

# East Haddam News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING MOODUS, LAKE HAYWARD, HADLYME AND EAST HADDAM

January 10, 2019

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Free weekly

## Attorney general's report is critical of CT Landmarks

By David Holahan

The state Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has issued a report that is critical of Connecticut Landmarks (CTL) after conducting a nearly year-long investigation into the organization's stewardship practices as well as use of charitable funds. The Palmer-Warner House in East Haddam was

one of two CTL properties that were the focus of the inquiry. The report is online at: [http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/AG/Charities/Connecticut\\_Landmarks\\_Final\\_Report](http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/AG/Charities/Connecticut_Landmarks_Final_Report). The report, which was released January 4, largely exonerates CTL for neglecting the Palmer-Warner House, which it acquired in 2005, while it fo-

cused its priorities on two of its other Connecticut properties: the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry and the Amos Bull House in Hartford. "As a result of our review, however, we understand that the delay between acquiring the Palmer-Warner Property and beginning significant work on it was the result of several other prior-

ities and issues during that time," the report states. At a meeting last June of East Haddam residents concerned about the deterioration of the property, one citizen referred to CTL's stewardship performance as "demolition by neglect." Late last summer CTL did com-

*Continued on page EH12*

## State denies town grant application on land cleanup

By David Holahan

The state did not accept East Haddam's application for a \$892,000 brownfield grant for the environmental assessment and cleanup of the town's 2.75-acre former town office property across from the Good-speed Opera House. The town had paid Ensaf, Inc. \$3,000 to write the grant proposal. In September, then Governor Dannel Malloy had announced the 12th round of state-sponsored grants for the development of brownfields—properties whose reuse, development or expansion is complicated by pollution, hazardous materials or other ecologically prevalent obstacles. First Selectman Emmett Lyman said that the \$892,000 figure represented a worst-case scenario in terms of cleaning up the site, part of which was used for decades by the town and the state as a garage for highway department vehicles. Lyman added that the town was in the process of applying for a federal brownfield grant for the site. A report from Eagle Environmental, Inc. on contamination of the town-owned site found "a lot more than we were thinking in terms of arsenic, relatively high, but the level is relatively high all over town," Lyman said. The town is still analyzing the report, which it has not released to the public as yet. Lyman

### SNOW BIRD



The East Haddam Land Trust is inviting local photographers to submit their work to the 2019 Land Trusts' Photo Contest. This photo of an eastern bluebird by Chris Flick took honorable mention in the wildlife category last year. See page EH 6 for details.

said that there would "probably not" be more testing of the site. Lyman also said the town would need to get bids from engineering firms for repairs to Neptune Avenue, which suffered about \$500,000 damage from a September rainstorm that cost the town \$3.7 million overall in damages. The storm caused a total of about \$6.3 million in damages statewide.

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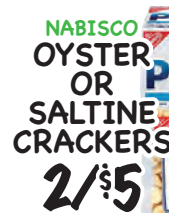


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## Board of Selectmen discuss RFQ and building fee hikes

By Danielle Faipler

At its first meeting of the year, January 2, The East Haddam Board of Selectmen discussed several projects that still need to be completed, such as the publication of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from developers intending to transform the old town office building and town garage space. For the past several months, town officials had been in discussions to determine whether it will sell or rent the property, which lies across from the Goodspeed Opera House and East Haddam Swing Bridge.

The Economic Development Committee has finalized the RFQ, which will solicit developers' qualifications and financial capacity to transform the area of now unused buildings into a hub of activity.

One factor that delayed the announcement and publication of the RFQ was the State Governor's award of a Brownfield Remediation and Development grant through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The town applied for the grant program, which provides assistance to remediate blighted properties, also known as brownfields. The town did not receive the grant.

The RFQ is now closer to being published, and

*Continued on page EH12*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS OUTGOING BOARD



Flowers in winter: Incoming East Haddam Historical Society President Laurie Gelston Alt, at right, thanks outgoing EHHS board members for their volunteer efforts in 2018, from left: Lynn Meyer, Bob Casner, Joe Sina, and Nancy Borge. Among the highlights of the museum (<http://www.easthaddamhistory.org>) are a photographic display of the rise and fall of the Industrial Age in Moodus Village, Native American artifacts dating to 1300 B.C., a photographic exhibit of the building of the East Haddam swing bridge, and a collection of changing fashions with period costumes on display. In the winter the museum is open by appointment.

## Selectmen forward crisis plan to Board of Ed for review

By Danielle Faipler

Numerous residents met in the Municipal Office Building Complex Wednesday, December 20 for a regular Board of Selectmen meeting.

The final hour of the meeting was held in executive session to discuss the future of the town's crisis and emergency communications plan, which includes security in the town's school district.

After executive session, the selectmen voted unanimously to move the Crisis and Strategic Communications Plan forward and send it to the East Haddam Board of Education to review.

The plan outlines strategies to make the town's office building and schools more secure and analyzes the town's need for an emergency response communications plan, including adding a school district resource officer, which was discussed during the December 5 Board of Selectmen meeting.

The committee advised the town to hire a school district resource officer who would be charged with providing security to the town's public schools and municipal office building, and to work with a company to develop a crisis communications plan.

"At this point our committee had a unanimous vote on the recommendation to start with a School District Resource officer as a first step in securing the safety of our students and town office building," Selectman Susan Link wrote in an email after the meeting. "We have agreed to further analyze the position after it has been in place for six months, but will be meeting regularly before that as we look at other towns and other options for our town that are effective and fiscally responsible."

