

Released April 17, 2019

Essex Sisters' Legacy In Full Bloom

The Essex Foundation Funds Scholarship, Expansion of Daffodil Project

Essex, CT -- Since the passing of Elizabeth "Diz" Callender five years ago, a lot has happened to change the landscape of the town she called home. Diz's generous bequest to The Essex Foundation has seeded the recent beautification of the Essex gateway area and the establishment of an annual scholarship award. This spring a spectacular display of daffodils bloomed for the first time around the northern border of Sunset Pond while a \$3000 scholarship is now offered for studies related to land conservation and preservation.



Diz was passionate about a clean and beautiful Essex, organizing town Clean Up Days, helping with the weeding of the traffic island at the intersection of Routes 154 and 153, and restoring the wilderness along the Falls River, known today as Osage Trail. The idea for the daffodil project came from the fact that Diz enjoyed planting daffodils. The plan was put into action with additional funding coming from The Paul Foundation (owners of the Sunset Pond property), Centerbrook Properties, and individual donors. The first phase kicked off last October with the planting of 15,000 bulbs in a 3,000 square foot section of turf between

Sunset Pond and West Avenue. The second phase of the daffodil project will be completed next fall, and includes expanded bulb planting in the Sunset Pond area as well as at the Route 153/154 gateway intersection. The gateway intersection is the same area where 12 Chanticlear Pear trees and over 300 evergreen and perennial ornamentals have also been installed, thanks to the Callender bequest.

Diz was predeceased by her sister Mary who shared the same passion for Essex and its natural beauty. The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Annual Scholarship was established by the Foundation in memory of the two sisters, and in honor of their commitment to land conservation and preservation. A \$3000 scholarship is available each year to one Valley Regional High School graduating senior or graduate, or an Essex resident who is pursuing studies related to land conservation and preservation at a two or four-year college, a technical school, or graduate school, or taking accredited courses. Fields of study may include biology, botany, agronomy, ecology, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, or environmental science. The application deadline is May 20. Information and forms can be found at the school's counseling office and online at www.theessexfoundation.org.