

# *The Eastford Communicator* January 2023, Vol. 32 No. 1

Eastford is one of Connecticut's BEST SMALL TOWNS because of quality of life—affordability, good schools, low crime rate, & LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. VOLUNTEERS POWER EASTFORD. All need your help. Can you volunteer or donate? HAVE YOU HAD A FIRE? FLOOD? CRISIS? Then you know the expert and quick response of Eastford's Fire Co. Volunteers (photo below, report p7). Eastford Historical Society preserves heritage, provides "Did You Know" every month (p5) and "Historical Quarterly" four times a year. Learn about Eastford's Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission & its greenup group (p3), Food Pantry (p4), Union Society Building (p6), Grove Cemetery (p6). EES Report (p2) Info: Facebook: Eastford CT06242 & EastfordCT06242SmallBusiness; Sources: Chronicle, CT Magazine.

**Below: SCRAMBLE THE DUCK PREDICTS 6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER!** (Thank you volunteers & Eastford Farm. Photo by: Adam Minor. View at Link: [scrambletheduck.org](http://scrambletheduck.org))



**DID YOU KNOW, PAGE 5** is about the general store (located at Rt 198/44) above after Hurricane in 1938. Below: Eastford Fire Co. No. 1 Volunteers (below): EIFC Volunteers: L to R . Doug Beaudoin , John Lynch , Lincoln Budd , Jeannine Spink , Jason Albrech , Nate Fabian , Dave Garrison , Zach Bertram , Steven Kitson. Not shown are: Tony Greer , Tony Volpe , Colton Garrison , David Jakubowski Jr. & James Roy (photographer)



**News and Notes from the Superintendent...Donna P. Leake**

It's budget season! By the time you are reading this the BOE will be actively engaged in formulating the 2023-24 school budget. On behalf of the administration and staff, at the January 12 BOE meeting I presented a 2023-24 school budget proposal to the BOE. The 9.98% increase in the proposed budget is driven by increases in many non-negotiable costs, including salaries, benefits, tuitions, and utilities. This will not be an easy budget year. As discussed with the BOE, the proposed budget does not include any "new nice to have". It does, however, include cost estimates that could put us at risk with our "need to have". Final BOE approval is anticipated to take place at its meeting on February 9. At the January meeting, the BOE also: approved several new policy revisions and repeals; discussed the timeline for the Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship (Hartford Foundation); reviewed the draft 2023-24 School Calendar for possible approval at its meeting in February; approved the 2023 BOE Long-Term Capital Improvement Plan for submission to the Town. All these documents are available for review in the Board of Ed section of the Eastford School webpage [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org). In closing, I thank the community of Eastford for its continued support. I encourage all members of the community to become engaged in the budget process. We remain open to receiving your thoughts and suggestions for moving our school district forward in a positive direction.

[dleake@eastfordct.org](mailto:dleake@eastfordct.org)

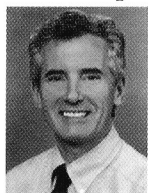
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Photo Left: Building Teamwork: Sylas Platt, Macy Haynes, MacKenzie Lathrop, John Douglas; Photo back cover: New School Sign design created by Sofia



Gillett, Holly Dubina, Brooke Perry; Left: EES Student Council Food Drive

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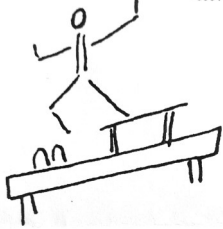
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## Selectman's Summary by Deb Richards, First Selectman/EMD

January is the beginning of planning for the next fiscal year. Budgets will be received by the Board of Selectmen and we will begin to set the basis for finances in 2023-2024. The Board of Selectmen's goal is prudent budgeting while maintaining services and assuring the wellbeing of the residents in town. Inflationary costs hit our budget as soon as it was passed last July. As everyone is aware from their own lives, the cost of all goods and services increased at exponential rates. Even with the money set aside in a fuel contingency fund, our costs are expected to exceed budgeted amounts. Insurance, tipping and hauling, supplies, the cost of electricity, maintenance and repairs for equipment, (if the parts are even available!) while state and federal funding is lower than past years. This is the year for Eastford's mandatory revaluation. Real estate will be evaluated to reflect today's market value. This will most likely be higher than in the past, especially if figured at the current mil rate. The tax bills are not due until July and prior to these bills being issued, the Board of Selectmen will bring the new budget to the town for a vote offering a mil rate adjustment to offset the revaluation. Please direct questions you might have to our assessor's office. New staff have been hired to assist PW with snow plowing and to check permits at the transfer station. Preliminary grant applications have been filed for the replacement of two bridges, Ashford Road over Bigelow Brook and Old Colony over Bungee Brook. 80/20 split, federal and state with no cost to Eastford. We all keep moving forward – together.

