

East Hampton

events

VOLUME 9 • QUARTER 1 • 2023



DELIVERING TOWN NEWS



TO EVERYONE IN TOWN

Do you have problems with your “Bifocularity?”



We had a patient with random double vision and focusing issues who said he had problems with his “BIFOCULARITY”. That term does not exist, but to this patient, it precisely described his vision problem, so we will follow his creative lead.

“**Bifocularity**” refers to the ability to see clearly and comfortably at all distances while maintaining constant stereopsis and depth perception. Both eyes must work and focus together effortlessly.

Without it, words may run into each other or you may easily lose your place while reading. Objects may suddenly go double. It may become difficult to maintain focus on a computer monitor, phone or book. Near objects may become difficult to see. People may become dizzy or disoriented. Chronic headaches, motion sickness, vertigo, light sensitivity and eye aches have been attributed to it.



No one will know if impaired bifocularity is the cause of their symptoms until our eye doctors look for the signs of it during an eye exam. Adults may have their bifocularity degrade over many years and not even realize that they are struggling to see.

Does a baseball or golf ball simply disappear into the sky? Are medicine bottles impossible to read? Do you sometimes see two sets of lines in the road? Do you need a magnifier to see small things? There are stresses to our visual system at every age.

For nearsighted parents with thick eyeglasses, myopia can now be controlled if caught early. At what age did you need glasses? School age students should have an eye exam every year.

Vision should be naturally comfortable at all distances for all tasks. That’s what we do every day.

Take this at-home test to measure your bifocularity.

Look carefully at the doorknob of a closed door. Cover one eye and then cover the other. It is normal for the door knob to appear to move *slightly* side to side. But if the door knob appears to move up and down, diagonally, or moves sideways *a lot*, you are experiencing uncompensated binocular stress that your visual system cannot correct. We can. It’s time to call us for an eye exam.

If one eye sees things sharper than the other eye at any distance, there is focusing stress that your visual system cannot correct. We can. It’s time to call us for an eye exam.

Our specialty is delivering clear, comfortable, effortless vision at all distances and keeping your eyes healthy throughout your life. Everyone should have an annual eye exam. Call now to schedule yours.

Jeffrey M. Palmer, OD *GR* **Martin L. Hellman, OD, FAAO**

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Town Manager's Corner

As I write this message, what little winter we had is trying to hold on before it gives way completely to the spring weather most of us look forward to. Longer and warmer days are just around the corner! A warmer winter has allowed the Town to continue with small construction projects throughout the season as we all look forward to preparing for spring and summer activities. Town staff has also turned its attention to planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

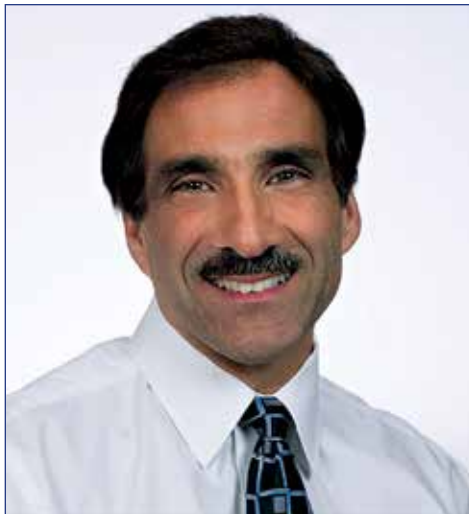
At this time each year, budget preparations are well underway, and staff is working on the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Board of Education has released and is considering its plan for the next year and Town staff and I are working on a proposed plan for general government that will address the future of 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. The Board of Education anticipates completing its budget request by March 1 and the full Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for the Town will be transmitted to the Board of Finance by March 15. It gets posted to the Town's website at that time as well. The Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 20 beginning at 6:30 pm and will hold workshops on various parts of the budget on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of that week followed by deliberations at meetings later in March and

April. 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 Meeting at referendum, which should occur in May or June. Residents and electors are encouraged to participate in the budget process to ensure that your thoughts are made known to the decision makers throughout the drafting process; even before you cast your ballot at the referendum on the budget. 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



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TM Ventures, LLC
dba Essex Printing & Events Magazines
 18 Industrial Park Road, P.O.Box 205

Centerbrook, CT 06409
 860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259
 email: print@essexprinting.com
www.essexprinting.com

PUBLISHER
 William E. McMinn

LAYOUT & AD DESIGN
 Lynne Hardt

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

ESSEX • WESTBROOK
CLINTON • MADISON
 Ward Feirer 914-806-5500
wfeirer@gmail.com

OLD SAYBROOK
OLD LYME • EAST LYME
 Betty Martelle 860-333-7117
betty@eventsmagazines.com

CHESTER • EAST HADDAM
EAST HAMPTON • HADDAM
 Contact Essex Printing 860-767-9087
print@essexprinting.com

GUILFORD • LEDYARD
 Contact Essex Printing 860-767-9087
print@essexprinting.com

COVER PHOTO
 Daylilies
 Cheryl Gioielli, Gioielli Design

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This event is free for all who attend and would not be possible without the support of our community and business sponsors. This year, we are asking for your support and encourage you to contact us about sponsorship opportunities. Please call or text Jennifer Marozzi at 860-918-1302 for more information. We'll see you at the 2023 Old Home Days glorious celebration!

The glorious celebration is back! East Hampton's Old Home Days celebration has released the dates for the 2023 event which will take place over three days - July 6th, 7th and 8th. The summer celebration will welcome families from all over for a weekend of carnival rides, great fair food, the largest parade in Middlesex County, a Rails to Trails road race, live music, bicycle

giveaways and so much more. This event is run annually by an all-volunteer committee and is supported from the local community and business sponsors. The Old Home Day Committee will dedicate the 2023 festivities and event to the 100th Anniversary of the East Hampton Fire Department. There will be more information and updates about the event on their website at www.EHOHD.org.

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MARGARET WILCOX
 EAST HAMPTON RESIDENT

WILLIAM RAVEIS | 
 MARGARET WILCOX TEAM

Rotary Club Youth Exchange – The Opportunity of a Lifetime!

