

East Haddam News

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

April 5, 2018

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Free weekly

Public hearing to review proposed 2018–19 town budget: Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m., Hale–Ray High School

Resident's death ruled a homicide; investigation continues

By Barbi Batchelder

Police continue to investigate the death of North Moodus Road resident 56-year-old Sandra Kalosky, which has been ruled a homicide.

State police from Troop K in Colchester and detectives from the Eastern District Major Crime Squad responded to a house on that street Friday, March 23, at about 5:22 p.m. to

investigate the report of a suspicious death.

The victim, who lived at the same address, died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head, upper body and

extremities, said a representative of the state medical examiner's office.

Police have said that there is no threat to the general public, and the case remains under investigation.

ARE TWO MAJOR EAST HADDAM LANDMARKS IN PERIL?



Palmer–Warner house, right, with historic barn on the left. Photos by Russell Shaddox.



Rotted and missing siding, floors and beams mean that renovating the property's historic barn will be a daunting and expensive task.



Concern growing for historic homes

By David Holahan

Ongoing concern in town about the condition of two historic East Haddam homes, along with a series of recent columns in the *The Day* newspaper that were critical of Connecticut Landmarks (CTL), the nonprofit entity that owns the properties, has brought the issue to a head locally as well as in Hartford.

At a March 21 meeting, citizens and members of town organizations, including the East Haddam Historical Society, discussed possible solutions to what several participants

described as the long-term neglect of the Palmer–Warner House and barn, as well as of the Amasa Day House. Neither house has been regularly open to the public in years.

Meanwhile in Hartford, the Office of the Attorney General is scrutinizing CTL for its stewardship of its 11 properties statewide, writing in an email to the *East Haddam News*: “Our office is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of Connecticut Landmarks’ processes and performance in complying with charitable restrictions and obligations on assets it holds and manages, which

Continued on page EH6

In This Issue: To the Editor, EH3 • Police news, EH5 • Live music, EH6 • Local architecture, EH9 • Calendar, EH10

What's the Buzz..



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What the real problem is

There are always calls for “gun control” by politicians and liberal activists in the wake of tragedies, placing the blame on an inanimate object, rather than the deranged individual. How would banning lawful ownership of firearms stop shootings? Why were there no calls for “vehicle control” in the aftermath of the attacks in Nice, France, and New York City, where terrorists drove cars and trucks into crowds of innocent people? They did not blame the vehicle, so why are they blaming the gun?

While the nation remembers the tragedy of the Sutherland Springs Baptist Church shooting last December, many do not know Stephen Willeford. When Stephen learned of the shooter, he immediately grabbed his AR-15. Not stopping to put on shoes, he ran barefoot to the church and engaged the shooter. Willeford shot the gunman twice, who then sped off in an SUV. Willeford flagged down a passerby and engaged the shooter in a high-speed chase. The gunman committed suicide. Had it not been for Willeford’s actions, many more would have perished at the hands of that madman. Instead of praising Willeford, mainstream news focused on promoting “gun control,” because his story does not fit their anti-gun agenda. How much news coverage did the heroic resource officer in Maryland get for stopping that recent school shooting? One day.

Instead of blaming an inanimate object for the actions of madmen, and punishing law abiding Americans who own that object, we must place the blame on the person and what made them commit that atrocity, be it radical Islamic terrorism, mental illness, the breakdown of the family, or video game violence. That’s where our focus should be. How are new gun laws (22,000 already exist) going to prevent madmen from stealing, making, or using other inanimate objects as weapons?

Eric Sikorski
East Haddam

Help keep turtles safe this spring

Winter has turned to spring, turtles will soon be on the move, and many will be on the losing end of encounters with motor vehicles. Even without that danger, very few turtles survive long enough to reach adulthood. A turtle of breeding age is vital to the survival of its species. This is especially true of those on the Endangered and Special Concern list, including box and wood turtles. With this in mind, please

Letters to the Editor

The *East Haddam News* publishes, at its discretion, letters to the editor on topics of local interest from a broad spectrum of viewpoints. Their opinions reflect the views of the writers, not that of this newspaper. Letters may be edited for grammar. They should be 300 words or fewer. To be considered for publication they must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Frequency of submissions from a single writer or group will be a factor in deciding whether to publish a letter.

be on the lookout for traveling turtles. The best thing is to drive slowly on streets that are near to wet areas. However, some kinds of turtles live in drier areas as well and might be seen crossing any road.

To help a turtle to cross a road safely, here are a couple of tips:

- 1. Before getting out of your car to help the turtle, make sure that you will not be run over.
- 2. Place the turtle on the side that it is heading toward or it will just try to cross the road again. An exception to this rule is if the turtle is heading toward a dangerous area, such as an even busier road or construction site. See information below.

Don’t take a turtle from the wild for a pet.

Never release a pet turtle into the wild.

Do not relocate turtles; many kinds are territorial and probably won’t survive. Seek advice from an expert.

Here is a list of contacts for help with an injured turtle, one that had to be rescued because it was heading toward danger, or for help identifying the species of a found turtle.

The New York Turtle and Tortoise Society: nyttts.org
DEEP Wildlife Division 79 Main St. Hartford:
860-424-3011
Sessions Woods WMA Burlington, Conn.:
860-675-8130
Connecticut Wildlife Rehabilitators Association:
203-389-4411

Maureen Heidtmann
DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist
East Hampton

Local architect joins Centerbrook firm

Cassie Archer of East Haddam has joined the architectural staff of Centerbrook Architects & Planners, according to a recent release from the firm.

Archer, who grew up in Nigeria and England, previously worked at Kenneth Boroson Architects in New Haven, where she was a senior job captain. After graduating from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in architecture, Archer began her career as a designer in California. She now lives in East Haddam with her husband.

Also joining the firm is Mystic resident René Brakels, who joins Centerbrook after previous positions in the Netherlands, Ireland, Latvia and New York. Both Archer and Brakels joined Centerbrook in February and are working on projects for Quinnipiac University.

“We look for well-rounded people who have a spark. We were delighted to find René and Cassie, who are full of energy, care about people and are driven to excel at the craft of building,” said Centerbrook Principal Jim Childress. “They are already proving to be great additions to our staff.”

Established in 1975, Centerbrook Architects & Planners currently has designs under construction in Connecticut, Florida, North Carolina, New York and Texas, and active projects in seven states as well as Canada and China.



Cassie Archer.

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COMMUNITY

‘Celebrate East Haddam’ showcases local businesses, food and music on April 28

The public is invited to come “Celebrate East Haddam” on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Heritage Park. Celebrate East Haddam is the East Haddam Business Association’s annual spring event to bring the town and surrounding communities together for an outdoor festival of businesses and organizations showcasing their products and services. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the business association’s launching of Taste of East Haddam, as the gathering was formerly known. This anniversary year seemed an appropriate time to morph the event into an opportunity to celebrate the myriad ways in which local businesses connect, collaborate and bring the community together.

