

2013 STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Town Council members, residents of our great Community, and guests. Welcome to East Haven High School.

By Charter, I am required to address the Town Council each year regarding the state of our Town and to present my budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. It is privilege and honor to do both this evening.

During the past twelve months, our Community has grappled with challenges within our police department, two natural disasters, and financial hardships that have tested our creativity and fiscal discipline. Although these challenges dominated the news headlines for a period of time, my team and I, along with department heads across Town, have remained focused on administering the Town's business efficiently, effectively, and professionally. As a result, we've made real progress moving East Haven forward.

In the past year, we've embraced unity as a force for tearing down the cultural barriers of the past.

We've honored hometown leaders that have passed on and we've recognized the many talented individuals who are working among us today.

We've found resources to help fund new educational endeavors and invested in new technologies to help prepare our children for the challenges of an ever-changing world.

We've welcomed new businesses to Town and, at the same time, worked with long-time businesses to help them continue to prosper.

We've made critical safety and capital improvements around Town, making the Town safer and more accessible for our residents.

And we've ended the ugly cycle of deficit spending and wasteful borrowing of the last 4 four years in favor of passing stable budgets that have produced a surplus and helped stabilize taxes.

Put simply – we've learned to do more for our residents... with less.

The past year has proven that our Town is blessed with an abundance of everyday heroes, many of them employees, who work hard to make our community shine. It is impossible to pay tribute to all of these individuals and review all of their achievements in this short speech.

As a result, my presentation tonight is only a highlight of the good will we've built and the progress we've achieved in the past twelve months.

With that said, let me begin...

(IRENE/SANDY/WINTER STORM/SHORELINE)

My team and I came into Town Hall just two short months after Hurricane Irene ravaged our shoreline, leaving countless residents with nothing but damage and debt. With a spirit of determination, we rolled up our sleeves to help residents rebuild their homes and their lives. We streamlined

zoning re-permitting processes, worked with state legislators to educate individuals regarding how to work with FEMA, and coordinated dumpster and waste removal to assist families with their cleanup efforts.

A year later, when the scars left from Hurricane Irene had just begun to heal, disaster struck again in the form of Superstorm Sandy, which required us all, for the second year in a row, to bond together to overcome a devastating natural disaster.

During Sandy, I pro-actively called a Statue of Emergency, allowing the Town to initiate our Emergency Operations Center. Along with the Chiefs of Police and Fire and Public Works, we organized the evacuations of low-lying areas and sent officers door-to-door to encourage residents to evacuate. We activated the Town's reverse-911 system and used it to keep residents informed of storm conditions and the Town's storm response. And, to help increase security along the shore, I requested the aid of the National Guard, which was granted by Governor Malloy.

I've often been told that many things comes in "three's." And it appears that historic storms are no exception. Just a few months after Sandy, East Haven was hit with a historic snowfall which crippled transportation and closed state operations for days. As I had done previously, I called a state of emergency for our Town, activated our Emergency Operations Center, and made a request for the National Guard – which again was granted by Governor Malloy. The Town utilized Facebook, Twitter, and our Reverse-911 system to inform residents of the Town's progress responding to the storm. Following the storm, we engaged the help of 6 different contractors

to aid our public works department to clear roads as quickly as possible. And, thanks to the donation of a 4-wheel-drive vehicle by McDermott Chevrolet, the Town arranged to have prescriptions delivered to homebound residents in dire need of their medications.

I'd like to take a brief moment to thank Governor Malloy for granting our request for the National Guard on both occasions which the Town has requested assistance. I'd also like to thank the Governor and Rosa Delauro who, since the storm, have fought hard to obtain reimbursement funding for Towns, like East Haven, which expended large sums of money responding to and recovering from these storms.

In the aftermath of all of these storms, government officials, along with residents across Town, worked passionately to rebuild and stabilize our community. I am proud to say that these efforts have not subsided. In fact, residents along the shore met early in January to discuss steps to apply for funding to bring in thousands of tons of sand to restore the Town's beachfront. Since that time, the Town has picked up the reigns of that project and has begun exploring additional remediation options for the shoreline.

