

East Haddam



Events

Your Quarterly Town Magazine

Volume 1 Number 1 • Winter 2008



IN THIS ISSUE:

Selectman's Report • Tax Information • Park & Rec Newsletter
Historical Society • Youth and Family ...and more!

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From Your First Selectman, Mark B. Walter

Residents of East Haddam,

Thank you for your belief in my ability to lead our great Town of East Haddam. While these first six weeks have gone fast I believe that we are off to a great start.

I have already attended 38 meetings of our boards, commissions, associations, conferences and councils to get a clear understanding of their goals, missions and objectives. I am very impressed with the quality of our volunteers, too many to name in this short article, countless hours and the dedication shown to me at these meetings. I have engaged four employee group meetings and have just started "one on one" employee meetings. The goal is to give all employees the chance to set their goals for 2008 and to have an off-the-record opportunity to update me on their ideas for the improvement of our town.

My hope is to release the creativity of both employees and residents, to work together creatively in slowing the rate of growth for this upcoming budget and improve the quality of our town's services.

An example of what can be done to improve town services is in a new "process flow group" I put together to make it easier for small businesses to navigate the necessary boards and commissions to become operational. A few weeks ago a local business owner who was very frustrated expanding his business in the past approached me and we put this task force in action. A member of planning and zoning, economic development, a building inspector and the fire marshal got together informally to

coach the business owner through the steps and processes to get his expansion done quickly and efficiently. This process is not designed to change any of our regulations, but simply to help someone create a clearer path and get their questions answered before significant funds are invested.

My second story illustrates the dedication of our town employees. During a "one on one" meeting with our Public Works Department, Ed Sikorski invited me to ride in one of our full size town plows. It just happened to snow that afternoon and I was along in a flash. I quickly learned how hard this job is. A few private plows make it very difficult for our town plows by leaving driveway snow in the street. A child actually sledged across the road in front of us. Ed mentioned that 4-wheelers and snowmobiles presented a danger as well. Most impressive was the teamwork provided by our Public Works employees and private contractors. A call for an ambulance came in and Ed immediately went to the street to plow a path for the ambulance. The offer also came in to plow the drive by a private plow. After the ambulance did have trouble with the drive another employee Butch Hollowell plowed a path. Our Public Works Department has now professionally handled five storms already in December and faced considerable challenges with ice and freezing rain.



continued on page 2

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continued from page 1

These are just a couple of examples of what makes East Haddam a great community. We have dedicated town employees working with committed volunteers going above and beyond the call and I want to personally thank all of them. Lastly, I am also receiving many ideas from both local residents and businesses that I have reached out to. If you want to join this effort and give me your input, please feel free to contact me at admin@easthaddam.org. Put "Mark, I have an idea" in the subject line.

*Mark B. Walter, First Selectman
East Haddam CT ~ 860-873-5020*

From the Assessor

Notices of the new assessments for the October 1, 2007 town-wide revaluation will be mailed by the end of January, 2008. Property owners will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of Real Estate Management Services, Inc., the revaluation company, if they disagree with their assessments. They can also appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals in April, 2008. Requests to the Board are due by March 20, 2008. Written requests should include the property owner's name, name and address of the person appealing the assessment, type of property being appealed (real estate, personal property, or motor vehicle), reason for the appeal, and opinion of value. Although any written request is accepted, forms are available on the East Haddam web site: www.easthaddam.org.

The mailing address for the Board of Assessment Appeals is

P.O. Box 623, Moodus, CT 06469.

The Assessor's Office will begin taking applications for the Homeowners' Credit Program and Additional Veterans Benefits on February 1, 2008. To qualify, total income must not exceed \$29,800 for a single person, \$36,500 for a couple (joint income), including Social Security and Medicare. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2008.

Disabled veterans must submit proof of disability by March 31st to receive exemption benefits. Qualifying income for Additional Veterans' Benefits is the same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted until October 1, 2008.

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

**East Haddam
Events**
Quarterly Magazine

~ PUBLISHER ~
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Proofreader Michele Dickey
Editor Donna Fiorentino

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Eagle Viewing Special Event

As part of the Connecticut Audubon Society's Eagle Festival on the Connecticut River, the River House at the Town Office complex will be open for warmth and hospitality on Saturday, February 16th and Sunday, February 17th from 10am to 3pm. Chat with an expert eagle spotter and view birds up close with a spotting scope. See eagles right in your hometown!

American Legion

Bingo

Let's play bingo! Did you know that the American Legion on Neptune Avenue in Moodus has Bingo every Monday night at 6:30 p.m.? For the nominal entry fee of \$2.00, you can play to win EVERY WEEK! As Bob Barker used to say, "Come on Down!"

Let the Vet Serve You

Enjoy a hearty breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at Post 156, American Legion Hall on Neptune Avenue in Moodus. Between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., you will have your choice of eggs, bacon, link sausage, biscuits and gravy, home fries, french toast, fruit cup, orange juice and V8, regular and decaf coffee. There is also an opportunity to design your own omelet. This fundraiser is used to support the veteran's many ongoing projects.



Michael Fischer Moodus CT 860-873-9602

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Purchase an engraved or signature brick to have your name become a lasting part of the East Haddam School Community.

Bricks will be permanently placed at the new *Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School* around the flagpole & on the sidewalk near the two main entrances of the new school.

Proceeds from this project will be used to enhance our new Middle School.

Our 1st undertaking will be a walking/fitness trail which will be available to ALL of the residents of East Haddam.

If your order has not been confirmed within a week, or if you have any questions please contact:

Deb Fiala 873-9198 dmfiala@yahoo.com
Dori Kuziak 873-8131 kuziakhome@comcast.net
MaryBeth Mordecai 873-8937 mbmordecai@mac.com

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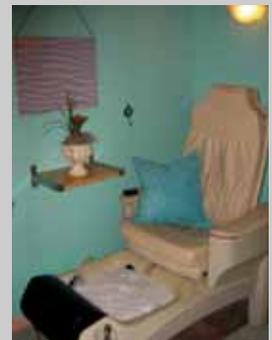
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East Haddam Education Foundation

The East Haddam Education Foundation (EHEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the education of East Haddam students through extended learning opportunities beyond the scope and conventional financial resources of the East Haddam school district. The EHEF is comprised of volunteers from our community who have come together to fulfill the mission of the EHEF, develop its goals and raise funds for distribution.

Since our inception, we have awarded a wide variety of grants to both students and teachers. In total, seventeen grants have been awarded since 2002. We continue to encourage grant applications from students and teachers at all three of our schools. A complete listing of grant awards can be found on our website.

How You Can Help

There are four ways you can support the EHEF:

1. Become a donor. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Donation forms can be downloaded at our website www.eheducationfoundation.org. Matching funds may be available from your employer.
2. Honor Thy Teacher. You can make a donation in honor of a teacher. Just select Honor Thy Teacher on your donation form and make certain to write in the teacher's name. We will

present the honored teacher with a certificate acknowledging your appreciation and donation. We will also share your appreciation of this teacher with the superintendent of schools and the community.

3. Help raise funds through eBay. EHEF has set up an account with iSold It! on the Berlin Turnpike. iSold It! will take care of the listing and shipping of the auction item(s). Proceeds from the auction will go directly to EHEF. For more information, please contact us at info@eheducationfoundation.org.
4. Volunteer your time. You can choose to volunteer for a specific event, host your own fundraiser or join our Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are asked to attend monthly meetings and participate in all fundraising activities.

Go to our website, www.eheducationfoundation.org, for more information about our fundraising events, grants awarded, how to make a donation and other educational events throughout the local area.

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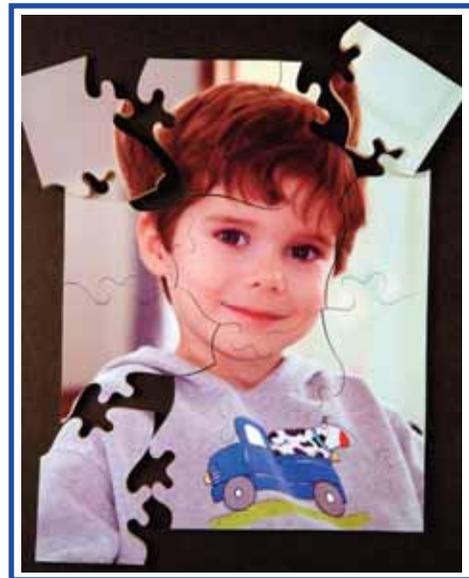
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NATHAN HALE PLAZA - MOODUS

From the Publisher

Welcome to the premier issue of *East Haddam Events*. Many of you are probably thinking who are you, what are you and why are you in my town? I am going to take a few paragraphs to answer the above questions as well as shed some light on the future of *East Haddam Events*.

Over ten years ago, Essex Printing Company, located in Centerbrook, started a quarterly Town Hall magazine called *Essex Events*. Since then, the towns of Chester, Old Saybrook, Westbrook, Clinton and Old Lyme have been added to the *Events Magazine* family. Growth and readership has been nothing less than phenomenal. Advertisers enjoy the opportunity to advertise in one town, two towns, or in multiple editions. Including East Haddam, *Events Magazines* reach the entire population of the Lower Connecticut Valley, a claim no other publication can make.

Our format is simple. Articles are solicited from key employees of the East Haddam Town Hall, local nonprofit organizations, chamber of commerce, schools, the library and other local interest individuals. The articles are published as written, with no reporter placing their own "spin" on the subject matter. This should provide the reader with an insight to local information that is not currently provided by other news organizations.

Local advertisers are solicited by our sales staff, headed by Susan Scott (860-227-1022) and Beth Loomis (860-873-1616), with layout and design coordinated by Kathy Alsop. Essex Printing completes the printing process and mails the magazine to each resident and P.O. box holder in East Haddam. Several hundred additional magazines are also distributed to the Town Hall and other highly visible locations. There is no cost to the Town Hall for *East Haddam Events*. We absorb the costs of sales, layout, design, printing and mail charges. Our overhead is paid by the advertising revenue. The Town of East Haddam benefits by having a beautiful quarterly four-color magazine printed and delivered to residents at no cost to taxpayers, a significant savings over the previous newsletter.

East Haddam Events is the successor to The East Haddam Bulletin, the newsletter that was coordinated by Linda Zemienieski at the Town Hall. She will still be involved in the solicitation of articles from town personnel for *East Haddam Events*. Her efforts over the last several years have been extraordinary, and she is to be complimented for her diligence and professionalism.

All of our *Events Magazines* are non-political. We take no letters to the editor. We have no editorial section. We have no political opinion column. We do ask, however, that each First Selectman participate in the sharing of information by writing a column each quarter about what is going on in your town. Again, this is not some reporter's interpretation of what is going on but observations and comments from your senior elected official, Mark Walter.

We are always open to improvements in our content, and ask you, the reader, to contact us with any additional ideas you believe would be interesting to other residents of East Haddam. The magazine is advertiser driven, and we ask that you utilize your local merchants for their goods and services. Of course, if you happen to mention that you saw their ad in *East Haddam Events*, we would be very pleased.

So, enjoy the first issue. Keep it around the house or office. Use it as a reference tool. Let the writers know you read their articles. Look for us again in three months and thank you for the opportunity to discuss *East Haddam Events*. We are proud to welcome East Haddam to the family of *Events Magazines*.

