

East Haddam News

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

December 30, 2021

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Free weekly

Sanctuary gives pigs 2nd chance

By David De Lucia

Five years ago, East Haddam certified organic farmer Emily Mueller got a birthday present that would change her life forever. Her son gave her a pig. Yes, you read correctly.

Hercules, as he came to be called, was not just any old pig. He was a truly loveable soul, Mueller said, and she was smitten immediately. She soon discovered the therapeutic value of pigs, which led to a second pig, and then a third.

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Emily Mueller, left, and Jaclyn Carrera, of the local pig sanctuary Where Pigs Fly, are pictured with Willow, a rescue with medical issues. The pair founded their nonprofit organization about a year ago, with the main location at Mueller's farm in East Haddam.

Bridge project funding seen as secure with bill's passage

By David Holahan

A recently inked federal bill removes any possibility that the planned repair work to the East Haddam swing bridge will face funding shortfalls during the three-year project, officials said.

U.S. Rep Joe Courtney, D-2nd District, held a press conference in view of the bridge last week and lauded passage of the \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which will increase federal funding to Connecticut for roads and transit work by roughly \$5 billion, or 32 percent, over the next five years, according to Patrick Cassidy, a spokesman for Courtney's office.

While projects such as the swing bridge repairs, set to begin in April, are not mentioned specifically in federal bill — "It's up to the state to decide where to spend the money, determining what its priorities are," Cassidy said — the funding should give the state plenty of breathing room when it comes to the estimated \$58.2 million state Department of Transportation project.

Federal funds are slated to cover 80 percent of the project's cost, and officials said the IIJA erases any likelihood that the anticipated money will not be available in 2023 or 2024. The IIJA "gives us the resources we need for projects like this, and more," Courtney said on social media last week.

"There are years where the state says they have an expectation of x-amount of dollars from the federal government," said James Ventres, East Haddam land use administrator. "Then the funding is announced and they only get 50 percent of what they anticipated that year. This bill takes the worry out of the project's funding in the years ahead."

Extensive work on and upgrades to the 108-year-old swing bridge are set to run through the fall of 2024. The DOT website details the work to be done and will publish construction updates and periods of full or partial road closings at www.easthaddamswingbridgeproject.com.

There are no construction updates on the site now.

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Year in Review Part 2: Village plans and state champs

Editor's note: 2021 was a challenging year, for sure, but also one that saw hope and even triumph for residents of East Haddam and Moodus. What follows are some of the high and low lights of the previous 12 months. All 52 issues are available for viewing on our website: www.easthaddamnews.org; just click on previous issues. This is Part 2 of our Year in Review series, covering July through December. The series was written by David Holahan, who was editor of the East Haddam News for the majority of 2021 before stepping down in November.

July

The Guv comes to town

The July 1 issue of the East Haddam News reported that Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes visited town to take part in an environmental awards ceremony at Hidden Valley Farm Preserve, a 45-acre conservation easement along the Moodus River. One of the awards went to an East Haddam Land Trust video series titled "Saving Land, Saving History" and an associated museum exhibit at the East Haddam Historical Society & Museum. The videos can be viewed at www.ehlt.org.

Vision for Amasa Day House

Connecticut Landmarks held an open house at the Amasa Day House in Moodus, and Aaron Marcavitch



Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont congratulates filmmaker Ken Simon for producing the award-winning East Haddam Land Trust videos.

Photo credit: Ralph Chappell

spoke about possible activities that could be hosted there, such as Shakespeare on the lawn of the 3-acre property.

Annual shad bake

More than 400 people attended the 77th Annual Shad Bake at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club. In 2020, the

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Ornament ‘Décor Chest’ originated in East Haddam

By Christopher Pollock

Editor’s note: The following historical essay was written by Christopher Pollock, a former East Haddam resident who is semi-retired in San Francisco, where he is the Historian in Residence for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. I hope it pairs nicely with the annual ritual of packing away your Christmas ornaments until next year.