Youth exchange can be a life changing experience – both for high school students interested in studying abroad, and for local families who are interested in opening their homes to an inbound exchange student for part of the school year. The East Hampton Rotary Club offers the opportunity for our local students to study abroad and for families to host a student from another country. Our town has recently hosted students from France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Romania and Brazil. Recent outbound students have studied in Bosnia, Germany and France. There are many other country options available. Read on for more information on what youth exchange is and some of the benefits to students and their families.

Outbound Exchange

East Hampton High School students have the opportunity to study abroad in one of more than 30 countries throughout

Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America through our local Rotary club. Rotary offers both a full school year exchange, and a short term, 3-to-4-week exchange over the summer. Students must be age 15 to 18 ½ on August 1st of the exchange year.

Interested? For long term exchanges apply in the fall the year before you want to go abroad. (Fall 2022 for the 2023/2024 year). Short term exchanges have a quicker turnaround so apply by the end of April before the summer you want to go abroad.

Hosting

Hosting an exchange student is an opportunity to create lifelong connections with exchange students, expose your family and friends to other cultures, and provide your visiting student with the opportunity of a lifetime. Rotary's goal is to provide inbound exchange students with several host families during a school year to provide the visiting student a variety of family/cultural experiences. Meaning ideally each host family would sign up for a three-month commitment. Considering studying abroad? Rotary exchanges are one-to-one exchanges, which means the families of outbound students host for part of the year their student is abroad. You don't need to have high school age children to host, we have also had host families with younger children. The home requirements are a room (alone or shared) for your student to sleep and a place to study. Other than that, the most important requirement is a willingness to open your home to someone who is excited to learn and experience our culture.

The East Hampton Rotary Club will begin selling raffle tickets during the month of May for our largest fundraiser of the year.

The drawing will be held at East Hampton Old Home Days on Saturday July 8 on the Center School grounds. The grand prize this year will be a blue 2023 Toyota Rav4 Hybrid that gets 40 MPG.



Most of the tickets are already spoken for but occasionally a long time sponsor decides it's time to pass the raffle ticket number off to someone else. If you would like to be added to the waiting list please email easthamptonctrotary@gmail.com.

Why should you consider a Rotary exchange?

The Experience: Going out on exchange will allow you to experience another culture, make lifelong connections and friendships, get to know who you are as a person, gain an understanding of other perspectives, and potentially become fluent in another language. It's also a great way to stand out on college applications!

Affordability: While there are many organizations that offer youth exchange programs Rotary Youth Exchange is a little different. Rotary hosts are volunteers, which means our program is more affordable than many of the commercial options out there.

World Class Support: While other organizations have volunteers that may service an entire state or section of a state Rotary exchange is supported by volunteers in host towns. The East Hampton Rotary Club has been hosting and sending students abroad since the 1960s. Our volunteers are trained and have years of experience in helping make our host families and students experience the best it could be.

Interested?

We are currently accepting applications for short term exchange students and host families. Applications for long term exchanges for the 2024/2025 school year will open in the fall.

Check out the information on hosting or studying abroad at this link <https://www.exchangestudent.org/> and send an email to easthamptonctrotary@gmail.com. We'd be happy to answer any questions.

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East Hampton Senior Center

105 Main Street • East Hampton, CT 06424 • 860-267-4426
Email: seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov

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



facebook.com/easthamptonseniorcenterct

WEEKLY EVENTS:

AARP Tax Assistance program: Offered Mondays by appointment through April 3rd. Call the Center for an appointment and more information.

MEXICAN TRAIN Mondays at 9:30 am
A fast-paced dominoes game involving chains and trains and stations. Fun and easy to learn. Walk-ins welcome. Pre-registration not required. Free

Quilting Mondays 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. Pre-registration not required. 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 class offered Wednesdays, through the month of March 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm by Shannon. Learn basic counted cross stitch. Class size is limited, pre-registration required.

T'ai Chi via Zoom. Thursdays at 10:30 am. The current 10- week session is 2/23/2023-4/27/2023. Tom Cushing instructs the class and teaches basic forms of Tai Chi. Zoom from your home or at the Senior Center. Cost: \$50.00 per session.

Wednesday Writer's Workshop with Elizabeth, virtual and in-person every other Wednesday at 9:30 am OR Writer's Workshop with Elizabeth, virtual and in-person every Thursday at 10:30 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.

Yoga via Zoom and in-person at the Town Hall Wednesdays at 11:40 am. This yoga class stretches your mind, body and soul. Call the Center for more information. \$20.00 fee for 10-week session. Next session will start April 12, 2023. Class size is limited.

The Book Club will meet in-person and virtually at 10:30 am.

March 14 **Thursday Night Murder Club** by Richard Osman

April 11 **In Five Years** by Rebecca Serle

May 9 **Greenlights** Markum McCannagrey

Books can be picked up at the public library. Call the Center for more information. New members welcome.

Setback Mondays at 1:00 pm & Thursdays at 1:15 pm, no partners needed. Entertaining game, played with fun people! Please register ahead of time.

Tap Dance is offered with Alicia on Thursdays at 11:15 am. New members welcome.

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 of cribbage.

The East Hampton/CRT Community Café is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 12:00 noon. You must register, on-line, on MyActiveCenter.com. or call the Center. Please call before 11:00 am for more information at 860-267-4426 ext. 230. A registration form must be completed prior



A day at Studio 13, learning about neuro-graphic art.

to signing up for your meal. A \$3.00 donation is requested.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Family History: Friday March 17, April 21 and May 19 at 10:30 am. Meet with Mr. Ken Doney to 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!

AARP Safe Driver Class Friday, May 26 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. Payment due at time of registration for class.

Art with Karen Sunday March 26, April 23, May 21 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Karen will lead you through the basic 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.

Let's Paint: Senior Center and Grades 1-5 have a Paint Party, celebrating Earth Day.

In partnership with the East Hampton Public Library

Wednesday, April 12 from 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. Come explore your inner artist and get to know your neighbors as art teacher Karen Williams guides you through painting your own masterpiece! This program will be held

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All-Ages Book Bingo!

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 pm

Join us at the library for an evening of Bingo to win free books! Everyone is welcome at this all-ages event and refreshments will be provided. Drop ins welcome.