David V. Winstead, Ph.D., Publisher

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Presidential Preference Primary

Absentee ballots become available for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Preference primary on January 14, 2008. Voting by absentee ballot is a two step process. The ballot cannot be issued until an application for the ballot has been processed. Please call or come into the Town Clerk's Office to obtain the application. The application can also be downloaded by going to www.sots.ct.gov, election administration, click on absentee ballot application. This form must be completed with the original signature of the applicant and received by the Town Clerk at P.O. Box K, East Haddam, CT 06423 in order for an absentee ballot to be issued.

In order to vote by absentee ballot, you must attest to one the following:

- You will be absent from the town during all hours of voting
- Your illness
- Your physical disability
- Your religious tenants
- Your duties as an official at a polling place other than your own during all hours of voting

To be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary you must be enrolled in the party having the primary. The deadline to switch from one major party to the other was November 5, 2007, however, an unaffiliated voter may change their status to that of a major party up until the day before the election.

Deb Denette, Town Clerk

East Haddam/Moodus Little League

Registration for the 2008 Little League season will be held on Wednesday, January 23rd from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, January 26th from 2-4 pm at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in Room 149. Snow date will be Tuesday, January 29th from 6-8 p.m. There is a \$15 discount for any registration filed on or before January 31, 2008. Children who will be between the ages of 5-16 as of April 30, 2008, for baseball or December 31, 2008 for softball, are eligible to play. A copy of the child's birth certificate is required for first-time registrants.

Registration forms will be sent home with children attending the Elementary and Middle Schools. We encourage you to mail in your registration forms. Registration forms will also be available on our website at www.eteamz.com/easthaddammoodus. If you have any questions or require additional information, please call Mike Gionta at 873-9791.

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Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,
Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to Noon

Selectmen's Office

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

Assessor's Office

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

Building Department

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

Chatham Health District

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

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

Land Use Offices

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

Tax Collector's Office

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

Town Clerk's Office

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

Public Works Department

Fax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage - Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm

Transfer Station - Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am to 5:45 pm
and Saturday 7:00 am to 1:45 pm

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

Other Departments

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

Resident State Troopers

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

Paul Buhl, Judge of Probate	873-5028	
Marge Calltharp, Probate Clerk		

Registrars of Voters

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

Joanne Rocznik, Municipal Agent	873-5034	seniors@easthaddam.org
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*Visit our Website at www.easthaddam.org for more information,
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Middle School Conversion Committee

The Middle School Conversion Committee is in the process of collecting information regarding the re-use of the current Middle School building for East Haddam Town Offices. Our intention is to begin a series of public hearings next year.

Monthly meetings are held in the Middle School Library at 7:00 pm. Meetings this quarter are scheduled for January 14, February 25 and March 17. All meetings are open to the public.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Chairman Maryjane Malavasi at 873-0707 or EHMSCC@hotmail.com. Your ideas and comments are important and we look forward to hearing from you.

Rathbun Memorial Library

Beginning the week of January 21, the Rathbun Memorial Library will celebrate WinterFest '08 with a variety of programs for children and adults -- what a perfect way to break up the winter doldrums with storytellers, guest speakers, a new book discussion series, as well as our weekly knitting/crochet club, computer instruction sessions and storytimes.

The Library also wants to remind residents of our Museum Pass Program (free and discounted admissions), our free downloadable audiobooks for adults, children and teens, and our Online Catalog for ordering/renewing your library materials from the comfort of your home or office -- stay warm and save gas.

For questions and assistance, email us at: reference@rathbun.lioninc.org or visit our website for our Calendar of Events, the LION Online Catalog, OverDrive for audiobooks, and iCONN (free reference databases) -- the world at your fingertips!

It's Back! (snow, that is)

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

Sand for Winter Ice

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

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

Town Taxes Due

During the month of December, the Office of the Tax Collector mailed Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills for vehicles on the 2006 Grand List, in accordance with section 12-7b of the Connecticut General Statutes. These bills are for new or used vehicles purchased after October 1, 2006 but prior to August 1, 2007. All supplemental taxes are due in one installment to be paid during the month of January 2008. Taxes become delinquent after February 1, 2008 and at that time are subject to interest of 1.5% per month (18% per year) calculated from the original due date of January 1, 2008. There is a minimum penalty of \$2 on each delinquent tax bill. Taxpayers are advised to call the Tax Collector's Office at (860) 873-5033 if they purchased a vehicle in the time period noted above and did not receive a bill or if they have questions regarding the payment of taxes. Email may be addressed to tax@easthaddam.org. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest on the unpaid amount. The Tax Collector's Office is for the collection

of taxes only. Any questions regarding assessments or the sale of vehicles should be addressed to the Assessor at (860) 873-5026 or by email to assessor@easthaddam.org. To remove or prorate a tax bill, the Assessor will require two forms of proof, one of them being a plate receipt.

Also due in January 2008 is the second installment of Real Estate or Personal Property tax bills that were mailed out in July 2007. No second bill will be sent on these accounts. If you are a new owner of real estate property and need a copy of your tax bill, please contact the Tax Collector for a copy.

Payments may be made in person at the Town Office Building, 7 Main Street, East Haddam, CT or by mail to the Tax Collector, P.O. Box 376, East Haddam, CT 06423-0376. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The office is open throughout the lunch hour. Anyone requiring a paid receipt must send the full bill, payment and a self addressed, stamped envelope. Please retain a copy of all tax bills for your records, as you will need the information for your federal and state income tax. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN TAX RECORDS.** Any payment postmarked after February 1, 2008 will be considered delinquent and subject to interest.

SCOTT W. JEZEK Attorney at Law



Law Office of Scott W. Jezek
31 W.F. Palmer Road
P.O. Box 376
Moodus, CT 06469

Tel: (860) 873-1449
Fax: (860) 873-1113
E-mail: swjezek@sbcglobal.net

Holiday Closings

The Town Office Building and Transfer Station will be closed on the following holidays:
Monday, January 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, February 18 - Presidents' Day
Friday, March 21 - Good Friday

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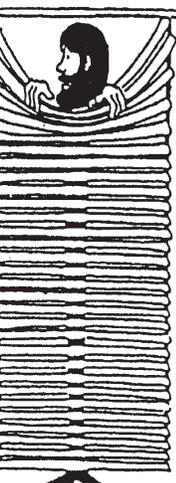
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East Haddam Ambulance Association Honors Key Volunteers

As a new member of the EHAA board of directors, I have been impressed with the dedication of our members in their support of our community. At a recent gathering of the volunteer members, some awards were presented to those who gave freely of their time and energy this year.

- EMT of the Year-Frank Glowski, Dean Anderson, and Bill Planeta.
- 30 Years of Service- Bill Planeta
- Rookie of the Year-Kevin Cavallo
- Most Runs in 2006-2007- Dean Anderson (124 runs), Dan Maus (172 runs), and Bill Planeta (194 runs)

I would like to offer a public "Thank You" to all of the men and women who respond to our medical emergencies in East Haddam, at all hours of the day and night, 24/7/365.

If you are looking for something to add to your list of New Year's resolutions, please consider being a volunteer EMT in East Haddam. For more information, contact Tiffany Quinn at 860-790-0575.

*Chris James - President
East Haddam Ambulance Association*

Tom crafted the door of his snack cabinet with spines of his old law books



CHEESE AND CRACKERS, ANYONE?

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Annual Town Report

Copies of the East Haddam Annual Town Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 are available now in the Town Clerk's Office. This book is filled with valuable information regarding meeting dates, Boards and Commissions, reports from all Town Departments, the current 07/08 town budget, and the 2006-07 year-end audit. This year's cover recognizes the completion of the Jones Hill Road Bridge. Feel free to stop in for your very own copy.

Business Update

The East Haddam Economic Development Commission (EDC) is pleased to announce the following new businesses:

MP Impressions opened this fall at 25 Falls Road in the Lumberyard Plaza in Moodus. Owner Pam Arabas moved her successful home-based business to this storefront and expanded her offerings from custom embroidery and screen-printing to clothing and gifts. Her displays include casual clothing for men, women and kids, personalized gifts, pet gifts, infant clothing and toys, and handmade jewelry. She also carries the work of graphic artist Bud Gaudio (local scenes on notecards, clocks, mugs and prints) and the Mac O'Moodus line. Store hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm, Saturday 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday 10 am to 2 pm. (Note: During winter hours from January through March, the store will open at 10 am and be closed on Monday.) Contact the store at 873-1797 or visit www.mpimpressions.com for more information.

Moodus Tan & Nails has opened next to the Post Office at 30 Falls Road in Moodus. This full service tan and nail salon, operated by owners Kimberly Caccamo and Melissa Didato, is open 7 days a week (Mon., Tues., Fri. 9:00 am-6:00 pm; Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 am-7:00 pm; Sat. 9:00 am-5:00 pm and Sun. 10:00 am-4:00 pm) offering tanning, manicures, pedicures, waxing and ear piercing. Tan with confidence with a free consultation by a Smart Tan Certified professional. Special services include express tanning in 10 minutes in a SunDome stand up, unlimited tanning packages and gift certificates. Walk-ins welcome and appointments appreciated by calling 873-0444.

Visit the EDC website www.easthaddam.net for a complete East Haddam business directory. Contact the EDC at info@easthaddam.net or P.O. Box K, East Haddam, to have your business listed here.

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Fifth Annual Chowder Cook-off

Come on down to the Village for a great winter tradition, the East Haddam Chowder Cook-off to be held on Saturday, February 16 (2/17 rain/snow date). La Vita Gustosa hosts chefs from area restaurants and community organizations as they offer samples of their special chowders beginning at 11:30 am on the patio. For a \$10 fee, tasters receive a commemorative mug, sample of all the chowders, a vote for their favorite and admission to a 1:00 pm Blues Concert at La Vita Gustosa. Join us for lunch and help decide who wins the best chowder bragging rights and the Silver Ladle Cook-off trophy. Proceeds to benefit local charities and non-profit organizations.

Watch the newspapers and visit the calendar at www.easthaddam.net for other related Village activities planned for throughout the day.



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Community Lions News

The East Haddam Community Lions extend a very special "Thank You" to all the residents of East Haddam who donated to our September solicitation letter. Your generous contributions will help us with numerous projects in our community. The following were winners in the solicitation letter drawing held on October 26 at the Military Whist:

1st Prize, Maryjane Malavasi, East Haddam; 2nd Prize, Roy Parker, East Haddam; 3rd Prize, summer resident from Lake Hayward.

The Community Lions will hold their 8th Annual April Fools 5K and 10.5 Mile Race on Sunday, April 6. We are looking for sponsors. The race starts at Nathan Hale-Ray High School at 10 a.m. Registration forms are now available from Lion Maryjane Malavasi. Forms and information can be requested by email at mj-malavasi@hotmail.com or by calling Maryjane at 873-0707. Deadline for pre-registration is March 23.

The Annual Tea Party will be held May 4, at St. Stephen's Community Center. Please contact any Community Lion for more information.

