

The Essex Foundation
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Other Notes of Support



Sustainable Essex Committee member Mark de Jongh (left) with Jay Tonks.

It's Electric!

The first electric vehicle charging station is coming to a parking space near you thanks in part to grant support from The Essex Foundation. The project was conceived by the Sustainable Essex committee, a group of volunteer residents who strive to balance environmental protection, economic development, and social objectives to meet the needs of today without compromising the quality of life for future generations. The group received permission from the Town to place a charging station in the Town-owned parking lot located next to the Essex Town Green and Post Office. The charging station will be a single pole, dual Level-2 charger that can be used for most types of electric cars, and by residents and visitors. The Foundation's grant of \$1257 put the community crowd-funded initiative over its \$7042 goal, triggering another \$7042 in matching funds from Sustainable CT, and the ability to proceed with purchasing and installation before the end of this year.



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. The house was a gift of the Gifford Warner family who donated the property in memory of Malcolm "Bumpy" Warner, the son of Enid and Gifford Warner, who died of leukemia.

2020 Board of Directors

Bruce Glowac, *President*
Jay Tonks, *Vice President*
Cheryl Harger, *Treasurer*
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Consider A Legacy Donation

If you like what The Essex Foundation does, please 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, please contact Foundation Treasurer Cheryl Harger at (860)767-0000.

The Essex Foundation also relies on the many gifts sent by individual donors in dollar amounts of their choosing. Use the enclosed envelope or mail a check to: The Essex Foundation, PO Box 64, Essex, CT 06426. Donations can also be made online at: www.theessexfoundation.org.

All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by the law.

The Essex Foundation

2020 Community News

The Essex Foundation continued its community stewardship by supporting several local projects and educational initiatives throughout the past year. Highlights are featured in this issue. Since its founding in 1970 as a nonprofit, charitable organization, The Essex Foundation has been dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Essex citizens by providing support for medical, educational, social welfare, cultural, recreational and civic needs. The Foundation's role is to provide "seed money" for new services and to allocate funds to fill needs not met by other charitable organizations or sources. In general, funds are granted for special purposes, including land, buildings, equipment and programs, but not to recurring expenses. With a 50-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, and to work in partnership with town officials, residents and other like-minded organizations.

The Essex Foundation

Emergency Preparedness

After two separate medical emergencies in 2019 at the First Congregational Church (FCC) in Essex Village, its members realized the need for having an automated external defibrillator (AED) on site. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, the church welcomed over 400 guests, many who are middle-age or older, into the building each week for worship services and various community gatherings including pre-school, 12-step programs, karate, big band and quilting groups. Reverend Kenneth Peterkin reached out to The Essex Foundation requesting financial support for purchasing an AED and a cabinet to house it. The grant request was quickly approved by the Foundation's board members, allowing the equipment to be purchased and installed at the church in February.



Reverend Kenneth Peterkin displays the automated external defibrillator (AED) now at the ready.

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart to potentially stop an irregular heart beat and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson as well as people with first-aid, first responder and CPR training. According to Reverend Peterkin, "FCC Essex is grateful to receive the grant from The Essex Foundation. Not only do we feel this to be a potentially life-saving item to keep close at hand for our mature Congregation members and our guests from the greater community, as we expand our ministry to become a fine wedding venue, we also feel fortunate to offer peace-of-mind to all those who enter here."



Bruce Glowac with EVMH members Art Davies (left to right front), Tim Comstock and John Pianta (left to right back).

Power to the People

In early spring, the nonprofit Essex Veterans Memorial Hall in Centerbrook was awarded an \$11,580 grant for the purchase of a standby generator, enabling the building to be used as a community comfort station during prolonged power outages.

A Welcomed Bright Spot

Thanks to The Essex Foundation's ongoing gateway beautification efforts, 20,000 daffodils enjoyed their first bloom in April on Route 154 across from the Essex fire station. The bulbs were planted in November by Sullivan Lawn Service, which required several crew members and several days to cover the half-acre expanse. Funding for the bulb purchase and planting services came from a bequest to The Essex Foundation by the late Elizabeth Callender, with additional support provided by The Paul Foundation, Centerbrook Properties and individual donations.



Scholarship Support

The Essex Foundation Board of Directors announced Emma Carey, a graduating senior at Valley Regional High School, as the 2020 recipient of The Elizabeth Barnes Callender and Mary Francis Barnes Memorial Scholarship. The annual award was established to honor the bequest and memory of the late "Diz" Callender and her sister, who both shared a passion for the community and environment. The \$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 in biology, botany, agronomy, ecology, horticulture, floriculture, forestry, landscape design, or environmental science.



Valley Regional graduate and Barnes Scholarship recipient Emma Carey sends a virtual thank you .

Ms. Carey, an Essex resident, is attending the University of Delaware as an undergraduate student in the Agriculture and Natural Resources program. The award was presented virtually during the high school's senior awards ceremony.

The Essex Foundation also provided scholarship awards for Essex children to attend the Bushy Hill Nature Center day camp this summer. Essex Elementary School submitted the funding request as sponsors of students who otherwise would not have the resources to participate in the outdoor program focused on personal growth and education. This is the second year that the Foundation has awarded grants to the school to support summer camp experiences for young Essex residents.

President's Letter

Dear Friends

A year ago in November we continued our Essex gateway beautification project with the planting of thousands of daffodil bulbs in the field area across from the Essex Firehouse. As we finalized the plans and coordinated the installation, we didn't know that in a few months the world would be besieged by the coronavirus pandemic.

The spring flush of daffodils typically wakes us out of the winter doldrums, and excites us with anticipation of spring's arrival. This year, however, the blooming of thousands of daffodils had a much greater impact than we ever anticipated. The beauty of the blossoms reminded us that nature pressed on, unaffected by the turmoil and uncertainties we are currently experiencing. It vividly demonstrated that there was still order in the universe, and there was still beauty to behold. It brought us a sense of relief and a moment of calm. Drivers pulled cars over for picture taking or just to soak in the scene. Occasionally people could be seen sitting among the flowers, with a smile on their faces. Images of the bloom appeared in newspapers, magazines, television and social media.

The Essex Foundation's primary mission is to do good things for the citizens of our community. The daffodil planting can unequivocally be categorized as "Mission Accomplished!" Achieving our goals is only made possible by the generous donations we receive from people like you. If you approve of our beautification and other community-minded projects, I hope that you will continue to support our efforts. Together we can and will make a difference. Sometimes small, sometimes large, but always worthwhile.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce M Glowac
President

The Essex Foundation, Inc.