The town hopes to have the school district resource officer position filled and in place by the start of the 2019-20 school year; however, the ad-hoc committee will continue to discuss the town's security needs.

"While we have made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, we are not finished analyzing the best solution. One of our recommendations to the BOS is to have a community forum to further talk about security needs in our town," wrote Link, who also chaired the ad-hoc committee.

The committee's plan seeks to ensure that the officer chosen is properly trained and has the right mindset for the position, said First Selectmen Emmett Lyman.

The committee was established mid-July by the board of selectmen to perform an analysis of the town's safety and security measures to protect students, staff and citizens while in town-owned buildings and on town property. This included comparing the cost and benefits of having armed security or school resource officers in the schools, and the need to develop a comprehensive Communications Plan should a security breach or other crisis occur.

Members worked closely for over two months, mostly in executive session, to discuss the town's staffing needs, to identify the current security weaknesses in the town's buildings and education system, and how to improve those systems and related concerns.

Committee members also deliberated on how to promote the town and expand its economic development, while also communicating with the public its emergency preparedness. They met with Sullivan & LeShane Public Relations Inc., a firm based in Hartford dedicated to developing communications and public/media relations strategies concerning issue management and crisis communications.



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## FORUM

Dear Readers,

This month the East Haddam News is starting a new feature, the Monthly Forum. Each month we will invite you to weigh in on a topic of importance to the town. The first topic is the East Haddam Transfer Station and what can be done to make it more efficient and cost-effective.

For example, increasing recycling in town would help the environment as well as save taxpayers money. In his first in a series of articles on the issue in today's paper, First Selectman Emmett Lyman points out that the town recycles 24 percent of its

waste at present. The state DEEP recommends that towns should be recycling at least half of all their waste. Last March the East Haddam Transfer Station Committee presented its finding to the Board of Selectmen on ways to decrease the overhead of the facility by hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

We ask that your submissions (up to 250 words) on this and future topics be civil, factual and constructive. We look forward to hearing from you. Submit your comments to Editor@easthaddamnews.org.

## PART I IN A SERIES

# First selectman addresses past, present, future of transfer station

By First Selectman Emmett Lyman

This is the first in a series of articles intended to explore what is happening with our Transfer Station. They will describe its history, current organization and costs. Future articles will discuss changes currently underway, short-term challenges needing to be met, the ins and outs of recycling, and finally long-term options and opportunities.

Until the 1970s East Haddam operated its own landfill for refuse material. At that time little or no consideration was given to recycling. Our population was a little over half of what it is today and far less material per capita was generated. By the mid 1970s it was realized that new and better answers were needed. We went to work and our current Transfer Station was designed and installed.

Initially the ordinance included just the hopper and an area to the rear for bulky waste and brush. Authorized at a town meeting, the transfer station is regulated by the ordinance passed at that time. This provides for direct deposit of refuse by East Haddam citizens as well as by haulers with loads strictly limited to East Haddam sourced materials. Over the years, changes in need and in volume have seen the equipment at the Transfer Station — as well as the ordinance — updated from time to time, creating the system we now use.

Today the Transfer station is divided into five parts:

1. A hopper for non-recyclable refuse only

2. Three recycling compactors handling "single stream" recyclable material (paper, cardboard, glass and plastic containers, but not plastic bags).
3. The Scouts have a container accepting plastic and aluminum "deposit" beverage containers, no glass.
4. Farther back are the bulky waste containers.
5. Lastly, the brush and leaves area.

Use of any part of the system requires the possession of a sticker that is issued at the Transfer Station by the staff. This requires proper identification showing residency in East Haddam. When you enter the Transfer Station you will see a scale on the right. Depending on your load you may need to be weighed in and out. All bulky waste and brush loads must be weighed and a fee assessed. Tires and appliances with Freon also have a fee for disposal. Recyclables, electronics, metals and cardboard are exempt from fees.

Operating our Transfer Station today costs about \$600,000 per year. Refuse removal (trucking to and disposal by Willimantic Waste) accounts for about two thirds of this cost and personnel for most of the rest. Hauling costs about \$100,000 per year. Disposal costs run \$70 per ton for refuse placed in the hopper while we get \$5 per ton back for recyclable material. We ship about 4,000 tons of material per year with about 24 percent (1,000 tons) being recycled. If we recycled more carefully we could easily exceed 50 percent. The immediate savings would be about \$70,000 in disposal costs and result in \$5,000 in additional income for recyclables. This is clearly a goal we need to pursue. Our current contract with Willimantic Waste expires next summer.

The next article will review how years of changing needs and associated updates have created problems and opportunities. I will review changes currently being planned and discuss additional revisions that will look for Town Meeting approval.



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Arts leaders meet in public forum at the Goodspeed

Arts, culture and tourism advocates met with Governor-elect Ned Lamont's transition team on Wednesday, December 19, in a public forum at the Goodspeed Opera House. The advocates told the team that Connecticut is losing tourism business to other states because it is failing to adequately promote attractions here.

"Our future customers are not thinking of Connecticut," said Stephen Tagliatela, co-chair of the Connecticut Tourism Coalition, according to the Hartford Courant. The coalition met with Lieutenant Governor-elect Susan Bysiewicz at the public forum. Connecticut's tourism marketing budget was \$4.1 million in 2018, the lowest in the New England states, he said.

The group also asked Bysiewicz to increase the state Tourism Fund's annual share of the lodging tax revenue from 10 percent to at least 25 percent.

Bysiewicz and Lamont have met with transition policy committees across the state to discuss policy recommendations on issues expected to be priorities when the Lamont administration takes over in January.