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Taking Care of Open Space: Our Conservation Commission

East Haddam citizens come in all shapes, sizes, religious persuasions, and political stripes. If there's anything we all seem to agree on, however, it's preserving open space - the spectacular fields, forests, views and vistas that make our town special. Several hundred acres of open space have already been preserved in East Haddam. Some have come to us as open space set-asides during the subdivision process and others have been purchased with the support of open space grants, often in collaboration with the East Haddam Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

But, acquiring the land is just half the battle. No matter how we came to own it, taking care of the land - stewardship - is the critical other half of the bargain. What, you might ask, is there to taking care of open space? Doesn't it take care of itself? Not exactly. The first step to stewardship is identifying exactly what needs to be protected by taking an inventory of boundaries, special natural features, and the species that call it home. The second step is developing a plan to manage its natural resources. Good stewards make sure open space is not encroached on or vandalized. (Some towns have seen buildings erected and trees cut on town-owned open space!) Good stewards also make sure the original purpose for acquiring the land is honored. This can involve clearing trails, mowing fields or simply making sure boundaries are well-marked.

Stewardship falls squarely on the shoulders of a quiet, unassuming town committee called the Conservation Commission. Appointed by the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission is made up of interested volunteers who work together to protect East Haddam's natural resources. The Commission is currently at work inventorying our rich and diverse open spaces. We are also developing a stewardship program and seek partners from the community to help with this endeavor.

Would you like to know more about the Conservation Commission and the remarkable land resource we oversee? Would you like to contribute to protecting our town-owned Open Space? Commission members, T.J. Tarbox, Kathy Klein, Nancy Mackinnon, Sue Merrow, Cynthia Matthew, Paul Stuhlman, Peggy Carlson and Jon Russell are united by our deep appreciation for East Haddam's natural resources. Our meetings are open and usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the River House (please verify on www.easthaddam.org). For information, contact Cynthia Matthew, Chair at 860-873-2465 or ctmatthew@creekrowpartners.com.

by Sue Merrow and Cynthia Matthew



Town-Wide Clean Up Day

An Earth Day Celebration - April 5, 2008

The Moodus Sportsmen's Club, the East Haddam Rotary, and the East Haddam Scout Troops are sponsoring an Annual Town-Wide Clean Up Day to be held on Saturday, April 5. The goal is to coordinate an effort to clean up the streets, lakes, streams, and other public access areas in the Town of East Haddam.

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

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



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East Haddam Rotary Thanksgiving Drive

A Big Success

The East Haddam Rotary Club's annual Thanksgiving food drive in conjunction with Liberty Bank provided Thanksgiving dinners for nearly 100 families this year. The program is a joint effort between the Liberty Bank Foundation and Rotary Clubs in communities within Liberty Bank's service area. Liberty Bank provides matching funds of fifty cents for each dollar donated by the community. Donations for the program in East Haddam totaled over \$5,000 this year. The funds provided full Thanksgiving dinners to all of the more than 70 families using the East Haddam Food Bank. Because the community's response was so generous, the East Haddam Rotary Club was also able to supply an additional 20 Thanksgiving dinners to families in Haddam, which does not have a Rotary Club, to assist the Haddam Food Bank.

After the food baskets were delivered, East Haddam Rotary Club President Paul Buhl said, "we have been overwhelmed by the amount of support we received this year. While we hate to single out any one donor without mentioning everyone, we were very pleased to receive a donation of \$1,000 from Joanne Rozniak's Make a Difference Committee. That single contribution with the matching funds it generated really put us over the top."

The Rotary Club of East Haddam is an organization of men and women who are interested in serving and improving their community. Chartered in 1945, the Club raises funds to assist

worthy causes in East Haddam. It also engages in a number of hands-on service projects throughout the year and maintains for public use the Edgar D. Williams, Sr. Memorial Park at Goodspeed Landing and the Rotary Ice Skating Pond at the corner of Mt. Parnassus Road and Town Street. The club meets at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at the Gelston House. Persons interested in learning more about Rotary are invited to contact Paul Buhl at 873-9922 or pdbuhl@aol.com.



Seen overlooking many of the baskets being prepared are: Back Row: Paul Buhl, President of the East Haddam Rotary Club, Nancy Smith, Moodus Branch Manager for Liberty Bank, Carolyn Perkins, and Holly Coleman. Front Row: Sophie Soja, Manager of the East Haddam Food Bank and Linda Cherry, a founder of the East Haddam Food Bank.

East Haddam Lion's Club Annual Auction

Please consider donating your
roadworthy car,
boat, RV or trailer to the Lion's Club
for the auction.

Other donations are also welcome.
Your donation may be tax deductible.

Contact Joe Busher
at 873-2994.

East Haddam Garden Club News

"The Art of Cottage Gardening" will be the topic of an East Haddam Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the East Haddam Congregational Church. The speaker will be Jane Barba of American Cottage Gardens in Sherman, CT.

The meeting will be open to the public. Refreshments will be served, and membership information will be available.

The popular annual garden club plant/bake sale will be Saturday, May 24, beginning at 8 a.m. at the East Haddam Historical Society. This is an opportunity to purchase great plants grown by area garden club members.

For further information contact Betty Gross, 873-8732, or Ellen Friedman, 873-8081.



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East Haddam Food Bank

The East Haddam Food Bank has served community citizens in need since 1999. During this time we have built a service to the neediest citizens that meet their basic food needs as support for good nutrition. As we look to another anniversary in January to our opening in 1999 it is important for the community to understand the service being provided.



Your food bank regularly serves 250 people from the East Haddam community that depend upon this service. Located in the lower level of Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School we offer staple goods such as canned foods, cereals, pastas and rice. Basic coffee, tea, cookies and crackers are supplemented with fresh baked goods, fresh vegetables, meat, dairy products and some personal care items. Clients are able to select the items they need from this miniature grocery store.

Our clients meet standards that are prescribed by the fed-

eral government so we are eligible for all grant food offered through our resource, The Connecticut Food Bank located in East Haven. We are able to acquire vast quantities of meat, vegetables and fruit as well as other nutritional support items. This resource requires us to pay for the transportation of the food, but the food is free.

We have been in continuous operation at this site through the gracious support of the town school district. They have provided heat, electricity and telephone service as well as custodial support. The Town of East Haddam has not had to pay for food at any time during our operation. Local food drives by the schools, scouts and churches have been the backbone of the product offered.

We held a yearly fund raising drive in November in cooperation with East Haddam Rotary and Liberty Bank. A second fund raising drive is held in March and April to apply to the Feinstein Grant offered yearly during those months. Businesses in the community respond very well to this appeal. Many other community organizations provide regular donations that keep this effort going. This year the Lions Club has provided a Christmas dinner for all families. The donations by individuals of food and money are also of significant importance.

This effort is truly owned by this community. The more than twenty volunteers who are led by Sophie Soja keep the shelves stocked and the clients supported in their effort to feed their families. As we move toward a change in our situation with the move of the middle school we look forward to better opportunities to serve our clients and community.

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The Shaping of our Land - Geology of East Haddam

East Haddam's landscape reflects the influence of two major groups of rock that have very different origins and characteristics. Southernmost East Haddam is underlain by bedrock that has an African affinity. These rocks lie south of a major fault and impart an east - west texture to the land. North of the fault, the bedrock was derived from sediments that were once at the bottom of an ancient ocean. Hills and valleys that are oriented more north-south have developed on these rocks. The rounded hills and valleys that characterize the area also reflect the erosion and deposition that resulted from two glacial advances.

This is just a bit of the fascinating geology of our area that will be explained, in ways we can all understand, by retired State Geologist Ralph Lewis in a talk for the annual meeting of the East Haddam Land Trust. Join the Land Trust on Friday, January 18th, at 7:00, for a look at how mile-high glaciers and continents colliding created the diverse landscape that our area has today. The talk will follow a brief business meeting at the East Haddam Grange Hall on Town St, East Haddam. Membership information will be available beforehand, and refreshments will be offered afterwards.

For more information, contact Barb Bloomberg at 873-8758, or Rob Smith at 873-2189. Land Trust information is available online at www.ehlt.org.

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Hot Shot Contest

East Haddam Park and Recreation held the annual Hot Shot contest on Saturday, December 1, 2007. This contest is free and open to all East Haddam residents ages 9-15 (boys and girls). Each player had 3 one minute rounds to dribble, and shoot from "Hot Spots" marked on the floor. Players received bonus points for taking at least one shot from each spot on the floor. This year's winners will advance to the county level competition in February. The following players won their age group: Boys ages 9/10-Winner-Vinnie Garofalo, 2nd place-Noah Navin; Boys ages 11/12- winner-Mathias Navin; Boys ages 13/15-winner-Ian Navin, 2nd place-Lucas McKee; Girls ages 9/10-winner-Armahni Dixon, 2nd place-Sarah McKee; Girls ages 11/12 - winner Stephanie Leonardo. Congratulations to all players!!

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Friends of Rathbun Library News

The Friends thank all who attended the annual holiday party on December 9 - a festive gathering featuring entertainment by Chris Lorello and hors d'oeuvres by some of East Haddam's wonderful cooks. Don't miss next year's get-together!

Looking ahead, the annual Friends' plant sale will be Saturday, May 17, 2008, on the front lawn of the Rathbun Library, 9 a.m. to sell-out. If you will be starting seedlings or nurturing cuttings during the winter, we will appreciate your extras! There will be a book sale of select hard-cover books on Saturday, May 24, at the East Haddam Historical Society beginning at 8 a.m. The Friends' weekly Farmers Market will begin on Saturday, July 8 (8 a.m. to sell-out). Watch for news of the Friends' popular "Fridays at 5:30" series of author presentations during the summer.

Check out the bargain books in the Book Nook, lower level of the Rathbun, during regular library hours, as well as the upstairs cart featuring "best of the Book Nook."

For more information about any of these Friends' activities, contact Roger Stube at 526-1715 or Betty Gross at 873-8732, or ask at the library.

Moodus Sportsmen's Club Calendar

Ice Fishing Derby - February 10 - Pre Registration required.
Earth Day Clean Up - April 5 - See page 13

Damage to Mailboxes During Snow Operations

Snow plowing and ice control can cause property damage even under the best of circumstances and care on the part of snow-plow operators. Common damage can occur to improvements in the Town's right-of-way which typically extends approximately 10 feet beyond the edge of pavement. This right-of-way exists to provide space for snow storage, locating utilities and sometimes sidewalks. Some private improvements such as mailboxes must be located within this area. Therefore, the Town will cooperate with property owners to determine when damage is the responsibility of the Town and when it will be the responsibility of the property owner. The Town accepts responsibility for mailboxes in the road right-of-way when the damage results from physically being struck by a plow blade or other piece of equipment. If a mailbox, conforming to US Postal requirements, is damaged due to direct contact by a Town truck or plow, the Town will repair or replace it with a standard mailbox and standard 4" x 4" wood post. If a mailbox is damaged due to any indirect cause, such as the weight of plowed snow, the Town does not participate in the cost of repair or replacement. This practice is standard for most of our neighboring communities.



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Events Magazine Motorsports Editor

1955 Porsche 1500 Continental Coupe

In the spring of 1964 I returned to the states following a tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force in Europe. I'd saved a few dollars while stationed there, so as soon as I arrived home in Mystic, the search for a used car began.