(POLICE DEPARTMENT/DIVERSITY)

In the same three month period that saw our shoreline rocked by Hurricane Irene, our police department, which had already been under investigation for two years, came under fire from the Department of Justice. In December of 2011, the Department of Justice issued a 23 page civil findings letter, citing the Town for alleged civil rights violations including claims of false arrest, excessive force, and biased policing. And in January

of 2012, while the Town was preparing to respond to the civil claims, our police family was shaken to its core when 4 officers were arrested on criminal charges related to the civil findings released just a month earlier. The problems that had developed between 2007 and 2011 had finally come to a boil – just 3 months after a change in administrations, and on the heels of a devastating natural disaster. At this moment, with our residents growing weary, our town coffers running thin, and our PD under fire – we had reached a crossroad.

Recognizing the need to immediately begin making changes, I formed the LEARN Committee (the Law Enforcement Advisory Resource Network) to help re-write critical policies and procedures cited in the DOJ's civil findings letter.

At this critical moment, I also sought out and hired veteran interim Police Chief Brent Larrabee to help restore stability and faith in our department. And though I had met with DOJ officials just 3 weeks after taking office, I immediately opened up a dialogue, via our town attorneys, with the DOJ to forge a path forward for our Town and for our police department.

Chief Larrabee's arrival in East Haven had an immediate calming and stabilizing effect. With his help, we formed the Town's first Interfaith Faith Council. We held an open house to help connect our Town businesses, including newly opened Latino businesses, with resources offered by our police department. And quite fortunately, we were asked to host the Latino Expo, which showcased resources available to the Latino community in the

area and provided an opportunity for residents, town officials, and community groups to connect.

Throughout 2012, the Town worked closely with the Department of Justice to resolve the claims raised in its December 2011 findings letter. By the Fall, the Town and DOJ had reached another critical crossroad, with the Town facing imminent federal litigation if it failed to reach a compromise with the DOJ. At the last moment, the Town, with the help of Attorney Larry Sgrignari, was able to negotiate a compliance agreement with the Department of Justice which calls for the Town to undertake a host of policy and program changes. Thanks to this decision, the Town avoided years of protracted litigation that would have cost residents millions of dollars.

Since the signing of that settlement agreement, our department has worked efficiently and professionally to meet the time deadlines that were agreed to. Specifically, we've succeeding in meeting the 30 and 90 day deadlines, a task which many other jurisdictions have failed to meet. As part of the agreement, we've welcomed Kathleen O'Toole, a former police commissioner in Boston, to East Haven to serve as the compliance coordinator under the DOJ agreement. (For those of you who do now know, the role of the compliance coordinator is to be a mediator, or a broker, between the Town and the DOJ.) Her experience as a street cop, as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Massachusetts State Police, as administrator in Boston, and as Chief Inspector with the Irish National Police Force, have proven invaluable in helping direct our efforts here in East Haven.

And I'm proud to say, we've made real, measurable progress in the past year, and especially the past 3 months. We've hired Spanish-speaking officers, helping to shatter the language barrier between our PD and our residents with limited-English proficiency. We've both promoted from within and hired from without, to help rebuild the ranks of our department and to address staffing concerns raised by the DOJ. And we've designated a community resource officer, a critical step in changing the Town's approach to community policing.

These steps are just the beginning, though they represent a strong foundation on which to rebuild our PD. We know that we still have more work to do over the next 2 to 4 years. I am confident that with the assistance of Kathleen O'Toole, and the continued oversight of Larry Sgrignari, we will continue to enjoy success in addressing the DOJ's concerns and we look forward to soon having one of the best small police departments in the country.

Before I move on, I'd like to take one last moment to thank our Compliance Coordinator Ms. O'Toole, Chief Brent Larrabee, Attorney Larry Sgrignari, Town Attorney Joseph Zullo, our colleagues at the Department of Justice, all of the members of our Board of Finance, Board of Police Commissioners, and Town Council, our Finance Director, the Police Union, and all of the other individuals whose efforts have helped heal our police family. I am incredibly proud of the progress our department is making and I know that the future of the department continues to look brighter and brighter.

(TOWNWIDE IMPROVEMENTS)

The Town has also worked hard to improve many other Town resources in the past 12 months, most at little or no cost to the taxpayers.

The new “Demayo Community Room,” named after longtime judge and Town leader Judge Demayo, was completed at the East Haven Library.

The volunteers at the Shoreline Trolley Museum, thanks in part to funding secured by our state legislators, restored 2,500 feet of line washed away during Hurricane Irene and rebuilt and restored damaged trolleys and equipment. The restoration of these facilities ensures that this historic resource will continue to be available for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

The Town also improved handicap accessibility at many Town facilities, including the Town Beach and Pool. At the pool, the Town restored a lift to allow disabled residents to more easily enter and exit the pool. At the beach, we will soon be installing a wheelchair specially designed to travel on sand, allowing disabled residents easier access to the ocean.

