



The Eastford Communicator

April, 2017 Calendar

- 1 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 3 School Readiness Council, EES, 6pm
BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 3-7 Book Fair/PTO, EES
- 4 Youth Basketball, EES, 6:30p,
Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 5 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Adult Basketball, EES, 7 pm
Nahaco Commission, Woodstock T.H., 7pm
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 6 Agriculture Committee, TOB, 7pm
- 7 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 - 9:15am
Deadline: Scholarship Applications, EES
- 8 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
Seniors Dinner/Music, Midway, 5:30pm
- 10 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm
Grove Cemetery, Firehouse, 7pm
- 11 Youth Basketball, EES, 6:30pm
Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 12 **Communicator Deadline**
Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Recreation Commission, TOB, 1:30pm
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm
Adult Basketball, EES, 7 pm
- 13 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 14 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 - 9:15am
Good Friday Service, Cong. Ch., pm
- 15 Egg Hunt for Families, EES, 10am
Steak Supper, EIFC (Res. 860-974-0256)
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 16 Sunrise Service, Cong. Ch., 6am
Sunrise Service, Buells Orchard, 6am
- 17 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm
Clean Energy, TOB, 7pm
Communicator Deadline
- 18 Youth Basketball, EES, 6:30pm
Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 19 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Adult Basketball, EES, 7 pm
Experience Eastford Cmte, TOB, 7pm
- 21 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 - 9:15am
Citizen Environmentist Program, TOB, 7pm
- 22 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 24 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm
American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 26 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm
Adult Basketball, EES, 7 pm
- 27 Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 28 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 - 9:15am
- 29 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm

BRODEURBITS

[Brodeurbits is a regular compilation of writings and ramblings from the First Selectman and others and elsewhere, some profound, others mundane; all hopefully of interest and import, aimed at communicating and informing.]

[This month: Budget Ordinance and Municipal Ordinance, Benched and In The Game, Facts and Fracks]

Preparation of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget continues, and the goin' ain't easy. Chatter emanating from the State Capitol is telegraphing that there may not be a State Budget approved until Late Summer, some say Early Fall. I have joined with my colleagues in the Northeast and Northwest Connecticut Councils of Governments in communicating to the Senate and House leadership, both Republican and Democrat, our perspective on the impact of the Governor's Budget proposal on the 37 rural municipalities we represent. We noted that "the premise used by the Governor that any town with a mill rate under 30 is in sound fiscal shape and therefore one that can afford reductions in State

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April 6-100th Anniversary-World War I

assistance is flawed and shows a basic misunderstanding of how small towns work.” [Eastford’s current mill rate is 25.11.] We also stressed to the legislative leadership “the severe trauma that the Governor’s budget inflicts on our small school districts. We have prided ourselves on good schools and we have budgeted with fiscal prudence to assure that the children in our communities get the highest quality education---which they are getting. The proposed budget dissembles our efforts to educate our children by diverting aid to schools who, for whatever reason, have not been doing so. The proposed budget cuts at the tapestry of the quality education which we in rural, small towns provide and upon which we pride ourselves and which are essential threads in the fabric of our communities.”

At a joint meeting of the Eastford Board of Selectmen, the Woodstock Board of Selectmen, and the Nahaco Park Commission held on March 1, 2017 an ordinance providing for the continuation of the Nahaco Park Commission was considered. There was consensus that, following amendments regarding capital long-range planning which arose from the discussion, the ordinance draft should be taken to the next steps: review by the respective Town Counsels, each Board of Selectmen, and then taken to Town Meeting in each town. The drafting of a new ordinance comes as a result of the need to update the language and content of the original ordinance establishing the Park Commission and the Park to accommodate necessary nomenclature, operational and programmatic changes in the operation of the Park. There was also discussion of the current condition and future of the Trout Pond Dam at the Park. The report done in 2007 by Eastford Town Engineer Joseph Polulech was reviewed and it was agreed that a further analysis of the dam would be conducted by Woodstock engineering staff. The two Boards of Selectmen took the opportunity of the joint meeting to commend the Park Commission for its volunteerism, sense of community, and progress in Park management.