Hatch the Chicken

Starting Tuesday, May 2

The Library will have some very special guests staying with us – baby chicks! Stop in and watch as we incubate several real live chicken eggs from Hatch the Chicken and try to catch a glimpse of them hatching! The baby chicks are scheduled to reside at the Library from May 2 to June 6.

Save the Date: Friends of the Library Book Sale

Sale dates: Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10

Donation Dropoff Begins: Saturday, May 27, 10 am-5 pm

May 27 is the day to drop off your gently used book donations at the Library. Then come visit us for the book sale on June 9 and 10.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Early Literacy Programs

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

Mindful Movements: Ages 18 months-5 years

Most Mondays at 10:30 am in the Library community room

An early literacy program for children and caregivers that combines singing, dancing, and whole-body movement.

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 & lap sit, fingerplays, puppets and play time.

Toddler Time: Ages 18 months-3 years

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

A story time just for toddlers that includes music, movement, 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

Designed for children ages 3-5 years old and their caregivers, this program includes longer stories and a simple craft or activity and is a great way to interact with other families in the community.

Trails and Tales: Best for ages 3-5, but all are welcome!

In partnership with the East Hampton Senior Center

Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 am

(Rain date: Wednesday, April 26 at 10:30 am)

Lynn Kochiss, Master Naturalist, will read an interactive story to our story time group and local seniors, then lead us on a short walk around the Library/Senior Center grounds to teach us about the wonders of nature right in our own backyard. **Registration required.**

ONEW Family Storytime: Ages 3-5 (Siblings welcome)

Select Saturdays at 10:30 am

Not able to attend storytime during the week? Now you can still get in on the fun!

Join us on select Saturdays for some themed songs, stories, and play.

March 18- Cookies!

April 1- Monsters

April 29- Cuteness Explosion!

May 20- Diggers and Dump Trucks

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 am-4 pm

Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together.

These activities are available while supplies last. No registration required, just drop in!

March 4- Squishy Stress Balls

March 25- Cup and Ball Toy

April 15- Spring Cleaning! (Do a craft you missed the first time around!)

May 6- Light Up Fireflies

May 27- Kinetic Sand

Nature Yoga: Grades 1-5

Monday, March 13 from 4:30-5:30 pm

Come practice your mindfulness and some animal themed poses with Amie Meacham, Yoga200 Certified instructor! Registration required.

STEMtastic: Coding Robots! Grades 1-5

Select Mondays from 4:30-5:30 pm

Learn science and math skills through fun hands-on activities! This session, we'll explore coding and robotics using different types of robots. Registration required.

March 20- Ozobots

April 3- Lego WeDo

Nintendo Switch Tournaments: Grades 1-5

March 11 3:00-4:30 pm,

April 22 2:00-3:30 pm

A Nintendo Switch game tournament for elementary school-aged kids! All skill levels welcome. Registration required.

Register online at EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org or by calling us at 860-267-6621.

Kids Comic Creators: Grades 1-5

Select Wednesdays from 4:30–5:30 pm

Each month kids will explore a different early reader graphic novel series like The Bad Guys or Dogman, play games related to the books, and create their own comics! More details and monthly themes available on our website. Registration required.

March 22- The Investigators

April 19- Phoebe and Her Unicorn

May 24- Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales

Let's Paint: Grades 1-5

In partnership with the East Hampton Senior Center

Wednesday, April 12 from 2:00–3:00 pm

Come explore your inner artist and get to know your neighbors as art teacher Karen Williams guides you through painting your own masterpiece! This program will be held at the East Hampton Senior Center. Registration required.

Children's Take-Home Program: 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.

NEW Tween Game Night: Grades 4-8

Select Wednesdays from 4:30–5:30 pm

March 8, April 5, and May 10

Join us at the Library for an hour of exciting, in-person, live-action games. From old classics like Duck, Duck, Goose to IRL versions of your favorite video games, each of our Tween Game Nights will feature a variety of fun and competitive games to get you up and moving with your friends.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Registration is required for teen programs unless otherwise noted.

Dungeons & Dragons: Grades 8 – 12

Select Wednesdays at 5:30–7:30 pm

March 1, 15, 29 and April 12

Join us for an exciting journey into the world of Dungeons & Dragons! No previous playing experience required. We will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included!

Pre-Teen Advisory Board: Grades 6-8

Third Tuesday of every month 4:30–5:30 pm

Help make a difference at the Library and in your community! Share your knowledge, creativity, and interests to make the East Hampton Public Library a place pre-teens your age feel welcome and a place you want to be! Earn community service hours.

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A Cause for Celebration

25 Years of Helping Good People Do Great Things!



THANK YOU

COMMUNITY
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of Middlesex County

• Philanthropy • Leadership • Legacy

We salute our founders and donors, the visionaries who pooled resources to provide immediate and future support to local nonprofit programs.

We value all of you who establish funds supporting animal welfare, arts and culture, health and social services, the environment, history, education, economic security, civic improvements, recreation, and so much more.

We honor every donor, volunteer, nonprofit, friend, and neighbor. You help us respond to rising and changing community needs. Together we are building a better today and brighter tomorrow for all.

As we celebrate, we look forward to another 25 years of helping our local communities thrive. Contact us at (860)347-0025 or visit us at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.

Library... *continued from page 9*

Teen Advisory Board: Grades 9-12

Third Tuesday of every month 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Come together with other East Hampton high schoolers to plan and create events and programs you want, provide input to expand our YA/Teen collection and share your knowledge, creativity and interests to make the East Hampton Public Library a place you love to be. Earn community service hours.



Teen Friday: Grades 6 - 12

Select Fridays 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

March 31, April 21, May 26

Get comfy in one of our new beanless bag chairs at our monthly Teen Friday party! Enjoy an activity like games and crafts, time to play with the Switch, have snacks and enjoy catching up with your friends and library staff!

Switch Game Tournament: Grades 6 - 12

Select Saturdays at 2:00 pm

March 18, April 29, May 20

Join us for a Nintendo Switch game tournament! Keep an eye on our social media for the monthly game selection! All skill levels welcome.