General admission is free. Entertainment will be provided by local musicians brought together by Geoff Cox of the band Old Dog New Trick. Local talent will showcase wonderfully produced open air sounds. Bring the entire family and let the kids enjoy face-painting and the bounce house. Whet your appetite by sampling the menus offered for purchase by our local food vendors and Connecticut food trucks. Local shops, home based businesses, craftspeople and artists will have a variety of merchandise available for sale as well as samples, free services, grab bags, raffle prizes and more. Community organizations will have information about upcoming events and programs as well as the opportunity to get involved by becoming

an East Haddam volunteer.

Book vendor space now — all booth spaces are \$25 and must be secured by April 13. Want a sneak peek of who’s going to be there? Local food fare and food trucks: Jack’s Place Cafe, Anderson’s Sugarhouse, Fox Hopyard’s On the Rocks, Chompers, Lenny and Joe’s Fish Tale, Ted’s Steamed Cheeseburger, Milkcraft. Local businesses and organizations: Liberty Bank, Casey Chiropractic, Chunnie Towne Farm, Connecticut Farm Fresh Express, Four Root Farm, MoreFit, Waide Communications, Skye Designs, First Approach, East Haddam Home Cleaning Service, New Inn Kennels, East Haddam Vet, Grandview Camping, Cold Spring Farm, East Haddam Farmer’s Market, East Haddam News, Disc Golf Course Nichols Field, East Haddam Art League, Grace and Truth Bible Chapel, East Haddam Garden Club, Together We Rise, East Haddam Land Trust. More vendors are signing up daily.

Thanks go out to the wonderful staff at the Moodus Branch of Liberty Bank, the event’s first sponsor for 2018. Please email EHBAmembers@gmail.com for your vendor registration form or sponsorship form. Take a moment on Facebook to like East Haddam Business Association and visit the event posting for the latest information on Celebrate East Haddam event participants and sponsors.

Rain Date is Sunday, April 29. Heritage Park is at 15 Great Hillwood Road in Moodus.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For sale

14 ft Starcraft with trailer and 25 hp Johnson outboard, with many extras, \$1,000. Call Jerry at 860-537-3225. [D19]

Oak desk with computer drawer. Great shape! \$150 or best offer. Call Bob at 860-873-3383. [D19]

Youth western saddle, \$75. **Two antique doors**, 7 ft. x 30 in., \$50. **Antique corn shucker**, \$400. **Additional items**, make an offer. Call 860-873-9271 (p.m.). [D12]

Wanted

Jazz and rock LP records. I have been a collector for 35 years. I do not resell. Call Mike at 860-573-8678. [D12]

Tell everyone in town about your sale items with a free classified ad. (East Haddam residents only; one entry per resident; maximum 100 words; not to be used for commercial purposes.) Email your ad to editor@easthaddamnews.org by end of day on the Wednesday *preceding* the week you want your notice to appear. It will run for four weeks, or until we’re notified that the item has sold.



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Driver arrested on drug, weapon charges after traffic stop

By Barbi Batchelder

On Sunday morning, March 25 at about 2:14 a.m., state police were conducting routine traffic patrols in the area of Falls Bashan Road in Moodus, when they clocked a vehicle on radar traveling 70 miles per hour in a 30-mph zone.

Police said that as they attempted to pursue the

driver, the vehicle's speed increased to approximately 89 mph. The driver eventually pulled over and a search was conducted.

Police said they discovered a set of brass knuckles in the driver's pocket. Police also said they found a small amount of a white powder/rock-type substance, which was determined by a field test to be cocaine.

Jedidiah Felciano, 21, of Banner Road, Moodus, was arrested and charged with reckless driving, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle.

Felciano was processed at Troop K in Colchester and released on a \$7,500 bond. He was scheduled to appear on April 3 at Middletown Superior Court.

TOWN CALENDAR

Thursday, April 5

7 p.m. Economic Development Commission, Grange Hall, 488 Town St.

Monday, April 9

7 p.m. Recreation Commission, East Haddam Elementary School, 45 Joe Williams Rd.

Tuesday, April 10

7 p.m. Budget public hearing, Nathan Hale-Ray High School auditorium, 15 School Dr. After the budget hearing, the Board of Finance will meet to set a budget for the annual budget town meeting.

7:15 p.m. Planning & Zoning Commission, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Rd.

Thursday, April 12

6:30 p.m. Library Trustees, Rathbun Free Memorial Library, 36 Main St.

7 p.m. Municipal Office Building Committee, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Rd.

Tuesday, April 17

7:30 p.m. Historic District Commission, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Rd.

7:30 p.m. Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Rd.

Wednesday, April 18

7 p.m. Board of Selectmen, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Rd.

7 p.m. Firehouse Renovation Building Committee, Company No. 2 Firehouse, 44 William F. Palmer Rd.

COMMUNITY



GARDEN CLUB COMES TO CHESTEM

Members of the East Haddam Garden Club recently visited Chestelm Adult Day Services to start seeds and cuttings with the clients. Left: Stanley Czernal follows club member Nancy Mackinnon's demonstration. Right: David Tripoli is shown with his first box of cuttings complete. The seedlings will be nurtured by the Chestelm helpers and then generously donated to the club's annual plant sale May 19. Proceeds are used to fund the club's many civic projects, including plantings at Goodspeed green and Shagbark triangle; annual scholarship and photography awards at Nathan Hale-Ray High School; garden projects at Hale-Ray Middle School; Arbor Day plantings at East Haddam Elementary School; and more.



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Updated year-round Ranch near private association beach on Rogers Lake! Kitchen has dining area w/sliders to deck. Living rm w/stone FP & wood flr. 1st flr MBR. Finished LL den w/pellet stove.

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Haddam \$398,000

Samuel Bailey House with updated antique charm & CT River views! Marble in kitchen & baths. Newer wood flrs, updated mechanicals & 3rd flr MBR suite w/walk-in closet, bath & balcony!

Nancy Carpentier
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Into live music? Plenty of options exist in town

By Jasom Bogdan

For those venturing out of the house for entertainment as the spring weather warms up, East Haddam has a variety of venues for seeing live music throughout the week. Here are some highlights.

La Vita on 9 Main Street has live music performances on Friday and Saturday nights. This Friday, April 6, at 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., the Hartford-based rhythm band Savage Brothers will be making their debut at the restaurant. The following Saturday, also at 8:30, rockabilly act 4 Barrel Billy returns with old-style rock and roll. La Vita also has a popular open-mic night every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m.

Two Wrasslin' Cats coffee house at 374 Town Street has a Spring Showcase at noon Sunday, April 22. The Vivero Flute Studio's adult and high school choirs will be performing, and Salem Valley ice cream will be served. The café also has their regular Caturday Concert Series on most Saturdays at noon with different performances each week. The acoustic duo Sweet Polly will be playing next on April 7.

Higher Grounds at 32 Main Street, a coffee house and gallery, has music on weekend mornings — "Acoustic Saturday" at 11 a.m. and "Acoustic Breakfast" on Sunday at 10 a.m., featuring different performers each day. The coffee house also has an open-mic night on the last Friday of each month at 7 p.m.



Above: Local band Old Dog New Trick will next be playing La Vita on Friday, April 20. Left: A sign at Higher Grounds, 32 Main St., promotes their Sunday music.

for local artists wishing to share their music. Prolific singer-songwriter Frank Critelli plays Acoustic Saturday on April 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, check the regularly updated events sections on the venues' Facebook pages.

