

NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 2, No 4

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

April 2014

Article by:
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April Dreams



Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road
Moodus, CT 06469

The excitement started in March, when the *Boston Globe* pictured the Red Sox players boarding buses bound for Logan Airport, Scottsdale, AZ, & spring training. They dressed like our dads catching the early work train, except for “Teddy Boy.” More on that later.

Boston had four professional teams—the Sox, the Celtics, the Bruins, & the Braves, who soon left for Milwaukee & Atlanta.

The Celtics, with Auerbach, Russell, Cousy & Heinsohn, won serial championships. The Bruins were decent but no match for the Canadians.

The Red Sox could never beat the Mantle/Ford-led Yankees. I hated them & my gloating New Jersey cousins! Everybody who mattered loved the Sox & Opening Day in April was as important as Christmas.

The stars from those days are gone—Frank Malzone, Billy Gardner, Ike Delock, Grady Hatton, Bill Mombuquette, Jackie Jensen, & my favorite, centerfielder, Jimmy Piersall.

Jimmy's troubles were well-known. He fielded like a demon, but had spent time in a mental institution. He wrote a book, *Fear Strikes Out*. He shopped at the A&P, where we shopped, always saying hello & shaking my hand. In a very repressed world, I recognized a fellow human traveller.

The great Red Sox was the “Splendid Splinter,” “Teddy Boy,” Ted Williams, military hero, peerless

hitter, & irascible personality.

When teams overloaded fielders on the right side of the diamond, to frustrate the left-handed hitting Williams, he hit the ball the other way.

The prevailing social mores left little room for individualism. Dads, dressed in suits, left for the office before breakfast, & returned for dinner. They mowed the lawn on Saturday & took their families to church on Sunday. Moms stayed home. All the emotional and social disturbances of today were present then but sub rosa.

Teddy Boy never fit in. He didn't wear suits, talk to fans or sports' writers, or live with his family. I found myself, to my parents' consternation, absorbing Ted's lesson. If you're the best at something, you don't have to follow the rules.

I went to Fenway with friends 5-6 times a year. We'd catch the train at Lindenwood Station in Stoneham. Change to the subway at Sullivan Square & disembark at Lechmere Square. The park was a block away.

Masses of people streamed into the old brick arches. “Programs here!” “Get your programs here!”

Up the ramps to an impossible expanse of blinding green that was the field. Grown men snapped the ball across the infield. Piersall long-tossed to right fielder Jensen. Everything clear, crisp, magical. We sat behind first or third, our gloves ready for foul balls.

My father was a lifelong, rabid

Red Sox fan. Even towards the end of his life, he would yell at the TV, “That was a bonehead play.” The dreaded moments were when a relief pitcher gave up a lead.

Baseball dominated our lives. During the winter, we'd work on our card collections. I spent my allowance on Topps' packs. Even then I could see the deal—multiple copies of dreg players, valued cards, like Teddy Boy, the golden tickets. I assembled complete sets of the Sox from 1953-1959. When we moved, I gave them to a young friend.

Each spring Eric Vaughn & I would vasoline our gloves, working the “pocket”, then putting in a ball & securing the shape with rubber bands.

We threw as soon as the snow melted. A deadend road was our spring training site. We'd sizzle grounders to each other & “peg out” imaginary runners. We'd hit with rubber balls, avoiding the dreaded broken window, & play hit-the-bat.

Then the ground dried. We had scattered, irregular fields, only the infield mowed & anything hit into the outfield stopped play for a lost ball.

May was the Little League parade down Main St. I was on the Red Sox with Larry Rotundi, Georgie Alger, Alan DeTeso, Bobby Canavan, Patsy Salerno, & Pinky Clark.