Another ordinance under consideration is one prohibiting the storage, disposal or use of waste from oil and gas exploration or extraction activities, or any derivative thereof in the Town of Eastford. The Board of Selectmen has voted to have Town

Counsel draft such an ordinance which would be brought to Town Meeting for consideration and action. The request for a local ordinance on these activities, more commonly known as “fracking”, was brought to the Board by the Eastford Conservation and Historical Preservation Commission and the Eastford Clean Energy Task Force. “Fracking” is a process used to extract natural gas and oil, during which gallons of a toxic chemical solution are injected underground at high pressure to crack dense rock and release the oil and gas. Fracking fluids and contaminated solids come to the surface and need to be disposed of as waste. Proponents of the ordinance contend that the dangers associated with fracking waste disposal pose an “unacceptable risk to health and safety, municipal and private property values, and natural resources”, and that the waste from hydraulic fracturing, if ever brought here to Town, would be “a threat to Eastford’s clean water resources.”

The Board of Selectmen, meeting in Regular Session on March 6, 2017, appointed Amanda Manso to the Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2017.

The Town has entered into an agreement with the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments [NECCOG] to provide land use planning and related code enforcement for Eastford. The agreement covers professional services related to land use planning, most specifically in Eastford for the Planning Commission and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. James Larkin, NECCOG’s Associate Director, who has served the Town of Brooklyn in a planning capacity in the past, will be the planner assigned to Eastford. The new arrangement, which is consistent with the statewide efforts to regionalize municipal services and which will also bring Eastford additional NECCOG resources necessary for, or related to, Planning, was precipitated by the recent resignation of long-time Eastford land use agent Susan Yorgensen.

Factoids: The total value of building permits issued in February was \$690,300. And, in February, the Connecticut State Police/Troop D, in our ongoing motor vehicle enforcement efforts, issued 17 traffic citations and eight warnings in Eastford and made one Driving Under the Influence [DUI]

continued on next page



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arrest. Eastford is 41st of 169 Connecticut towns in dollars invested in clean energy per capita.

State Commissioner of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Catherine Smith has informed me that Eastford has been awarded a \$7,000 Historic Restoration Fund matching grant for our continued rehabilitation efforts at the Union Society Building. The grant is predicated on the Town matching the State monies with an equal \$7,000, which it will do from monies which have accrued in the Union Society Fund through various fund raising efforts by the Union Society Committee. Also, the State has awarded Eastford just short of \$1,000 under the Neglected Cemeteries grant program which will be used, along with Town Government budgeted funds, to maintain and preserve cemeteries throughout Town.

The Rotary Club of Putnam, consistent with its motto of "Service Above Self", has reached out to neighboring communities with its munificence. Rotary Past President Delpha Very has informed me that the Club is donating a six-foot steel, 250-pound outdoor bench to the Town of Eastford, as well as one to Pomfret, Woodstock and Thompson. It has been decided to award the bench to the Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission to replace the bench on the Boston Turnpike Trail lost to the vagaries of Mother Nature. On behalf of all of us in Eastford, I thank Putnam Rotary and Delpha in particular, for both the bench-gift and for including us in their philanthropic endeavors.

Report of the Union Society Building Committee

By Carol Davidge, Chair

The CT Dept. of Economic & Community Development has awarded two grants totaling more than \$100,000 toward rehabilitating the USB, with matching funds from fundraisers by the USBC. For the tag sale on May 20 at EES and a Silent Auction on July 8 during Experience Eastford (furniture not accepted). Eastford's USB is a place where tax protests, voting rights, social and spiritual gatherings happened over 200 years and everyone was welcome regardless of ethnic origin, spiritual belief, gender or age. **Donations and Legacy Memorials are needed to move the project forward.** For donations of \$100 or more, a plaque acknowledges the donor and individuals being honored. All proceeds from fundraisers go to the Town of Eastford for the building. To make a donation, please make checks payable to: Town of Eastford (write Union Society in the memo line), and mail to Union Society Fund, Town of Eastford, P.O. Box 98, Eastford, CT 06242. For information, E-mail: carol.davidge@snet.net.

Nahaco Park Commission Report

By Chris Mayhew, Chair person
cmayhew52002@yahoo.com

The parking expansion project has begun with the assistance of local community members. Also with the warmer weather not far away, many of the spring bulbs should be pushing through the soil to brighten areas of Nahaco Park. Now is also a great time to enjoy the many trails on the property.