PARTS & RECREATION

Park & Rec spring soccer: —Ages 2 to 5

TinyTykes is a six-week spring soccer program focused on the development of children ages 2 to 5 years old. Soccer experts and child development professionals have designed an innovative curriculum that introduces young people to the basic skills needed in soccer, while developing their motor, social, and psychological skills.

The program's international coaches are experts at working with young children and will combine soccer with fun games, stories and music to help keep children entertained and enthusiastic.

Sessions will be Sundays at Nichols Field from

April 29 to June 10, except for May 27. The sessions are 60 minutes and take place from 9 to 10 a.m. for ages 3 to 5, and 10 to 11 a.m. for ages 2 to 3. There will also be a program for first graders, with more information to come soon.

Please use the link below to register online: challenger.configio.com/pd/171467

—Ages 6 to 8

Spring Soccer is back for 6- and 7-year-olds. Have fun learning the fundamentals of soccer and how to be a good teammate. Wednesdays at Nichols Field from May 2 to June 6, 6 to 7 p.m. Fee: \$60. Please register at www.easthaddamrec.com.

Lifeguards wanted

East Haddam Park and Rec is looking to hire lifeguards for the Town Beach this summer. Please contact Lisa Conroy at 860-873-5058 or lisa.conroy@easthaddam.org for information.

Gentle yoga

Appropriate for all levels of fitness or yoga experience, and ages 16 and up. Increase your strength and flexibility while decreasing stress. Enjoy moving your body and breathing mindfully. Beginners and more experi-

enced practitioners are welcome. The price is the same for residents and non-residents alike. You may also attend any of these yoga classes as a drop-in for \$10 per class. Sunday and Wednesday classes are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center and Friday classes at 10:30 a.m. at the Grange. Wear loose comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat and water to drink.

Bootcamp fitness

These group sessions will focus on exercises and functional movements like push-ups, squats, sprints and sit-ups. They provide a killer workout and a chance to sweat outside the gym. This program is designed to build strength and fitness through a variety of intense group intervals over a one-hour period. The class frequently gathers outdoors, and during bad weather moves inside. The fun group dynamic will help motivate you while you improve your cardio, core strength, agility and balance. Participants have used our class for weight loss, fitness and race training. Session runs through May 5. Tuesdays and Thursday, 6 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. You may also attend as a drop-in for \$10 per class.

For more details about programs and to register, visit www.easthaddamrec.com or call the Parks and Recreation office at 860-873-5058.

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Together we are able to make a real difference in the lives of so many. Consider the support provided by the Ann and George Petry Fund to give young people access to creative arts programs which enable them to share their talents while addressing issues important to their community. Or the Loffredo Performing Arts Fund which supports local thespians as they share the beauty and joy of live musical productions with neighbors and friends.

We celebrate all of you who share the same desire to work in partnership to help our local community thrive today, and tomorrow. *We invite you to learn more by calling us at 860-347-0025 or visiting us at MiddlesexCountyCF.org.*

Six more common budget terms explained

Third in a series of articles by the Board of Finance

The East Haddam Board of Finance is responsible for the oversight and submittal to the citizens of the Annual Town Budget. The Annual Town Budget includes the Board of Education Budget and the Town Government Budget. The preparation of the Annual Town Budget is the result of a process that starts with a Tri-Board Meeting of the Board of Finance, Board of Education and Board of Selectmen. The process continues from the Tri-Board Meeting with a series of meetings, workshops and public hearings. The conclusion of the process is the Budget Referendum. One of the areas where the BOF believes it can help the budget development process be more effective is by helping to make sure that the discussions in the meetings, workshops and public hearings are clear and understandable for the citizens in attendance. Consequently, the BOF has written a series of articles to be printed in the *East Haddam News*. The purpose of this series of articles is to explain the financial terms commonly used in the budget meetings. In this week's EHN we are printing the third in a series of articles. This article explains the meaning of six additional financial terms. They are:

1. **Encumbrance** – In accounting, an amount of money that the government is required to spend for a specific purpose in the future. Examples are funds from requisitions and purchase orders that

have been committed for the account, but not yet invoiced and paid. *Sources: Falex Financial Dictionary, Wall Street Words.* Encumbrances help prevent overspending.

2. **Zero-based Budgeting** – ZBB assumes that every activity must be analyzed and justified as if it were being proposed for the first time. ZBB is a comprehensive approach. Each program is challenged for its very existence during (the budget process for) every budget year and no base or minimum funding level is presumed for any activity. Its purpose is to discourage perpetuation of programs that may no longer be valid or have less priority than new programs that may seek funding. *Source: Handbook for Connecticut Boards of Finance.*

3. **Surplus** – The amount by which (all of) the revenue of a government from taxes ... and other sources exceeds its expenditures. *Source: Farlex Financial Dictionary*

4. **Transfers** - A transfer is movement of funds from one account to another with the appropriate approvals.

5. **Balance Sheet** – A Balance Sheet is a summary of the financial balances of a Government entity. Balance sheet accounts show the financial status of each fund and may be classified into accounts for resources, obligations and surplus. Resources are actual assets owned by the municipality – cash, taxes

receivable, land, buildings, etc. – plus items expected to become assets. Asset accounts may be classified as current, non-current and fixed assets. Obligations are actual liabilities, such as vouchers payable and expected liabilities such as appropriations and reserves for encumbrances. Surplus is the excess of resources over obligations. *Source: Handbook for Connecticut Boards of Finance*

6. **Deficit** – It is a situation in which outflow of money exceeds inflow. That is, a deficit occurs when a government spends more than it receives in a given period of time, usually a year. *Source: Farlex Financial Dictionary.* A budget deficit is the excess of government expenditures over government taxation and other receipts in any one fiscal year. *Source: Collins Dictionary of Economics*

COMMUNITY

Youth Helping Youth plays host to town's first-ever senior (citizen) prom

Youth Helping Youth, a high school youth leadership group that works with East Haddam Youth & Family Services, is hosting East Haddam's very first Senior Prom for citizens over the age of 60. There will be music from your childhood, baked goods made by Youth Helping Youth members, and fun activities to participate in.

The theme is "Fly Me to the Moon!" This is a wonderful opportunity for senior citizens to socialize with

friends as well as with Youth Helping Youth members. The prom is May 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the East Haddam Senior Center, and it will be a night you will never forget. Call 860-873- 5034 or come to the Senior Center to sign up, and be sure to take home an invitation. Space is limited, so please RSVP by April 28. Those interested can contact Youth Helping Youth with any questions at youthhelpingyouthclub@gmail.com.



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Palmer–Warner and Amasa Day houses — are they in peril?

Continued from page EH1

includes the Palmer–Warner House and the Amasa Day House. The investigation is active and ongoing and, as such, we are unable to comment further at this time.”

State Representative Melissa Ziobron (R-34) and Bob Casner, a member of the historical society (and also a member of the board of the *East Haddam News*), met with representatives from the attorney general’s office on March 20 to air their concerns about the management of the two properties as well as seeking an up to date accounting of the Frederic Palmer Memorial Fund.