I played 1000's of baseball games, right through junior legion. Then I burned out & no longer enjoyed the leisurely pace or the rituals. I started shooting hoops, riding a bike, paddling a kayak. I still have my last glove & a ball from a Little League game. I watch the Sox on TV with no sound. I marvel at the players & their athleticism & think back to Jimmy Piersall shaking my hand at the A&P



April Birthdays

- 2 Eleanor Golet • Marie McAllister
- 4 Frances Mastrocco
Robin Backes
- 6 Joanne Rocznik
Bennie Stelzer • Terry Allen
Christina Van Scoy
Susannah Griffin
- 8 Barbara Dill • Peg Ziobron
Maria MacFarlane
- 9 Caroline Armstrong
Annette Butterworth
- 10 Ralph Havens
- 11 Alberta Mirer • Daniel Fazzo
- 12 Virginia Hei
- 14 Mary Rozwadowski
- 16 Carol Fritz
- 18 Jack Parker • Audrey Wayland
- 26 Richard Custer
- 28 Celeste Green
- 29 Sophie Blaschik
Carole Morgan
- 30 Dorothy Afonso
Florence Lyman

Birthday and a Movie

Is it your birthday this month? If so, come celebrate with us....on us....for free. Our birthday party includes lunch, home-made birthday cake, and a movie.

Birthdays are not meant to be a secret, but, they are meant for surprises. Our surprise every month is the flavor of the cake and the movie selection. This month's birthday party is Monday, April 14.



It is time once again to "think safety". AARP is holding another seminar designed to promote good habits and to review the fundamentals of modern driving conditions and vehicle safety features. Discussion only; no tests; vehicle insurance discount. At the Senior Center on **Wednesday, April 23rd**, 12:30–4:30 pm.

AARP members: \$15. Please provide AARP number when signing up. Non-members: \$20. Participants must sign up in advance.

Casino Wednesdays

The Mohegan Sun bus trip is Wednesday, April 2nd. Cost is \$5. Bus leaves the Center at 8:15 am and returns around 3:00 pm. Please sign up in advance.

Need a Ride? Hop on the bus!



If you would like to go shopping, call for reservations by noon Monday.

Bus schedule:

- 1st Tues; Shop-Rite, Glastonbury
East Haddam Food Bank
 - 1st Wednesday; Casino
 - 2nd Tues; Stop & Shop, Walmart,
Ocean State Job Lot, Saybrook
 - 3rd Tues; Shop-Rite, Glastonbury,
East Haddam Food Bank
 - 3rd Wed; Red Hat's excursion
 - 4th Wed; Cromwell, Walmart, Xpect
- The fee schedule is \$3. for shopping, \$5 for recreational trips.
The medical car fee will remain at \$5. for the present time.

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Lunch Bus Update

We are very happy to report that five people have been riding the bus to the Center for lunch on Thursdays. In order to make this endeavor economically viable, we need more riders, so please, if you have any interest in this offer, now is the time!

Bingo



Bingo will be held this month on **Thursday, April 10th**.

You can sign up for lunch and bingo for \$5.00 or just bingo for \$3.00. Please sign up in advance.

Senior Services Coordinator: Brad Parker

Assistant: Susannah Griffin

Café Manager: Peg Ziobron

Program Coordinator &
Trip Coordinator: Alice Sabo

Ed Gubbins; Bus Driver & social
media guru

Medical Car Driver:
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Telephone; 860 873-5034

Fax; 860 873-5198

Kitchen; 860 873-5197

Email; Seniors@easthaddam.org

Center Hours

8 am - 3 pm weekdays



Senior Center Trips

The EH Senior Center members just won't stay home! Below is a list of our up-coming road trips. If one of our adventures sparks your interest, please call for more information. All trips are open to the public.

Suffolk Downs - Thoroughbred Races Action-packed races just outside of downtown Boston. Beautiful location, luncheon buffet at the *Topsider Restaurant*, fourth floor of the Clubhouse. Enjoy the races inside the Clubhouse or trackside. **Wednesday, July 16th.**

Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant Spend the day at the Surf & Turf Matinee! An extensive buffet including stuffed shrimp and Angus prime rib. One free Bloody Mary or Mimosa. A play - *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* - Is all fair in love? Funny comedy about a love triangle. The day ends with a Cabaret performance. **Thursday, August 14th.**

Pumpkin Festival Keene, New Hampshire Spend the day enjoying nature. Outdoor band shell with live entertainment. Food & Craft Court. Street performers. Grand Pumpkin Illumination of 30,000 pumpkins...you can even bring your own carved pumpkin to include in the "tall tower of pumpkins"! Lunch at Chandler's Restaurant. **Saturday, October 18th.**

Volunteers Needed:

Chestelm Health & Rehab

We are working on a Pilot Program for our Alzheimer's population and are looking for help during the work week.

Volunteers will be trained to teach 30 minute classes to individuals.