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

Try new recipes and chat about our culinary adventures – good and sometimes not so good! Each month has a theme. Bring a prepared dish and 10 copies of the recipe to share. We'll sample and talk about each recipe and take home new ideas!

LibraYoga with Amie Meacham

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm

March 14, April 11, May 9

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 Blast

On Zoom Thursdays, March 16, April 20, May 18 at 6:30 pm



In person Fridays, March 17, April 21, May 19 at 10:00 am

Join Adult Librarian Keri once a month on select Thursday evenings

on Zoom from the comfort of your home or drop into the Library on select Fridays for coffee or tea and bookish banter. For Zoom on Thursday please register to get the link. No registration needed for the in-person sessions, just drop in!

Cabin Fever Series - Presented by the Chatham Historical Society

Saturday, March 11 at 1:00 pm

Author and historian Marty Podskoch concludes Chatham Historical Society's annual lecture series with a presentation on the 90th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps and its work in Connecticut.

Plant Seeds with Jondahl!

Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 pm

What do you need to start a small cutting garden of your own? We'll start with a few easy-to-grow flowers! We'll go over the fundamentals of what you need to get started, where to keep your seedlings, how to water and when to plant out in the garden.

Belltown Goes to Broadway (on a Budget!)

Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Broadway enthusiast Brian Stoll joins us via Zoom to talk about all things Broadway! He'll share the history and importance of the Broadway Playbill as well as money-saving tips on how to see Broadway shows for under \$60. Register to get the Zoom link.

Backyard Chickens with Mark Gostkiewicz

Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 pm

Step into the world of backyard chicken keeping and discover the joys of having your own feathered friends. Learn everything you need to know to start and maintain a happy, healthy flock of chickens, all while using sustainable and organic practices.

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.

CURBSIDE PICKUP

For your convenience, the Library continues to offer curbside pickup. Call the Library with your requests or place your items on hold through our online catalog. When you're informed that your items are ready for pick up, just call to let a staff member know that you would like to pick up your items curbside. We'll put your items outside on our curbside pickup rack.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

The library has plenty to keep you busy during the long winter months!

Museum Passes

Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the East Hampton Library, the Library has a number of free and discounted passes to local museums and cultural attractions, including the Beardsley Zoo, the Niantic Children's Museum, the Connecticut River Museum, the CT Science Center, the Eric Carle Museum, the New Britain Museum of American Art, and the

New England Air Museum. Visit our website for a complete list.

Puzzle Swap

Bring one or take one; it's just that easy! We have so many puzzles for you to enjoy, and now kids can participate, too! The Children's Room has added its very own puzzle and game swap.

Nintendo Switch Games

We have a growing collection of games for the Nintendo Switch. Check our catalog for offerings and borrow a new game for a week.

Sprout Early Learning Backpacks and STEAM To Go Kits

Need new activities to keep the kids occupied? Check out these interactive take home kits! Each one contains books, games, and toys on a particular theme. Sprout Early Learning Backpacks are best for children ages 3-8 and include topics like the seasons, shapes, and music. STEAM To Go Kits are best for children in grades K-5 and include themes like dinosaurs, yoga, and money math.



Riding Lessons
Beginner - Grand Prix
Dressage & Balanced Seat

2023 Schooling Shows

June 21, July 19 & August 16

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29-A Daniels Road
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eqarts@snet.net
 www.foxledgefarm.net

860.873.8108

East Hampton Town Directory

www.easthamptonct.gov

| | | | |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| Animal Control (24 hour dispatch)..... | 860-873-5044 | Land Use | 860-267-7450 |
| Assessor | 860-267-2510 | Parks & 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..... | 860-202-5308 | 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 | | |

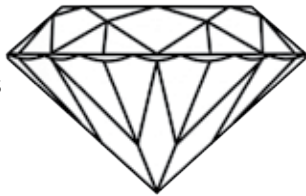
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Office of the Assessor

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 <https://www.easthamptonct.gov/assessor>

ELDERLY & TOTALLY DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Property tax credits from \$150 to \$1,250 from total tax are available for low-income seniors or disabled homeowners on their primary residence. Eligibility for the "Homeowner's Program" is based on the following criteria:

- Property owner who is at least 65 years old as of December 31 proceeding the filing period or is at least 50 years old and the widow(or) of a previously approved applicant is eligible. Totally disabled taxpayers regardless of age may also be eligible upon presentation of a Social Security Award Letter or an SSA-1099 with Medicare premiums, or proof of benefits comparable to those of the Social Security Administration. Property must be owned or held in "life use" by the applicant as of October 1 of the year prior to the application period and at the time of application.
- Income limits are determined annually by the State of Connecticut. * "Income" is considered income from all sources, including tax-exempt interest and Social Security. The income limit for the 2022 tax year is \$49,100 for couples and \$40,300 for single applicants. Applications must be renewed every two years between February 1 and May 15th. Applicants must bring with them copies of their Federal Income Tax (if filed) and their SSA-1099. If taxes are not filed, applicant must provide statements of all income sources (pensions, interest income, SSA-1099, etc.)

*Qualifying Income thresholds are based on Connecticut Office of Policy & Management guidelines set annually.

LOCAL PROPERTY TAX FREEZE RELIEF FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS

In East Hampton, by municipal ordinance, low-income homeowners may qualify for a deferral of property taxes. This tax relief places a lien on the property in the amount of the total tax relief granted each year with interest of 0%. The lien becomes payable to the Town upon settlement of such person's estate or conveyance of the property.

To qualify for this tax freeze relief the property owner must:

- Be at least 70 years old as of December 31 proceeding the filing period or at least 62 years old and the widow(er) of a previously approved applicant.
- Either spouse shall have resided within East Hampton for at least five years before filing the claim.
- Must have qualified for the "Property Tax Credits for Seniors or Disabled Persons" referenced in this brochure.

continued on page 13

Applicants must file at the Assessor's Office from February 1 through May 15th. Applications need to be renewed every two years.

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: <https://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.

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.

ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENSE

As a reminder, the Annual Income and Expense reports will be mailed to all owners of income producing properties on or about April 1st. The deadline for filing the report is June 1st unless an extension is requested by May 1st.