Members of the arts, culture and tourism committee meeting in East Haddam said a higher annual injection of lodging-tax funds into a marketing campaign could attract new visitors and keep residents from leaving the state in their leisure time.

In the most recent fiscal year, \$103 million in lodging taxes were collected from hotels, motels, inns, bed-and-breakfasts and Airbnb.

Needleman announces his Senate committee appointments

State Senator Norm Needleman (D-Essex) today announced that he has been appointed Senate Chair of the Energy & Technology Committee, and Senate Vice Chair of the Banking Committee.

The Energy and Technology Committee formulates policies relating to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, energy-related planning, and technology issues. The committee works closely with energy and technology services and utilities, which include electric utilities and cable TV service.

The Banking Committee develops policies relating to consumer credit and lending, business finance, the Department of Banking, all banks, credit unions, securities sales, fraternal benefit societies and secured and unsecured lending.

Needleman expects additional committee assignments to be announced in the near future.

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Continued on page EH9

TOWN

Boulders are latest obstacle to Bone Mill Bridge opening

The four-and-a-half-year saga to replace and reopen the Bone Mill Bridge took another detour when the construction crew found large boulders where the guardrail posts were slated to go in.

The bridge was opened recently to foot traffic, but the guardrails need to be in place before vehicles can use the bridge, which was deemed unsafe in May of 2014.

A ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Saturday, January 5 was postponed and no new date has been set.

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# Gustine Family celebrates 25 years at Wolf’s Den



The Gustine Family is celebrating the 25th anniversary of owning and operating the Wolf’s Den Family Campground, as well as more than 50 years experience in the campground industry, having built Nelson’s Family Campground in East Hampton in 1964 before purchasing Wolf’s Den in 1994.

Through the years the campground has continually grown and improved, providing many opportunities for families to make memories, according to company president Glenn Gustine. Located on 35 scenic acres in the Connecticut River Valley, Wolf’s Den boasts 209 campsites along with many

updated amenities, featured entertainment, and themed weekends. Whether for the day, week, month or season, this campground is an ideal place to camp, relax and enjoy the great outdoor life with your friends and family, Gustine said. Wolf’s Den caters to all ages and lifestyles and welcomes tent and popup campers, full time travelers, seasonals, and weekenders alike.

“Wolf’s Den Family Campground is ‘Where Families Make Memories’ simply because we truly care about each and every family’s experience at our park,” Gustine said. “Our staff is trained to make our customers feel as if Wolf’s Den is their ‘home away from home’

and are always around to make sure that our campers’ stay is an enjoyable one. We couldn’t be more thankful for all of the families and friends we have met along the way that made the last 25 years so great. We are excited for many more years of continued camping fun.”

The campground features an Olympic-size swimming pool, playground, mini-golf, tennis court, horseshoes, bocce, fishing ponds, planned weekend activities, and updated bathroom facilities throughout the camp. For more information on Wolf’s Den Family Campground, please call 860-873-9681 or check us out online at [www.wolfsdencampground.com](http://www.wolfsdencampground.com)

# Leos invite military, veterans, family to Wall of Honor workshops

Members of the military and veterans are invited by the Leos (young Lions) to do an interviews and digitally scan their military pictures for the town’s

Wall of Honor. This workshop will take place on Thursday January 10 at the East Haddam Free Public Library, in Moodus, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Another Wall of Honor workshop will be held on Monday, January 21 at the Senior Center from 9 to noon. To make an appointment, contact

Forrest Anderson at 860-873-8712 or by e-mail at [forrest.l.anderson@mac.com](mailto:forrest.l.anderson@mac.com)

## NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Land trusts seek entries for their 13th annual photo contest

The East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) invites amateur photographers to enter the 13th Annual Land Trusts’ Photo Contest. EHLT sponsors the photo contest with land trusts in Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Salem. The goal is to encourage photographers to capture unique views, interesting sights, and the intriguing culture found in each of the sponsoring towns. The deadline is February 28.

Last year’s entries from more than 140 amateur photographers were stunning. The contest’s three judges—all art and photography professionals—were impressed by the quality and artistry of the entries. The judges were particularly pleased with entries from 40 youth photographers in 2018.

The 2019 photo contest has a new entry category, Land Trust Properties, to encourage photos of the many wonderful land trust preserves in East Hadd-

am and the other sponsoring towns.

Amateur photographers may enter a total of three photos in the contest, choosing from the categories Landscape/Waterscape, Wildlife, Plants, Cultural/Historic, Black & White, Youth Age 14-18, Youth Age 13 years and younger, and the new category Land Trust Properties. Entrants will find links and directions to East Haddam Land Trust preserves at [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org), and links to preserves in other sponsoring towns at [www.landtrustsphotocontest.org](http://www.landtrustsphotocontest.org).

All entries are exhibited at a reception in April and winners in each category will receive cash prizes. Winning photos Then go on display at [www.landtrustsphotocontest.org](http://www.landtrustsphotocontest.org) and at various locations in East Haddam, Essex, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Salem through 2019.

EHLT is extremely grateful to Ballek’s Garden

Center and Two Wrasslin’ Cats Coffee House and Café plus the following businesses and individuals for their investments in the Land Trusts’ Photo Contest: All-Pro Automotive, Art Emporium of Old Saybrook, Ashlawn Farm Coffee, Ballek’s Garden Center, Denali Outdoor, Essex Savings Bank, Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, OWCM Group Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Riverquest CT Expeditions, Alison Mitchell. The generous donations from these businesses and individuals make the photo contest possible.

