

## GRANDVIEW SEPTEMBER BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Grandview Camping Resort and Cottages has been selected as the 2018 September Business of the Month. The campground is owned and operated by Valarie & Donald Bergeron, who have lived across the street for over 50 years. The Bergeron's moved to Moodus in 1967, and watched the many transitions of Grandview.

From the late 1800's through the mid-nineteen seventies East Haddam and Moodus were considered the *Catskills of Connecticut* by the countless visitor who would summer here. Grandview Hotel, which graced the hill with a view that inspired its' name was built in 1912. In 1929, it was expanded with an addition that housed three kitchens to better serve the growing Orthodox Jewish community, which has strict dietary laws. Cottages were added as well.

In the early seventies the tourism bubble popped for the Catskills of Connecticut. Lower prices for airfares enticed vacationers to travel elsewhere. Most resorts disappeared, while a few others were able to continue to operate. Grandview Resort was one of those that closed.

From its closing in 1976, Grandview had a number of incarnations, the first as a basketball camp, and another as the Torah Institute of America, which closed in the early 2000s. From the time it ceased operating as a resort, through the transformations, the buildings and grounds fell into disrepair. This accelerated after the Torah Institute closed.

Once vacant, everything deteriorated. Squatters and vandals wreaked havoc on the buildings. Vines, weeds and weather took a toll on the once bustling resort. From their vantage point across the street Valarie and Donald watched it all happen, and their hearts ached. With fond memories of the laughter and fun they once heard, and a sincere desire to recreate a form of those days, the Bergeron's purchased the property.

In the years since, they have worked tirelessly to embody the spirit of the old resort--a place to relax, to enjoy friends, family and nature--to step back and experience the simpler life we once enjoyed. In this effort they repurposed items from the old resort to serve people today. The flavor is vintage, which can even be experienced in the arcade where campers play Ms. Pac Man, Air-Hockey, Pool, and Fooze Ball. Weddings are another feature at Grandview, where the beauty of the grounds adds a warm atmosphere.

Committed to the sound principle of doing business locally, you will find the gift shop filled with items from local crafters and an information rack promoting local businesses. Additionally, links to local businesses are on their website, as well as personally recommended when chatting with campers.

Grandview Camping Resort and Cottages is located at 89 North Moodus Road in Moodus, CT / 860-873-3332 website: [www.grandviewcampingresort.com](http://www.grandviewcampingresort.com)