“For 20 years the East Haddam Historical Society has tried to interest Connecticut Landmarks in any kind of agreement to get the historic homes they own here open to the public,” Casner said. “Since the historical society vacated the Amasa Day House 15 years ago — the Palmer-Warner House was last occupied over 12 years ago — these two historic homes have been empty and show no sign of life. Vacant historic homes deteriorate quickly when they have no use or purpose.”

The 1738 Palmer–Warner house, which sits on 50 acres at 307 Town Street, was acquired in 2005 by Connecticut Landmarks and has not been regularly opened to the public as stipulated by the donors, the late Howard Metzger and Frederic Palmer. Group tours by reservation are offered from May through November, according to CTL’s website. The historic barn on the property is in an advanced state of disrepair, and recent improvements to the 18th-century house itself include a modern-style deck and asphalt shingles on its roof. A 2009 CTL task force report on the house referred to the need for a “proper ‘dry out’ after 2009 water-pipe break.”

Palmer, ironically enough, was a pioneering preservationist and architect who had been a longtime trustee of the CTL (then known as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society) and had helped to restore some of its properties. He also was involved in the restoration of the Goodspeed Opera House.



Broken gutters and holes in the roof result in leaking inside the garage area of the barn. Connecticut Landmarks, which owns the Palmer–Warner property, wants to renovate the barn for use as a visitor center, but seems to have done little work on the property in the 13 years it has had ownership. *Photo by Russell Shaddox.*

The Amasa Day House, which at times in the past was opened regularly to the public, is not listed on CTL’s website.

In a piece published in the March 8 *East Haddam News*, Andrea Skwarek, a member of the historical society, wrote that Connecticut Landmarks recently had reported to the society that there is about \$1.3 million left in the Palmer-Warner trusts. *The Day* quoted a CTL trustee on March 13 as putting the figure at about \$1.5 million. The 2009 CTL task force reported that the trusts stood at \$1.1 million and “anticipated additions to capital” would bring the total Palmer–Warner endowment to an estimated \$2.5 million.

In a column in *The Day*, David Collins reported that in 2014 CTL had donated an amount between \$250,00 to \$500,000 from Palmer-Warner funds

towards its restoration of the Amos Bull House in Hartford, where the nonprofit has its offices. The 2009 CTL task force reported that in fiscal 2008 expenses of \$43,127 from the Palmer-Warner funds were charged to “central office allocation.”

The CTL website describes the content of the Palmer–Warner House as a “rich material culture collection [that] includes American Colonial, Victorian, and Colonial Revival furniture; porcelain, glass, and silver; paintings and decorative objects.” The site also reports that it is “cataloging the property’s extensive collections and researching its history in preparation to open to the public.” CTL has owned the property for 13 years.

The organization held a fundraiser at the house last September; proceeds were earmarked toward a goal of \$1 million to renovate the historic barn on the property into a “visitor welcome, program & exhibit center.”

In an exchange of emails with the *East Haddam News*, CTL Executive Director Sheryl Hack stated on March 26 that she did not have time for an interview that week, but that this week would be better. She did not respond as of press time Monday, April 2, to requests for a phone interview or by responding to questions sent to her via email on March 27.

Among the solutions under discussion for the two homes is the transfer of ownership to a local organization such as the East Haddam Historical Society.

William Hosley, who is a former director of the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, believes a change to town control of the homes is now needed. He attended the March 21 meeting of local citizens and recently wrote a column about the issue for the *East Haddam News*.

“I’ve come to the conclusion that these properties probably would be better managed if they were owned and cared for locally,” he said. “Connecticut Landmarks’ priorities clearly have been elsewhere than East Haddam. Maybe just in terms of simplifying things and getting to the next level with these wonderful treasures, [CTL] should let go and pass them on with sufficient endowment to assure that they can be cared for properly. I think the East Haddam Historical Society would do a fine job.”

First Selectman Emmett Lyman, who also attended the March 21 meeting, said, “East Haddam aspires to be a tourist town, and here are two assets, two beautiful homes, wonderful places to attract people here; and the town doesn’t collect taxes on them, and you’d like to think the town should get something in return. I want to see these houses open.”

Because Connecticut Landmarks is a nonprofit entity, it is exempt from property taxes on its holdings. According to the town assessor’s office, if the Palmer–Warner and the Amasa Day houses were on the tax rolls, this year they would pay \$8,846 and \$7,461 respectively.

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Champion House: centuries of use — and uses

By George Fellner

On a prime site overlooking the Connecticut River, a two-story house designed by Architect William Spratts was completed for Samuel Phillips Lord in 1782. This elegant house was inherited by his son, who eventually sold it to Noah Bulkeley in 1823. In turn, he decided to open a tavern and seven years later added a third story with other modifications, setting it up as a public house.

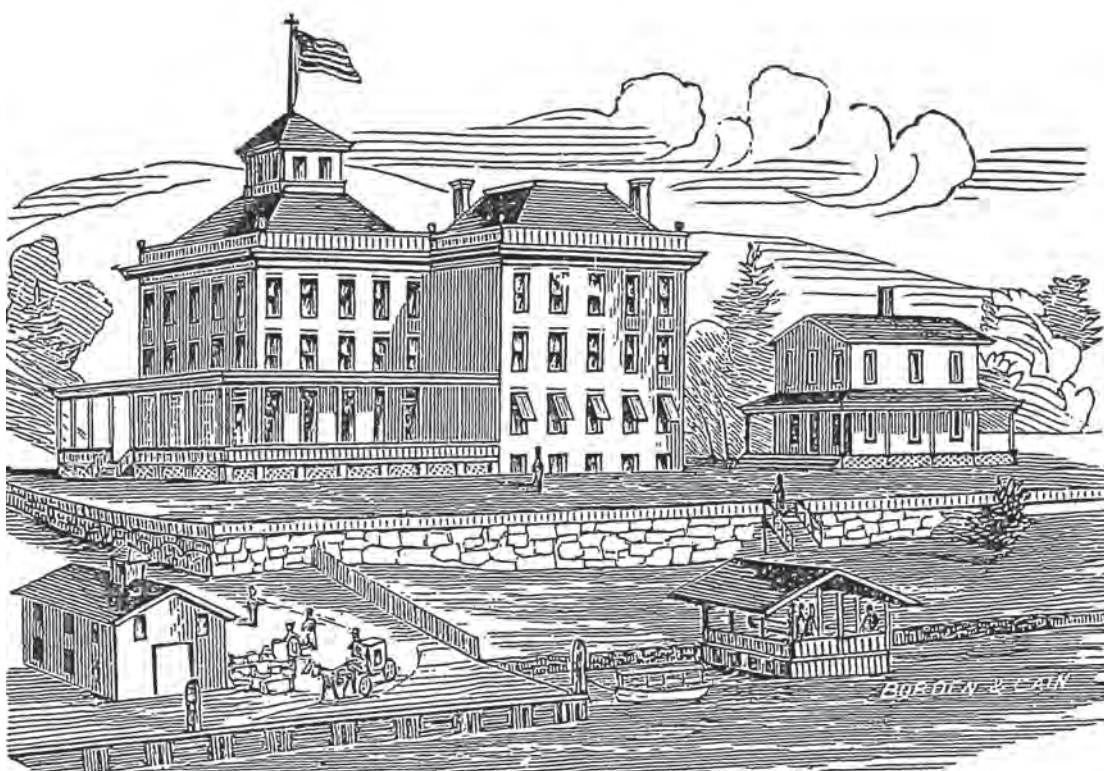
In 1831, he leased the building to George Douglass, who named it “The Steamboat Hotel.” This title reinforces the importance of the river and the Upper Landing area for travel, business, and recreation. Over the years, the building went through a series of owners including Judah Tracy, Azel Chapman, and George E. and William H. Goodspeed.