Entries are accepted through February 28. The contest rules and entry forms, links to Land Trust Properties in each town, and photos of previous winners are available at [www.landtrustsphotocontest.org](http://www.landtrustsphotocontest.org).



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SCHOOLS

EHES announces registration and PTO events

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

sponsored events. The elementary school is also processing fall 2019 kindergarten registrations. A Google form link will be activated this month on the school's website: <http://easthaddames.ss9.sharp-school.com/> and information packets will be mailed to families in February. To begin the transition for incoming kindergartners, a parent/guardian orientation evening is scheduled in March, and the school's Connecting

with Kindergarten and Kindergarten Experience will be scheduled in March and April. In June, the children will also participate in a practice bus ride. Additionally, the preschool team offers developmental screenings for young children currently residing in East Haddam, to ensure students receive appropriate services and supports prior to entering kindergarten; website links to this information can be found under

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

PARKS & RECREATION ACTIVITIES

**Winter Putting League: Disc Golf**, Sundays, January 13-February 24 7-9 p.m., Municipal Gym, ages 12+, \$3 Entrance Fee

**Ladies Basketball**: Wednesdays December 12-January 23, 7:30-9 p.m. Municipal Gym, \$20 for season

**American Red Cross When I'm in Charge**: Participants will learn the safe way to stay home alone. While parents should determine if their child is ready to stay home alone, this class will help students make safe decisions and begin to feel more comfortable with their skills and abilities. January 24, ages: 9+, 5:45 – 7:30 p.m., \$40

**American Red Cross Babysitting**: Participants learn the basic skills needed to be a safe babysitter. Attendee receive a certificate if they take the entire class and successfully demonstrate their skills to the instructor. Must be at least 11 years old. February 6, 13, and 27, 5:45-7:45 p.m., Park and Rec Activity Room in the Municipal Office Complex, \$65

**Kidscapades**: All classes held in the Parks and Rec activity room in the Municipal Office Complex, \$60/program, Thursdays - Jan 10, 17, 24, Feb. 7 (no class Jan 31): **Toddler Sensory/ Science**, ages 3-4. Toddlers will become little scientists with our engaging hands on experiments that have an eruption component. They will also mix, measure and explore sensory play activities, Thursdays: 9 – 10 a.m. **Toddler Time Art**: ages 3-4. Children create craft projects based on seasons, holiday, characters, or books. A variety of materials are provided for the children to explore and create their masterpieces! Thursdays 10:30 -11:30 a.m. **ABCs**

**For Threes**: Your 3-year old will be introduced to letters, numbers, shapes, colors, seasons, holidays, through hands-on activities. They participate in art, sensory play, songs, science and movement. Designed to foster independence for the child not yet enrolled in a preschool or childcare center. Or for the child who needs an extra day of structured activities, independent from caregiver. Thursdays: 12-1 p.m. **Sizzling Science**: ages 4-8. Children will become junior scientists with our engaging hands on experiments. Some experiments have an eruption component. Thursdays 4-5 p.m.

**Boot Camp Fitness**: This program is designed to build strength and fitness through a variety of intense group intervals over a 1-hour period. Our fun group dynamic will help motivate you while you improve your cardio, core strength, agility and balance. New session begins December 11-February 2., ages 16+, Tuesday and Thursdays: 6 p.m. Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. Cost: 1 session/week \$45, 2 sessions/week \$69, 3 sessions/week \$87, Drop-in fee \$10

**Gentle Yoga** is appropriate for all levels of fitness or yoga experience. Increase your strength and flexibility while decreasing stress. Enjoy moving your body and breathing mindfully! The next session runs January 2 – February 17, 2019. Wear loose comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat and water to drink. Call the office for financial aid. Ages 16+, Sunday and Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center; Fridays: 10:30 a.m. at The Grange, \$65/ session (1x/week) or \$10 Drop-in

**Pickleball** is a sport that combines many elements

of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. It is played on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. It is played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. We provide all equipment. All sessions are held in the gym at the Municipal Office Complex. Pickleball club card has arrived! Purchase 10 games for \$40. Bring your card instead of cash and save money. Tuesdays and Fridays: 9:30-11:30 a.m., ages: 18+, Thursdays: 6-8 p.m., \$5 drop-in.

**Men's Basketball**: ages 18+, Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m., January 2 – February 27, 2019, Municipal Gym, \$20 for session or \$3 drop-in.

**Canvas and Cupcakes**: Parent/Kid Paint Night Enjoy an evening of fun and creativity at this special adult/child paint night workshop. Professional artist, Joe Biegaj leads the class brushstroke by brushstroke to create a unique canvas painting. Enjoy some cupcakes, too! All materials included, no experience necessary. Children age 8 and up with an adult, Friday, February 1, 6-8 p.m., Park and Rec Activity Room in the Municipal Office Complex, \$60 per adult/child pair

**Take a Stab at Fencing**: The fencing class focuses on introducing students to the basics of fencing with two of the modern fencing weapons through solo and paired drills. All equipment is provided. An open fencing period follows class. It is a mixture of self-directed fencing bouts along with directed organized pool brackets. Ages 13+, Saturdays, January 12-February 16, 10-11 a.m., Open Fencing 11 am – noon, location: TBA, \$50 for session, \$5 drop-in fee for open fencing if not registered for class.

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# Architect, author explains design of his own home

By George Fellner, AIA

There are times when it may be appropriate for architecture to communicate with a multiple hybrid of styles and flavors. Back in 2000, this author and his wife Heidi acquired a rural, sloped site in East Haddam. With the intent of designing a home that has multiple layers of relevance and meaning, it became apparent that the house would somehow incorporate the favored tastes, memories, lifestyle, and aspirations of its inhabitants.