The plastic tubs or soft-sided cases with plastic trays used by many today to store their Christmas ornaments have an old-school cardboard predecessor with East Haddam roots.

The concept of storing Christmas ornaments in an efficient way came about in 1958. It started when Jim Wynn, co-owner of Parsnip Hollow Products in East Haddam, was carrying shoe boxes full of tree decorations downstairs from the attic and fell.

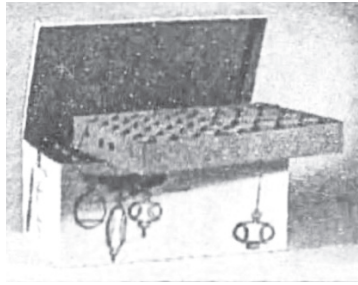
One of the bywords of post-World War II was efficiency in all things, especially domestic. Up to that time ornaments were removed from the tree after the holidays and probably returned to the many small cardboard boxes that they originally came in, which were divided with eggcrate sections.

World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient James R. Wynn (1925-2004) came up with an idea. Why not scale up the idea into a larger heavy-duty version of that box and cut down on all the little boxes to be stored?

In 1958 Wynn started to produce and sell his Décor Chest, a product that was a large, rectangular corrugated cardboard box with separate lid. There were two layers of trays that could be lifted out of the box. The trays, which had sides, were filled with eggcrate to cradle the ornaments. There was also storage for lights and tinsel.

The boxes were partially assembled using giant staples and then shipped knocked down with the additional water-based tape materials required for the customer to finish creating the three-dimensional box and tray structures. (Later knock-offs of the idea did not have the sides on the tray and were difficult to use and structurally insufficient to hold the weight.) The first boxes were a cheery solid holiday red color on the outside with an applied white label centered on the top of the lid. But soon after, the exterior was changed to a snow-white box with green overprinting of Christmas ornaments depicted in simple line drawings.

The corrugated portions were fabricated by the Jackson Corrugated Container Corporation in Middletown, which was established in 1949 and run by the Herlihy family. The box’s parts were assembled by Parsnip Hollow staff in the historic Smith Mill (later as the Brownell Mill which made twine) in Moodus, on the Moodus River. Later Wynn and his life and business partner, Amos W. Shepard, had an addition built onto their residence’s freestanding garage so the business could be close at hand.



As teenagers, both my older brother David and I worked there on weekends before and after Christmas assembling the parts for shipping out across the country. Several other local teens worked there as well over time. The chest was advertised in the New York Times magazine, and many other periodical publications, starting in 1963, which brought in orders from all over the country. Besides being available in retail stores, they were also sold in the company’s first retail shop, known as the Hustle Bustle, initially located in a cozy space (now the executive director’s office) in the newly restored and reopened Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam in 1963.

The next year a larger shop was established across the street called Parsnip Hollow, in a space that previously held the U.S. Post Office in the Town Hall building. The shop’s final location was in a converted Greek Revival style residence next door. The last known advertisement in the New York Times was in 1997 with a Deep River mailing address — after 39 years of production.

Wynn was a man with ideas and imagination, especially when it came to promotion. He left New York City in the later 1950s after a career as a coordinator at NBC TV. One promotional stunt to get the product noticed took place in the summer of 1960. He filled 300 brown bottles, each with a gift certificate for a chest. Once sealed they were scattered within the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as well as the Gulf of Mexico by Wynn’s friends around the country. He sent press releases out across the country. Five years later one of the bottles was found in Hillsborough Bay, Tampa, Fla., by fisherman Jerome Waite. Waite turned to a local news writer who investigated the situation, and Wynn revealed that 93 gift certificates were returned over time from a wide variety of places. One was even retrieved from Middlesex County, England!

A few years ago, I attended an annual Christmas party at fellow

Glow member Joseph Pecora’s Victorian-era home in San Francisco that was filled top to bottom with historic Christmas ornamentation. While touring all the house’s holiday splendor, I spied a Décor Chest in his attic storage room stacked among all the other knock-off design boxes used to store his holiday treasures. But that one was the first in its league, and with no patent on the design, it spawned a host of similar storage chests for all those keepsake ornaments we treasure.