Additionally, in the past year, the Town completed a host of traffic safety projects, including the installation of a new solar powered stop sign at the intersection of Forbes Place and Kimberly Avenue, which has already remarkably reduced traffic incidents at this dangerous intersection. Also, after over 20 years of waiting, the Town obtained final approval for the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Mansfield Grove Road and

Short Beach Road, a project I actually worked on when I was a Town Councilman years ago.

Most recently, the Town upgraded and repaired the “Code Blue” system located in the center of Town. Upon coming back into office in 2011, I received many complaints that the blue emergency phone boxes throughout the center were completely non-functioning. In order to increase safety in the center, especially for our elderly residents on Messina Drive, we fixed these phone boxes – which are now fully functional.

Also, the Town continued to develop its portion of the Shoreline Greenway Trail. In October, the trail was laid with pink granite obtained from Stony Creek, making it easier for bikes and strollers to navigate. At its next meeting, the Town Council will be presented with a plan to obtain additional grant funding to continue the Town’s investment in the trail.

Prospectively, the Town is currently working on a sidewalk project which will run all the way down North High Street and which will connect Main Street with Route 80. Also, the Town has re-applied for permits to clean the Farm River, which were allowed to expire under the previous administrator, to better protect our residents from flooding issues in the future.

(EDUCATION)

While the Town continued to renew and expand its capital resources, the Board of Education instituted some exciting new policies and began utilizing a host of new technologies to better educate our children.

This past year, our High School was re-accredited. The accreditation process yielded only 25 new recommendations for the facility, as opposed to the 100 recommendations made 10 years ago. The accreditation report commended the school on its diverse electives, improvements to curriculum, and teachers' commitment to students outside of the classroom.

This year, students from Tuttle School participated in the second "We Love America Day," marching to Town Hall to hold a ceremony with parents and Town officials. The students ran the entire ceremony, which was highlighted by a musical rendition of God Bless America, re-worked to be "God Bless East Haven." It was a touching ceremony.

Additionally, the Town spent \$120,000 dollars to equip schools across Town with I-pads and special software to help improve students' reading skills. This past year, 7th Grade students across Town also received android tablets as part of a free pilot education program. Both sets of gadgets have changed the way learning takes place in our classrooms.

Finally, the Town has worked with the Board of Education to make some of the \$430,000 dollars contained in the Woodward Thompson Trust available to fund supplemental educational opportunities for our children.

(SPECIAL RECOGNITION/RESIDENTS)

While the Town has worked to maintain and improve its capital resources over the past year, our residents have continued to demonstrate that they are, in fact, our Town's greatest resource. Residents of all ages and walks

of life made headlines this past year, though I only have time to highlight a few.

This past November, the Town honored its “most senior” resident, Rosalie Esposito, who just turned 106 in February. At the same time, one of East Haven’s younger residents, Mikayla Raffone, made headlines in September when, at only 11 years old, she won her 3rd state pageant since 2008, becoming the 2012 Miss Connecticut Pre-Teen.

Students across Town were recognized on numerous occasions throughout the past year for their athletic achievements, artistic talents, and service to the community. The 2012 graduating class at East Haven High School was recognized for its dedication to community service. Also, last year, the East Haven High School Marching Band was invited to march and play in the Electric Parade in Disney. I had the opportunity to see the band off at 3AM in the morning on the day they left. I can tell you there was enough concentrated energy in the band room that morning to light up all of “Epcot.”

Our 8th Grade Youth Football team also made headlines this past season after it defeated Madison and brought home the championship trophy– its 4th in a row, to cap an undefeated at 11 and 0 season. The championship put the team at well over 40 wins over the past 4 seasons.

Over the past 12 months, our Community also celebrated the lives of many who left us, but whose contributions to our Town and state continue to make a difference.

In August, Arlene Goldstein dedicated a bench at the Town beach to longtime resident, and popular weatherman, “Dr. Mel.” In January, the Town paid tribute to beloved former Mayor Bob Norman, whose contributions to the community as Mayor, and to the region as a newscaster, will always be remembered. And most recently, the Town mourned the loss of former police officer and Democratic Registrar of Voters Joe Buonome. Joe will always be remembered for his pride in our Town and for his generosity with his time, especially with the Rotary.

