

## Strick Hyde Joins Board of Directors

2016 has been an active year for members of The Essex Foundation Board of Directors. Most recently they expanded the organization's leadership ranks with the election of Strickland "Strick" Hyde III to the Board.

Strick is a life-long Essex resident and community volunteer. He is president of the Essex Fire Department Association, Inc, and recently retired from 45 years of service as a member and officer of the Essex Fire Department (Essex Fire Engine Company #1).

Strick was also an active member of the Essex Park and Recreation Commission, and part of the volunteer team that helped expand the town's youth camp and sports programs. He was first introduced to the Essex Foundation through his late brother David Hyde, who was a founder and past president, and looks forward to continuing the family legacy of community stewardship.

The addition of Strick to the Board brings the total number of members to seven, including President Bruce Glowac; Vice President Jay Tonks; Treasurer Herbert Clark III; Secretary Judy Bombaci; Eve Potts; and James Clark. They are confident that Strick's experience and dedication to helping improve the community will be of great benefit, especially over the next year with several exciting projects to focus on.



*Essex Foundation Board members welcome Strick Hyde to the charitable organization. Seated from left-right are Eve Potts, Strick Hyde, and Judy Bombaci. Standing from left to right are Jim Clark, Jay Tonks, Bruce Glowac, and Herb Clark.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Glowac, President  
Jay Tonks, Vice President  
Herbert T. Clark III, Treasurer  
Judy Bombaci, Secretary  
Eve Potts  
James Clark  
Strickland Hyde III

## Consider A Legacy Donation

**IF YOU LIKE WHAT THE ESSEX FOUNDATION DOES...**consider the possibility of a legacy donation. A gift through your will or living trust will continue your support of the Essex Foundation as an important legacy in our community. Many of our donors use their wills or living trusts to make their most generous gifts. A charitable bequest is also an excellent way to create a living memorial. For more information on making a bequest for the Essex Foundation in your will, please contact Essex Foundation Treasurer Herb Clark, (860)767-0000.

The Essex Foundation also relies on the many gifts sent by individual donors in the dollar amount of their choosing. Please use the enclosed envelope or simply mail a check to Essex Foundation, PO Box 64, Essex, CT 06426. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by the law.

# THE ESSEX FOUNDATION

## 2016 Community News

The Essex Foundation is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex citizens by providing medical, educational, social, welfare, cultural, recreational, and civic support. The Foundation's role is to provide "seed money" for new services and to allocate funds to fill needs not met by other organizations or sources. In general, funds will be granted for special purposes, including buildings, equipment, land, and programs, but not to recurring expenses. With a 43 year history of service to Centerbrook, Essex, and Ivoryton, the Essex Foundation continues to expand its support for community projects that require fast, local action. This past year saw the completion of many initiatives, and the beginning of others, all tackled in partnership with town officials, residents, and like-minded organizations. The resulting good news is shared here.

[www.theessexfoundation.org](http://www.theessexfoundation.org)

## Gateway Beautification Project

Essex residents, known for taking great pride in the town's historic character and natural beauty, breathed a huge sigh of relief on April 18 as a fresh coat of green paint was applied to the sidewalls of the highway bridge at the Route 9, exit 3 section of town. It had been two years since the Connecticut Department of Transportation's tree and shrub removal along state highway barriers had left the landscape bare, and exposed the patched-paint and rusted appearance of the bridge. The public outcry over the "tacky" condition of what is considered the gateway to Essex was fierce, with locals urging town officials to find a solution to the state-owned property issue. Short of inappropriate graffiti, the bridge was not scheduled to be painted in the foreseeable future. But that didn't stop Essex residents Steve and Susan Bogan, owners of Blast All, Inc, a federal and state bridge painting contractor located in Old Saybrook. They were determined to come up with a plan that worked for all parties at no cost to taxpayers. Success came in the form of a collaboration between the Bogans, who provided the in-kind donation of company labor and equipment to plan, supervise and complete the project; the Town of Essex, providing police supervision and traffic re-routing services; and the Essex Foundation, the Essex Rotary Club, and many individual donors, who together provided a total of \$18,000 for the purchase of the paint.