## Eastford Greenup Day Information by Herman Barlow

The "Eastford Greenup Day" group met to make plans for the townwide greenup event in April which includes a meal and time spent with neighbors in the fresh outdoor air. This event has the dual benefits of getting exercise walking the picturesque roads of Eastford while picking up recyclables and trash littering our roads.

In the past this has been a very well attended event that has enjoyed the support of the Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation

Commission and the Eastford Recreation Commission. The churches in town are also lending a hand in this endeavor. Registration is requested by April 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow time to make high visibility T-shirt reserved for registered attendees.

**The Congregational Church of Eastford has created a sign-up site to handle the registration and will list available roads to adopt for the day: <https://cceastford.org/events/ink>. The committee has been working to secure donations from townspeople who support this activity as well as from local businesses.** Events like this are a great opportunity to meet new friends and neighbors.

Photo: greenup group (l-r) Mary Belden, Herm Barlow, Seth Budd, Roger Wolfe  
Photo by Paul Torcellini,



**Tips for Today** by Liz Ellsworth Happy Valentine's. There's a new love for thrifting. It's become "hip" again to find your best pieces of clothing at second-chance shops, and your favorite new lamp at an antique shop. Organize a clothing swap with family and friends. Offer to trade too-small sports gear within your community for the right-sized sports gear. Your reuse/repurposing/thrifting is a way of giving some love to our planet this February, and you might just save some money, too.

the vanilla bean



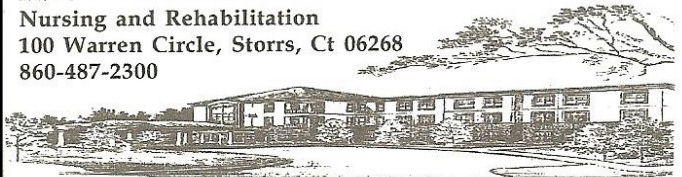
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**Food Pantry by Audrey Carabeau.** The Eastford Food Pantry is available to any resident of Eastford who is in need of food assistance. A confidential referral can be made by calling the Town Office at 860-974-0133 or Audrey Carabeau at 860-933-7685, [acarabeau@yahoo.com](mailto:acarabeau@yahoo.com). The food pantry, located at the Eastford Baptist Church, is open the first Monday of each month from 8-11 a.m. by appointment. There are many generous people to thank for supporting the Eastford Food Pantry. Thank you to the Eastford Independent Fire Co. and Bowen's Garage for your food drives that enabled us to fill our shelves. Thank you Debra Lee and Georgianne Copley and Jeff Conrad for your donation of groceries. Thank you also to the following donors- Eastford Building Supply, David and Chris Hustus, David Barlow, Carl and Kathleen Winkler, Andert, Inc., Judith Boisvert, Linda Torgeson, Steve and Marsha Sokoloski, Michael and Christine Lynes, Garry Carabeau, June Staveski, Mike and Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Richard and Claire Mackowiak, Chris Miller. Some donation suggestions for this month include: tuna, hearty soups, canned fruit and vegetables, granola bars, cereal bars, crackers, pancake syrup, taco kits, pizza sauce, 100% fruit juice, toilet paper. All donations can be dropped off at the Town Office Building during regular business hours. Please make check donations payable to Town of Eastford with food pantry on the memo line. Thank you for your support! Photo: Some of the food collected during Bowen's Garage's annual December Food Drive, donated by neighbors and customers.



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**DID YOU KNOW? EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Photos from the Past By Linda Torgeson, President**

It is always enjoyable for me to read any Eastford Facebook posts regarding Meier's Store. Growing up in Phoenixville on Providence Pike, I visited the store often. As a child, it was usually with my mother, and as I grew older, with neighbors.

It was a treat to walk to the store with my sister and friends from the hill. We might have even played a game or two of croquet across the road at the croquet court. In the store, we were always under the watchful eye of Mrs. Meier. Years later, now living on Old Colony Road with a family of my own, I was the one making the quick trip to the "store" for milk or a loaf of bread. I think we all thought she would be running the store forever. Captions: Photo (left): Charles Wheaton built this store across from his family home sometime between 1900 and 1920. He had worked for his father, Simeon, in the general store that once stood across from the Wheaton home at the foot of Providence Pike. Simeon died in 1917 and we believe his store was destroyed by fire. Photo (left): Meier's store: The date of this photo is unknown, but we believe the store was then owned by Joseph and Anna Meier. They lived above the store where they raised their three children Joseph, Charles, and Anne.



then owned by Joseph and Anna Meier. They lived above the store where they raised their three children Joseph, Charles, and Anne.