On the rental side of things, our calendar continues to fill up with local groups taking advantage of the variety of offerings Nahaco Park has. Word has it, there will be a baby shower, cub scout outings, yoga and local girl scout jamborees held at the park this rental year. To secure a date for your event, contracts need to be turned in as well as fees to solidify your place on the calendar. For any and all rental information please visit either towns' websites for further information or send an inquiry to nahacoparkreservations@gmail.com.

With the water and power being turned on soon, things will begin to get busy at the park. Our annual Volunteer day will take place on Saturday April 22, which is also Earth Day. Work will begin around 9am after some coffee and snacks. This year, we are fortunate once again to have local students who need a few hours of community service as well as Uconn students lending a hand on this day. Projects will range from cleaning kitchen area, staining picnic tables, replacing doors and fire pit work, to moving benches, painting and demo work. A nice variety for the many volunteers that will be attending. If you would like to help out, please send me an email and I will supply you with more information. The day will end around 1pm with a nice lunch provided to all volunteers. That is all for this month, please visit Nahaco park soon. 305 Crystal Pond Road, Woodstock

Of Special Note

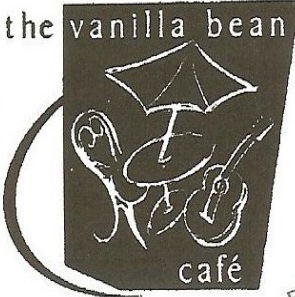
Scholarship Deadline, April 7
Food Pantry needs Food, Cash
Youth & Adult Basketball, Yoga, Seniors
Eastford Historical Society match for donations
Family Egg Hunt, EES, April 15, 10am
Citizen Environmentalists, April 21, 7pm
Nahaco Volunteer Day, April 22, 9am-2pm
Town-wide Tag Sale, May 20-21
Memorial Day Parade, morning May 29
Experience Eastford, July 8

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News You Can Use

Deb Richards – Emergency Management Director

Ways to stay informed ~

All parents and guardians of children at the Eastford Elementary School are automatically placed on the principal’s email distribution list for school and/or community related information. This email list also has an alternate version, maintained by the superintendent, that includes not only parents of Eastford Elementary School children, but also parents and guardians of high school students and other members of the community.

This email list is open to all Eastford residents who would be interested in receiving information related to emergency conditions. These might inform you about the opening of shelters or the distribution of commodities, such as MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and potable water during large scale power outages in town. This alternate email list, also known as the Eastford Emergency List, was activated in 2011 to notify Eastford residents about Hurricane Irene and then again in 2012 with emergency information related to Tropical Storm Sandy. If you would like your email address to be added to the superintendent’s confidential Eastford Emergency List, which is a town-wide distribution list, simply send her an email (lloretz@eastfordct.org) and put “Eastford Emergency List” in the subject line and include your first and last name in the body of the email. The superintendent and the emergency management director will collaborate to send out a test email to the Eastford Emergency list this spring.

Another option that the town now has to provide emergency information is through the town’s new website. The present plan is to use the names and email addresses that are in the superintendent’s Eastford Emergency List and create a group on the town’s website. This users group, whose names would only be available to town officials, could be notified about emergency information by town officials. If you wish to register directly on the town’s website, go to the website - www.eastfordct.org click on the word register on the black bar at the top of the page and follow the instructions to register for emergency updates.

The CT Alert ENS uses the state’s Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) database for location-based notifications to the public for life-threatening emergencies. But the E9-1-1 database includes only traditional wire-line telephone numbers in the state (the “land line” phone you may have in your home).

CT Alert ENS Citizen Sign-up page allows you to add other means of communication to the CT Alert ENS, for **Email, PDAs, Mobile Phones, Text/Instant Messaging**, in addition to your current home phone “land line” (if you have one). Sign up multiple devices. Set the order of receipt. Add additional locations in the state to receive alerts like the office or your children’s schools. NOTE: You are responsible for any costs associated with your receipt of text, phone, or other messages received through any emergency notification system. **To sign up for alerts, go to this website: <http://www.ct.gov/ctalert>**

Eastford Food Pantry

The Food Pantry extends a very hearty “THANK YOU!!” to the many residents of Eastford who have helped replenish supplies to our pantry. Please note that financial donations are also critical and allow us purchase items essential to a balanced diet that may be missing from our pantry. These donations can be mailed to the Selectman’s Office with checks made payable to the Town of Eastford with “food pantry” on the memo line.