The Assessor's Office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am to 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. The phone number is 860-267-2510.

Department of Public Works

The winter season is well underway. Traditionally, we identify the "winter season" as the period from November 15th until April 15th. During this time frame 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 pavement shimming and chip sealing of Wopowog Road, Daniel Street, Collie Brook Road and Brook Hill Drive. Stay tuned for more to come on these projects.



Residents are reminded to refrain from parking on the road during snow and storm events. Cars parked on the road substantially hinder and delay our 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.

Residents are reminded to refrain from parking on the road during snow and storm events. Cars parked on the road substantially hinder and delay our 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.

Office of the Collector of Revenue

Commonly Asked Questions

How do you determine how much I pay in taxes?

The total assessed value is multiplied by the mill rate. Example: A vehicle with a net assessment of \$20,000 and a mill rate of 32.46 would have a total tax of \$649.20. ($\$20,000 \times 0.03246 = \649.20)

What is a mill rate?

The property tax rate is expressed in mills or thousands of a dollar. Real estate and personal property tax are based on a mill rate of 34.66 mills which equates to \$34.66 in taxes per \$1,000 of net assessed value.

How is the mill rate determined?

During the budget process the Town determines how much revenue it will need to operate for the upcoming year. All forms of income or revenue are subtracted from the total operating budget, leaving the remaining portion to be raised by taxes. This portion is divided by the total net taxable assessments of the Town. The result is the mill rate.

How do I obtain a motor vehicle clearance?

All delinquent motor vehicle taxes in your name must be paid in full with cash, bank check or money order. All clearances are reported electronically to DMV and are received immediately.

Office of the Town Clerk

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>.

Dryer Fires

Data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration indicate that, over the past several years, an average of 13,820 structure fires have occurred annually that are directly attributable to dryer fires. Averaging 7 civilian deaths and 344 serious, debilitating injuries each year, dryer fires also result in an estimated \$233M in property damage losses annually.

The leading cause of dryer fires is also the easiest to prevent — lint or dust buildup in the venting system. All clothes dryers are equipped with an easily-accessible lint filter that traps fibers and other small debris particles before the dryer exhaust enters a vent pipe to be expelled to the exterior. If the filter is not cleaned regularly, the lint and other fibers will accumulate on the mesh, forming a barrier that inhibits the dryer exhaust from entering the vent pipe. This barrier not only prevents the dryer's heat from dissipating, but the clog will also force subsequent lint to accumulate within the internal spaces of the dryer itself. As both the heat and the amount of combusti-

ble materials increase within the dryer, the perfect conditions are created for that dryer to ignite in flames and spread a fast-moving fire into other areas of the home.

Similarly, a buildup of lint in the vent piping that leads from the dryer to the exterior will result in the same conditions noted above. Other factors, such as mechanical failure, electrical problems, overloading the dryer with wet clothes or drying clothes with flammable substances on them can cause dryer fires as well.

So, to do your part in preventing dryer fires and to keep your dryer healthy and functioning properly, the EHVFD recommends that homeowners clean the dryer lint filter after every load, inspect and clean the vent piping, exterior damper and cover every three months and have a professional clean the dryer thoroughly and inspect all components and connections once a year. Also, never overload your dryer, do not put items made of foam, plastic or rubber (like bathroom mats) in the dryer and never leave the home or go to bed with the dryer in operation.



The photo was submitted to the EHVFD by a town resident who wanted to share their recent experience in cleaning their own dryer as a public safety reminder. The EHVFD sincerely appreciates their consideration.

Visit the Historic Middle Haddam Public Library

2 Knowles Road • Middle Haddam, CT
Hours: Monday 10 am-2 pm, Tuesday 3 pm-6 pm,
Thursday 10 am-2 pm, Friday 3 pm-6 pm

Come visit your second library in town!

www.middlehaddamlibrary.com

Yoga: with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga
Mondays @9 am, Tuesdays @7 pm & every Saturday @9 am.
Cost: \$10.00. Please register @ tensummitst@gmail.com

Mahjong: Mondays @ 10:30 am — Open to all!

Nimble Knitters: Thursdays @ 1 pm — Open to all!



Historic Middle Haddam Library



@historicmiddlehaddamlibrary



WE HAVE SO MUCH TO OFFER!



East Hampton Social Services

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Please contact Christine at (860) 267-4468 ext. 3208 to coordinate your 2022/2023 winter energy assistance application to apply for this program. The application process is being conducted mainly over the phone, however you can contact Christine to coordinate a day/time to drop off your required documents. We are not able to accommodate walk-ins for this program, so please call ahead of time to schedule your appointment. Processing by CRT may take up to 45 business days, so please factor that in when planning.

This program is to assist with your primary heating source. Please call 860-267-4468, ext. 3208 or email (cwiesner@easthamptonct.gov) to acquire the list of required documents needed to determine your eligibility. If you are leaving a voice-mail, please include your contact info., along with your email address. Do not wait until you are out of fuel!

In the event you are approved for energy assistance, and are in need of a delivery, you must request your delivery 5-7 business days before you will be in need of the fuel. This ensures enough time for the request to get to your approved vendor and for them to deliver to your home in a timely manner. If you heat primarily with electric heat, and are approved, a credit in the amount you were approved for will be sent directly to Eversource on your behalf. It is important to allow ample time for approval. There are instances where CRT

will require additional documents before approval, so you want to allow time for that as well. If you fall within the income guidelines and are eligible, the importance of applying for this program cannot be stressed enough.

*East Hampton Social Services continues to assist residents with applications and renewals for DSS services. If you are in need of assistance with either, please call us to discuss. Most of these we can help with remotely.

*Food Insecurity: If you are an East Hampton resident and are experiencing food insecurity, please contact our local Food Bank at 860-365-5978. They are open Mondays & Thursdays from 9 am - noon. If you utilize our Food Bank, and do not also receive SNAP benefits, please contact EH Social Services and we can assist you with applying. It is highly encouraged for you to apply for SNAP even if you also utilize East Hampton Food Bank. In addition, if you apply and qualify for SNAP, that will also prequalify you for energy assistance benefits.