Bridge project funding seen as secure with bill’s passage

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A spokesperson for the DOT did not respond to the question of whether there is a specific date for the work to start and what the first few months of the project would entail.

DOT spokesman Kafi Rouse did report that the sidewalks on the East Haddam side leading to a 6-foot-wide pedestrian walkway across the south side of the bridge would be paid for with federal and town funds. The cost to the town was estimated in 2020 to be as much as \$250,000.

The DOT anticipates 25 total road closures in the area, with each scheduled for a 63-hour period. In addition, 23 weeks of alternating one-way traffic across the bridge are anticipated during the project.

The scope of the bridge work includes deck, floor and string replacement, truss strengthening, substructure patching and major mechanical and electrical upgrades, among other items.

A press release from Courtney’s office stated: “In Connecticut, there are 248 bridges and over 2,100 miles of highway in poor condition. In 2018, the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers graded the state’s overall infrastructure at a disappointing C-, while wastewater and roads were graded at a dismal D+.”

The IIJA passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a 221-201 vote, with two Republicans joining united Democrats in approving the spending. In the Senate, the bill passed 69-30, with 19 Republicans voting with the Democrats.

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DOT offers \$10 Uber incentive to reduce DUI

From Department of Transportation press release

After an overwhelming response during the Thanksgiving holiday, the Connecticut Department of Transportation Office of Highway Safety has announced the return of its Uber promotion for the rest of the holiday season with a \$10 discount code to ride with Uber. The effort to reduce impaired driving comes as traffic fatalities continue to rise in Connecticut and across the country.

The new discount code, CTRIDESAFE, will be available on Friday and Saturday night, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, between 5 p.m. and 4 a.m. The code can only be used once per account and is only valid while funds last.

This program was funded through an additional grant from the Governors Highway Safety Association, in partnership with Uber. Connecticut is one of only five states to receive this grant.

Ride-hailing services have been shown to reduce crash and impaired driving rates by offering an alternative to getting behind the wheel impaired, according to the DOT.

To redeem the one-time \$10 discount code from Uber, riders will need to enter the code CTRIDESAFE into the Uber app.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/CThighwaysafety/

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Local Republicans' new leader: Join us

Recently there has been a leadership change in the East Haddam Republican Town Committee (EHRTC) and I wanted to invite registered Republicans — both past members and potential new members — to consider joining with others who are committed to our beautiful town.

I was honored to accept the nomination as chairman of the EHRTC, along with newly elected Vice Chairman Bryan Goff. We are both committed to bringing a positive voice to the causes fellow Republicans hold dear like fiscal conservatism, transparency and pushing back against the creep of socialism that so many of us are concerned about as we listen to the policies coming out of our federal and state governments.

Over the next several weeks we will be talking with our friends and neighbors to grow our membership as we work to support the slate of newly elected local Republicans who swept into office this past November. East Haddam is a wonderful community and relies on a form of government that is carried out largely by a group of volunteers of all backgrounds, strengths and passions. We want to help move our community forward.

The caucus to nominate new members of the EHRTC will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 6 at the Municipal Town Office Complex. It is open to all registered Republicans. Regular meetings of the EHRTC are held the third Thursday of each month normally, but in January our regular

meeting will be on Jan. 27. If you are a former member or brand new to politics, I look forward to seeing you.

Please consider joining others who are committed to liberty, freedom, and opportunity. Please reach out to me via social media or send an email to easthaddamrepublicans@gmail.com and I will get back to you.

Enjoy East Haddam and the many hamlets within our community this holiday season! Our town has so much to be grateful for and opportunities abound all around us. I wish you all happiness, health and prosperity in the New Year.

Melissa Ziobron
Chairman, East Haddam Republican Town Committee

East Haddam Parks & Rec offers programs

East Haddam Parks and Recreation has a new website and registration system. Please go to www.easthaddamrec.com. Click on the "Create New Account" link to open your account and gain easier access to program registration. Be sure to add all the members of your household into the account. Don't forget to enter your cell number with the carrier so we can text you with any last-minute changes. Your new household account will provide you with registration history, financial history and much more. We look forward to enjoying this enhanced registration experience with you.