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Photo (above): Charles Wheaton built this store across from his family home sometime between 1900 and 1920. He had worked for his father, Simeon, in the general store that once stood across from the Wheaton home at the foot of Providence Pike. Simeon died in 1917 and we believe his store was destroyed by fire. Photo (right): Meier's store after Hurricane 1938. Photo Page 1: The date of this photo is unknown, but we believe the store was then owned by Joseph and Anna Meier. They lived above the store where they raised their three children Joseph, Charles, and Anne. The aroma of the evening meal would often greet you as you entered the store. The family could be seen sitting around the kitchen table as Mrs. Meier got up to wait on you. Please submit your personal remembrances of Meier's Store and the Meier Family to [ehsarchives@gmail.com](mailto:ehsarchives@gmail.com). The Eastford Historical Society would greatly appreciate your support. We always welcome new members and/or contributions toward our efforts to preserve Eastford history. We are also very grateful to those of you who have continued your support either through member and/or donation to: Eastford Historical Society, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242

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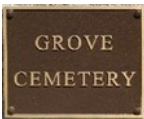
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# EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## NOTICE

### EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

**Spring Clean-up:** The Trustees will conduct a general clean-up of the cemetery grounds **after March 15th**, on a date to be determined. Seasonal flowers, wreaths, logs and other objects will be removed at the time of the clean-up. If you wish to recycle your own decorations, you should do so at your earliest convenience, but **prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.**

**Landscaping/Mowing Season:** After March 15<sup>th</sup>, live flowers may be planted or placed in plastic pots **within 12" of the base of the monument**; artificial flowers, ornaments, and other objects are **not allowed** and will be removed because the objects are a risk to the groundskeepers and their machines.

**Trustees' Meeting:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the T.O.B.

**Board of Corporators Annual Meeting:** Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., T.O.B. There are two vacancies on the Board of Corporators; if interested, call 860-974-1349.

Board of Trustees: Alex Kowalchuk, Carolyn Hazard, David Barlow, Ken Grube, Scott Huri, Lauren Anderson, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson

Kindly consider assisting the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association in its pursuit of efficient perpetual care of the Grove Cemetery. We are a non-profit group that does not receive funding from the Town of Eastford. A tax deductible donation from you will help us meet present and future beautification and maintenance requirements. Contribution in any amount will allow us to continue to meet the goal of providing a well-maintained, respectable final resting place for your loved ones. Additionally, you could leave a gift to the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association in your will or living trust, known as a bequest. This allows you to offer future support without giving up assets today. Or, you may also wish to consider making "The Grove Cemetery Association" the recipient of a memorial donation ("in lieu of flowers"). We appreciate your consideration of our appeal and welcome any questions or concerns regarding the cemetery operation.

Questions? Call (860) 974-1349. You may also visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>

The EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION greatly appreciates the following donors who have contributed to the beautification of the grounds:

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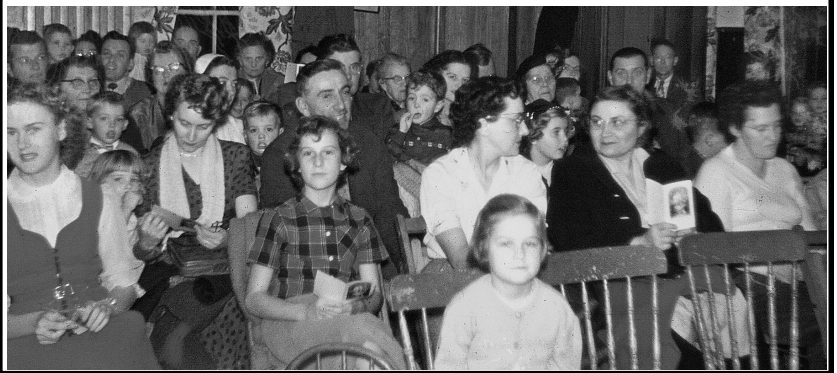
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ATTENTION: All items for The Eastford Communicator must include submitter's name, address & telephone, for verification. All items submitted are subject to editing. Article contents are those of the submitters, who are responsible for content. The Communicator does not print letters to editor or items it regards as offensive or slanderous. Advertisements are paid by the advertiser, who is responsible for the advertisement's content. The Communicator reserves the right to reject any submissions. Thank you for your support.  
Carol Davidge, Editor