(WORK OF DEPARTMENT HEADS/CURRENT PEOPLE)

However, our residents aren’t the only people who made headlines around Town. Our employees and department heads have also worked incredibly hard throughout the past year to continue to offer exceptional services and resources to our residents....

Town Clerk – Stacy Gravino

The Town Clerk’s office, which is headed by Stacy Gravino, continued to make capital and technological upgrades, most of which have been completed with grants and at no cost to the taxpayers. Her office replaced outdated staff computers with up-to-date models that have the capacity to handle faster software and more complex programs. Additionally, new fire-safe cabinets and tables have replaced rusted and broken furniture in the office.

In the coming months, the Town’s land records and maps will become available via the Internet. Individuals will have the ability to print records, from home, for the same price charged for copies in the Clerk’s office.

Finally, thanks to financing from the Town, the Town Clerk's Office was able to undertake a digital mapping index project of all maps filed with the office.

Senior Center – Jan Lougal

Our Senior Center, headed by Jan Lougal, enjoyed another busy year. In 2012, the senior center was visited by an average of 125 clients daily and provided lunch for up to 25 seniors each day. The Center served over 4,200 meals in 2012, many of which were made on-site.

The Senior Center offered medical seminars throughout the year, as well as a variety of workshops and activities including parties, line dancing, aerobics, and of course, Bingo. It held more than 31 day-trips as well as overnight and week-long trips.

Recently, the Town announced that the Senior Bus, which has been available to take residents to doctors' appointments, will be adding transportation service to the new Shoprite slated to open up in the Fall.

Social Services – Veronica Wright

Our social services department, headed by Veronica Wright, has also been working hard, as it does year-after-year, to connect residents with important energy and food resources.

After Hurricane Sandy, Veronica and her department also helped residents who lost their homes in the hurricane to re-locate. Veronica was recently

recognized for that work in a letter from FEMA, which commended her for her “outstanding support of FEMA’s disaster recovery operations.”

Tax Collector – Lisa Basilicato

Moving on... The tax department, led by Lisa Basilicato, is always hard at work, ensuring that the Town collects the revenue it needs to fund the services that it provides. This past year was no exception. Working with the office of the Town Attorney, the Tax Department beat its delinquent tax collection goal of \$450,000 dollars by almost 10% and is poised to shatter its goal for the current year – with several months to spare.

The tax department has also enlisted the Town in a service which now allows residents to make tax payments via credit card, debit card, or direct bank transfer. In addition to obtaining this service, Lisa has worked with the Town’s credit card processing company to lower the costs for residents to use their credit and debit cards to pay their taxes. Beginning shortly, the fee to use a credit card will drop from 3% to 2.55%. The fee use a “VISA” debit card will be just a flat rate of \$3.95!

Zoning – Frank Biancur

The planning and zoning department, headed by Frank Biancur, has proven in invaluable resource for residents with zoning questions, especially those seeking help rebuilding after the storms of recent years.

For residents recovering from the recent storms, the zoning department has worked with the Zoning Board of Appeals to reduce bureaucratic red tape and simplify the process for residents obtaining variances to rebuild

their homes. The department has also helped residents work with D-E-E-P to ensure that they rebuild in compliance with state environmental law.

Working closely with the Mayor's Office, State Senator Len Fasano, State Representative James Albis, and the Planning and Zoning Commission, the department helped residents at Victoria Beach Condos to obtain approval for a stone revetment project to restore beach which had eroded as a result of the recent storms.

In conjunction with the office of Zoning Attorney Al Zullo, the department has developed a new blight policy which will hold banks more accountable if they fail to maintain vacant and foreclosed properties.

Finally, working with the South Central Regional Council of Governments, the Planning and Zoning department has arranged for the town to obtain a Geographic Information System, which will be accessible by both residents and Town officials. This system is being paid for through a grant from SCRCOG, and at no cost to the taxpayers.

Public Services/Engineering – Kevin White

Kevin White is our Town Engineer who, along with Bob Parente, heads our public services department, which also had a very busy year responding to and cleaning up from Irene, Sandy, and the recent winter storm.

During and after Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, Town crews worked with “make safe” crews from United Illuminating to restore electric service and remove debris from roads. They coordinated dumpster removal along the

shoreline, and helped clean up town facilities damaged as a result of the storm.

During and after the historic winter storm of this past year, town laborers worked around-the-clock to clear roads and restore essential town services. With the help of additional contractors and machinery, East Haven responded swiftly to what was arguably one of the largest storms in the past 100 years.