18+ Pick-up Basketball: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays Jan. 3, 10, 24 and 31 (no Jan. 17); and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27. \$25 for all eight days or \$5 to drop in.

Pickleball: Ages 18 and up in Municipal Gym. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30

a.m. Mondays Jan. 3, 10, 24 and 31 (no Jan. 17), \$16 for session. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, \$16 for session. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Fridays Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, \$16 for session. 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, \$16 for session. Register online; \$5 drop-in; or purchase pickleball club card \$40 for 10 days of play.

Gentle Yoga: This class is appropriate for all levels of fitness or yoga

experience. Ages 16 and up. Improve your strength and flexibility while decreasing stress. Enjoy moving your body and breathing mindfully! This class will be offered online via Facebook Live (may offer in person as well — TBA shortly). 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, \$80 for eight classes or \$12 for a single class. New session runs through Feb. 2. Please call the office (860) 873-5058 if you need financial assistance



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Year in Review Part 2: Village plans and state champs

Continued from page EH1

event was not held for the first time since 1944 due to the pandemic.

August

I-Park's birthday

I-Park, an international, multi-disciplinary artists' colony set within a 450-acre nature preserve in East Haddam, celebrated its 20th year of creating art in nature.

First day of school

East Haddam's three schools opened on Aug. 30 with all students in the classrooms and eating again in the

cafeterias, and with sports back to nearly normal. Social distancing was 3 feet, masks still required indoors, and more than 90 percent of staff were vaccinated — 93 percent by November.

September

Redevelopment Agency?

Town attorneys began working out the details for establishing a redevelopment agency to oversee the development projects in the East Haddam Village.

Cumby Farms site sold

The long-vacant Cumberland Farms site on Route 149 was sold to a developer, Shahani Fuel, for \$150,000. The new owners said they hoped to open a retail operation of some sort there within a year.

October

Town acquires open space parcel

East Haddam voters overwhelmingly voted on Oct. 5 to support the purchase of 124 acres of open space on the northeast side of town. The town is set to pay \$199,100 towards the \$328,000 sale price, with the rest from state and private sources.

Developers pause

In a letter to the East Haddam News, Centerbridge Group developers Jeff Riley and Mary Wilson expressed frustration with the length of time it has taken the town to bring their plans for the East Haddam Village before the voters, calling the delays costly. Saying the upcoming election was of paramount importance to their project, the couple stated that they were "pausing to assess our options." The letter appeared in the Oct. 21 issue, which also carried four full-page ads from Centerbridge Group.

November

GOP sweep

Republicans were big winners in the election, taking back the Board of Selectmen from the Democrats. Now-First Selectman Irene Haines and Erik Dill won seats on the three-member board along with incumbent Democrat Theresa Govert. Republicans won other races as well, including claiming all three open seats on the East Haddam Board of Finance and upsetting incumbent town Treasurer Kathleen Klinck, who had held that position for 22 years.

Runners capture state title

The Nathan Hale-Ray High School boys cross-country team won the Class S state championship. The Noises'

Sean Kennedy-Wonneberger was the first-place overall finisher in the race at Wickham Park in Manchester with a time of 17:01, with teammates Michael Kraszewski, Matthew Kraszewski, Mamush Ciccarello, Andrew Kittleman, Griffin Kelly and Avery Gugliotti following behind.

No to marijuana, for now

The East Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission on Nov. 9 unanimously passed a temporary and limited moratorium on cannabis establishments in East Haddam, effective Dec. 15. The state, which legalized adult recreational use of marijuana in June, allows for one license in a community of up to 25,000 residents. One application for a sales license on Town Street had already been submitted to the P&Z Commission and because it predates Dec. 15, it is proceeding through the regulatory process. The commission has deferred approval or rejection of the P&Z application into 2022.