A respect for the vernacular architecture of New England consisting of Shingle Style homes and farmhouses, as well as the Arts and Crafts theme, along with sustainable strategies, certainly formed an integral part of our mindset for the design process. Simultaneously, the memories formed through a series of vacation trips to America's western National Parks, as well as to other rural regions, also played a significant role as frames of reference.

In order to translate these sparks of influence into design concepts, a sketchbook provided the means for a free-form exploration. The development of form and spatial relationships evolved with functional consideration of all living, entertainment, and activities of interest. In time, the complete exterior architecture, as well as the floor plan layouts were developed as free-hand sketches. Once this was accomplished, the design process followed through its refinements and details using CAD (Computer Aided Design) technology and resulted in the final construction documents. Ultimately, the house communicates as a New England Shingle Style-Farmhouse hybrid, with touches of National Park Lodge and Adirondack Camp, and with an Arts and Crafts flavor.

The placement of the house at the eastern end and high point of the site allows for an optimal contextual setting, accommodating a western view towards the Connecticut River valley and the hills beyond. The T-shaped plan is reinforced by the use of intersecting and shifting gable-hip roof



The author's home in East Haddam. Photo by George Fellner.

forms with projecting bays. A series of porches and multi-level decks with wood posts and braces, wood truss elements, and trellises borrow from National Park Lodge and Adirondack Camp architecture. The composed use of cedar clapboard siding, shakes, and trim work is associated with Shingle Style buildings. The deliberate use of periscopic/shifted gables and dormers, cupola with weather vane, barn door elements, and other features evoke farmhouses and associated bucolic structures. Simultaneously, the various roof forms and porches, light fixtures, and detail elements relate to the Arts and Crafts language. There is a notable and responsive difference in the east and west facades. The east facade has an informal entry garden courtyard; in contrast, the west facade is layered with three levels and a main wrap-around deck with an upper balcony deck, embracing the field.

Regarding the interior layout, the main floor consists of the entry, open kitchen/dining and great room, sunroom, canine room, half bath, and a master bedroom suite. The second floor has a photography studio/gallery loft, guest bedroom, and bathroom. The walkout basement level has another bedroom and bathroom, storage/mechanical space, and a workshop. There is also a T-shaped two-car detached garage, connected to the house with a

trellis walk. An interior tie-beam/brace roof system composed of 150 year-old timbers provides structural stability for both the great room space and the studio/gallery loft space.

In terms of integrated, sustainable strategies, they include optimal site/solar orientation, maximum pervious ground surfaces for natural drainage, stone retaining walls (excavated on-site), passive solar sun-space, geothermal heating and cooling system, natural ventilation, day lighting, high-efficiency wood fireplace and appliances, CFL and LED lighting, and recyclable materials. It was an honor to have this house featured in the book "Green Homes: Dwellings for the 21st Century" by E. Ashley Rooney, published in 2008.

East Haddam does seem to offer a fertile context for sustainable, vernacular design opportunities, as illustrated with Carlin Hill. Ultimately, architecture can have the propensity to communicate at many levels of relevance and meaning, expressed with a New England hybrid of styles.

George Fellner, AIA, architect and photographer, writes a monthly Column on the Architecture of East Haddam. Fellner Architects recently relocated to 382 Town St., East Haddam, CT. [gfellner@fellnerarch.com](mailto:gfellner@fellnerarch.com), websites: [fellnerarchitects.com](http://fellnerarchitects.com) and [gfellnerphotography.com](http://gfellnerphotography.com)



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# Funds, fund balances help track finances in town budget

This is the second in a series of articles about Funds and Fund Balances for East Haddam’s Government. Per the Board of Finance’s Financial Policies, the Town of East Haddam has 8 different types of Funds. They are:

1. **General Funds**, which account for everything not reported in another fund.
2. **Capital Reserve Funds**, which save for future capital needs in accordance with the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan.
3. **Capital Projects Funds**, which track the accumulation and use of resources for acquiring, rehabilitating or constructing capital assets such as buildings and roads. These funds can also be used for Debt Service for the Capital Projects.
4. **Special Revenue Funds** for reporting specific revenue sources limited to being used for a particular purpose.
5. **Permanent Funds**, which are used to hold principal amounts that are restricted to being invested to produce income but cannot be spent.
6. **Fiduciary Funds**, which the Town holds as a Trustee or agent on behalf of an outside party.
7. **Proprietary Funds**, which are dedicated to certain Town financial obligations.
8. **Other Funds**, which benefit the Town through interest income based on an initial principal amount that was set aside by a donor, i.e. Endowment Fund.

The types of Funds listed above are not Budgets. However, the Budgets for the Town use the different fund types to organize and account for all Town Government and Education Funding. For example, the **Town Government Budget** is compiled using 7 of the 8 types of funds as follows:

- A. **General Funds** for such items as Shared Services, Town Accounts payable and Town Payroll.
- B. **Capital Reserve Funds** for such items as Revaluation, Fire Department and Ambulance
- C. **Capital Projects Funds** for such items as Capital Projects (bonded) and Capital Grants
- D. **Special Revenue Funds** for such items as Library, Recreation Commission and Transfer Station
- E. **Permanent Funds** for such items as the A. E. Purple Fund
- F. **Fiduciary Funds** for such items as the Firefighter Pension and the Retirement Savings Plan
- G. **Other Funds** for such items as the Endowment Funds of which the Ray Board is one.

