are also welcome to attend the monthly CHS meetings that are held in the museum

the first Tuesday of each month from April to November. We are always looking for new members that love history and would enjoy being docents and helping with the building and grounds maintenance.

If you have any questions or would like a private tour of the museums, please call President Carol Morris at: 860-918-2248 or Marty Podskoch at: 860-267-2442.

CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

6 Bevin Blvd., East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-8953 | chathamhistoricalct.org

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Saturday, March 9	9 am – 1 pm	Antique Appraisal Day at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive Dr.
Saturday, March 16	11 am	Cabin Fever History Series, Speaker: Walter Woodward, State Historian Emeritus, Title: "Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State," at East Hampton Community Room, 105 Main Street
Tuesday, April 2	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
Saturday, April 20	10 am	Cemetery Walk at Waterhole Cemetery, Waterhole Road, led by Kevin Tulimieri
Tuesday, May 7	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
Sunday, May 5	1 pm	East Hampton Downtown History Walk with Town Historian, Jay Hansen
Tuesday, June 4	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
Saturday, June 15	8 am – 2 pm	Town Wide Tag Sale
TBA		Tree Walk of Downtown East Hampton
Tuesday, July 2	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
Saturday, July 13		Old Home Day Christmas tree raffle Connecticut lottery tickets drawing
Sunday, July 21	1 pm	Salmon River Walk Leaders Bruce & Eileen Bogardus
Tuesday, August 6	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
Sunday, August 18	1 pm	Cobalt Mine & CCC Camp Marty Podskoch & Kellen Garvey
Tuesday, September 3	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
TBA		Laurel Island on Lake Pocotopaug History Tour
Saturday, September 28	12 pm – 3 pm	HS Fall Festival Celebrating EH Fire Department (rain date Sunday, September 29)
Tuesday, October 3	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
Tuesday, November 5	7 pm	CHS Meeting at Museum 6 Bevin Blvd.
TBA		Christmas Tree Farm Walk
TBA		CHS Christmas Party

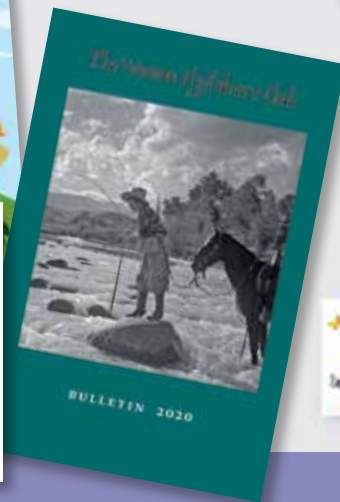
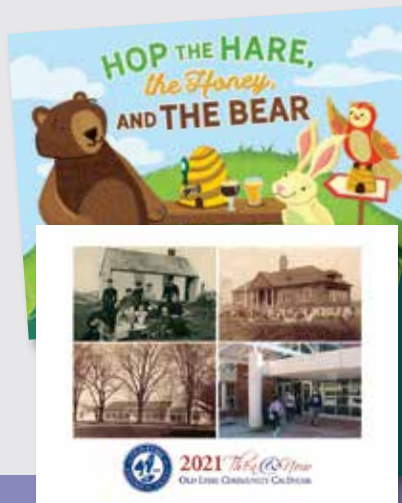
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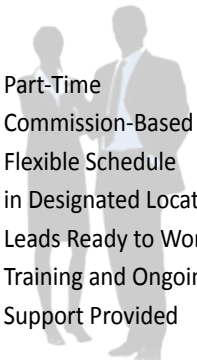
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