Village vote deferred to 2022

Amid objections and concerns from residents and some town officials, town leaders agreed to push the referendum on the Swing Bridge Landing proposal into 2022 for further study.

December

EHVRC comes to an end

The East Haddam Village Revitalization Committee ended its service to the town, having selected a potential developer for the town to consider for the property across from the Goodspeed Opera House. The committee was first formed in 2006. At its final meeting some members expressed frustration with the opposition that Centerbridge Group's proposal has received.

Happy Route 82 trails?

East Haddam and the nonprofit Connecticut Landmarks are exploring the possibility of establishing a walking/biking trail paralleling Town Street (Route 82) for more than two miles, from the intersection of Route 82 and Mount Parnassus Road south to Cold Spring Road.

Continuing COVID-19 concerns

The year is ending as it started — with concern about a surge of the virus. The Chatham Health District reported that cases in late 2021 in East Haddam and the six-town district were higher than they were in 2020, although hospitalizations were not as high.

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Sanctuary gives pigs 2nd chance

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At first Mueller raised the pigs purely as pets. Then word got around in the community that she was an extraordinary caretaker of the animals. Pigs were put on her doorstep in the middle of the night, some abandoned, others neglected and a few that were old and sick.

Mueller kept many of them on her 15-acre farm. She soon realized the pigs' needs were considerable. At that point, she met Jaclyn Carrera, a fellow pig lover living in Bolton. The two women applied for a permit to create a pig rescue/sanctuary, and about one year ago, Where Pigs Fly took wing.

The main location of the sanctuary is Mueller's farm near Devil's Hopyard in East Haddam, where there are nine animals. In addition, Carrera has three more pigs at the Bolton site.

The mission of Where Pigs Fly is to provide a safe haven for animals that have been abandoned, abused or otherwise neglected. Mueller provides most of the hands-on experience, whereas Carrera, a former veterinarian, provides the behind-the-scenes know-how and technical assistance. Animals are re-homed if they are well enough and in other cases remain on site for the rest of their lives.

One example of the latter is Willow, who was overused for breeding and had no real life of her own; her existence was that of a "cash cow" — perhaps "cash pig" is more accurate. Her previous owners wanted to discard her after she developed severe osteoarthritis in her left shoulder and could no longer bear children. At that point, Where Pigs Fly acquired Willow and

is actively seeking an operation at Cornell which will hopefully ease her arthritis and allow Willow to lead a more normal life.

Another current resident of Where Pigs Fly is Madonna. Like her namesake, this 4-month-old is a bundle of energy and more like a puppy than a typical pig. She was removed from poor circumstances in Conway, N.H., and was given a new lease on life. Madonna ate from the author's hand and likes to be touched — unusual for a pig. She is being trained as a "therapy pig," a special helping pig which can visit nursing homes and elementary schools.

Mueller said that Madonna even watches television with her in bed. Her favorite program? Why, surveillance video of the farm's eight other pigs, of course!

With all these pigs around there is never a dull moment for the rescue's founders. Carrera recalled a recent episode in which she was cleaning out her pantry in Bolton. She took a few boxes outside, and when she returned, somehow her pig named Bob had gotten into the pantry. She opened the door and the pig suddenly popped out, giving her quite a scare. Needless to say, Bob has not been seen anywhere near the pantry since.

Although Where Pigs Fly is the recipient of some corporate sponsorship, the nonprofit organization relies on public donations to help defray the costs of caring for the rescued pigs. It also has fund raisers from time to time, such as a recent quilt raffle that raised more than \$1,000. Mueller and Carrera are excited about a new raffle for a pig-shaped cutting board,

carved by Carrera's husband. For more information and to make a donation, go to www.facebook.com/wherepigsfly10.

Where Pigs Fly accepts both farm hogs and American mini pigs. The latter are a mere 400 to 800 pounds, while the farm hog can grow to 1,200 pounds or greater, Mueller and Carrera said. Few people know that pigs can live 25 years, although 20 years is more typical. They can have up to four litters a year, and a typical litter consists of four to 16 piglets. Pigs are unique in that every winter and summer they "blow" their coat and become hairless for a short period. They are very intelligent animals, and often anticipate what a person is thinking, Mueller said.