The balance sheets for the funds listed above report cash, receivables and liabilities. Receivables are reported as assets. Conversely, amounts owed, which are to be paid off, are reported as liabilities. In any given fund, the fund balance is essentially what is left over after the fund’s assets have been used to meet its liabilities.

In summary, with 8 different types of funds and each type covering multiple funds, East Haddam uses 50 funds to track the accumulation and spending of East Haddam’s finances.

*Sources: Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB), 2018-2019 East Haddam Budget Book, East Haddam Board of Finance Financial Policies*



Photo by Paul Fusco.

## Bears, bobcats are topic for East Haddam Land Trust meeting

The annual meeting of the East Haddam Land Trust on January 18 will feature a presentation, Bears & Bobcats, by Paul Rego, furbearing specialist for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The event is also a fundraiser for the Anita Ballek/EHLT Scholarship. The public is invited to the presentation at 7:15 as well as a basket raffle.

Since 1999, the scholarship fund has financially supported East Haddam students pursuing environmental studies in higher education. The scholarship is awarded annually to one graduating high school senior at Nathan Hale-Ray who has demonstrated civic mindedness and has submitted an essay on why he or she intends to pursue environmental sciences. Past recipients have gone on to careers in horticulture, forestry, and other environmental fields.

The meeting is at the East Haddam Senior Center at Great Hillwood Road in Moodus. Light refreshments and snacks will be served.

## CONTINUED FROM EH5

### Church listings

*Continued from page EH5*  
ages and backgrounds. Come find your way. For more information visit [www.ststeves.org](http://www.ststeves.org)

#### Westchester Congregational Church

449 Westchester Rd. (Route 149), Colchester  
Westchester Congregational Church has announced its current schedule of worship and upcoming events. We are located at 98 Cemetery Rd. in the Westchester section of Colchester, near Moodus, East Haddam, East Hampton, Marlborough, and Hebron. Sunday worship services are held at 10 am every Sunday, led by Interim Minister the Reverend Ron Lake with a Children’s Message, scripture readings, hymns, and music from the choir. The first Sunday of each month includes the Service of Communion which is open to everyone. All are invited to coffee hour every Sunday following the service in the fellowship hall.  
The Choir participates in weekly worship with an-thems. We are always looking for more choir members.

Our growing Kids and Toddlers Worship Program continues. It begins upstairs at 10 am and moves downstairs to the fellowship hall after the Children’s Talk by our pastor.  
Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the first Thursday of each month at different area restaurants.  
Scout Troop 109 meets every Tuesday during the school year at 7 pm in the church’s fellowship hall. Cub Scout Pack 109 meets one Friday a month at 7 pm also in the fellowship hall. Venturing Crew 710 meets every other Thursday at 7:15 pm.  
Al-anon holds weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.  
AA holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 8 pm.  
Community outreach opportunities are available at the Community Luncheons held each week at St. Andrews or Colchester Federated Church. More help is needed for this. We have many other Outreach activities. Please contact us.  
Our fellowship hall is available for rental. The Westchester Congregational Church is affiliated with The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, and all are welcome.



# New VW Jetta makes good argument for cars over SUVs

By Steven Rossi

Truth be told, I prefer cars compared to crossovers and sport utility vehicles. Call me old school, but to me cars are more comfortable, compact and concise. Admittedly, I'm part of a declining minority because trucks and sport utilities now outsell passenger cars 3 to 2. And that's too bad, because as a result, many buyers are simply unaware of what they're missing by abandoning the legacy of the universal car.

But while the traditional family sedan may be down, it's certainly not out, at least not if the all-new 2019 Volkswagen Jetta is any example. It is bigger and better than its predecessor in every way. What's more, its retail price is less.

According to VW, the Jetta is now based on new Modular platform architecture, tailored specifically for the American market: allowing "the designers to reshape the body, creating a longer wheelbase, wider track, and a shorter front overhang. The fast-sloping rear roofline translates into a coupe-like profile. Dynamic lines and taut surfaces combine with the new silhouette to give Jetta a look that's at once elegant, yet athletic."

This German-engineered and Mexican-manufactured four-door sedan sets a new standard for what's long been known as the "people's car," which is the English translation for Volkswagen. The price starts at an enticing \$18,545 for the base S model with a six-speed manual transmission, or \$19,345 with an optional automatic. The 2019 version includes more standard features than the previous Jetta, not to mention an enhanced, six-year/72,000-mile Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty. But the entry S edition is indeed a bit Spartan.

Power comes from a 1.4-liter, twin-cam, turbo-charged four cylinder. While its 147-horsepower rating is nothing to write home about, it does develop a responsive, 184 lb.-ft. torque, which is what really matters when you stomp on the accelerator. You can thank the turbo for the Jetta's respectable giddy-up and go. And something else to be thankful for is its



The 2019 VW Jetta: Bigger and better than its predecessor — at a lower retail price.

30 City/40 Hwy fuel economy performance, regardless of transmission choice.

Another advantage of the new, VW Modular platform is that it's stiff and structurally sound, and this contributes to handling accuracy, interior comfort and ride quality along with safety integrity. It's manufactured from high-strength steel and Bolt-on front fenders should improve repairability.

The Jetta is quiet and compliant, but firm, while nimble enough to certainly not be boring. It's clearly not a sport sedan, though it does hold its own when the two-lanes turn twisty. Front struts are combined with a cost-constrained, rear torsion beam arrangement. The standard wheel specification is 16-inch, aluminum alloy.

Interior-wise, this 2019 Volkswagen is upscale and modern, while simultaneously being logical and intuitive. The cockpit is canted toward the driver, with controls placed up high for accessibility. Trapezoidal design elements are featured and soft-touch materials are favored. Or in other words, form follows function.