Eastford residents in need who would like to avail themselves of the food pantry can place a confidential call anytime to Steve or Karen at 974-1618, or contact the First Selectman’s Office.



Report of the Board of Education

By Linda Loretz

Reminder: The deadline for high school seniors to apply for Eastford scholarships is April 7. Please see Eastford’s website for more information and the Community Foundation’s website for the application (www.cfct.org/).

At its March meeting, the Eastford Board of Education received a preliminary report in response to its request for an energy efficiency and HVAC study from Jamie Spalding, an engineer from Hallam-ICS. The Board of Education will use this report to plan upcoming facilities projects and capital improvements. When completed, the entire report will be posted on the website.

At the same meeting, Pat Boyd, State Representative, addressed the Board of Education and remarked about the governor’s budget and proposed legislation in Hartford. The Board of Education faced the challenge of having to decrease its previously adopted budget by \$221,000 at the request of the Selectmen. Difficult decisions were made regarding transportation and personnel. The revised budget will be presented to the Selectmen and posted on the website.

The Board of Education approved the annual eighth grade trip to Washington, DC and also approved the submission of the IDEA grant.

**Experience Eastford Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 7 pm, TOB
Volunteers & committee members invited.**

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From the Principal's Desk

By Heather Tamsin

It is nice to feel the sun shining and see flowers emerging. It was an unusual winter, but we are all ready to enjoy spring with longer days and warmer weather.

Although we always welcome parents into the school, there are four days each year, two in November and two in April, when teachers attempt to schedule an individual conference with each parent. This year, parent conferences are scheduled for April 6 and 7. If you have a child in the school and you have not set an appointment for a parent conference, please call and request a conference with any teacher. The teachers of special areas as well as the general education teachers are available on these days. Mrs. Loretz and Mrs. Tamsin will be meeting with parents of seventh grade students to discuss high school options on April 6 prior to parent conferences.

The PTO is sponsoring a Book Fair on April 3 through April 7. April 6, the Book fair will be open from 6pm to 8pm. This event is not a fundraiser. It is designed to put more books into the hands of children and it will operate on a BOGO (buy one book, get one free) basis. The PTO needs adult volunteers. If you can help for a few hours, please contact the PTO at PTO@eastfordct.org.

In March we had a field trip offered to all EES families on the March 10 Professional Development Day. Our Local Prevention Council Grant provided the transportation and students enjoyed a variety of activities at Questers Way followed by bowling at Willibowl. We had students from preschool through grade 8 participating in the field trip.

Library News

By: Susan Shead

April is an exciting month at the library. Did you know that April is drop everything and read month? National Library Week is April 9th through 15th. This is a great time to come down to the library and get a library card. If you live in Eastford you must show evidence that you live in town. A driver's license or a piece of mail would be just the thing. If you live out of town you must present your library card (up to date of course!) from you hometown and we can put you in our automated system.

Shakespeare's birthday is April 23rd. Come down to the library and check out our display on him! A Mother's Day Story Time and Craft will take place for children ages 3+ on Saturday May 13th at 10:30AM. Registration is required on or before Saturday May 6th. Call the library at 860-974-0125 or email the library at eastfordpublib@gmail.com. Leave your child's name age and a phone number. We have two new magazines at the library this month: This Old House and Weight Watchers. For DVD's we have The Light between Oceans and Angels and Demons. Tax forms (both federal and state are no longer available at the library. Patrons can go online at www.irs.gov and print forms themselves. There are discount passes available for Mystic Aquarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo, The New England Air Museum, and free admission passes to the New Britain Museum of American Art, Wadsworth Atheneum, and Connecticut's Old State House. We also have coupons for 20% off general admission for The Connecticut Science Center.

Please note:

The library hours are Monday 3-8pm, Tuesday 10am to 8pm, Thursday 3-8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.


Third Grade Celebrates Read Across America Day

Third graders at Eastford Elementary School were able to celebrate Read Across America Day in a fun-filled educational way thanks to our new Logitech teleconference system housed in our classroom. We were able to connect with an elementary school class from Ohio to actively participate in a presentation entitled "Celebration of Seuss!" Students eagerly learned some valuable sign language skills. A favorite was learning how to sign "I Love to Read!" We also played a Family Feud style game with a focus on story characters and traits, story titles, and Seuss movies. Finally, we made a Lorax bookmark for use with our favorite book! To round out the day, we took a walking field trip to the Eastford Town Library and Mrs. Susan Shead, the town librarian, happily shared some famous Seuss stories with the class. What is your favorite Seuss story?