So if you are thinking about supporting this cause, the pigs may already know, and Where Pigs Fly would doubtless appreciate your consideration.

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Newspaper thanks donors for their support

The East Haddam News would like to thank the following people for their support, received since the last list was published on Dec. 23:

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 Luke and Tracy (Clough) Krzyzanowski

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We can be found at PO Box 202, East Haddam, CT 06423. Contributions of \$20 are Voluntary Subscriber level; \$50 gifts are Patron level; and \$100 donations are Contributor level.

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSE COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTION

The East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission, at a regular meeting of December 21, 2021, took the following action:

- Approved with Conditions: #W21-16 - 3 East Shore Drive, Vincent & Regina Aitoro (property owners), construction of a proposed three (3) season addition. Map 071, Lot 56.
- Approved with Conditions: #W21-17 - 26 Grist Mill Road, Gary Bogan (property owner), installation of a proposed ground mounted solar installation. Map 065, Lot 026.
- Approved with Conditions: #W21-18 - Roaring Brook Preserve, Side stream, unnamed stream street crossing, Town of East Haddam (property owners), proposed hiking trail.
- Approved: #21-19 - 428 Hopyard Road, DRA, LLC (property owner), construction of a proposed ADA walkway and elevated deck.

Dated at East Haddam, CT this 22nd day of December, 2021
 Randolph Dill, Chairman

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The East Haddam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing and meeting on Tuesday, January 04, 2022, 7:00 pm at the Municipal Office Building, Meeting Room #2 to hear the following:

Appeal #1147 - 11 East Shore Drive, Ryan Hartman (property owner), to appeal the ruling of the Zoning Enforcement Official on the lot merger for 3 East Shore Drive. Pursuant to 8.1.2 of the Zoning Regulations. Assessor's Map 071, Lot 060, 058 & 106.

At this hearing interested persons shall be heard and Correspondence received.

Dated at East Haddam, CT this 1st day of December 2021.

J. Gregory Daigle, Chairman

Local non-commercial classifieds are free: Deadline is two weeks before publication. We will run them for four weeks or until you tell us to stop. Email them to: Editor@easthaddamnews.org.

FOR SALE

LAWN EQUIPMENT: Troy-Bilt Pony 4-horsepower rear-tine roto-tiller, needs carb cleaned. Best offer. Troy-Bilt 8-horsepower chipper vac, recoil and electric start options, with lawn vacuum and hose attachments. Best offer. Gravely walk-behind 13.5-horsepower tractor, electric start, less than 315 hours on engine, with 30-inch brush mower, 48-inch three-position plow and sulky. Best offer over \$3,000. (12/23)

TV & SOUND BAR: Samsung Class 7 Series 55" Smart Tizen 4K LED TV (UN7000FXZA). Samsung 5.0 channel S Series sound bar, Acoustic Beam and Alexa built in (HW-S60A, 2021 model). Both brand

new, never opened, still in the box. \$600. Call (860) 873-1693. (12/30)

TONNEAU COVER: New, still in box, never used 2015-2020 Ford F-150 Supercrew 5.7' pickup bed tonneau cover, has FORD emblem on rear panel, inner locking and secure. Selling for \$600. Call (860) 463-7206. (1/6)

WOOD TURNING LATHE: Rikon 70-1218VS 3/4-horsepower variable-speed lathe with Nova G3 four-jaw chuck kit. The chuck includes three sets of jaws. Lathe has 12-inch swing with 18-inch bed. All accessories and manual included. \$325. Call (860) 895-3929 (1/13)

WANTED

WOOD STOVE: Do you have an old wood stove you're not using? I'm looking for a stove to heat my barn workshop. Call (860) 478-0405.