In my absence, one of my old friends had opened a foreign car repair business, and he suggested I look for a Porsche. This was a fairly novel idea for the time, as there weren't many of the cars around and they weren't understood by the general car-buying public. The sports car guys "got it" though, and it didn't take much to convince me this was a good idea. So, in a week or two, with my friend's help and \$800, I purchased the little red 1955 coupe pictured here.

I certainly enjoyed getting acquainted with the car. It was a true revelation going from a Detroit iron background to the dynamics of this nimble little car. Initially, I noticed with its light weight and low center of gravity that it handled and braked very well. Secondly, the build quality and aerodynamics made it quiet and stable at highway speed and above. In addition, although the air-cooled four-cylinder engine was of humble Volkswagen origin and made only about sixty-six horsepower, it provided more than adequate performance. The key to this performance was the car's light weight, which had the added benefit of providing excellent gas mileage of about 35 miles per gallon.



All in all, this little coupe was a wonderful introduction to the world of Porsche automobiles, and it occupies a special place on my personal fun car list. I owned the car for about a year and enjoyed every minute of it. I parted with it when I was captivated by a white 1963 Porsche Cabriolet, but that's a story for another time.

Keep the shiny side up. See you next time.

- Dana Hill, Events Magazine Motorsports Editor



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East Haddam Parks and Recreation

Scrapbooking Class

Do you have a stack of photos that is getting taller and taller? Is your computer hard drive busting at the seams with digital images? I can help! Join us once a month for a Creative Memories Workshop at Hale-Ray Middle School from 6 -9pm! A workshop is a perfect time to catch up on your albums, learn new scrap booking techniques, as well as remain up to date with new products.

Bring your album project and supplies; there's plenty of room to spread out! I will offer an introductory class each workshop for those who would like to take part; just bring 4 or 5 of your own photos.

I encourage you to join us even if you are not a traditional scrap booker; Creative Memories has something for everyone - digital StoryBooks, pocket style PicFolio albums and custom framing.

A portion of the sales from each event will be donated to Music on the River! Contact Jill Mechachonis, Creative Memories Consultant with any questions. 860-490-1824 - jmech76@yahoo.com www.mycmsite.com/jillmechachonis

Classes will be held once a month, on the following dates: 1/15, 2/5, 3/4, 4/15, 5/13. Classes are held at the Middle School from 6-9 p.m. There is a \$5 program fee, per class, per person.

Stamping Class

Create and design your own fabulous stamped creations. Please bring any projects that you want to work on, or come

and learn the art of stamping! Classes are held at the Middle School on the 1st Tuesday of the month. There is a class fee of \$5 per person, per class. Please call Tiffany at the Rec. Office at 873-5058 to pre register.

3 Chord Circle

Open to anyone who likes to participate in music making, it combines the idea of a drumming circle with the thousands of great songs built around three chords. All instruments are welcome!

When: Every 4th Monday, from 7-9 p.m.

Where: Grange Hall on Town Street

Who: anyone, any instrument.

Cost: \$5 per person, per year

Beginner's Ballroom Dancing

Put on those dancing shoes and get moving in this fun ballroom basics course! Learn the waltz, swing, foxy, salsa and more! Bring a partner and comfortable shoes (no sneakers please). This course will definitely get you out on the dance floor! Instructor: Jennine Rivera-Michaud

Class Limit: 12 maximum and a minimum 6 participants are needed to hold this class. Dates: 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 at the Elementary School cafeteria.

Day: Thursdays Time: 7-8 p.m. For: Adults 18-100 Years

Fee: \$ 70 per person

Performing Arts Classes

Acting classes run for seven weeks, meeting once a week (excluding skip dates). Some of the topics/activities include: Exciting theater games, improvisational exercises, acting terminology, concentration exercises, voice and speech, sense memory, subtext, stage skills and script work. At the end of the session there will be an informal performance to demonstrate what participants have been working on. For our past and more experienced performers, these classes will be challenging and offer new and exciting activities!

- Who: students in K-8th grade
- When: Session 1-Feb. 8-April 4 (no class Feb. 22 or March 21)
Session 2-May 2-June 13
K-1st grade-4:15-5 p.m.
2nd-4th grade-5:05-6 p.m.
5th-8th grade-6:05-7 p.m.
- Where: Elementary school cafeteria
- Cost: \$90 per child (\$85 if you register online at www.performingartsprograms.biz)

continued on next page

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continued from page 20

East Haddam Arts Festival

Sponsored by East Haddam Parks and Recreation, the 1st Annual East Haddam Arts Festival is tentatively scheduled for July 26th, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and July 27th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will need to submit applications, and will go through a juried process. We expect this to be a wonderful gathering of talented, spirited and diverse artisans. Our goal is to provide a great family activity where families can browse, and purchase fine art including painting, photography, sculpture, jewelry, wood turning (carving), textile arts, hand crafted soaps, and hand crafted toys to name a few. This will be free to the community. If you are interested in applying as a vendor, (the application deadline is April 1, 2008) or volunteering to help us make a great event, please call Tiffany at the Recreation office at 873-5058.

DEP Safe Boating Class

This class will prepare you to apply for your State of Connecticut boating license and personal watercraft certificate. You must attend all 4 classes. At the end of the class, you will be given a test, if you pass, you will be given a form to submit to obtain your boating license. A maximum of 50 students will be accepted so please register early. East Haddam residents are given first priority to register. When: Spring Dates To be Determined. Where: High School cafeteria. Cost: \$10 per person.

American Red Cross Babysitting Class

Become a safe, certified quality babysitter after taking this important class. Participants will learn many skills and

techniques to child care. A good place to start for youth who are interested in babysitting. Taught by a certified, American Red Cross instructor.

- When: March 24, 31 and April 7 from 6:15-8:15 p.m.
- Where: Middle School
- Who: Students must be aged 11 before the class begins.
- Cost: \$55 per student, a textbook is included.

When I'm in Charge

A safety class for children ages 9-11 who may be home alone - teach kids the safe way! American Red Cross certified class and instructor. Children will be introduced to many topics that need to be discussed to teach kids how to be home alone safely.

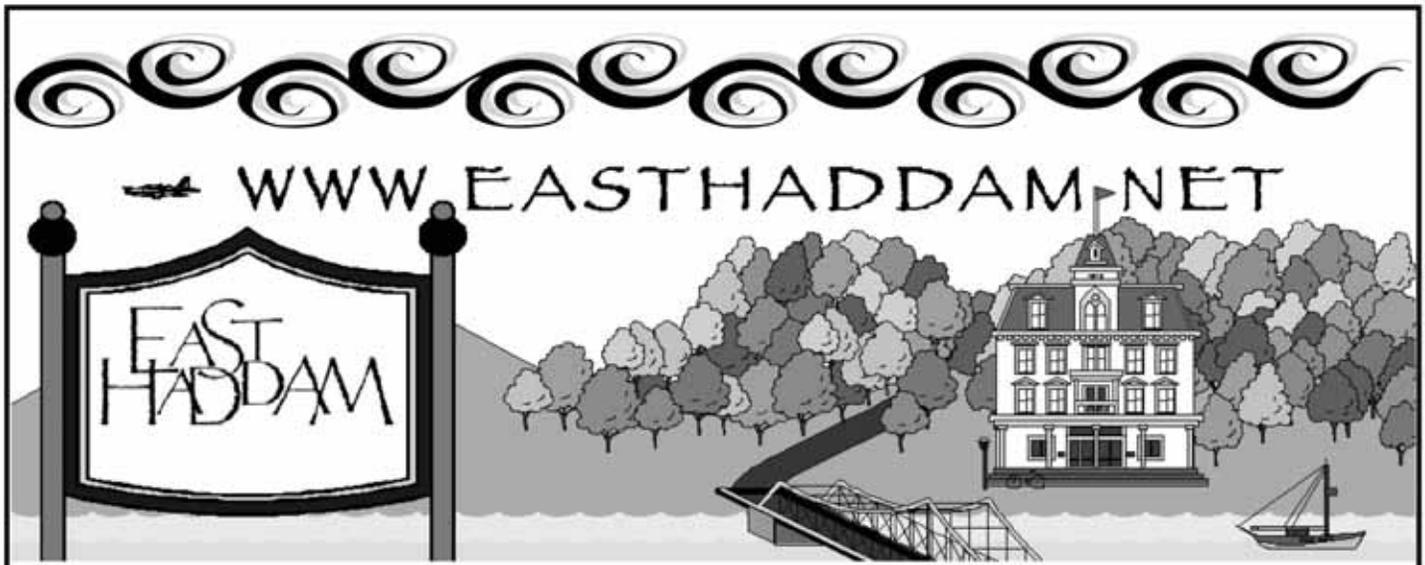
When: Feb. 26 or April 1 from 6:15-8:15 p.m.

Where: Elementary School - Cost: \$30 per participant

Indoor Sports Fun

A great winter activity for preschoolers! Bring your children to the gym - let them run around in a safe, warm environment while they learn the basics of many sports, including basketball, soccer, parachute, dodge ball and t-ball. They will get all of that extra winter energy out, while working on important skills including hand eye coordination and balance. Each class has a maximum of 20 players-please register early! Classes will be held on Saturday mornings at the Elementary School gym. Children ages 2 and 3 from 9-10 a.m., and children ages 4 and 5 from 10-11a.m. This is a 5 week program, and classes will be held on January 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16. The fee is \$20 per child.

continued on page 22



"I didn't know there was a (insert business) in our town!"

**Visit the Directory section of
www.EastHaddam.net
to find out about 150+ local businesses.**

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Women's Volleyball

Women's volleyball is held every Wednesday at the Middle School gym, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. This is a non-competitive game of volleyball-guaranteeing a lot of fun and great exercise!! The fee is \$5 per player, per season. Women's volleyball will run through May 28, 2008.

Girl's Indoor Soccer

Girl's indoor soccer is open to girls in grades 7-12, the cost is \$5 per player. Sessions will be held on Jan. 5, 12, 19, Feb. 2, 16, 23 and March 1st, from 9-11 a.m. at the High School gym. Ms. Henninger will be running this program, as last year-great fun and exercise during the winter months!

Boy's Indoor Soccer

Boy's indoor soccer will be held on Sunday mornings at the Middle School, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Indoor soccer is open to boys, ages 14-16. The cost is \$5 per player, and will be held on January 6-February 23. This program will be supervised by David Champion and Al Hyla.

Adult Co-Ed Soccer

This group combines a healthy amount of competition with a great time! Open to all East Haddam residents, age 18 and older. Indoor soccer is a fast paced, rigorous game, and we are always looking for new players to join us. This program will continue year round, returning to outdoor soccer when the weather permits.

When: Sun. and Wednesday nights from 6-8 p.m.-ages 18 and older (Please join us at any time!)

Where: Elementary School gym

Cost: \$5 per resident/\$20 per non resident, per season

Men's Basketball

Men's basketball is offered throughout the winter to all East Haddam residents. Non-residents are accepted, as long as they are accompanied by an East Haddam resident each week (one guest per resident). This program offers pick up basketball games on the following dates and times: Wednesdays at the High School gym from 7-9 p.m. for men age 18 and over, Sundays at the High School gym from 9-11 a.m. for men aged 30 and over. There will be no basketball on Wednesday, Feb. 13 (due to a high school basketball game). The cost is \$5 per resident, and \$20 per non resident.