*The Route 9, Exit 3 bridge overpass received a fresh coat of paint in April thanks to a collaborative effort.*

The project initiative started in September 2015 when the Bogans approached the Essex Foundation with a winning game plan: Blast-All would work with the CT D.O.T. and the Union Apprenticeship program to get approval for having the Essex gateway bridge serve as a worker training site, with the company donating labor services and equipment use. The Bogans would also meet with town officials to secure in-kind police assistance for traffic re-routing and worker safety. The Essex Foundation was asked to help fund the out-of-pocket cost of the paint. Several months later, with \$5000 given by the Essex Foundation, \$5000 donated by the Essex Rotary Club, and the remaining \$8000 coming from many individual supporters, the bridge painting began and was done in just five days. It was a win-win for everyone - workers gained additional painting skills, the gateway appearance is much improved, and the taxpayer did not have to foot the bill. It is the hope that other communities use this unique project approach as a model for getting more bridges looking like new again.

*Workers from Blast All, Inc. completed the work in just one week with traffic re-routing assistance from the Town of Essex.*



## Landscape Plantings In Works For Spring 2017 Installation

The gateway beautification project also includes plans for a phased installation of plantings along the intersection of Route 153 and Route 154 in the Route 9/Exit 3 underpass area. Matthew Verry, a graduate of the University of Connecticut's Landscape Architecture program, will be responsible for the planning and coordination of the work. His company, Matthew Verry Landscape Design, was contracted to provide landscape design and oversee the state approval/plant installation bid process, which will happen over the next year. The Foundation's goal is to begin installation of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants by early spring. The design specifications are being finalized and the state approval and installation bidding process will happen over the winter months.



*A coloring rendering of the proposed landscape design for the Route 154/Route 153 intersection provides a preview of the Phase I installation targeted for Spring 2017. Flowering trees and shrubs will provide low-maintenance, year-round greenery and color to the bridge underpass area.*



As Trustee for the Bumpy Warner Youth House on Bushnell Street for over 30 years, the Foundation continues to manage and provide support for its maintenance and repair. The building serves as headquarters for the Essex Boy Scout program.

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

The Essex Foundation has had a very busy and successful year. We started the year off by coordinating and helping to fund the planting of cedar trees along West Avenue, which will help beautify the area and screen the fire station back garage and electrical sub-station. This was followed by the ambitious effort to coordinate the painting of the Route 9 overpass bridges with private funding. It was indeed a unique project which I am very pleased to say was successful. Now we are continuing our plans to beautify the Route 153/154 intersection and are on target for spring plantings of shrubs and trees in that area.

These projects, and their success, exemplify the uniqueness of the Essex Foundation. The organization can act quickly and tackle projects and situations that benefit the citizens of Essex but are not typically funded by other charitable organizations. We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful community, and we are proud that we can play a small part in making it even better.

We are also delighted and excited to have Strick Hyde join the Board of Directors as its newest member. Strick has lived in Essex his entire life, and we are confident that his vast knowledge of Essex, along with his common sense approach to just about everything, will serve the Foundation and the community well.

One of the Board's goals is to create an endowment that will allow the Essex Foundation to continue to do good things for the people of Essex in perpetuity. This is no easy task given the current economic conditions, but I am proud to say that we are well on our way. We have been extremely fortunate to be the recipient of several generous bequests and contributions. If you are in a financial position to consider gifting, I ask that you please consider the Essex Foundation. The Foundation is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization so your gift is fully deductible in accordance with current tax laws. Whether through a direct contribution, an inclusion in your will, a transfer of highly appreciated stock, or some other means, we are grateful for any contribution. Working together we can all make a difference.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Glowac  
President