Communication from the Board of Finance

How the Campaign for the "Quint" Grant was won

A successful businessman once said that the secret to a business's success is being able to take advantage of a good opportunity when it arrives. The \$905,000 grant awarded to East Haddam for the purchase of a Quintuple (five purpose) fire engine is a clear example of the results from the coupling of timely preparation and an unforeseen opportunity that has led to a great success. The new "Quint" is expected to be delivered to East Haddam in the February to March 2022 timeframe.

Background

Every year Congress allots funding for Firefighting Equipment through the National Firefighting Academy in the form of Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG). A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released. The NOFO defines the eligibility requirements. News of the NOFO got out through the communication and discussion through the network of Regions of municipal fire departments. The East Haddam Fire Department (EHFD) is within Region #1 of the AFG Program. A member of the EHFD, Steve Dorfman, had been taking the Grant Writing Courses offered by Region #1 in early 2020. While taking these courses, he networked with knowledgeable firemen and learned when and where to look for grant opportunities.

Congress provided Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) funding in 2020 grants for fire trucks and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The Grant Process for the "Quint" included application form submittal, evaluation, applicant selection and award announcement. The challenge was to provide the required valid and complete information by the deadline in May of 2020.

The work performed to complete a successful grant application was clearly a team effort. The Grant Submittal Team consisted of EHFD volunteers, career firefighters and Finance Department Staff. The principal contributors were Steve Dorfman, Eric Kolasinski, Ryan Warner and Cindy Varricchio. The application focused on the need for a capable ladder truck in town to replace the current ladder truck and another non-ladder truck. The information research needed for the grant submittal covered the following: Risk Analysis, Background on the current ladder truck (Engine #1), need for a ladder truck, Background on the non-ladder truck (Engine #2), General Maintenance History, Record and Analysis of the past 3 years for the type of calls as applied to 8 categories, Breakdown of the last 3 years of EHFD budget (Capital and Manpower). In addition, the Team had to prepare for an audit of the information by FEMA and data verification. The information research, completion of the application and application submittal required over 330 hours of time by fire department personnel.



This is a photo of the cab of East Haddam's Quint in the early stages of fire engine manufacture.

Grant Application, Evaluation and Selection Process

There is a timeline for submission and a scoring process for award selection. The steps and actual timeline are as follows:

EHFD became aware of the NOFO	February 2020
EHFD and Finance completed the research for the Grant Application	April 2020
EHFD and Finance completed the Grant Application	April 2020
EHFD submitted the Grant Application	May 10, 2020
Automated Scoring of the Application completed	Summer 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Computer software looks for certain variables, statistics, key words. 	
Completed Review by a Peer Review Panel.	Summer 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Panel is composed of Fire Chiefs from various organizations. b. Panel met virtually due to COVID-19. 	
FEMA completed a final eligibility and validity review	Summer 2020
Notification of Award Selections	August 19, 2020

Key Factors for the Award

The Key Factors for the Award of the Grant for the "Quint" are as follows:

- The EHFD had a genuine need because the sole ladder truck was unserviceable and a second fire truck was being removed from service.
- The acquisition of the "Quint" was part of the EHFD's drive to be more efficient with less fire trucks and less manpower needed. The "Quint" showed the potential for significant long term savings.
- The "Quint" performs 5 functions as follows: 1. Aerial Ladder, 2. Ground Ladder, 3. Pumper, 4. Tanker (750 gallons) and 5. First Response to Medical Emergencies
- The "Quint" is very versatile. It can be used for all types of rescue: High Angle, Low Angle, Extraction and Water Rescue
- Instead of having 3 personnel dedicated to operating 3 vehicles, only one operator is needed to operate the "Quint".
- The ability of the Town to pay for the "Quint" was not a factor in the award selection.