In 1858, it was sold to Daniel B. Warner, who undertook major remodeling, as well as added a large south wing, renaming it “The Champion House” in honor of the memory of General Epaphroditus Champion, a past renowned resident of the area. It now contained a dining room and a large ballroom. The hotel again sold to David Watrous in 1866, and in turn, sold to Ella (Green) Ward in 1880.

A talk on “The Champion House,” given by J. D. Raitt in 1971 for the East Haddam Historical Society at the Rathbun Memorial Library, provides much of the intricate historical information for this short summary.

Mrs. Ward completely transformed the building into a grand hotel, attracting clientele from New York City and other urban centers. A series of interior modifications included eliminating the ballroom and adding more guest rooms to accommodate a total of 60 guests. The extravagant improvements included marble mantels, fine woodwork, chandeliers, custom furniture, and a kitchen with the latest equipment. The surrounding grounds accommodated lawn tennis, croquet, and landscaped pathways. A separate small service building that included staff housing was added at the south side. She opened for business in 1881, operating with numerous managers during the hotel’s “Golden Age” until her death in 1890.

It is important to note that the Upper Landing area was quite a different place during the latter half of the 19th century. Main Street actually widened into a plaza at the vicinity of the hotel. There were



An illustration of the Champion House in its heyday. Courtesy of George Fellner.

three stores nearby, along with a lumber yard, a Music Seminary with its own opera house, as well as numerous private homes. Indeed, the Upper Landing area served as a small center for hospitality, commerce, and culture, acting in counterpoint with the Lower Landing area at the Goodspeed Opera House.

Over the following decades, there were several owners and operators of the building with occasional renovations and changes in use. At one point, a boy’s school was run within the building. In the 1940’s, the name changed to “Nathan Hale Apartments,” although it changed back to the “Champion House” in 1963. Eventually, the 12-unit apartment building was purchased by William and Sheila Doherty in 1976. A two-story addition to serve as the owner’s apartment, designed by Fellner Architects, was completed in 1999. The Doherty family

continues to own and operate the Champion House.

As a result of an intricate history of modifications and additions over a long span of architectural styles, this building exemplifies a modified hybrid of the Federal and Italianate Styles. The multi-storied rectangular wings with hipped roof forms and tall double-hung windows are basic components of the Federal Style. Although now absent, a high-style elaboration was the use of cornice line balustrades at the roof, as shown in 19th century drawings of the Champion House. Other elements including the veranda, post types, roof brackets, and cupolas reside within the family of the Italianate Style.

Imagine being a guest of the Champion House during the Golden Age of hospitality in the 1880s. A leisurely game of croquet might be followed by a casual stroll along a landscaped path, with ever-present views of the river. Afterwards, the day would be capped by a night of fine dining. Ultimately, this presents yet another historical expression of East Haddam, a Connecticut River town.

George Fellner, AIA, architect and photographer, writes a monthly Column on the Architecture of East Haddam. Owners of historical buildings who are interested in having the exteriors of their buildings photographed for potential future articles are encouraged to contact George Fellner. Fellner Architects is located at 15 Main St., East Haddam, CT. gfellner@fellnerarch.com, websites: fellnerarchitects.com and gfellnerphotography.com.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please send your calendar items to editor@easthaddamnews.org. We need to receive items by the end of the day on the Wednesday *preceding* the week you want your notice to appear.

Upcoming

Nature in Black & White, an exhibit of original artwork running through May 13 at Spectrum Gallery, 61 Main St., Centerbrook. A six-week show that highlights the detail and beauty found in nature when artists limit their palettes to grays, whites and black. For more information call 860-767-0742 or visit spectrumartgallery.org.

Saturday, April 7

8 a.m. to noon. Town wide cleanup day. Annual effort to clean up what winter has left behind in the town's streets, waterways, and public areas. Meet at Town Hall at 8 a.m. to join the group — or start from your own street. All who participate are invited to a picnic afterward at the Moodus Sportsmen's Club, 299 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike, for a picnic. Sponsored by the sportsmen's club and the town's scout troops.

8 a.m. Community Lions 5K and half marathon races, East Haddam Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Rd. USATF certified races with chip timing, mile splits, scenic routes, water stops and food for runners. Online registration fees: \$25 for 5K run or 5K walk challenge, \$50 for half marathon; student discount \$10. Mail-in and race-day fees: \$30 and \$55. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and both races start at 9:30 a.m. Register online at racewire.com; email ehclrace@yahoo.com for more information.

Sunday, April 8

5 to 6 p.m. Harvest House dinner. St. Stephen's Parish Hall, 31 Main St. Information: www.ststeves.org/transform/harvest-house/

Tuesday, April 10

9:30 a.m. Moms Club of Moodus, First Church of Christ, 499 Town St.

Wednesday, April 11

7 p.m. Celtic prayer service, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main St. Open to the public; all are welcome. Lasts ½ hour. Quiet and meditative Wednesday prayer service offers an opportunity to sit and be still with God. Information: www.ststeves.org/event/celtic-prayer-service/.

Thursday, April 12

6 p.m. Listening for God, St. Stephen's Church, 31

Main St. Participants will practice reclaiming attention, focusing, and learning to watch and listen for God in their lives and in the surrounding world. Information: ststeves.org/event/listening-for-god/.

Friday, April 13

Early dismissal at schools for professional development.

Saturday, April 14

6 to 10 p.m. Cats in the Castle, Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, Conn. A fundraising event benefiting Cat Tales Inc., a nonprofit cat rescue. Includes appetizer, buffet dinner, desert, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. Silent auction; raffle items. Must be 21 or older. Purchase tickets at CatTalesCT.org/CITC. Information: events@CatTalesCT.org or 860-344-9043.



Author Russell Shorto. See Sunday, April 14 entry.

7 p.m. Author talk on Venture Smith and other figures of the American Revolution, Haddam Fire Station No. 1, 439 Saybrook Rd., Haddam. Best-selling author Russell Shorto will discuss his new book, *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom*, which weaves together the stories of Smith and other Revolutionary figures. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Haddam Historical Society, East Haddam Historical Society and First Church Cemetery Association of East Haddam. For additional information call 860-345-2400 or email contact@haddamhistory.org.