Applicants must have a sense of humor and endless patience.

For more info contact Candy Nero
860-873-6555

Educational Energy Forum

State Representative Melissa Ziobron & Senator Art Linares encourage you to come learn more about your energy choices and current programs that can help lower your energy bills.

Monday, April 21st, 1:30 pm

East Haddam Senior Center
15 Great Hillwood Rd, Moodus

For more information, contact:
The Senior Center; 860 873-5034

Volunteer Reception

April is National Volunteer Month.

The Senior Center is very thankful for our many volunteers. We know all too well that we could not sponsor our many activities and events without the support and efforts of so many people.

The community is invited to join us for a Reception to honor the individuals that we rely on every week and to announce the "East Haddam Senior Citizen of the Year".

Please be our guest for dessert and coffee on **April 30th at 1:00 pm.**

Contributions to The Center

The citizens of East Haddam and Moodus are very generous in their support of the Senior Center.

Beginning next month, we will be acknowledging those donations in the "Noises From the Center" newsletter as well as on an announcement board at the Center. Contributions of all sorts are often made to the Center and play a big role in making the Center so enjoyable for so many. Donations of coffee, copy paper, paper products, etc. are greatly appreciated.

POTLUCK SUPPER

The Senior Center will hold a POT - LUCK DINNER on **Monday, April. 28th at 6 PM.** The menu will be as varied as the items that are brought in to share. The center will provide coffee. People are asked to sign up at the center. After the dinner there will be a short video of the 1925 July 4th celebration in Hadlyme.



Nothing Says Spring Like Daffodils!

The Senior Center is once again hosting the *Daffodil Festival*. Please join us for an afternoon of food and fun to celebrate spring and to forget about this brutally cold and snowy winter!

T-Bone, A.K.A. Tom Stankus, will entertain after lunch. He comes with a warning: T-Bone is a pied piper of sorts. His story-telling and his sense of humor will keep you laughing. The music selections from the 1930s through the 1970s will entice you to sing, clap, sway, and dance the time away!

We have invited our neighboring Senior Centers: Colchester, East Hampton and Haddam. **Thursday, April 24th, 12 noon. \$5.00 per person.**

Call by noon, Monday April 21st to sign up. Please pay in advance.



DOOR PRIZE

We are now having a monthly DOOR PRIZE at the Senior Center. You sign in everytime you come to the center.

The winner of the February door prize was Hilde Aiken. The prize was a \$10 gift card to the GristMill Market.



The Senior Club says “Thank you”...

To all the people who made the Pancake Breakfast a delicious success. This year’s pancake jamboree was the most successful to date, due to the enormous outpouring of support from the community. Thanks to the ninety people who started their day with a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Thanks to the servers who volunteered their time to serve and clear, and did so with smiles: Ian Ponting, Nancy Geysen’s grandson; five members of the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Honors Program: Zach Brandes-Powell, Micheala Paduch, Lindsay Pattavina, Megan Ouellette, Patrick Riordan. Thanks to the Honors Program advisor, Jennifer Higgins, for recruiting her scholars on our behalf. Thanks to the community members who donated supplies: Vijay and Bhavna Mehta, of our local *Luncheonette*, donated the orange juice; Alberta and Rob Mirer donated the syrup. See ya’ next year!

And, another “Thank you”...

To all the St. Patrick’s Day Revelers who attended the luncheon. The dining room was full; we may have to add a wing to the ole’ Center! *The Humble Bees* band have ninety five new fans. They rocked the house with their unique style, which included a Tiny Tim impersonationremember him? For those of you who didn’t attend. . .you missed Brad and Gwen doing the twist! The Senior Club appreciates all the support!

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15 Great Hillwood Rd
P.O. Box 623
Moodus, CT 06469

**The Center
will be closed on**



Thanks to our own Ed Gubbins for donating his time to create a Facebook page for the Senior Center.

We are dragging Brad “clicking and screaming” into the 21st Century! Join us, like us, follow us.

You will find photos, announcements and the monthly newsletter, menu, and activities calendar.

Food Bank Challenge

Now is the time to make your food and cash donations to the East Haddam Food Bank go even further! For the seventeenth consecutive year, the Feinstein Foundation will contribute additional funds to our Food Bank based on the value of all donations received in March and April. For additional information, call the Food Bank at 860-891-8100.