Other Items of Interest

- There were no negative strings with this "Quint" Award. The only strings were that the ladder truck (Engine #1) must be scrapped, the Engine #2 must be sold as a fire apparatus for some other fire department and the Town is to contribute 10% of the cost for the purchase of the "Quint".
- The EHFD's "Quint" Award was the third highest in monetary value (\$904,761) for the 1,769 Awards nationwide. The Award missed second place by only \$1,000.
- For 2020, there were 8,376 applications for the AFGs. Out of the 8,376 applications there were 1,769 Awards. It is not known how many applications were for the "Quint". They were probably in the hundreds.
- The support from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and the Finance Department was very much appreciated. The support enabled the Town to have ability to do the actions and reap the benefit.

Written by members and staff of the East Haddam Board of Finance

Freshman runner models himself after dad, brother



Matthew Kraszewski, a freshman at Nathan Hale-Ray High School and an accomplished cross-country runner, is the school's Athlete of the Week.

Freshman Matthew Kraszewski is Nathan Hale-Ray High School's Athlete of the Week. Matthew earned this award because of his efforts and dedication to the Hale-Ray varsity cross-country team. Many people have heard of three-sport athletes but Matthew is a four-sport athlete, competing in cross-country, indoor track, outdoor track and soccer. Hale-Ray journalists Nikki Sikorski and Jackie Goetz interviewed Matthew for this week's Athlete of the Week spotlight article.

Matthew's family is very supportive of everything he does and has helped him to the spot he is in right now. Matthew's dad has had a major impact on his athletic performance even from middle school. It would mean a lot to Matthew if his brother, Michael, could go to all of his meets, since he motivates Matthew and pushes him to reach his greatest potential. Matthew stated that his hero is either his brother or his dad because of how dedicated they are to what they do, how they help him to achieve his goals and how they are role models to him.

Matthew holds the Nathan Hale-Ray High School record for having the fastest cross-country race time as a freshman and also is the first male freshman to earn All-State at Hale-Ray. Matthew appreciates his teammates and described them as "funny kids who create a positive environment for everyone but still push each other to continue to improve every day." His goals for his high school career are to continue to get good grades (keep up his As and Bs), and to earn All-State honors in all his sports.

Beyond sports, Matthew is a part of Straight from the Heart, a service-based club that serves members of the East Haddam and Moodus community. Matthew surrounds himself with people who are positive and those who are true to who they are and don't pretend to be something they're not. After high school, he will seek out those who inspire and challenge him. Matthew would like to play a sport in college, as sports will provide him with a mental edge and help him achieve his future goals.

CALENDAR

Editor's note: To ensure timely publication, please send your event announcement to the newspaper at least two weeks prior to its date, to editor@easthaddamnews.org.

January 1

The Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise State Parks and the East Haddam Land Trust are teaming up to ring in the New Year naturally. Join them Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, for the annual First Day Hike. They will gather at the kiosk at Machimoodus State Park, 128 Leesville Road in Moodus, at 1 p.m. From there, several experienced trail leaders will be ready to set off in all directions, with different levels of activity and terrain available. This family-friendly event is open to the public, leashed dogs included. Please follow COVID safety protocols — check the groups' websites or social media feeds for current guideline updates.

January 10-12

East Haddam's municipal building has a Wall-of-Honor display remembering all those who have served our country in the armed forces, from early militias, French & Indian War, the Revolution and continuing to present day — an estimated 3,500 local men and women. It includes a digital presentation honoring the military service of over 300 of our residents. Wall-of-Honor workshops will be returning this coming January. East Haddam residents, past and present, who have served or are serving are entitled to have their service recognized on East Haddam's Wall-of-Honor. A brief military

history; years served, branch, highest rank, occupation, duty stations, etc. and a picture or two, in uniform, will be digitally scanned this month on:

Monday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Senior Center on Great Hillwood Road, Moodus

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Rathbun Library on Main Street, East Haddam

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the East Haddam Free Public Library on Plains Road, Moodus

If it is more convenient, you may e-mail your military information and digital photos directly to forrest.l.anderson@mac.com. Other appointments may be made by calling (860) 873-8712.

Free educational services offered

Do you know a high school student that has fallen behind because of the pandemic and is overwhelmed? Middletown Adult Education is a free educational service that your town provides and can help. We offer alternative high school completion programs for those who need to get back on track.

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