**1806 Union Society Building Committee Report** by Carol Davidge, Chair  
Thanks to Lauren Anderson, Dorothy Nieminen Bressette, Charlie Demerest, and Barbara Nieminen Urban for helping to identify folks who, in 1957, gathered at the 1806 Union Society Building for Christmas events (photo below). Thank you too to those who recently donated to assist in the preservation of this important building where, over 200 years, rural children learned to read, the group helped found & fund the Eastford Fire Co, sponsored 4H & Boy Scouts, held gatherings for mostly poor immigrant families in the Phoenixville section of Eastford, and welcomed all regardless of ethnic origin, spiritual belief, age or gender. Thank you recent donors: Lauren Anderson, Janet Bellamy, Art Brodeur, Betsy Di-Quattro, Mary Ellen & Mike Ellsworth, Tom Hughes & Andrea Amato Hughes, & Barbara Urban. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its role in rural community life. New addition to its history is from Charlie Demerest who recalls that his 8th Grade EES class held a dance at the Union Society Building around 1965 or 1966. Individuals identified in the photo include: Milton, Elsie, Jeffrey, Jennifer, and Charlie Demerest; William, Helena and Dorothy Nieminen; Linda King. Because most who attended the Union Society could not afford a camera, this and other photos are rare, and are provided by Barbara Urban from photos by Helena Nieminen, mother of Barbara, Dorothy Bressette and Marian Slye. To donate: Make check payable to Town of Eastford, with Union Society in memo line, send to: 16 Westford Rd, Eastford, CT 06242.



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**Eastford Independent Fire Co.No. 1 Report by Jeannine Spink, Volunteer Contributor**

2022 has come and gone. The EIFC wishes Eastford residents a prosperous and healthy 2023. Life has a way of getting in the way, but the citizens of Eastford can be assured we will be there to assist you with your emergency needs.

Welcome to probationary member Jonathan Lynch to our ranks. The EIFC responded to 17 "911" s in December.

Annually, in January, the Company generates a detailed report on the number of calls and types for the previous year. In 2022, we responded to 177 "911" calls. The towns' residents need to be informed of the work their tax dollars are doing. Breakdowns for calls and drills are below:

EMS: 103 – Medicals, excluding vehicle accidents with injury

Central Station, malicious false alarm, detector malfunction: 15

Motor Vehicle: 14 - With and without injury

Fires: 12 - Structure, chimney, vehicle, brush/forest/wildland, grass

Power Lines Down: 12

Lift Assist/Good Intent/Service Call: 8

Miscellaneous Fires: 5 – Smoke, trash, recreational vehicle, outside storage, combustible/flammable

Carbon Monoxide: No symptoms-1 / Symptoms-4

Search for Person, calls cancelled enroute, authorized burning: 3

Fire and EMS drills are held every Wednesday night for the following skills: Fire: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) x 2, ladders, hose and pump operations and testing, truck checks and inventory x 12, driver training, rescue jacks, RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) for search and rescue of fire personnel, mandatory Hazmat Awareness, chimney fires x 2 and Woodstock Dive Team. EMS drills/classes: Mandatory Airborne/Bloodborne Pathogens, mandatory CPR/AED, patient assessment, documentation, splinting, presumption, extrication x 2, OB/GYN, backboards, spinal immobilization, EMT/EMR initial and refresher classes, mandatory N95 mask fit testing, ice rescue, carbon monoxide poisoning, and annual, mandatory physical examinations for all members. Membership meetings are scheduled the first Tuesday of each monthly, in addition to Line Officers x 12, quarterly Board of Directors, committees as needed, new member interviews and house and property maintenance.


Socially, the Company was very visible. We participated and/or sponsored: 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of incorporation, install/remove flags at Grove Cemetery, Memorial Day Parade, Chaplin Parade, Silas Run, Xmas in July at Charlie Brown and Peppertree Campgrounds, Touch-a-Truck at Eastford Public Library, Trunk-Or-Treat at Buell's Orchard and EES, Santa's escort around town, Fire Prevention at EES and tour of the firehouse for students. Thanks to residents of Eastford who make very generous donations regularly to keep our Company at the level of EMS and fire suppression we have aspired to since 1942. Editor's Note: Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to EIFC, a 100% volunteer organization which relies on generous donations from you to keep the fire company functioning. Please send your donation to: EIFC, PO Box 333, Eastford, CT 06242.