*Eversource: If you are struggling to keep up with your electric bill, contact us and we can help to find what options may be available to your household. Even if electric is not your primary heating source, you may qualify for winter protection or medical protection. Please call us to discuss.

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alexisdevlin@bhhsne.com



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

New England
Properties

*Residents who are struggling financially, short-term or long-term are encouraged to contact Social Services to discuss resources and options that may be available. We recommend residents contact us as soon as they feel a need. All information disclosed and discussed is handled with confidentiality.

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

*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, remaining in our office, from generous donors.

East Hampton Ambulance Association

With warm weather coming, we should all be concerned about dehydration. Dehydration is the lack of sufficient water in the body. Even a loss of as little as 1.5% of your body's water can result in symptoms. These symptoms can be as simple as a headache or as life threatening as heatstroke. Your body's natural response to inadequate hydration is thirst. You should respond to thirst right away by drinking fluids, preferably water. Between 55% to about 78% of your body is water! Even if you don't feel well, you should eat regularly and drink water. Your brain and heart are both about 73% water. Lack of hydration shrinks the blood vessels in the brain which affects your memory and concentration.

Water can help:

- Aid digestion
- Get rid of waste
- Work your joints
- Make saliva
- Balance your body's chemicals
- Deliver oxygen
- Cushion your bones
- Regulate your temperature
- Act as a shock absorber for your brain and spinal cord

What causes dehydration?

- Not drinking enough water
- Sweating
- Strenuous exercise in the heat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Use of diuretics (water pills, alcohol, and caffeine)
- Long periods in the sun without drinking water

Signs of dehydration:

- Headache, delirium, confusion
- Tiredness
- Dizziness, weakness, light-headedness
- Dry mouth and/or a dry cough
- High heart rate but low blood pressure
- Loss of appetite
- Flush (red) skin, swollen feet, muscle cramps
- Heat intolerance
- Constipation, dark colored urine
- In severe cases, fainting

The recommended amount of water per day is 2.3 quarts (2.2 liters) for women and 3.2 quarts (3 liters) for men. This can vary depending on your size and weight and your activities. And don't forget your children need water too. Stay safe and remember to hydrate.

Information from the Cleveland Clinic

Senior Center... *continued from page 7*

at the East Hampton Senior Center. Registration required.

Trails and Tales: Senior Center joins Storytime

In partnership with the East Hampton Public Library

Wednesday, April 19 at 10:30 am (Rain date: Wednesday, April 26 at 10:30 am)

Lynn Kochiss, Master Naturalist, will read an interactive story to our Storytime group and local seniors, then lead us on a short walk around the library grounds, teaching us about the wonders of nature right in our own backyard. Registration required.

We ask you sign up in advance for all programs. You can call the Center and/or you can register online. You do need to be registered with the Senior Center prior to registering online.

The Art of the Sit-Spot May 12 at 10:30 am. Awaken your senses to the landscape around you as we visit the East Hampton Cranberry Bog. Spring is alive here in May. Red-winged blackbirds, gold finches, ducks, and a heron or two are frequently seen by the water. Spring flowers are blooming, trees are leafing out, and the air is warm and fresh — a perfect setting for a relaxing Sit-Spot. Please bring a mat, folding chair, or camping stool for this activity — something that will help you feel comfortable sitting outside. Pre-registration required.

East Hampton Volunteer Fuel and Food Bank

The East Hampton Volunteer Fuel and Food Bank is an organization of volunteers that assist all citizens of East Hampton with food and fuel. The Food Bank is located at 43 West High Street. The hours of operation are Monday & Thursday 9:00am to 12:00pm. Those new to the Bank just need proof of residence in East Hampton. There is no income requirement. Citizens are able to come every two weeks and if fuel is needed, they can call the office at 860-365-5978. Unfortunately, due to the increase in price of oil the Bank must limit delivery to one time only per year. Donations are welcome.

Notice from the East Hampton Registrars of Voters

East Hampton Budget Referendum

Plans are underway to move the location of voting for the Budget Referendum to the East Hampton Town Hall starting with the 2023 Budget Referendum.

The Budget referendum is normally scheduled for May/June during a school day. Due to security concerns at the schools, a decision has been made to move the referendum voting to the Town Hall, so as not to interfere with the students. This is in alignment with what many other towns are already doing.

The regular elections and primaries will continue to be held at the High School because school is usually not in session for those events.

Details will be released as the date draws closer.

EAST HAMPTON PARKS & RECREATION

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

www.easthamptonct.gov
860-267-7300

STAFF

Jeremy Hall, Director
jhall@easthamptonct.gov
Shawn Mullen, Program Coordinator
smullen@easthamptonct.gov
Sheri Yorker, Program Lead
syorker@easthamptonct.gov
Tucker Rozevink, Parks Maintainer I
Carter Gustine, Parks Maintainer I

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah McKinney, Chairperson
Tim Adams
Daniel Roy
Jessica Rurka
Courtney HYTE
Kim Crabbe

Mailing Address and Physical Location have changed. We are now located at the New Town Hall!

Parks and Recreation
1 Community Drive
East Hampton, CT 06424

Afternoon Adventures
After-School Program
860-367-5429
Memorial School location

YOUTH AND 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.

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 on if electrical or stage lighting is required. All reservations also require a \$125 security deposit.

REGISTRATION AND 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 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

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INFORMATION:

EAST HAMPTON LITTLE LEAGUE

- www.easthamptonlittleleague.sportssignup.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 AND 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

continued on page 18

should be made in the office only. Please do not try to register or pay program instructors unless indicated.

Registration confirmations are available by e-mail 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.

In the event of inclement weather, all programs are cancelled if school is closed or has an early dismissal. Cancellation information is posted on WFSB Channel 3 Early Warning Network. Households who have subscribed to the online registration site's email notifications will receive an e-mail regarding the cancellation.

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 Parks and Recreation qualify.

A portion of your enrollment fee may be put into your Special Revenue Program account for the East Hampton Parks & 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

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.