Meanwhile, all 2019 Jetta models feature Volkswagen's MIB II touchscreen system. The display utilizes a capacitive-touch sensor (as in smartphone and tablet technology) rather than the more common resistive touchscreens that require pressure, enabling gesture controls like swiping and even pinch-zooming. It also includes what VW calls

Car-Net® connectivity. It's divided into three areas; "App-Connect," "Security & Service," and "Guide & Inform."

In my opinion, the Jetta that you betta getta is the mid-range R-Line. At \$22,995 it already includes the 8-speed automatic transmission, plus 17-inch wheels, fog lights, automatic climate control, heated leatherette seats, Forward Collision Warning and Blind Spot Detection. Along with an XDS® Cross Differential System, which acts like an electronic substitute for a traditional mechanical limited-slip differential, actively monitoring data from each wheel sensor. The system serves to improve stability, handling and cornering performance and is only available on the R model.

So while the Jetta has been fully redesigned for 2019, it hasn't been overdesigned, overengineered nor overpriced—which is just what you'd expect from a traditionally compelling and confident people's car.

Remember those?

*A resident of East Haddam, Steven Rossi is an automotive engineer turned marketing communicator. With some 25 years in the industry, including three tours of duty in Detroit, he serves as Senior Columnist for Antique Automobile magazine, and his work has also appeared in Collectible Automobile and The New York Times. He holds 21 International Speed and World Automotive Endurance Records.*



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pad, 6 chairs (couple need work) and Hutch. Send email to jobrien1041@gmail.com to reply/can send pictures as well. (1/17)

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CALENDAR

Ongoing

**Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group** meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Moodus Sportsmen’s Club, 299 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, Moodus at 7 p.m. All members of the community are welcome to attend, members and non-members. For more information, contact MRPG at Moodus.Reservoir@gmail.com. Visit MRPG and “Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook or on our website at MoodusReservoir.org.

**Adult Education offers free classes** for area residents ready to earn their high school diploma. English classes for non-English speaking residents are also available for all proficiency levels. Enrollment is ongoing and there is never a charge for residents of East Haddam and Moodus. Day and evening classes are available in Middletown, Killingworth and Old Saybrook. Call for more information (860) 343-6044.

**Monday Night Bingo** at American Legion Post #156, doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 6:40. Snacks available. 35 Neptune Avenue, Moodus.

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church’s The Reverend Adam Yates has started a new **Lectionary Study Group** every Thursday at 11:30 am at St. Stephen’s, 31 Main Street, East Haddam, CT. For more information visit [www.ststeves.org/event/lectionary-study-group/](http://www.ststeves.org/event/lectionary-study-group/)

Tuesday January 15

**VFW Post 3336 Meeting:** All eligible VFW members are invited to East Haddam/Moodus VFW Post 3336 January 15 meeting, which starts promptly at 7 p.m. at the American Legion, 35 Neptune Ave., Moodus. For more information contact Forrest Anderson 860-873-8712 or [forrest.l.anderson@mac.com](mailto:forrest.l.anderson@mac.com)

Wednesday, January 16

**4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Alzheimer’s support group meeting,** Support Group for Caregivers and Memory Club for those with Alzheimer’s at Chestelm Adult Day Services, 542 Town St., Moodus. For more information please call Liz at 860-873-3833.

Saturday, January 19

**Creatures of the Night,** Live Animals from Dennison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Saturday, January 19 at 2p.m. at Lyme Public Library. Free and open to all. Call to register, 860.434.2272

**February 3- April 30**

**Sculpture Exhibit:** new works by nationally renowned sculptor Gilbert Boro at the Main Street Gallery of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ) in Chester, Connecticut. “Coming Together,” a show highlighting works born out of Mr. Boro’s loss of his wife, will kick-off with an opening reception on Sunday, February 3 from 3 - 5 p.m. that is free and open to the public. It will be on display until April 30. The exhibit is a prequel to the unveiling of the synagogue’s planned “Meditation Garden,” anticipated to open in 2020.

February 9

**6:30 p.m. Valentine’s Love Fest,** Hadlyme North School, Hadlyme North School, corner of Town Street (Rt 82) and Bone Mill Road (across from Hadlyme Congregational Church). [www.hadlymenorth-school.org](http://www.hadlymenorth-school.org).

Saturday, February 12

**The Laughing Rabbit: A Mother, A Son, and The Ties That Bind.** A Book Reading and Signing with Patricia Horn O’Brien, Saturday, February 16 at 2p.m. at the Lyme Public Library. Free and open to all. Call to register, 860.434.2272



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March 16

**6:30 p.m. St. Patrick’s Day Celebration,** Hadlyme North School, Hadlyme North School, corner of Town Street (Rt 82) and Bone Mill Road (across from Hadlyme Congregational Church). [www.hadlymenorthschool.org](http://www.hadlymenorthschool.org).

**Irish Folktales and Songs**

With Ann Shapiro-master storyteller and musician

Saturday, March 16 at 2 p.m. at the Lyme Public Library. Free and open to all. Call to register, 860.434.2272

**April 20**

**6:30 p.m. April in Paris,** Hadlyme North School, Hadlyme North School, corner of Town Street (Rt 82) and Bone Mill Road (across from Hadlyme Congregational Church). [www.hadlymenorth-school.org](http://www.hadlymenorth-school.org).