Despite having to dedicate an enormous amount of resources to these storms, the public services and engineering departments completed a host of other projects around Town. In conjunction with Fire Chief Doug Jackson, the department assisted in the raising of over twenty homes in the Cosey Beach, Ellis Road, and Morgan Point areas of Town. The department also completed the installation of new storm water drainage at Ellis Road and Venice Place.

To increase accountability in our Public Works department and to streamline operations, we also installed GPS devices on public works vehicles to ensure that our vehicles and laborers are working as efficiently as possible.

Finally, to better protect our residents during winter storms, the public services department has also started pre-treating Town roads before winter storms with a special solution like that used on state highways.

Building Department – Jim Basset

With many residents seeking to approval to rebuild after the recent storms, the building department, headed by Jim Basset, has also been busy. Our building officer reports that the re-building process continues to progress steadily. Six new houses have been erected since Sandy, countless homes have been raised, and many lots have been cleaned. However, he reports that due to the recent winter storm, it will likely be two years before all of the structures damaged in the previous storms have been completely rehabilitated.

Counseling and Community Services – Beth Trotta

Another department that underwent quite a bit of change in 2012 was our Counseling and Community Services department. Early last year, the Town arranged for BH-Care to take over management of the department, which is now headed by Beth Trotta. I am pleased to report that by privatizing management with BH-Care, the Town has streamlined operations, increased revenues, and lowered operating costs, all while providing increased services including faster meeting times, group therapy, and specialized “graduation” services for stable clients moving into the community.

I’d like to note that while so many communities are falling behind the curve with regard to addressing mental health, the Town of East Haven has been proactive in addressing its resident’s needs in this sensitive and often overlooked health area.

Town-Wide Health – Mayor's Office

Regarding town-wide health, this past year my office worked to lower health and drug costs for all residents by enlisting the Town in CCM's prescription drug discount program. The program allows all of our residents, especially our most needy who are uninsured or underinsured, to save up to 50% on prescription drugs. Through February of this year, there have been 107 claims made in 2013 using the card with an average savings of just under 50%. This program was made available in our Town at no additional cost to the taxpayers and I am glad to see residents are taking advantage of it.

Recreation – Lou Pane

As usual, our recreation department is continuing to provide a diverse selection of programming and events for adults and children including beach zumba, beach yoga, beach volleyball, and summer day camp.

Over the past year, the department has also worked hard to maintain the Town's ice rink, which serves as the home to many local groups and teams. Along with the Department of Public Works, the Recreation Department is also working to make our Town Swimming Pool a more enjoyable facility to use.

This year, the department reports that summer sports camps will cover activities such as soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, football, gymnastics, karate, science fun, cooking and crafts, CPR, and first aid.

Police Department – Chief Brent Larrabee

Though I spent quite some time discussing our Police Department earlier, I'd like to briefly mention a few additional accomplishments of the Department which don't particularly relate to the Town's dealings with the DOJ.

This year, we promoted the first female officer in Town history to the position of sergeant, as well as the first officer of minority descent, both of whom were individuals I had the honor of hiring in my first run in office. Most recently, we promoted 5 officers and swore in 3 new officers, further helping to replenish the ranks of our Department.

Upon coming back into office, I called for the re-initiation of the Town's DARE Program. As a result, we recently graduated our first DARE class in 4 years, showing a renewed commitment to educating our children about the issues of peer pressure and substance abuse.

And in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, we undertook a comprehensive review of our school safety policies and instituted a school liaison officer program that has established each school as an official stop on officers' regular daily "beats." In the coming weeks, the Town will be releasing its updated "District Crisis Manual," which was also revisited in the wake of the events at Sandy Hook. I would like to thank our PD, Fire Department, and Board of Education for their help reviewing this important safety policy.

We've also launched our Police Department into the digital age by starting Facebook and Twitter accounts, which allow the department to quickly disseminate important information and interact with members of the community.

This past year, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, the department held an outreach luncheon with community businesses to help raise awareness of the resources provided by our Department. The Department is slated to hold its second luncheon in the coming weeks.

We've given our officers the tools they need to protect our community efficiently and with integrity. We've invested in training modules to educate our police force on the latest and best police practices and we've made several critical capital upgrades within the department including new in-car cameras and new computers and data servers.

Finally, in the coming weeks, I've asked Chief Larrabee to hold a weapons turn-in program, to help reduce the number of weapons on the streets. The department is also hoping to launch an official "Citizens Police Academy" in the fall of this year.