Sunday, April 15

4 p.m. Con Brio Choral Society Spring Concert, Christ the King Church, 1 McCurdy Lane, Old Lyme. Seventy-voice choir performs Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* (also called *Mass for Troubled Times*) and other works for choir and orchestra. Tickets are \$30 each, \$15 for students. Purchase in advance online at www.conbrio.org or call 860-526-5399.

5 to 6 p.m. Harvest House dinner. St. Stephen's Parish Hall, 31 Main St. Information: www.ststeves.org/transform/harvest-house/

Monday, April 16

No school for spring vacation.

Tuesday, April 17

No school for spring vacation.

2:30 to 5:30 p.m. First Church Clothing Bank open, lower level, First Church of Christ, Congregational, 499 Town St. Clothing is available to East Haddam residents at no cost. Donations of clean clothes in excellent condition are appreciated and can be brought during scheduled opening hours.

Wednesday, April 18

No school for spring vacation.

7 p.m. Celtic prayer service, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main St. Open to the public; all are welcome. Lasts ½ hour. Quiet and meditative Wednesday prayer service offers an opportunity to sit and be still with God. Information: www.ststeves.org/event/celtic-prayer-service/.

Thursday, April 19

No school for spring vacation.

Friday, April 20

6 to 8 p.m. East Haddam Art League Spring Show opening, Rathbun Library, 36 Main St. Refreshments; meet the artists.

Saturday, April 21

8:30 p.m. The Locomotives perform live at La Vita Gustosa, 9 Main St.

Sunday, April 22

5 to 6 p.m. Harvest House dinner. St. Stephen's Parish Hall, 31 Main St. Information: www.ststeves.org/transform/harvest-house/

Wednesday, April 25

7 p.m. Celtic prayer service, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 31 Main St. Open to the public; all are welcome. Lasts ½ hour. Quiet and meditative Wednesday prayer service offers an opportunity to sit and be still with God. Information: www.ststeves.org/event/celtic-prayer-service/.

Thursday, April 26

6 p.m. Listening for God, St. Stephen's Church, 31 Main St. See April 12 listing.

Friday, April 27

7 p.m. What is Autism? A community conversation, Grange Hall, Town St. Hosted by the East Haddam Library System. The program is open to the public and will be an opportunity to learn more about autism. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, April 28

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Celebrate East Haddam 2018, Heritage Park, 15 Great Hillwood Rd. Hosted by the East Haddam Business Association; formerly known as "Taste of East Haddam." Free admission. Live music, children's activities and bounce house, food vendors and fresh local fare. Meet and greet local business owners; learn about special programs, promotions, and local summer events. Donations at the entrance will benefit local charities. Rain date Sunday, April 29. Vendor spaces \$25, email ehbamembers@gmail.com for more info.

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Local senior is finalist in modeling contest

Taylor Guss (above) of East Haddam is a finalist in the 2018 Red Door Prom Model Contest. Taylor is a senior at Nathan Hale-Ray High School who plans to study psychology in college. She also works at a retirement home and in her spare time enjoys hanging out with her friends.

Contributing to Taylor’s amazing look for her photo session were Blowouts by Abbe of Glastonbury providing hair styling, and Samantha Aglieco, also of Glastonbury, providing the makeup. Photography was by Walt Jedziniak Photography of East Hampton. Red Door Boutique is a women’s clothing store specializing in prom gowns and fashions.

Belltown antique engine, tractor meet April 29

The Belltown Antique Car Club of East Hampton will host its 44th Annual Belltown Antique Engine & Tractor Meet on Sunday, April 29, at its new location, Danaher Field, nearby the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds. The show will focus on the display and demonstration of antique engines and working scale replicas. Vintage tractors will also be featured, some lovingly restored. Trophies will be awarded near the end of the show.

This outdoor event will include a flea market catering to the antique engine hobby and offering general merchandise as well. Food service will be provided by the East Hampton Lions Club as part of their community fund raising efforts. The show is held rain or shine, field conditions permitting, and will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. General admission is \$4 and children under 12 are admitted free with a paying adult. Spectator parking is free.

For exhibitor and vendor information, contact Peter Christianson, 860-267-8394, or Jim Way, 860-267-4626. For general show information, visit www.belltownantiquecarclub.org.

‘A Night on Broadway’ May 5 in Portland

“A Night on Broadway” will be presented by the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords on Saturday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at Portland High School, 95 High St., Portland, Conn. Popular show tunes from “Guys and Dolls,” “Pippin,” “The Lion King,” “Cabaret,” “The Music Man,” and “Phantom of the Opera” will be among those performed. Tickets are \$20; call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120.



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LEGAL NOTICES

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

The East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission, at its regular meeting of March 20, 2018 took the following action:

Approved w/Conditions - #W18-04 – Lakeshore Drive, Property Owners Association of Lake Hayward, removal of muck and organic sediment from the swim area and around swim platform. Assessor’s Map 80, Lot 342.

Approved w/Conditions - #W18-05 – Johnsonville Road, Town of East Haddam, replace the Johnsonville Road bridge over the Moodus River.

Approved - #W18-06 – 405 East Haddam Moodus Road (Moodus River), Shawn Monroe, construction of a storage barn and the repair of a septic system in the upland review area. Assessor’s Map 80, Lot 342.

Dated at East Haddam, CT this 28th day of March, 2018
Randolph Dill, Chairman

**TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
TOWN MEETING
LEGAL NOTICE**

The compilation of the Special Acts and ordinances of a general and permanent nature of the Town of East Haddam, as revised, codified and consolidated into chapters and sections by General Code LLC, and consisting of Chapters 1 through 301, together with an Appendix, was approved, adopted, ordained and enacted as the "Code of the Town of East Haddam, Connecticut," hereinafter called the "Code." All provisions contained in the compilation are known as the "Code of the Town of East Haddam" shall be in force and effect on and after the effective date of this ordinance. The full text as adopted on March 28, 2018 is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Dated at East Haddam this 29th day of March, 2018
Debra H. Denette
East Haddam Town Clerk

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING
NATHAN HALE-RAY HIGH SCHOOL
7:00 PM
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018**

The Board of Finance will hold a public hearing to review the 2018-2019 proposed budget for Board of Selectmen and Board of Education expenses and revenues. Copies of the proposed budget have been mailed to all East Haddam households. The proposed budget will be on the town website at www.easthaddam.org and copies are also available in the Town Clerk’s Office or by calling (860) 873-5022.

Dated this 5th day of April, 2018
William M. DiCristofaro, Chairman

The Town of East Haddam shall endeavor to post its Legal Notices with the East Haddam News publication. In the event that the weekly publication cannot meet the Town’s statutory requirements, the Hartford Courant shall be utilized to meet said statutory deadlines. Courtesy copies will be published to East Haddam News that may or may not be timely. The Town’s website is: www.easthaddam.org.

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LIBRARY CALENDAR

EHFPL: East Haddam Free Public Library, 18 Plains Rd., Moodus.

Rathbun: Rathbun Free Memorial Library, 36 Main St., East Haddam.

Thursday, April 5

10:30 a.m. Story Time, Rathbun.

Friday, April 6

5 to 8 p.m. World Domination Club featuring Axis & Allies, EHFPL. Both teens and adults are welcome to compete to take over the world!