May 12

**10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mother’s Day Brunch,** Hadlyme North School, Hadlyme North School, corner of Town Street (Rt 82) and Bone Mill Road (across from Hadlyme Congregational Church). [www.hadlymenorthschool.org](http://www.hadlymenorthschool.org).

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EH11



Connecticut Landmarks

Continued from page EH1

mence work rebuilding the historic barn on the Palmer-Warner property that was on the verge of collapsing. Previous work on the 1740 house since 2005 included re-roofing with asphalt shingles, as opposed to period-appropriate wooden ones. The OAG report excuses this non-historic effort thusly: “One complaint we heard concerned the installation of an asphalt roof on the 18th century Palmer-Warner house. This installation is acceptable for the house because, from a donor intent perspective, Metzger [the donor of the property] did not require CTL to maintain the house in 18th century form...Indeed, Palmer and Metzger themselves did not maintain the house as such.”

But the OAG report does cite deterioration and neglect of the Palmer-Warner property. For example, it quotes from an earlier study—this one at the behest of CTL itself in 2007—that indicated that the house was being ill cared for: “Mice have been nesting in papers and fabrics; dishes are sitting in the sink. During the winter of 2009, the house was not heated and the pipes burst, causing damage.”

In its summary of findings the OAG report states: “However, CTL did not have an adequate comprehensive program in place for the identification and reporting of maintenance and preservation issues at CTL’s various locations.” The organization owns 11

properties in Connecticut, including the Amasa Day House in East Haddam, which is no longer opened to the public as it had been in the past and is not included on the organization’s website.

CTL was also urged to: “develop more productive relationships with local area historical preservation societies. To that end, CTL should identify a liaison within CTL to be the contact person for the local historical societies in those towns in which CTL has a property.”

In its conclusion, the report refers to “issues of deterioration” and tasks CTL with setting “an inspection schedule” and identifying “an individual who will physically inspect each of CTL’s properties and all personal property at each location on a regular and ongoing basis for needed maintenance or preservation issues.”

The report also criticized CTL for its interpretation of proper use of charitable funds in two instances, including with regard to the Palmer-Warner Fund: “In the judgment of the OAG, CTL wrongly interpreted the proper use of charitable funds in two instances, improperly relying on an accounting rule that directs income to be treated as unrestricted assets unless the donor specifically states that income should be restricted.”

But the report did not find that CTL improperly diverted funds from the Palmer Memorial Fund, which

stood at \$1,527,682 as of September 30, 2018. It added, “Indeed, [CTL] has budgeted a total of \$688,338 for the Palmer-Warner Property for the current year. Although CTL has taken the position that the income from the Palmer Memorial Fund is unrestricted to purpose, CTL has spent the value of all the income accumulated from the Palmer Memorial Fund on the Palmer-Warner Property and is now spending money from other unrestricted funds on the Palmer-Warner Property. CTL’s interpretation of the Palmer Memorial Fund’s provisions has not led to a misuse of charitable funds.”

Among the report’s conclusions was for CTL to continue its work on the Palmer-Warner property: “CTL should continue all renovation, development, and cataloging activity at the Palmer-Warner Property with the goal of fully developing the Property to preserve its historic character and to provide access to the public.”

In a statement, Deputy Attorney General Perry Zinn Rowthorn, who oversaw the investigation (Attorney General Jepsen recused himself from the matter) wrote: “Our office has completed a comprehensive review of Connecticut Landmarks’ use of char-

itable funds, consistent with the Attorney General’s statutory authority to safeguard charitable assets. Connecticut Landmarks was forthcoming with information, and we have appreciated their cooperation throughout our review. We found no evidence of misappropriation of charitable funds, but have identified areas where we would like to see Connecticut Landmarks better address donor intent and the management and preservation of both its real and personal property. Accordingly, we are issuing this report today, but the matter will remain open within our office so that we can monitor the organization’s progress in the areas of need we have identified.”

Also in a written statement, Connecticut Landmarks wrote: “Connecticut Landmarks announced that it accepts the report of the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General (OAG). After reviewing the recommendations provided by the OAG, CTL will immediately initiate any recommended procedural and administrative changes contained in the review. CTL will promptly inform the OAG of the steps taken to comply with their recommendations so that the OAG may conclude its inquiry.”

Board of Selectmen

Continued from page EH3

the town will continue to pursue other brownfield remediation grants, such as one through the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which provides grants for brownfield assessment, clean-up, revolving loans, technical assistance, training, and research.

During the selectmen’s meeting, it was stated several changes would have to be made to the RFQ before it could be sent out to developers and published on the town’s web site, and that James Ventres, the town’s land use administrator, would finalize the RFQ.

Last summer, the town hired Eagle Environmental, a Terryville-based environmental hygiene firm dedicated to aiding towns manage hazardous building materials, to conduct an inspection of the old town offices property, located at 1 and 7 Main Street.

The town has received the report and is still going through it. It is unknown when it will be made available to the public, said First Selectman Emmett Lyman after the meeting.

Additionally, during the final public comments section near the end of the meeting, Bob Casner, who is a member of the town’s Economic Development Committee and owner of Casner Construction, spoke about the town’s new fee schedule in the Building Department, which recently were increased. The new fee schedule was enacted October 1, 2018, and was based on the costs of performing each service.

“We need to review that fee structure, based on what it costs the town, unless this is supposed to be a profit-making department,” he said. “Certainly the cost of providing those services are nowhere near what we’re paying for fee structures, and I think it needs to be reviewed from the standpoint of what is the cost to provide these services.”

Casner also noted the Building Inspector’s hours did not fall within typical business hours of the day, and stated it was difficult to schedule inspections because of the limited access to the official.

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