\*\*\*\*\*


**Photo back cover: Report from owner Becky Miller Williams:** MIA is a rescue goat. Came with her brother and sister because of a change in situation. Saturday 12/30 she escaped when I was putting them to bed in the barn around. She totally believes she's an antelope! I almost believe her too now! She's quite the athletic little 1yr old! She enjoyed her New Year's sightseeing our beautiful area! She made it to Woodstock and napped on someone's porch. She visited Whitcraft and played hide and seek! She danced around in yards, fields, driveways, and unfortunately the road as well! Soooooo many people helped with trying to catch her or reporting sightings, and spreading the word! Her name WAS going to be Waldo, but my daughter found a more fitting name....MIA! It definitely fits since every lead we got and went to, she was already in motion and nowhere to be seen.....Missing In Action! I hope she enjoyed her New Year as much as she entertained our little slice of heaven in Eastford!

**THANK YOU RECENT DONORS to  
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**Thank you volunteer technical assistance:  
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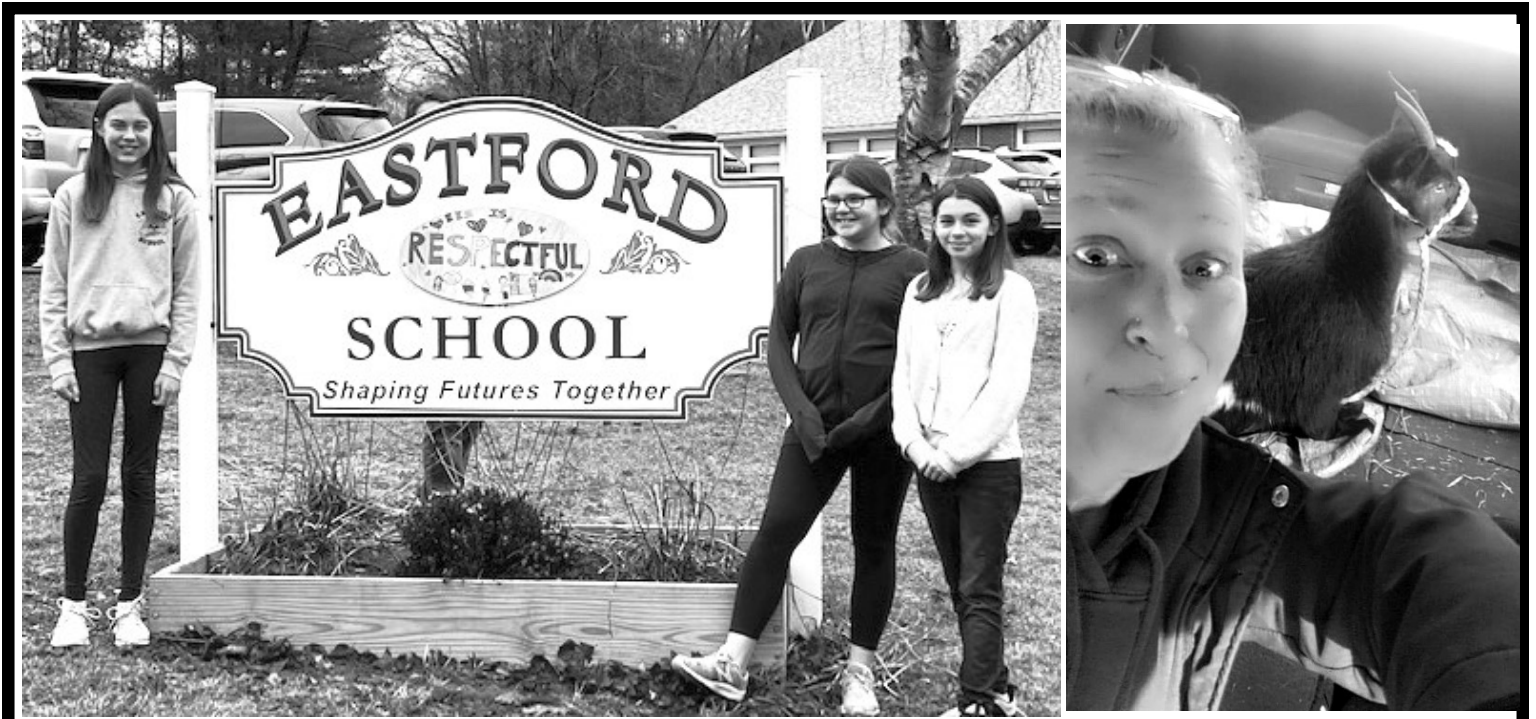


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Eastford, CT 06242



Above: New EES Sign (see p2); Below: Eastford Baptist Church's recent painting class; above right: MIA THE GOAT —see page 7.