Submitted by Mrs. Lori Crocker-Lincoln

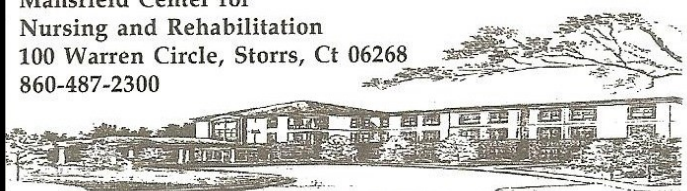
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Eastford Independent Fire Co. #1

From Jeannine Spink, President

The company responded to 14 emergencies during the month of February.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Saturday, April 15th at 6:30 p.m. is the first of the season “All You Can Eat” Steak Supper. Tickets will be on sale in March at \$20.00 per person. Menu is: Top quality steak, baked potato, green salad, green beans, rolls, dessert, beverage and FREE raffle ticket. Tickets are not sold at the door, and no take-out orders. To reserve your dinners, please contact John Paquin at 974-0256, Jeannine Spink at 974-1678 or any member.

FIRE PREVENTION doesn't only happen during Fire Prevention Week. Fire safety is a 24/7 responsibility.

ESCAPE PLANNING

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may only have a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarms sound. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.

Know at least two ways out of every room. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.

Have an outside meeting place (a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.

Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year. Practice using different ways out.

Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them. Close doors behind you as you leave.

If the smoke alarms sound, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets. If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.

CALL “911” from outside your home.

SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home, especially in the basement and attic.

Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working. Change batteries twice a year when you change the clocks.

A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen work area to reduce false alarms. They should be at least ten feet from the stove.

People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside the sleeping areas and on every level of the home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.

Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call “911”.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.

Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.

During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

If you follow these rules you will ensure the safety of your family and property.

Eastford Baptist Church
Invites you to Join us this Easter

Easter Service

- Good Friday Service—April 14th
7:00 PM at Congregational Church of Eastford
8 Church Rd., Eastford
- Sunrise Service—April 16th
6:00 AM at Buell's Orchard
- Easter Breakfast—Following Sunrise Service at
Eastford Baptist Church
- Resurrection Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM

Eastford Baptist Church
133 Union Road, Eastford, CT
860-974-1414
www.eastfordbaptist.com

The Eastford Recreation Commission

Easter Egg Hunt
April 15
Starts at 10:00 am
At EES Playground

Bad weather date
April 16 at 12:00 noon

Bring a BIG empty
basket and
don't be late



Recreation Commission News

By Valerie Katkavick, Chair

Youth basketball has suffered the Tuesday night curse, with many cancellations, but will prevail! We have extended the end date to compensate for missed nights. The program will go until April 18.

Adult pick-up basketball continues on Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 pm. Remember to bring both dark and white shirts.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be April 15. We will start the countdown to begin collecting eggs at 10:00. Bring an empty basket and don't be late, it doesn't take long for the kids to find them all! There is a "bad Weather date" set for Easter Sunday at noon.

The Town Wide Yard Sales dates are May 20 and 21 (after Mother's day and before Memorial Day). This year for the first time, we are offering the school gym for indoor sales at a rate of \$15 per family. Please sign up as soon as possible for either space in the gym or to add your yard on the map. To register, please email valkat@charter.net. Again--the sooner you can sign up, the better --we need time to advertise! Space outside the gym is always available and is a great way to be more centralized. Take advantage of this free map to the sales, the more stars on the map the more customers we attract. This service has been provided to the town by the Rec Commission and the Union Society. The charge for the inside sales will help cover the cost of the gym rental. Volunteers and/or donations are always needed and appreciated.

Thank You.
Valerie

DID YOU KNOW?

By the Eastford Historical Society

At one time the bell in the Eastford Congregational Church tolled when someone in the village died. It tolled in strokes of 10, then stopped for a few seconds, then began again until it tolled the years of the person's age. Then after another pause it would toll one stroke of the bell for a man or two strokes for a woman. The relatives of the deceased paid 25 cents for this service.

This piece of Eastford history was taken from an article entitled "Old Eastford" by Warren P. Keith, originally published in the Putnam Patriot in 1947. It may be found on our website <https://www.eastford.org/Page/93>.