Saturday, April 14

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Earth Science Fair, gymnasium, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Rd. Lots to learn and see; lots of fun to have.

Monday, April 16

10:30 a.m. Story Time, Rathbun.

6 to 8 p.m. Teen Book Club, EHFPL. Ages 13 and up.

Wednesday, April 18

10:30 a.m. Baby Time, Rathbun.

6 to 8 p.m. Teen Manga Book Club, EHFPL. Try new Manga and discuss ones you enjoy with others.

Thursday, April 19

10:30 a.m. Story Time, Rathbun.

2 to 3 p.m. Rathbun Book Club, Rathbun. Check online or call for this month’s pick.

Friday, April 20

6 to 8 p.m. East Haddam Art League Spring Art Show opening, Rathbun. Stop by and see world-class works by local artists.

Saturday, April 21

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Library Open House, Rathbun and EHFPL. See what your local libraries have to offer.

Monday, April 23

10:30 a.m. Story Time, Rathbun.

Wednesday, April 25

10:30 a.m. Baby Time, Rathbun.

6 to 8 p.m. Teen Write Club, EHFPL. Ages 10 and up. Discuss ideas, get feedback on your projects, do fun writing exercises, and enjoy free pizza.



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Background, history are key with a coughing dog

By Lance McLean, DVM,
East Haddam Veterinary Clinic

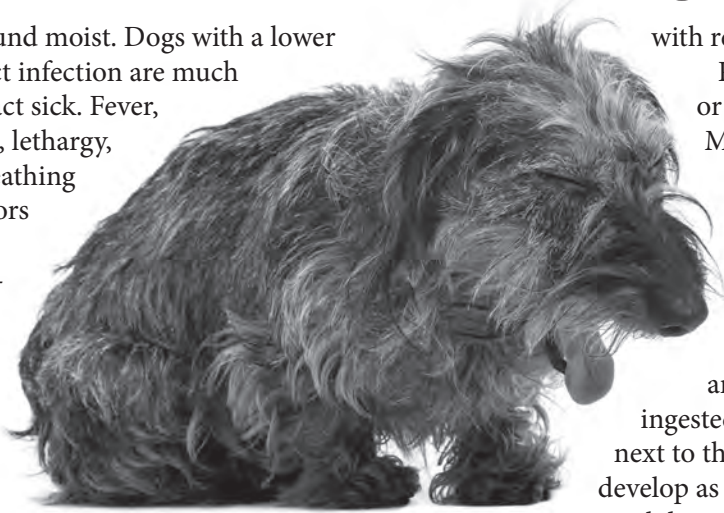
Vomiting and diarrhea will never be overtaken as the most frequently reported symptoms, but the coughing dog is a very common occurrence. How concerned should you be if your dog develops a cough? The answer to that question depends on the circumstances surrounding development of the cough.

Age, breed, sex and weight, parameters known to your veterinarian as the “signalment,” are important pieces of information. So is the dog’s history. When did the cough develop? How frequently does it occur? Does anything predispose the cough, such as sleeping, activity, eating or drinking? Has your dog recently traveled with you, been to the groomer, stayed at a kennel or at a training facility? Has your dog recently attended a dog show, competition, day-care or visited the dog park? Have you or a family member been in contact, such as when pet sitting, with a dog who has these risk factors? Does your dog have any existing medical conditions, such as a heart murmur, organ disease, or cancer? Is your dog taking any medication? Has your dog recently eaten something he or she shouldn't have? Does your dog have access to anything toxic such as human medication, cleaning products, automotive fluids, plants or pest control products?

Dogs that share air space with multiple other dogs, particularly in high stress situations, are at higher risk of developing Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease. Respiratory infection can be caused by various bacteria or viruses, of which Kennel Cough is only one example. A dry hacking cough that worsens at night is typical of an upper respiratory tract infection. Dogs with upper respiratory tract infection, sometimes referred to as tracheo-bronchitis, may otherwise act normally. If the infection involves the lung it has become a lower respiratory tract infection. The cough associated with lower respiratory tract infection may take on a deeper, wracking qual-

ity and may sound moist. Dogs with a lower respiratory tract infection are much more likely to act sick. Fever, lack of appetite, lethargy, and trouble breathing may be indicators of pneumonia. Puppies recently purchased or adopted, especially those who have traveled or spent time at a pet store, are at particular risk. These pups often have a depressed or immature immune system and might not have received all their protective vaccinations yet. Any puppy with a cough should be examined by a trained veterinary care specialist as soon as possible. Dogs that are otherwise ill, especially if they are not able to walk, are also at higher risk of developing pneumonia.

Certain diseases can lead to development of a cough. Collapsing trachea is caused by a softening of the cartilage rings in the windpipe and small breed dogs are over represented. The cough of tracheal collapse is referred to as a goose honk due to its characteristic sound. Cough from tracheal collapse is worsened by excitement and sometimes occurs when the dog is drinking. Heart disease in dogs may lead to an enlarged heart that puts pressure on the airway and causes a cough. Heart disease can also progress to congestive heart failure. Cough may be the first sign of heart disease in your pet. Certain breeds can develop an enlarged or dilated esophagus that predisposes aspiration pneumonia. Aspiration pneumonia occurs when food or liquid "goes down the wrong hole" and enter the lungs instead of the stomach. Golden Retrievers are over represented



with respect to dilated esophagus. Parasites such as heartworm or lungworm can cause cough. Mouse and rat poison may cause bleeding disorders when ingested by a dog. Blood within the lungs could result in a cough. Foreign material may become lodged in the esophagus. Bones and sticks are common foreign material ingested by dogs. The esophagus lies next to the trachea and a cough may develop as pressure from the foreign material distorts the esophagus.

Medication may impact the development of a cough. Prednisone, for example, is still commonly used and may cause fluid retention. If your dog develops heart disease while taking prednisone it might induce congestive heart failure.

Cancer within the lung, or spreading to the lung from a distant site in the dogs body, may lead to a cough. Trauma involving the chest, like that which occurs when a dog is struck by a car, can cause heavy breathing or a cough from bleeding, bruising or puncture of the lung.

Electric shock, most commonly from chewing on an electric cord, can cause pulmonary edema. Pulmonary edema is fluid accumulation within the air spaces in the lung and also occurs with congestive heart failure.

It is easy to think that a mild cough might be no big deal, but look at the bigger picture. Assess your dog's risk factors and monitor him or her closely. Young dogs, old dogs, stressed dogs, sick dogs and socially active dogs that develop a cough all have greater risk of significant illness. If your dog has a cough and you are concerned, consider contacting your veterinary care provider immediately. If your veterinarian's office is closed there is almost always an ER option available to you.

SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Thursday, April 5

9 a.m. Tai chi
10 a.m. Knitting and crochet
10:30 a.m. Ex. meeting
10 a.m. to noon. Computer help

Friday, April 6

8:15 a.m. Pilates
1 p.m. Game day

Monday, April 9

8:15 a.m. Pilates
9:30 a.m. Yoga
1 p.m. Club meeting
1:30 p.m. Talk by author Bob Elmer

Tuesday, April 10

9 a.m. Tai chi

10 a.m. Quilting
10 a.m. to noon. Computer help
12:30 p.m. Mah jongg

Wednesday, April 11

8:15 a.m. Pilates
8:15 a.m. Casino
10 a.m. Coloring

Thursday, April 12

9 a.m. Tai chi
10 a.m. Knitting and crochet
10 a.m. to noon. Computer help
6 p.m. Pot luck dinner

Friday, April 13

8:15 a.m. Pilates
8:30 a.m. Massage with Cora
1 p.m. Game day

SENIOR CENTER MENU

Thursday, April 5

Vegetable beef barley soup, ½ turkey sandwich, potato salad.

Friday, April 6

Apple juice, potato crumbed fish, au gratin potatoes, California Normandy vegetables, oat-nut bread, pineapple tidbits and mandarin oranges mix.

Monday, April 9

Italian style meatballs with seashell pasta in marinara sauce, Italian blend vegetables, whole grain bread, applesauce.

Tuesday, April 10

Teriyaki chicken, mashed potatoes,

steamed broccoli.

Wednesday, April 11

National Barbershop Quartet Day:
Pink lemonade, barbequed pulled pork on wheat bun / tortellini salad, red, green, purple cabbage cole slaw, tapioca pudding with whipped topping, fresh mandarin orange.

Thursday, April 12

Corn chowder, soft shell tacos.

Friday, April 13

Macaroni and cheese, garden salad with tomatoes and cucumbers, Italian dressing, stewed tomatoes, twelve-grain bread, fresh banana.

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Volkswagen: The GTI is for ‘Good Times Intended’

By Steven Rossi

Originally derived from the European road rally scene, the Volkswagen GTI was one of the first “hot hatchbacks” to make its way into U.S. showrooms. This viral VW helped create a unique market niche that combined practicality and affordability with fun, fun and still more fun! That was way back in 1983, though those early vehicles were, in fact, produced in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania.

Fast forward to today, which GTI ownership will easily accommodate, and this amalgam of compact family car configuration with comprehensive sports car specification continues to accelerate ahead. It’s a formula that many claim Volkswagen invented. So much so, that VW maintains such traditional advertising slogans as; “Power has met its hatch.”

And the proof is in the product. Open the hood and you’ll find a 2.0-liter, turbocharged, 16-valve four cylinder engine with direct injection that pumps out 220 horsepower and 258 lb.-ft. torque on premium fuel. That’s a 10 horsepower increase for 2018 due to retuning, and Volkswagen says that it’s “Raw Power. Fully Cooked.” The engine is mated to a 6-speed manual transmission, though a 6-speed automatic with Tiptronic paddle shift control is available as an \$1,100 option, which further includes fuel saving automatic stop-start. The rubber meets the road through a new electronically controlled, front-wheel drive differential system that essentially provides torque sensing, limited slip, and additionally delivers better chassis balance while maneuvering at speed.

Speaking of rubber, 225/40 x 18 Pirelli P7 Cinturato tires are fitted. They’re mounted on two-tone, black and silver alloy wheels. A front strut suspension with lower control arms is mated to a multi-link, rear system, with coil springs all around. Thick, front and rear anti-roll bars contribute to the GTI’s propensity to simply devour twists and turns, because its flat, cornering capability is the stuff of legend. The fact that its ride height is lowered by 0.6-inches also helps. As does progressive, electric power steering with variable assistance.

In keeping with its performance prowess, large 13.4-inch front and 12.2-inch rear, ventilated disc brakes are now featured, with GTI-badged red-color calipers. electronic brake-pressure distribution, stability control, automatic post-collision braking and tire pressure monitoring further round out what is a comprehensive chassis specification.

Based on the bread and butter Golf hatchback sedan, the GTI is likewise



The new Volkswagen GTI in Tornado Red. Courtesy of Steven Rossi.

a four-door. The high-strength steel body structure is tight and refined, and conveys an impression of solid integrity. Noise, vibration and harshness are kept to a minimum, though the suspension won’t let you forget that it’s sprung sporty.

Styling is modern, yet unmistakably Volkswagen and classically Golf. By being broad in the shoulders and featuring a standard sunroof, the interior is both roomy and airy, while simultaneously providing utmost practicality from the wide open hatchback design and folding rear seats. Though bear in mind, it is indeed a compact car, particularly when it comes to that back seat. I would prefer if it were a two-door, because it would be easier to get in and out of (two-doors are normally built with wider front doors). But truth be told, I’m 6’4”.

Inside, Teutonic logic prevails when it comes to controls and instrumentation. Analog gauges, rotary knobs and an array of push buttons not only keep it simple, but proved logical and intuitive. One nit to pick is that the lettering and labels on switches and controls is somewhat small, and thus hard to decipher.

To keep you planted in place sport seats with functional side bolsters, that feature plaid inserts and red stitching, are standard. There’s also a Car-Net® connectivity system that offers Apps, services and information. Not to mention, an expansive infotainment suite and a driver mode selection feature that allows for normal sport and individual programming. And yes, in keeping with its heritage, the classic golf ball-styled gearshift knob remains.

No surprise, established, German engineering practice prevails within this wagon for the folks. The GTI’s active safety ethic of predictable and

precise handling is combined with a multitude of passive safety systems: such as forward collision warning, autonomous emergency braking, pedestrian monitoring, lane departure warning, intelligent crash response, adaptive cruise control, rear traffic alert, parking assist, an abundance of air bags and more. Got all that?

Pricing starts at a reasonable \$26,415, and the arresting, Tornado Red (perhaps better called, “Arrest Me Red?”) SE example with optional, Titan Black leather upholstery that I

tested stickered at \$32,015. It also included an 8-inch touchscreen Fender sound system upgrade, along with LED headlights, blind spot monitoring and those previously mentioned, large brakes, which were pirated from the even higher-performance, limited edition Golf R model. EPA rates the GTI’s thirst for fuel at 25 mpg city and 33 mpg hwy, with a 6-speed manual. Segment leading, six year/72,000 mile bumper-to-bumper coverage is included, which the company calls its “People First Warranty.”

In summary, this “hot hatch” is just the thing to enjoy along some of our favorite twisty, two-lane Connecticut River Valley roads by taking the l-o-n-g way home from the market, or obligatory errand runs. Because even though the original model designation was conceived to convey that this oh, so special VW was a fuel injected GT, the GTI icon has evolved into what could now instead exclaim: Good Times Intended!

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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How do you know if you have allergies?

If you always sneeze when you pet a cat or feel sniffly at the start of spring, you could have an allergy. But how do you know for sure? The best way to find out is to see your doctor or an allergist. They will ask about your medical history, do a physical exam, and run tests.

You can help your doctor give you the right diagnosis:

Make a list of your symptoms. Based on these, your doctor may be able to rule out other causes like a cold, virus, or other illness.

Track the timing. If you’re sneezing for a few weeks every few months, or if your symptoms are particularly bad in the morning, this may be another clue that you have allergies.

Note anything new. Are you using a new detergent? Did you change your skin care routine? Pay attention to any changes in your diet and lifestyle. They may help your doctor find what’s triggering your symptoms.

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