Golf Instruction

Taught by Golf Pro Bill Phaneuf III. Each 4-week session will include basic instruction on the golf swing, putting, chipping, and pitching, iron play, woods and drivers. Beginners and Juniors will also be taught Golf Etiquette and basic rules. All range balls are included, and clubs are available to borrow. The last session will consist of actual play on the golf course with your instructors. A minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 are needed for each group. Players will be grouped by ability and approx. age, if possible. Classes are to meet at the Driving Range.

Spring Dates To be Determined

Where: Banner Country Club

continued on page 23

UNPARALLELED APPAREL



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Aerobics

20-20-20 = A total body conditioning class combined into a one hour. Class begins with 20 minutes of low impact moderate/high intensity aerobics, followed by 20 minutes of core strength and muscle endurance conditioning, ending with 20 minutes of flexibility/relaxation. Aimed at the beginner to intermediate participant. Anne Forbotnick will teach this great aerobics class, please join us!! Classes will be held at the Elementary School cafeteria, on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. The cost is \$65 per participant. A minimum of 6 participants are needed to hold the class, no on site registration will be accepted; Pre-registration only please.

Session 1 - January 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26
 Session 2 - March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8
 Session 3 - April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, and June 3
 (no class on May 27)

Yoga

"A good yoga program helps to increase your resistance to everyday stresses, improves the immune system and develops self-confidence, poise and a more graceful, refined body. Yoga increases strength, flexibility, range of motion and vitality. The less tangible benefits are many and far-reaching, enriching every area of our lives."

This is a comprehensive yoga class designed to suit the needs of beginner to moderate-level practitioners, and is intended to give you a total yoga experience by implementing those techniques and practices which exercise and tone the body, mind and spirit.

Sessions begin with relaxation poses (asanas) that gently help to release tension, followed by a centering meditation to bring our awareness inward. Warm-ups and simple yoga asanas open the joints, increase circulation and prepare the muscles, tendons and structures of the body for the more vigorous portion of our yoga routine. The pinnacle of the discipline focuses on the

continued on page 24

Market Watch by Maureen Goff

With all the news reports about foreclosures, interest rates rising and mortgage companies closing, it's easy to believe the entire real estate market is in a downward spiral. While there are definitely parts of the country and even parts of the state that are facing a decline in property values, East Haddam is not one of those parts.

During the period of rapid increases in property values in the last several years, East Haddam has maintained a more modest and sustainable rate of growth. And it continues to experience that growth. In looking at sale prices in East Haddam, the numbers need to be picked apart a little before they can be analyzed. Our town is unique in that we have a lot of inexpensive seasonal properties and pockets of million dollars homes

such as along the Connecticut River. If we exclude homes that sold for less than \$100,000 and homes that sold for \$700,000 or more, we get a much more realistic look at the change in values of a typical single family home in East Haddam.

From 2005 to 2006, the average sale price increased 2.5% from \$295,000 to \$302,000. Average prices increased again from 2006 to 2007, this time 3.5% from \$302,000 to \$313,000. Although these average increases are less than the double digit increases from several years ago, our town is still showing steady growth.

Builders still have confidence in East Haddam as well. Banner Country Club Estates (formerly Banner Lodge) an upscale, luxury condominium community currently has 14 available completed homes starting at \$279,900, several

more under construction, and more lots still available. Green Village Heights, a new 55+ community is planning 33 homes. Construction continues on new streets like Winterbrook Rd. and Meadowbrook Estate as well as upscale Rolling Hill Rd. and other areas.

Interest rates are down around 6% and for the average buyer it's a great time to buy. Some of my clients have asked me if we've hit "bottom" yet. The problem with waiting for the bottom is that you can only see where the bottom was after prices turn around and start to go back up again. I think we have hit a flat spot, but we are not in danger of bottoming out. For more information or a complementary market value analysis for your home, contact Maureen Goff with William Raveis Real Estate 860-212-6932.

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Watch for our new East Haddam office
"Buying and selling yours - like it was mine"

continued from page 23

execution of those postures that develop and improve strength, vitality and overall flexibility. Throughout the practice, focused, intentional breathing (Pranayama), Mantras (vibrational sound) and Mudras (sacred hand positions) help to calm the emotions, focus the mind, tone the organs, and purify the system. We complete the active portion of the session with balancing poses to increase concentration. A deep period of relaxation and meditation follows, providing an experiential opportunity for the self to unite with the Divine, where body and spirit can rejuvenate and heal.

Bring a yoga mat, props as necessary to make yourself comfortable and wear loose, comfortable clothing. Please refrain from wearing perfumes or colognes. Further questions can be directed to your yoga instructor, Nancie LaPier, at 344-9299. Twelve Week Program - \$65.00

Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Session 1 - February 20 – May 7

Session 2 - May 14 – July 30

Session 3 - September 3 – November 19

Session 4 - November 26 – February 11, 2009

Elementary School and Middle School Day Camp

Registration will begin on Saturday, April 26th, from 10-2 at the Elementary School. Registrations will be accepted in person or through the mail after April 26.

East Haddam Day Camp will be held this summer from June 30, 2008 - August 8, 2008. The Elementary School camp will be held Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. After Care hours are available from 3 - 5 p.m. The camp attends a field trip

every Wednesday, and is held at the Town Beach every Friday. This is open to East Haddam residents in grades 1-5 (grade in the fall of '08). The cost will be \$75 per week, per child. There will be a sibling discount of \$10 per child, per week. Payment plans will be offered.

Middle School Day Camp will be held at the Middle School from June 30 - August 7, 2008. Camp is offered to East Haddam residents in grades 6 - 8 (grade in the fall of '08), Monday through Thursday (there is no camp on Fridays). Camp will attend field trips every Wednesday. The cost is \$65 per week, per child. There will be a sibling discount of \$10 per child, per week. Payment plans will be offered.

The fees have been increased this year to allow us to continue to offer this program. Unfortunately, the increase in costs of everything from minimum wage, field trip, fuel, and supplies has left us no other option. We feel that this increase is needed, yet is still very reasonable. If you have concerns about this increase, please feel free to contact Tiffany to discuss your situation, confidentially.

Instructors Needed

Do you have a talent or skill that you would like to offer the East Haddam community? We are always looking for new ideas and programs-some of the best ideas come right from our community! We need preschool instructors for preschool art and music/movement (our current teachers have moved on to career jobs that prevent them from teaching). Please call Tiffany with any suggestions that you may have-we would love to hear from you!

Summer Employment

Are you interested in a summer job with East Haddam Park and Recreation? We will begin taking applications on January 2. Beginning April 1, we will conduct interviews to complete the hiring process. We will be accepting applications for the following positions:

- Lifeguards –must be 16 years of age, and have a minimum of the American Red Cross Lifeguard certification.
- Camp Counselors- must be 15 years of age to work at the Elementary School camp and 18 years of age to work at the Middle School camp.
- Counselor in Training-must be 13 years of age, this is a volunteer position.

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

Park and Rec Fees and Registration Procedures

Do you want to register for a great program...or several? You may use the registration form to register for any of our programs except the following: Day Camp, Soccer, Basketball, Performing Arts, swimming lessons...these programs have a specific registration form. In order to register, just mail in, or drop off your completed form and the appropriate fee. Forms are also available on the website: www.easthaddamparkandrec.com. The website contains program information, registration forms, up to date information, and details. If you have a question, suggestion, or need further assistance, please feel free to contact Tiffany at the

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Events Magazine Music Editor



As a six-year-old boy entering the first grade, I was bestowed the parental “opportunity” to take music lessons. Unlike many stories I’ve read from famous musicians, my family was not particularly musical. My Dad had played piano and trumpet growing up, but it never kicked in to be a part of his life beyond retaining a joy for listening. It was actually my great aunt (my grandmother’s sister) who had just purchased our family a piano on which my older brother was given first dibs to take lessons since he was nine. After some sort of blubbering episode, I was, however, given a choice to begin lessons as well on another instrument.

I can’t quite recall just how I chose guitar, but I do recall my very first lesson. My mother took me down to Jimmy Azolina’s Music Box in downtown Meriden to buy a guitar and take my first lesson. This was an early brush with fame as Jimmy’s son Jay, to this day, is a working jazz/fusion guitarist enjoying a solo career after breaking in as lead guitarist for Spyro Gyra in the early 90s.

Heading down into the basement where the practice rooms were, I took my Stella Acoustic Guitar, sat down and waited for my Instructor to arrive. After only a few moments, which seemed like a lifetime for a six-year-old sitting in a 5-by-7 room, this super casual guy came in with long curly blond hair parted in the middle, holding what I now know to be a Blonde Gibson 335 Electric guitar. He sat down, gave me a casual but sincere, “Hey dude”, then proceeded to show me how to make an E minor chord using only 2 fin-

gers and I was off to playing America’s “Horse with No Name.” How cool was that?

Many hours and years of practice, most beginning with some form of complaint, and five teachers later, at forty, I consider myself a proficient entertainer, who can not imagine any quality of life without MY MUSIC.

Music touches each of us in a different way, yet one thing we can all agree upon is that music is a part of everyone’s life every day, even if unnoticed. You don’t have to be a musician or a fanatic who knows every artist for every song, or know the B side of a 1963 record to appreciate that music is something that can only be avoided by ear plugs or hearing disorder.

Not a day passes without incidentally being exposed to music whether in TV or radio ads, the ring of a cell phone or just hitchin’ a ride in the elevator.

Bottom line is, music can be so enriching to one’s life and can be enjoyed from cradle to grave. It is never too late to begin making music and never too early to start. In our world of grossly overpaid sports figures, back-to-back soccer and basketball schedules, let’s remember as my Great Aunt was wise enough to know, if not for ourselves, let’s remember to expose our young to music as an acceptable, rewarding and productive alternative to anything. They might even choose to put down the game boy and pick up a flute after a while.

- Wayne D’Amico, Events Magazine Music Editor
Wayne D’Amico, based in Essex CT, has been a working musician and musical entertainer for over 25 years and hosts *ClassicaCafe.com*, a website for guitar and professional musical gear enthusiasts.

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Rec. office at 873-5058, or by email at parkandrec@snet.net. Office hours are generally Monday through Friday, 8:30-2, but please call ahead to be sure that I am in. Forms can also be dropped off at the Selectman’s Office during business hours. Please try to pre-register, as this helps us to serve you better. There have been times when we have had to cancel a program due to lack of enrollment, only to get phone calls asking where the program was, because someone wanted to attend. We can plan better programs if we know how many people to expect.

Letter from the Director

As we begin a new year, it is always refreshing to look at our lives, and realize just how lucky we are. I must say...I am so lucky! East Haddam is a great community, and I am so proud to be a part of it! The Recreation Commission strives to offer a wide range of community programs to all residents. We encourage you to try something new this year-take a new class, meet a new friend, start a new program, or learn a new skill. If there is

something that you are interested in learning, or participating in, please call me!!