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

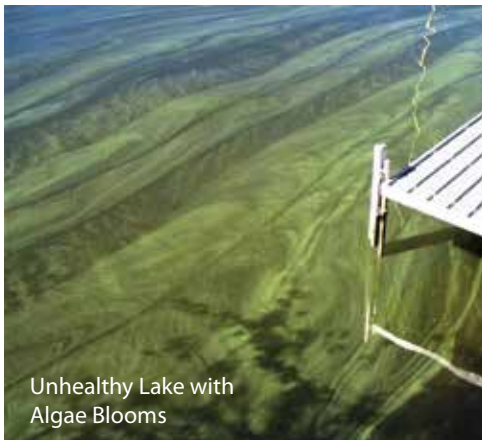
If you are registering for both before and after care, put the before care portion in your cart first, and the after-school portion will be discounted 10% at checkout. For pricing, please visit www.easthamptonrec.com or call the office at 860-267-7300.





Keeping Lake Pocotopaug Blue!

We are so lucky to live here in East Hampton, with our beautiful lake. People in the greater Hartford area may not know much about East Hampton, but they all know about Lake Pocotopaug. Summertime brings gorgeous blue skies, blue waters and lots of fun family activities - swimming in Sears Park, boating, fishing, and water skiing. But none of this will be possible if our lake turns green.



Unhealthy Lake with Algae Blooms

Springtime is just around the corner, and traditional April showers which help our lawns turn green also tend to bring large amounts of water runoff into the lake. Unfortunately,

water runoff gathers plenty of lawn chemicals from fertilizers, notably phosphorus and nitrates, which can make not only our lawn, but also our lake turn green. High phosphorus content in Lake Pocotopaug can lead to algae blooms in the hot summer months as the water warms up. Algae blooms can lead to closure of Sears Park, no swimming, and boating at your own risk. Accidentally inhaling or swallowing water with the high levels of toxins can cause serious illness. Water touching the skin can cause irritation or rashes.

So as spring approaches, what can you do to help keep our lake blue? If you live in the watershed, please minimize use of fertilizers, or try to get one with a zero-phosphorus rating (as marked on the bags). If you live on the lake, plantings (either shrubs or flowers) along the shoreline of your property can act as a sponge to soak up runoff before it reaches the lake. Gutters on your roof can redirect rainwater into lawn or shrub areas which will soak it up. Permeable patios and path stones can prevent runoff directly into the lake.

We hope all of you will do your part to help “keep our lake blue” so that we can all enjoy its beauty all summer long.

Got Scrap & Junk Cars?

Belltown Recycling

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Inhouse Dumpsters Available

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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

SEPTIC WORKS

OLD LYME, CT



Matt Stark Lic.#6207 | Blair Carignan Lic.#6157

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Moodus Reservoir
photo by Patty Solovei

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Tim Csere
Managing Director

T: 860-598-3016

F: 860-767-0094

tim.csere@optisure.com

Paul Uricchio
Producer

T: 860-581-9057

F: 860-767-0094

paul.uricchio@optisure.com

46 Plains Road
Unit 31
PO Box 129
Essex, CT 06426
860-767-0084



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East Hampton Energy Fair – Ways to Save

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force hosted its first Energy Fair on January 23rd at the East Hampton High School. The public and several Town officials came out and braved the unexpected snow storm.

According to David Price, a Task Force member and the Fair's director, "Everyone is painfully aware that energy prices of all types having risen so much recently. But it isn't always easy to find programs or actions that can help ease the burden." Promoted as a community education program, the Task Force felt that now was the perfect time to inform our community of services and programs that can save money on their energy now and in the future. We wanted to provide a convenient way to bring together, into one place, a wide range of products, services and programs that are available.



"So we reached out to many companies and organizations to come in and share their best ideas for Ways to Save,"

Mary Dickerson, Certification Program Manager for Sustainable CT, spoke about their framework of best practice sustainability actions for towns, how to create a municipal sustainability team, and the supports and resources that Sustainable CT provides. All Sustainable CT programming and assistance is free to towns. Photo by Roz Kaplan

said Price. "Not everyone knows there are so many programs to help pay for such improvements as energy audits, insulation, heat pumps, solar power and smart thermostats."

The show featured a number of participants, including: PACE (People's Action For Clean Energy), Eversource (Energy Conservation), Newington Electric (EV Chargers), Airline Cycles (E-Bikes), PosiGen Developer, LLC (Solar), Sustainable CT (Community Funding), Valley View / Mercury Excelum (Energy Saving Windows), Lantern Energy (Energy Conservation and Solar), and Glasco Heating & Air Conditioning (High Efficiency Heat Pumps and HVAC), Frontier (Internet). There were also several presentations that focused on specific strategies.

The event was a partnership with the East Hampton High School. According to Task Force Chairman, Russ Kaplan, "The facilities at the high school were perfect for our event, and the Administration, staff and student volunteers worked with us to make it a success. Events like this are not possible without the support and assistance of other town departments and personnel," added Kaplan. He noted that besides the High School, the Board of Education, the Town Manager's Office and Parks & Recreation all assisted in the event.

East Hampton should be proud that so many of our fellow town members step up with something as important as lessening our energy dependence and the associated costs for all our citizens.

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Land Use Department

uring the Summer of 2021, the Land Use Department worked with an intern to create a Master Plan for the Village Center. The Plan was meant to be all encompassing and act as a blueprint to guide future projects and redevelopment within the district. The Plan was developed due to several factors, including increased redevelopment over the past decade and the creation of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District which was implemented by the Town Council in 2017. The TIF district created a special revenue source for projects within the Village.

The first project driven by the Plan will take place this spring and summer, primarily funded by a State Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. The project will consist of reconstruction of sidewalks, replacement of crosswalks, installation of streetscape amenities, and improved signage. The plan also calls for the creation of 10 parallel parking spaces along Main Street to create much needed parking for businesses where currently there is none. The plan will make the sidewalks fully accessible for those with disabilities, and greatly increase the safety for pedestrians. Over the years, the memorial bricks which surround the Main Street/Summit Street intersection have heaved due to roots of trees that are no longer there causing a tripping hazard. The bricks will be picked up and re-laid as part of the project, keeping the bricks in the center while making the walking conditions more comfortable.

Staff is working with our Engineers and the Connecticut Department of Transportation on final design and the project should start in late Spring. During construction, don't forget to continue to visit local businesses. Construction projects on the street can be uncomfortable, so please keep supporting those businesses which will be impacted!



