

**For Immediate Release**

November 13, 2007

**STUDENT ART HELPS CATS OF WINDHAM: T-SHIRT SALES SUPPORT SPAY/NEUTER EFFORTS**

**Eastern Connecticut State University Design Students**

Congratulate Windham with

**BILLBOARDS & T-SHIRTS**

about groundbreaking Spay & Neuter Ordinance

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Images of the billboard and t-shirt designs are available for download at: [junebisantz.com](http://junebisantz.com)

Eastern Connecticut State University Design Students have designed **billboards, posters** and **signed t-shirts** to publicize Windham's recently adopted spay and neuter ordinance and raise money to help the spay & neuter cause. Windham is the first city in Connecticut to take this compassionate step to manage and reduce its stray cat population.

Windham's groundbreaking spay & neuter ordinance, passed by the town under the leadership of Joan Lamont of CATS Northeast, seeks to improve the quality of life in the Windham/Willimantic community, stating that all cats over the age of six months must be spayed or neutered unless the owner buys a breeder's license. No unaltered cats may be allowed to roam, and there are restrictions on giving away kittens, including minimum age and vaccinations as well as a ban on giving kittens away in public places. In 2006, also under Lamont's leadership, Mansfield adopted a spay/neuter ordinance becoming the first town in Connecticut to do so, but Lamont says "Windham is unique in adopting the ordinance as an urban community where enforcement is an even greater challenge."

Once the ordinance was passed, Ms. Lamont contacted June Bisantz, Professor of Digital Art & Design at Eastern Connecticut State University for help in getting information on spay and neuter assistance to the public. Bisantz' class, the ECSU Design Group, took on the project and designed t-shirts, billboards, posters and proclaiming: "**Windham Takes Responsibility – for Spay & Neuter Assistance 860-942-9676 or CATSNortheast.org.**"

The students' designs depict warm, loving relationships between cats and humans, set against the backdrop of Willimantic's beautiful Victorian architecture and rolling hills. "A professional design agency could not have gotten our message across any better", said a happy Joan Lamont after viewing the students' presentation of their images. The Connecticut Humane Society and Bob Brown of Standish Johnson Advertising have helped to sponsor the project. Their support help deliver important information about the ordinance to the people of Willimantic. Meanwhile, Lamont continues working on expanding opportunities for low-cost spaying and neutering to meet the demand from the community.

The Design Group students researched the subject of cats, population control and town regulations to inform their designs. They came to understand the desperate plight of abandoned cats, and became keenly aware of the challenges the local community faces due to an

overpopulation of unattended animals. Their images clearly show their care and concern for these unfortunate animals, as well as their pride in their town's willingness to take a leadership role by adopting the spay/neuter ordinance.

The ECSU Design Group, taught by Professor Bisantz, is a senior project experience for Eastern's Digital Art & Design students in which students create work for actual clients with an emphasis on community contribution. Design Group projects have included billboards for Windham's public art event FrogFest and the Willimantic Natural Foods Co-op; street banners and promotional graphics for Willimantic's Third Thursday Street Festival; interior banners for the Willimantic Juvenile Court Building; seasonal street banners for downtown Willimantic and this most recent project publicizing Windham's spay and neuter ordinance. "This was a wonderful project for my students", says Professor Bisantz "They learned about Willimantic and the character of its people, they learned that the commitment and courage of an individual like Joan can effect real community change, and most of all, that compassion is an important part of our humanity, ultimately defining who we are."

Four of the students' designs will appear on billboards and posters throughout Willimantic in November and December, 2007.

To download hi-res Images of the billboard & t-shirt designs visit [JuneBisantz.com](http://JuneBisantz.com)

To purchase T-shirts visit: [CatsNortheast.org](http://CatsNortheast.org)

To sponsor additional billboards visit [CatsNortheast.org](http://CatsNortheast.org)

**The ECSU Design Group:**

Lloyd Gevry – Killingly, CT

Malachi Maynard – Canterbury, CT

Ashley Elliott – Somers, CT

Bonin Curri – Hartford, CT

Melissa Smith – Southbury, CT

Thurmond Thigpen –Bridgeport, CT

Jason Maloney - West Hartford, CT

Ilana Kolodnickii – Oakdale, CT



Ashley Elliott – Somers, CT



Jason Maloney - West Hartford, CT



Lloyd Gevry – Killingly, CT

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