It is also the beginning of basketball season-a very exciting time! Our goal in offering Park and Recreation basketball is to teach each child the fundamentals of basketball. More importantly, we want each child to love participating-no matter what their skill level is. We want each child to have a great time and want to come back next year! This is where parents can help out tremendously! Please support your kids in the activities that they enjoy. I realize that the schedules get crazy, especially with winter weather and school vacations, but it is so healthy for the kids to be getting a little exercise, learning something new, and making new friends!! If you are experiencing a conflict, or your child is struggling, please let me know so that I can help you solve the problem-we want every child to have fun!! Please remember to be a great role model, especially at basketball games. This includes being respectful of those around you, the

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refs, the coaches, and all of the players-these are lessons that the kids need to learn early, and you are a great reinforcement to good spectator behavior! Please remember that there is no food or drinks allowed in the gyms (except the player's water bottles).

Often times we have organizations selling concessions for your convenience-but this food must be consumed in the hallways-not in the gym. Our gyms are so crowded, and our gym time is precious-please don't jeopardize our gym time by eating in the gym!!

Enough lecturing...back to the appreciating! Thank you for supporting Park and Rec. programs in East Haddam. I would like to offer a special Thank you to all of the volunteers that make our Park and Rec. programs possible...the coaches, the refs, to scorekeepers, volunteers, and participants, we couldn't offer such great programs to the East Haddam Community without you - you are the best, and we appreciate all that you offer! If you haven't volunteered, but would like to do so-welcome aboard, please call me so we can discuss available opportunities!

Again, to the East Haddam community; thank you for always making my job easy, and so enjoyable! I am so lucky! Happy New Year!

*Sincerely, Tiffany Quinn
Director, East Haddam Parks and Recreation*

Spotlight on an East Haddam Park and Recreation Program

Boot Camp Fitness Is Looking for New Recruits...

Do you have what it takes to up your fitness level? Boot Camp Fitness is a challenging, total body, cross training program that focuses on your cardiovascular health, muscle strength, agility, and endurance. The classes are varied and use a variety of techniques, very simple equipment and even the local landscape for cardio exercises such as running hills and sprints plus strengthening such as push-ups, lunges, squats, and pull-ups. Classes will end with core strengthening and stretching.



As highlighted in the *Hartford Courant* (August 2007):

"They sweated, panted and growled their way through a gut-busting mix of suicide sprints, calisthenics and muscle building like any other volunteer who dares to think he or she has the stuff to make it through boot camp, but unlike military recruits, those who sign up...are not likely to go to battle any time soon. Still, that is not stopping them from waging war against...the diminishing returns of stale exercise routines."

This class is geared to those individuals looking for something a little different and are really interested in challenging themselves in new ways. Participants can look forward to gaining muscle strength, increasing stamina, and improving their overall fitness level.

When: Saturday, January 12, 2008 - Saturday, March 29, 2008; Tuesday and Thursday from 7:15-8:15 p.m. and Saturday from 8:45-9:45 a.m.

Where: Tuesday and Thursday at the High School gym, Saturday at the Elementary School Cafeteria.

Cost: \$220 per person 3x a week, \$150 per person 2x a week, \$80 per person 1x week, or a \$9 drop in fee.

Please bring free weights (5-8 for women, 10-12 for men); a towel and a water bottle.

Volunteer of the Month

Please join us in congratulating our most recent volunteers of the month: Karl Schutz, Jiffy Spencer, and Veronica Bogel. If you would like to nominate someone, please do so in a letter to the First Selectman.



EAST HADDAM: C-1790 Colonial beautifully remodeled with large granite kitchen, new stainless steel appliances, center island, breakfast room with slider to patio, 2249 sq.ft., wood and tile floors, new granite fireplace in living room, front parlor could be 4th bedroom first floor full bath, formal dining room and large 12x12 mud room with laundry hook-up and vaulted ceiling. Three bedrooms up, full bath and attic storage area. Full basement, updated electrical, flower & veg. gardens, 1.33 acres. This property has lots of charm. \$345,000. Leslie Sullivan 860-391-3337



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East Haddam's Future is Being Planned

Review the draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development on the Town's website at www.easthaddam.org

Attend the Public Hearing - January 29, 2008
7:00 p.m. Grange Hall on Town Street.

Relay For Life of East Haddam

LET's start Now - Get your Teams Registered!!

Come learn more about how your community fights cancer & how you can get involved!

January 23, 2008 6:30-7:30 p.m. Nathan Hale-Ray High School-Cafe.

What Is Relay For Life? It's a team overnight event to raise funds to fight cancer & raise awareness of cancer and the work of the American Cancer Society. During the relay, a party atmosphere is created by team members camping out, having fun, and enjoying constant entertainment and activities.

EVENT DATE: September 26 & 27, 2008

Contact Michele Cronkite
at easthaddamrfl@gmail.com

Senior News

The East Haddam Senior Center, located at 15 Great Hillwood Road, is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays for the benefit of residents 50 and older. The center has a computer lab, a pool table and an exercise room. We offer computer classes, exercise classes, water colors, quilting, knitting and card playing. We have an exercise room with a treadmill, bike and an elliptical trainer available. Monday, Wednesday and Friday we

offer pilates and Tuesdays and Thursdays tai chi. A hot meal is served each weekday at noon. The computer lab has a web cam, which residents are invited to use to contact friends and relatives in the service who also have access to a web cam. You can call the center at 873-5034 to set up an appointment. We are also able to provide assistance in researching your family tree.

During the next three months we are offering income tax assistance on February 13th, March 12th and April 2nd. You must have an appointment.

The center membership holds a monthly meeting on the second Monday at 1:00. This is the time to find out what is going on, to voice your opinions and to have some entertainment.

Calendar of Special events:

- January 14 - a "souper" bowl party, with several kinds of soups and stews. Cost is \$3.00
- January 21 - closed for Martin Luther King Day
- January 24 - Annual blood mobile drive
- February 11 - Chinese Pot Luck lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year/Mardi Gras
- February 18 - closed for Presidents Day
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day lunch (music by Roger Goodnow) cost is \$3.00
- March 30 - Annual pancake breakfast

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Business Savings
Business Credit Cards
Business Services
Business Loans
Commercial Loans
& Lines of Credit

East Haddam Free Public Library

The staff would like to thank everyone for their patience during our sidewalk reconstruction. The back entrance is open, but still under construction. Please use caution when entering through the back door or dropping off your DVD/Video materials in the drop box located next to the door. The book drop is now available for after hours. Please stop in and browse our new selection of music CDs.

Upcoming events: Preschool story hour is offered every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for 3 to 5 year olds. We will be exploring many themes from the Mother Goose programs including: building, collecting and sorting, recognizing same and different. To enrich their learning, we will be reading several books related to the theme, as well as group participation in singing and sign language, music and movement and hands-on activities. New participants please register online at www.ehfpl.org or call 873-8248.

LapTots story hour for kids under 3 years old and their caregiver are invited for stories, music and fun on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month starting in January. Registration is required by phone or online.

NEW! Activities for children in grades K through 4:

Lori Mucciacciaro is planning Winter Wonderland activities in

January and February at the library where kids will learn about crystals and make their own snowflake and rock candy. Email Lori at staff@ehfpl.org for dates and more info.

Claudia Martin will be presenting winter-related origami on Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Registration is required.

Story Tails with R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) will be at the library to listen to young children in grades K-4 read their favorite stories. Each child will have one-on-one time with a registered and trained therapy dog. Please call 873-8248 or email Lori at staff@ehfpl.org with Subject: READ registration to sign up in advance. Time is limited to 15-20 minutes and will be held on one Saturday in either late January or early February.

Stay current on the events at the EHFPL by visiting our NEW BLOG at www.ehfpl.blogspot.com or click on the link from our website at www.ehfpl.org. The blog lists past, current and future events at the library in addition to pictures related to events.

Library Staff staff@ehfpl.org
East Haddam Free Public Library
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East Haddam Welcomes New and Incumbent Elected Officials

Several new faces joined some already familiar names in the town government after the November 6th elections. Mark Walter was elected as First Selectman; the Board of Selectmen also welcomed Emmett Lyman for his first term and Pete Govert back for a third term. These three will be principally responsible for overseeing the affairs of town government and administration of its budget.

Deb Denette retained her position as Town Clerk, as did Janet Tucker as Tax Collector, and Kathy Klinck as Treasurer. Newcomers Bruce Dutch, Susan Link and Paul Maxwell will join returning member Matt Budzik on the Board of Finance. Thomas Miett was returned to the Board of Education, where he will join Deborah Fiala, Bryan Perry and Alan Hyla.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will welcome Edward Blaschik. New members John Matthew, David Hughes and Kevin Matthews and returning member Harvey Thomas will take their places on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Town of East Haddam recognizes the service and dedication of all its citizens who put themselves forward for the demanding work of public office in our community.

The Hadlyme North School Welcomes Guests and New Members



You have probably often driven past the picturesque little one-room schoolhouse that sits at the corner of Route 82 and Bone Mill Road in Hadlyme. What you may not know is that this lovely historic building is the center of activity for a group of citizens from East Haddam, Hadlyme, and Lyme who have united to preserve the structure and enjoy its ambiance year-round through a schedule of dinners and other social events.

The Hadlyme North School Society, consisting of close to 150 members and managed by an energetic elected 12-person board, sponsors an average of eight events every year. Most of these are pot-luck suppers, some of which are built around an ethnic cuisine and often feature a pertinent speaker. There is an annual tree-lighting and carol-sing at Christmas, and other events have included wine tastings and a Derby Day cocktail party on the lawn (complete with horses!).

Guests and new members are always welcome. Dues are a modest \$10 per year for an individual, \$20 per couple; all income is used to maintain and protect this very precious piece of local history. A vital obligation of the Board is to oversee and monitor all repairs for historic accuracy and authentic workmanship.

The original schoolhouse may have been built on this location in 1763, but the present structure dates from 1794. It provided for grades 1 through 8, and apparently served 126 pupils. The initial governing body for the school was the Hadlyme Ecclesiastical Society (organized in 1742), and indeed the building sits today on property owned by the Congregational Church located on the north side of Bone Mill Road. Prior to 1800, the management of all public schools in Connecticut was transferred to local School Societies, but in 1856 the General Assembly decreed that control of schools should pass to the towns.

So far as is known, the Hadlyme North School operated without interruption until 1930, when it was closed because of the consolidation of schools in East Haddam. In 1967, it was scheduled to be sold, moved elsewhere, or destroyed. In September of that year, however, a dedicated group of local residents stepped in, formed the Hadlyme North School Society, and saved this very special edifice for - we hope - all time.

Please do join us at one or all of the following events: February 16 - Wine Sharing and "Anything Goes" Potluck Supper, March 15 - Seafood Supper with a guest speaker, April 19 - Paris in April! All events are held on a Saturday at 6:30 pm unless otherwise noted.

We hope you will consider becoming a member. You may do so by speaking with any Society board member or officer at one of the gatherings listed above, or by writing to the Hadlyme North School Society, P.O. Box 328, Hadlyme, CT 06439. This is one instance when a donation reaps you immediate rewards in the form of good companionship and a great meal!



Ray of Light Farm

Ray of Light Farm, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 public charity committed to helping people make a positive connection with life through animals. Devoted to animal rescue, animal-assisted therapy as well as community enrichment, East Haddam's Ray of Light Farm is the only farm of its kind in Connecticut.

Animal Rescue includes the rescue, care and rehabilitation of neglected, injured, discarded or abused equines. We also facilitate adoption and placement. Recently, our rescue of 19 Premarin foals garnered attention from the *Hartford Courant* as well as Fox61 and WTNH news.