Police Department

On December 22, 2022, Sergeant Jerry Boynton retired from the East Hampton Police Department after 24 years of dedicated service. Officer Evan Gustafson was hired to fill the vacancy created by Sgt. Boynton's retirement and he started the Police Academy on December 30, 2022.

Officer Gustafson will graduate from the Police Academy in July of 2023 at which time he will complete his field training for sixteen weeks prior to patrolling the town on his own. Officer Gustafson is a Veteran of the United States Air Force and has been deployed overseas twice, is married and resides in Portland with his wife and son.



Officer Evan Gustafson

Many residents are not aware that the Department has a total of 17 police officers to patrol the town 24 hours a day 365 days a year. On any given shift 2 to 4 officers may be working. Many times, between 51%-54% over the last several years, there are only two officers working on a shift. This can create challenges in a serious medical incident, car accident, or other major incident. Unless an officer can break away, there will be a delay in response. Police officers are the medical First Responders in town and provide immediate life-saving efforts prior to the arrival of our ambulance service. In the past couple of years, the Police Chief has asked for additional staffing which has been denied. Last budget cycle it was requested to convert an existing sergeant's position to a lieutenant's position, at a cost of \$25,000.00 a year, but that was also denied. As the town once again considers its annual budget, the Police Department encourages all residents to be involved and to review the proposed budget. Please attend the budget meetings and share your opinion with the Board of Finance and Town Council.

The East Hampton 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. The Speed Monitor signs are placed 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.



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Arts & Culture Commission Win \$500 for Your Arts Organization!

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts. **Deadline to apply is April 1, 2023** to arts@easthamptonct.org or drop off at the East Hampton Town Hall in the Town Manager's office.

Eligibility: One of two \$500 grants are available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton, Connecticut. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success. The organization's or project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community. Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

Evaluation: An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year post award date.

Applications available at <https://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org/grant>

More Parks & Rec Events!


ANIMAL BINGO & CRAFT
MAY 9TH 3:30-4:30PM
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East Hampton Parks and Recreation


East Hampton Parks and Recreation

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CLINIC



\$125

MARCH 23,30 & APRIL 6,20
5:30PM - 6:45PM
EAST HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL
Grades 5th - 8th




EAST HAMPTON PARKS AND RECREATION

BOYS VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

MARCH 23,30 & APRIL 6,20
7:00-8:15PM
5TH -8TH GRADE
EAST HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

\$125



Install Wi-Fi thermostats



You can save up to \$145 per year on your heating and cooling costs with a properly programmed Wi-Fi thermostat.

Dry two or more loads in a row



Your dryer has already generated a wealth of heat during your first load, so take advantage of that heat to lower energy use.

Use the locks on your windows and doors



Locking windows and external doors will ensure they seal shut and keep out drafts.

Top Recommended Products & Programs for Winter Energy Savings

Cold temperatures, chilling winds, and blustery days can lead to cozy evenings at home. These winter conditions usually mean your heating system is working hard. Other parts of your house – holiday lights, drafty doorways, hardwood floors – can also all result in your home using more energy this time of year compared to other seasons. Below, we've outlined some of the resources that you can leverage this winter and beyond, including no- and low-cost ways to use less energy. Here are some of our top recommendations for keeping energy use down and staying comfortable throughout the season.

ELIMINATE AIR-LEAKS AND DRAFTS near doors, windows, attics, and basements by weatherstripping and air sealing.

A leaky home is less comfortable and uses more energy, especially in the winter. A home weatherization project is one of the most effective ways to improve your comfort and reduce energy use year-round. Properly insulating your home can help you reduce heating and cooling costs by an average of 20%.

INSTALL WI-FI THERMOSTATS.

Wi-Fi thermostats allow you to control your home temperature settings from your smartphone or tablet, so you can adjust and save energy whenever, and wherever, works best for you. Smart thermostats offer various energy-saving features such as automatically adjusting the temperature based on whether you are present or away, based on the weather forecast, or with a schedule customized by you. You can save up to \$145 per year on your heating and cooling costs with a properly programmed Wi-Fi thermostat.

DRY TWO OR MORE LOADS IN A ROW to take advantage of the heat from your dryer.

Get more done with less energy by throwing in a second load of laundry right after the first. Your dryer has already generated a wealth of heat during your first load, so take advantage of that heat.

REVERSE YOUR CEILING FANS.

Normally, ceiling fans spin counterclockwise, allowing you to feel cooler in the warmer months. However, most ceiling fans have a reverse switch that will force them to turn clockwise, producing a downdraft and moving the warm air that collects near your ceiling down into the rest of the room.

BUNDLE UP AND HEAD OUTSIDE!

Although we tend to curl up inside during the winter months, spending a few hours outside with family and friends can reduce stress on your overall

household. Consider unplugging those electronics (if you don't have an advanced power strip) and spending quality time together building a snowman or trying a seasonal sport such as snowshoeing.

MAKE SURE YOUR HOME DEVICES ARE SET to save power.

Check your computer, monitor, TV, and other electronics to make sure they are set to conserve energy. If you are looking for a new device, check for the ENERGY STAR® logo.

LAY DOWN RUGS ON HARDWOOD FLOORS.

Add an extra layer of insulation to your home and save money and energy. Rugs help trap cold air underneath and keep it from circulating around the room.

HAVE A HEAT PUMP? Set it and forget it.

Turning your heat pump on and off, or constantly adjusting its temperature settings, may use more energy and cause comfort issues. Generally, it's advised to find a temperature that's comfortable and leave it there.

THIS ALL SOUNDS GREAT – where do I start?

Eversource, a Sponsor of Energize ConnecticutSM, offers on-the-spot air sealing through Home Energy SolutionsSM and up to 75% off approved insulation projects. This is one of the best ways to get started and knock some items off the list above. If you meet income eligibility requirements, you may receive the initial visit at no cost and up to 100% off an approved insulation project and incentives for additional energy-saving upgrades. Visit the URL, give us a call, or scan the code at right to get started.

Learn more at eversource.com/home-energy-solutions or call us at 1-877-WISE-USE.



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