Fire Department – Chief Doug Jackson

Finally, I'd like to move on to our Fire Department, which like many departments has been very busy as of late. In fact, in the past year, the East Haven Fire Department set another record, as far as responses, with a total of 6,121 calls for the year.

Chief Doug Jackson reports that the new “Rescue 1” vehicle was placed into service during the year and has proven to be an excellent asset for the department, tailor made for our operation. The funding for the truck and body came from funds collected in our paramedic assist program. He indicates that our crews put in a great deal of work and effort in the design and installation of all of the equipment. This truck is also an all wheel drive F-550, which was a huge help during the recent winter storm. The Chief also reports that Volunteer Company 4 also purchased and placed into service a new rescue unit completely with their own funds.

The Chief reports that the FD extinguished 21 heavily involved structure fires during the year out of the 150 fire calls. There were several marine responses, scores of motor vehicle accidents, and a record number of medical calls.

(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

The hard work of our residents and our Town employees has continued to make East Haven a desirable place to both live and do business. In the past 12 months, a host of new businesses opened their doors and a few notable large businesses are preparing to do the same.

In August, Town Fair Tire and the Town of East Haven began working on an expansion plan for their Coe Avenue based facility. The plan will allow the company, which continues to be a huge supporter of our Town and many community events, to grow and remain on Coe Avenue for years to come.

In August, the Town also announced that Hobby Lobby would shortly be moving into Town. If you've recently driven down Frontage Road, you can see that their sign is up and that the store, which is now taking applications, is slated to open very soon.

Finally, earlier this year, the Town announced that East Haven Markets, LLC will be opening up a Shoprite by Fall of 2013 at the former A&P Food Mart property on Route 80. The store is expected to create between 200 and 250 full and part-time jobs and will likely be an enormous boost to other local businesses.

Late in 2011, the Town also passed a revised building rehabilitation program, increasing tax deferral benefits for businesses that opt to rehabilitate existing properties in Town. This renewal and expansion of this program, which was allowed to expire, will be of great help attracting new businesses to Town.

(FINANCES)

While the Town has enjoyed a burst of major economic development in the past year, perhaps the best financial news was that the Town produced a surplus in the 2011-2012 fiscal year which allowed the Town to add monies to its long-term rainy day fund (the fund balance). As many of you know, the fund balance was allowed to slip to negative \$5.1 million dollars two short years ago. And in just 18 months, we have made stabilized the Town's finances and put it back on the right track.

Following the most recent revaluation, the Town worked very hard to produce a fair budget that would provide necessary revenue while also

reducing the burden on Town residents. And while I will touch on this in more detail in my budget address, I am proud to announce that over 6,800 of the 10,000 homes in Town saw their real estate taxes drop in the last year. That is nearly 70% of homes across Town. For year-one, that is an incredible number of homes.

Again, while I will highlight my budget plan shortly, I am proud to say that my goal is to keep taxes stable and to preserve those tax savings in the upcoming budget.

(IMPORTANT DATES)

Before I conclude, I'd like to remind everyone of some great upcoming events scheduled across Town.

The National Day of Prayer is May 2nd, at 6:30PM.

The Latino expo will be held April 20th and 21st here at the High School.

The Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance is June 14th.

The VVA Chapter 484 Fireworks and Beach Party is scheduled for June 29th, with a rain date of July 1st.

Senior Day will be held August 24th on the Town Green.

And the East Haven Fall Festival is scheduled for September 6th, 7th, and 8th on the Town Green.

(RECOGNITIONS)

Before I conclude I'd like to thank the board members, elected officials, and town administrators in attendance tonight. Without you all, many of the things I talked about tonight would not have been possible.

INSERT LIST OF OFFICIALS

(CONCLUSION)

As I mentioned at the beginning of this presentation, this has only been a highlight of the progress we've made, the success we've enjoyed, and the people we've celebrated in the past twelve months. We simply cannot recount, in one night, all of the wonderful blessings our Town has enjoyed in the past year.

The work of our employees, the accomplishments of our residents, and the dedication of our volunteers, both young and old, demonstrate that the state of our Town is strong. As I mentioned previously, we continue to effectively and efficiently manage our resources and we have proven we are up to the challenge of doing more, with less.

In the past twelve months, in the face of adversity, our Town has proven to be resilient. I am confident that our community, and its wonderful, dedicated, hard-working residents, will continue to shine brightly for years to come.

Thank you, God Bless our Town, and God Bless our Country.