Animal Assisted Therapy pairs animals with children and adults in ways that improve the emotional well-being of horse and human.

Community Programs promote an understanding of and respect for animals. Participants learn that "it's not ALL about the ride." Programs include:

- Tiny Trotters is an educational program for preschoolers, which includes arts, crafts, pony rides and interaction with animals.
- Animal Adventurers is a pre-4H program that engages children through hands-on interaction with animals and instruction about animal care.
- Youth Action Committee (YAC). Facilitated by ROL, YAC plans and manages events to raise monies for farm animals and programs. Members learn important job skills and assist in the care of animals while creating lasting friendships.

- Seasonal Events include year-round activities that promote and support the connection between people and animals and include Easter Egg Hunts, Halloween Hay Rides, and much more.
- Filly Night is made possible in part through a grant from Middlesex County Community Foundation; our young riders mentor adults as they experience the joy of the horse on a monthly basis.
- FFA Educational Scholarship for higher education, giving support to local students pursuing a career in agriculture.

Riding Instruction & Animal Care Programs instill a true understanding of animals and how to care for them. Programs include: Special Olympics, Youth & Adult Instruction, Special Needs' Instruction, Natural Horsemanship Training for Horses (rescue & others) as well as Clinics and Schooling Shows for public and special needs' riders.

As a nonprofit organization, we depend upon the dedication of our staff & volunteers and the generosity of sponsors and donors, and aspire to be a community presence for generations to come. Donations are tax-deductible, always welcome and can be made via our website, www.rayoflightfarm.org, or by mailing a check to Ray of Light Farm, Inc., 232 Town Street, East Haddam, CT 06423. Please stop by for a visit - we welcome children of all ages. You may reach us at 873-1895.



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EAST HADDAM WELCOMES BACK THE "CARRIAGE HOUSE"

Marty Witkowski has worked very hard and is quite proud of his new facility. Now, after 100 years he is pleased to carry on the local tradition from the sale and service of fine Carriages to fine Automobiles.

Marty has lived in East Haddam for over 30 years and has worked in the automotive industry for well over 40 years. Coupled with his wealth of experience, he has hired top-notch employees to make his business a complete success. Many locals will remember Joe Grasso, Master ASE Technician, General Motors certified from Williams Chevrolet. Joe is highly qualified in all areas of repairs and is one of the most well respected technicians in the trade. Also on hand to service your car is Rob Lankarge. Rob is from Moodus and also a General Motors certified ASE Master Technician. Mike Witkowski, Marty's son and East Haddam resident, is running the Parts Department. Jim Witkowski, Sales Specialist, is always on hand to assist with sales and financial needs. Jim lives in Middletown and has many years, like his brother Marty, in the automotive industry.

Marty indicated that he invested in the latest and best diagnostic equipment and technology. The Carriage House will service ALL MAKES AND MODELS of vehicles. Satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.

Jim would like to show you their selection of pre-owned cars. Each car is given a rigorous Thirty-Point Safety Inspection and is only given the OK if it meets his and Marty's high standards.

Marty would like everyone to take the time and stop by to visit. Coffee is always on and he will be happy to show you around and talk to you about your vehicles needs. Sales and Service are open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Sales is also open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. They are conveniently located in the heart of East Haddam, in the old "Williams Chevrolet" building and across Lumberyard Rd from the Gelston House.

Marty would like everyone to know that, " Our promise to customers is to provide the best quality vehicles, parts and service available!" In addition to that, he stresses, " I am sure you will find our reputation impeccable and our service courteous and friendly."

Board of Education

Change of Pace at the Elementary School

East Haddam Elementary School is experiencing a significant change of routine this school year. Unlike past years, students are leaving their classrooms to enjoy some fresh air and outdoor activity before heading off to lunch. Schools across the state are beginning to see the benefits and positive impact of this change of procedure.

As a Responsive Classroom school, EHES believes that we must foster safe, challenging, and joyful elementary classrooms where practical strategies for bringing together social and academic learning builds a strong and safe school community. The approach has been developed by the Northeast Foundation for Children, and it is their recommendation that "despite increasingly packed school schedules, one-size-fits-all curricula, and standardized testing, schools can reshape children's days in ways that help them learn, grow, and enjoy childhood." They encourage schools to consider changing the order of the day and take another look at the traditional schedule of recess right after lunch. As they say, "working up an appetite on the playground and then eating a good, healthy lunch makes more sense than rushing through lunch and running right out to play on a full stomach...schools that put recess first see children's afternoon behaviors and energy levels improve."

The response from students and teachers has been very positive. We will continue to look at ways in which small, but significant, changes in how we structure our school days can impact the success of all children.

Update on New Middle School

Construction of the new middle school is progressing quickly. It is exciting to see this beautiful project coming together after the years of planning and preparation. The cooperation displayed by the Board of Education, Central Office, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Building Committee, Newfield Construction, and KBA is supporting the creation of a wonderful school, which will support many generations of East Haddam children.

The majority of the building's exterior, including windows, bricks and paneling, is complete. Drywall has already been installed in many interior areas. The cafeteria, library, and learning spaces are taking shape. Temporary heat has been installed, allowing the drywall and finishing work to progress through the winter. The building should be completed in less than seven months from now. We will begin moving into the new building in early July. A grand opening celebration is being planned for mid-August, 2008.

A Transition Task Force has been meeting monthly to coordinate a smooth move for all involved. They will be holding informational meetings and open houses before the school opens. Please contact Dr. Solek, Superintendent of Schools, with any questions you have regarding the transition to the new Middle School. You can view pictures of the construction by accessing the school website: <http://www.easthaddamschools.org/building/pictures/index.htm>

One of the many challenges of incorporating the fourth grade into the middle school is to provide the students with an appropriate selection of books in the library without compromising the elementary school collection. The reading levels and interests of children vary widely, so it is important to have a great collection in both buildings. To address this need, we are having a used book sale that will occur in May. We are currently

seeking quality used books that might be a nice addition to our new library or that we can sell in May to raise funds for new books. If you have books that you are able to donate, please drop them off in the middle school main office at your convenience. You can even call us to arrange a pick-up at your house. We will provide more details about the May book sale in the spring.



Local Students Win National FFA Agricultural Sales Event

Members of the Ray FFA Chapter were among 41 teams participating in the 2007 National FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event (CDE), held on October 24-27, in conjunction with the 80th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This competition tested participants' abilities to apply classroom learning and career skills to real-life situations. Competitors were asked to participate in an objective test as well as an oral sales-presentation. Participants completed a series of activities demonstrating their skill at prospecting customers, promoting products, advertising, and customer service. Members made sales presentations both as individuals and as part of the team.

The top eleven individuals and the national winning team members received scholarships. The team from Moodus placed first in the National FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event.

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The winning team members were Chelsea Hathaway, Kelsey Humble, Caitlin Ogilvie and Chelsey Hood, coached by Cheryl Matthewson. Through this accomplishment, they have brought honor to themselves, to their school, and to their community. We congratulate them on this impressive win.



Pictured left to right, Cheryl Matthewson, Chelsea Hathaway, Kelsey Humble, Caitlin Ogilvie, Chelsey Hood, Troy Selman

Response to Intervention (RtI) Update

The State Department of Education, an Advisory Panel of representatives from the CSDE, the State Education Resource Center, and various local educational agencies, including parents, were charged with operationalizing the basic principles behind RtI in a way that best meets the needs of Connecticut students. The Advisory Panel reviewed current research and practice on RtI and developed a state model that could be implemented in school districts in Connecticut. The panel decided to refer to this process in Connecticut as SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Intervention).

SRBI approaches emphasize successful instruction for all children through sound core curricula in key academic areas, effective instructional strategies, a complete system of positive behavioral supports, and targeted interventions for youngsters experiencing learning or behavioral difficulties. The concept is to address the needs of struggling students much earlier and provide a continuum of interventions in general education. The core principles are research-based and scientifically validate interventions/instruction that is monitored to show student progress that informs instruction. The assessments have three different purposes: 1) screening, 2) diagnostic, and 3) progress monitoring. The continuum of services is based on a multi-tiered model of service delivery. Instruction is differentiated to meet the learner needs at various levels. Data-based decision-making is essential in determining the level of intervention needed and the nature of the intervention. Each tier represents increasingly intense services that are associated with increasing levels of student supports. The State Guidelines for SRBI should be finalized by January 2008.

Gifts of the Season

As members of a very special school district community, the holiday season provided us with the perfect time to reflect on all the wonderful gifts that have already been given to us this year. During the cold winter months of last year, the community of East Haddam gathered together in support of a new middle school for our students in grades 4 through 8. Since that time,

Mr. Robert Carroll, School Business Manager, Mr. Jason Peacock, Middle School Principal, the East Haddam School Building Committee, the East Haddam Transition Task Force, MPAC, the East Haddam Board of Education, and many others in the community have worked tirelessly to make sure that our new school will open its doors for the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

With the East Haddam town elections held in November, we welcome two new members, Mr. Bryan Perry and Mrs. Debbie Fiala, as well as Dr. Tom Miett and Mr. Alan Hyla (returning members) to the East Haddam Board of Education.

Under the leadership of Mr. Nick Iacovelli, chairman, the board continues to develop and implement school district initiatives that insure opportunities for growth and fulfillment for all of us.

For the gifts of hard work, dedication, and service to others that our students, our parents, and our staff, teachers, and administrators continually give throughout the year, I thank you all. Finally, I am so very thankful for the privilege of serving as Superintendent of Schools in East Haddam and for all of the gifts of support that we are given every day. Wishing all of you and your families a wonderful winter season,

Ellen Solek, Superintendent, East Haddam School District

East Haddam Historical Society History Shines

The East Haddam Historical Society was formed in 1963 when Lucille Narducci and Edith Louise Carroll Davison were talking about various old buildings in town. Lucille said, "Why not put something into the paper to that effect? Ask people who are interested to meet and discuss the matter." The conversation took place at the close of a meeting of the Old Cove Burying Ground Association. Dozens of people showed up at the subsequent meeting at Rathbun Library.

Among those in attendance were attorney Julian Rosenberg and wife Toby. They invited presidents of neighboring historical societies to speak at meetings. The original officers became: President Edith L. Davison, Vice President George Hatfield (who is still with us), Treasurer William Pond, Recording Secretary Georgiana Costa (still present), Corresponding Secretary Marilyn Cone (still around) and Archivist Lucille Narducci. Trustees were Edward Wallace, Julian Rosenberg, Eve Durand, Albert Hall, Rev. Martin Grissom, Gardiner Somarindyk, Richard Everett (as active as ever), Mrs. George Pollock and Dorothy Durfee.

For 2008, our comparable officers and trustees are Charles Farrow (President), Mary Ellen Klinck (Vice President), Emily Varkala (Treasurer), Marianne Halpin (Recording Secretary), Annlee Sortland (Membership Director), Deborah Farrow (Corresponding Secretary). The position of Archivist is presently open, pending discussion of combining forces with the Haddam Historical Society for a grant to cover a three-year honorarium for a professional archivist to computerize all holdings of both societies.

George Drenge is Museum Director (having succeeded James R. Wynn, who held that post for 45 years), and Robert Cumming (a past president) is Executive Director. Trustees are Ronald Brennan (President Emeritus), Paul Buhl, Irving Chmura (Buildings Director), Ellen Friedman, Judi Glover, Judy Jezek, Jacqueline Nowell, James O'Brien, Dorothy Parker, Amos Shepard, Annlee Sortland, Andrew Tarpill and Gabrielle Weissbach.

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Serving as alternates are Laurie Alt, David Haddad and Lyn May. Marilyn Cone serves as Interim Archivist, Thomas D. Comer as Tax Accountant, Scott W. Jezek as Legal Counsel, Jean Mahew as Technology Director and Dr. Karl Stofko, Town Historian.

This formidable array of citizens is devoted to, as President Farrow has intoned, "illuminating local history." They plan to create an unprecedented awareness of the history of this unique town, with emphasis on communicating with the school population and involving as many as possible in as many ways possible. We hope that history will repeat itself in this effort. After all, in a letter dated July 6, 1963, Edward Wallace enclosed a check for a prize for an historical essay on an East Haddam person of note, to be written by a high school student. If we watch long enough we hope that history will repeat itself.

We look forward to announcing a spring/summer date for the grand opening of our new wing, built to accommodate the priceless gift from Joseph Clark of the original, 3600-pound model of Heinz Warneke's "The Last Supper and The Road to Emmaus," which had been stored for fifty years in his studio on Wickham Road. The curator for this project, made possible by a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council, is Laura Macaluso. Treasured consultants for the project are Priscilla Waters Norton (stepdaughter of Heinz Warneke) and her son, Jonathan Waters, who is also a sculptor in the Warneke tradition. Watch the next issue for the opening of this major addition to celebrate 45 years of service to the history of East Haddam.

Bob Cumming, Executive Director



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Lawyer Launches New Website

Peter Charbonnier is pleased to announce the launch of the new website for his legal practice: www.lawforlocals.com. Peter's practice, located in Chester since 2001, is focused on transactional work in the areas of Real Estate, Small Business and Estate Planning. These areas encompass any type of real estate closing, including reverse mortgages and short sales, as well as mortgage workouts and landlord and tenant matters; purchase, sale, consulting for growth, document creation and any other small business matters; preparation of all estate planning documents including Trusts and living wills; and probate administration.

Peter was admitted to the bar in 1991 and, while taking a break from the full time practice of law between 1994 and 2000, he created, ran and eventually sold Ken's Coffeehouse and Village Provision Company, both in Essex. Peter lives in Essex with his wife Alison (Oakes) and their two-year-old daughter, Stephanie.

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East Haddam Youth and Family Services

A Note from the Director, Toni McCabe

We hear a lot about the importance of peers in the lives of our children and youth and the impact that peer pressure can have on the choices they make. Being good parents, we recognize the importance of getting to know our children's friends, networking with other parents, knowing where our children are and whether or not a responsible adult is present when they are in someone else's home. We probably know the right questions to ask, the important conversations to have, the necessary warnings to give and the absolute rules to establish - about drugs, alcohol, sex, driving under the influence, and so on.

But I often wonder about the other influences in our children's lives - the ones that can fall under the "parental radar." Technology has given our children incredible access - there's a lot of information out there about the dangers of the internet and the impact of the lyrics in the music so we're probably at least aware of those. But how often do we take a critical look at the television. Should we be paying more attention to the hype around the use of alcohol or the number of times alcohol shows up on the screen either through commercials or regular programs? Should we be more worried about how the use of alcohol is tied in with sexuality, popularity, social success and fun?

Should we question the impact of the constant message that there are drugs that can take care of almost anything, almost immediately? Should we be concerned that our children are growing up in a society that expects immediate relief?

And finally, what should we think about the "reality" shows our children watch - the ones that glorify physical beauty, self-indulgent behavior and shallow relationships among groups of young adult men and women? Do we want our children to think of that as reality? I often wonder...

Assets in Action - Youth Making a Difference

Teens In Action, our Middle School community service team, who launched a very successful coat drive this past December, collecting about 300 coats and jackets for our clothing bank.

The members of the Middle School Select Chorus who volunteered their help and their talent for this year's Children's Night on Moodus Green.

The Teen Night committee that plans and runs our monthly youth-adult jam nights.

Individual young people who volunteered their time to run after-school programs, help with Children's Night on Moodus Green or at EHYFS: Stephen Hart, Ryan Leary, Anthony Shuttler, Natalie Davoodi, Kevin Moffat, Sarah and Leah Chasser.

Building Partnerships

We are very fortunate and pleased that we have been able to develop the following partnerships:

MPAC: (Middle School Principal's Advisory Council) to provide fall, winter and spring after-school programs for our middle school students. Special thanks to Carolyn Hart and all of the volunteers who have made it possible to continue offering these valuable programs for our middle school students.

Girls Running Club: Special thanks to Jessica Kiley and the volunteers who organize and run the Girls Running Club at the Elementary School;

Teen Night: Special thanks to Jeff Bauer, Ken Tosi and all of the volunteers who help and support our young people in making this program possible.

Community Faith Organizations: Special thanks to all of the Church leaders and volunteers who have become actively involved in building assets with and for our youth.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Julie Yale to the staff of EHYFS. Julie has been hired to coordinate the Developmental Assets Mini-Grant program described below:

Through funding provided by the Middlesex United Way, East Haddam Youth & Family Services has \$500.00 mini-grants available for local faith, civic and other organizations that are interested in developing adult—youth partnerships.

For Information: Please Contact Julie Yale (860) 691-2466.

We are also pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Darin D'Amaddio, LCSW. Darin will be providing counseling services for youth and families beginning in January.

Christmas Campaign 2007

Once again, the generosity of this community has been overwhelming. We were able to provide Christmas gifts to 45 families this year, including over 100 children and youth. Thank you to all who gave so unselfishly!

Thank You Volunteers/Donations

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, I would like to thank all who have volunteered their time or responded to our annual appeal. We appreciate your continued help and support.



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THE EAGLES ARE COMING



The Connecticut Audubon Society Eagle Festival Planning Committee is gearing up for its 9th Annual Eagle Festival to be held President's Weekend February 16 & February

17 of 2008. We are proud to announce that once again Phil Donahue and Faith Middleton will be joining us as our Honorary Eagle Festival co-chairs. As in the past the Eagle Festival Committee is planning 2 days of free, family events including interactive children's nature programs, land-based eagle viewing and LIVE birds of prey demonstrations. The Main Tent will be located on the grounds of Connecticut River Museum at the foot of Main St., with the Welcome Center located at Page-Taft Real Estate at 35 Main Street.

There will be live entertainment and activities all along Main Street with performers, singers, artists, magicians, bird carvers and more livening up downtown Essex and drawing festival goers to our local shops and eateries. The Main St. merchants will be organizing a scavenger hunt throughout downtown which will also encourage visitors to see what Essex has to offer. Local towns will be getting involved in the Eagle Festival as well. Chester will be hosting their annual Winter Carnivale on Sunday Feb. 17 and will plan on providing a shuttle from downtown Chester to an eagle viewing site at the Chester Ferry Crossing. The East Haddam Development Commission will once again

host their annual Chowder Cook-off and Blues Concert on Saturday February 16th and encourage visitors to warm up inside the River House.

Again folks will have the opportunity to get up close to the Eagles by taking advantage of our 1.5 hour guided eagle viewing Boat Tours. There will be 2 boats going out during Eagle Festival weekend as well as additional trips between Feb. 9th and March 16th. For more information or to book a reservation please call 860-767-0660 or 800-714-7201 or email pwood@ctaudubon.org or agriwosold@ctaudubon.org. People are encouraged to visit the Connecticut Audubon Society website at www.ctaudubon.org and click on the Eagle Festival link. If you are interested in having a 2008 Eagle Festival Program Guide mailed to you, please contact the phone or email above. The Program Guide is a great way to prepare for the festival as it includes details about parking and shuttle busses, schedule of events, eagle facts, land based eagle viewing directions, eagle viewing boat schedules and more. The Eagle Festival Committee is always looking for volunteers, so please contact us if you are interested. Feel free to call or email me anytime for questions, feedback or information and see you at the festival!

Priscilla Wood

*Connecticut Audubon Society
2008 Eagle Festival Coordinator*

Events Magazine Video & Games Editors



Gamephoria V2

You may not always know if what the children are asking for is appropriate, or good. The way video games have exploded recently leads to a lot of misconceptions and confusion. But don't worry; we have tried to capture the essence of the season in gaming. Below are four of the biggest games this year shoved into a nutshell. Enjoy!

~ M for Mature ~ Assassin's Creed • XBOX 360; PS3

Assassin's Creed is one of those rare titles that offers so much and delivers on all fronts. You play Altair, an assassin in the Third-Crusade-era Holy Land, and you are tasked with spilling the blood (this is a very, VERY mature game) of nine corrupt men. Despite this relatively simple synopsis, there are layers upon layers of depth to this game. The tasks are divided up into three beautifully recreated cities: Jerusalem, Acre, and Damascus. You have the ability to scale any building, leap from roof to roof, or blend in and disappear among the throngs of people who populate the cities and the vast countryside between. This game is epic in the truest sense of the word. A must buy.

Mass Effect • XBOX 360

You are Commander Shepard and you have been charged with saving the galaxy from the genocidal alien who wants to eradicate all human life from the galaxy (which humanity has populated quite successfully, I might add). Exactly how you accomplish this task, however, is entirely up to you. You are given a great deal of creative freedom as to how your character looks, what gender you choose to be,

how you came to be this amazing Space-Ranger-type person. You can choose how to hold conversations, how your squad acts during combat, and how you act during certain "social" situations (again, this is very much an "M"-rated game). Do you woo the attractive space-alien lady with your Space-Ranger charisma, or do you intimidate her with your uberpowerful pump-action laser gun (no innuendo implied). Which of the three dozen worlds do you explore first, and how do you traverse the terrain? The choices are endless. You are Commander Shepard.

~E for Everyone~ Super Mario Galaxy • Nintendo Wii

After roughly a decade, Nintendo has finally blessed us with an actual, honest-to-goodness sequel to Mario 64. Mario is again given the unenviable task of going toe to toe with his arch nemesis, Bowser--the King Koopa to end all King Koopas, to rescue the loveable Princess Peach, who has been kidnapped... again. The difference this time is that each level is its own little planet with its own little inhabitants who don't take kindly to Mario's presence. It's really a sublime feeling as you travel through each one of these self-contained ecosystems and experience different physics on each whilst examining the different flora and fauna...and jumping on them...and collecting coins.

Mario and Sonic Olympics • Nintendo Wii

We have a problem with this game. It's not the game itself, which is a very fine affair. It is filled with all the sports you'd expect from a game based on the Olympics, which have been cartoonified to play on the Wii, which one can do with much aplomb. It's the concept itself that baffles us. Now we are all for the numerous loveable characters we've met over the dynasty of Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog competing for the Gold. We especially like the idea of having our "Mii" (player-created avatar) as a playable character. But how anyone thinks that Mario, a busy and yet lowly plumber, is going to beat a super-sonic hedgehog in a foot race is beyond us. But it is worth playing to find out! Besides, who doesn't love a little Mario action?

by Tom & Liz Pester