The Eastford Historical Society

The Eastford Historical Society seeks community support for its mission of collecting, preserving and sharing documents and artifacts that help tell the story of Eastford's unique history. Both volunteer and financial support are critical.


Community Challenge: The Lathams will match all dues and donations received by June 30, 2017, to a maximum of \$5,000.

Dues and/or tax deductible donations can be transmitted using the membership form on the Town of Eastford website: <https://www.eastfordct.org/Page/93>.

The Society thanks you for your support of its important educational mission!

100th Anniversary of WWI

April 6 is the 100th Anniversary of America's entry into World War I. Called the "Great War," it resulted in the 3rd greatest numbers of U.S. war deaths, after the Civil War and World War II.





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Military Veteran Flag Staff Order

Deadline: Friday, May 5, 2017

On the Memorial Day weekend, the Trustees of the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association would like to see all American flags placed in flag holders. This would ensure that the flags are uniformly and properly displayed throughout the summer. Therefore, we would like to provide you the opportunity to purchase a military grave marker for your veteran(s). The marker and rod can be ordered to designate a certain branch of the military (i.e., Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, etc.). Although the markers can be purchased through us, the marker would be your property. If you are interested, you must return the attached form, with your check, **by Friday, May 5th**. The order will go out the following Monday. Upon arrival, the markers will be placed at the designated grave site by a trustee of the Eastford Grove Cemetery. Once placed, the marker becomes your responsibility to maintain, not the Association's. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349 or Linda Torgeson at 860-974-3311. **The cost of the bronze marker is \$60; the aluminum marker is \$20; shipping is included.**



I would like to order _____ bronze marker(s) @ \$60 each
I would like to order _____ aluminum marker(s) @ \$20 each
Branch of Service: _____
Purchaser's Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email address (optional): _____
Phone Number: _____
Veteran's Name(s): _____

Check Payable to: Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc.
Mail to: P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242

Please Join Us

Eastford Elementary will be saying farewell to three beloved staff members this year. Mary Guillette, school nurse, Joan Muller, art teacher, and Meribeth Tedisky, PE and Health teacher will be retiring at the end of this school year. In honor of them, a gathering at Camp Nahaco is planned for Friday, May 19th from 5-7 pm. Members of the community and alumni are invited to attend the event which will be catered with appetizers at the camp pavilion. A five dollar per-person fee is being collected and RSVPs are politely requested. If you plan on attending, please e-mail Mary Se-guine at mseguine@eastfordct.org. You may pay at the door, but it would be appreciated if you could send your remittance to the attention of "Sunshine Committee" at P.O. Box 158, Eastford 06242 or drop it off at the school office.



**The 2017 Joe St. King Lecture
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Friday, April 21 - 7 pm

Eastford Town Hall-lower level
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Good Friday Service - April 14 at 7 pm
Join us, together with the Eastford Baptist Church,
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Easter Sunrise Service - April 16 at 6 am
Free Breakfast to Follow
Easter Morning Service - April 16 at 10:30 am

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Eastford Readiness Council

AKA Eastford's Preschool Program

Jennifer Barlow

Update

The Readiness Program is currently accepting registration for the 2017-2018 school year. If you would like a form please contact the school office or find the registration form on the school's website. Having accurate numbers helps the Council with the registration process. We have already had a number of inquiries and registrations handed in.

This past month the Preschool class had a Friendship Fun activity and was pleased to welcome some other town families in addition to the regular classroom families. The children enjoyed books, snacks and crafts. Many of the preschool students also had the opportunity to have a dental and vision screening done at school. The school celebrated Read Across America day at the beginning of March. The preschool program invited the Kindergarten class to read to them. This was a big treat for Mrs. Kopplin to see how much these students have improved in their reading skills. On April 4th there is a *Books and Blocks* program for the upcoming preschoolers to meet Mrs. Kopplin and start getting introduced to the idea of school.

For more information on the program please look on-line at the Program's handbook or by contacting the Head Teacher, Christine Kopplin at ckopplin@eastfordct.org or the Readiness Council Liaison, Jen Barlow, at jbarlow@eastfordct.org Mark your calendar!

- April 3: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (Eastford Elementary School Teacher's Lounge)
- April 4: Books and Blocks 10:00 (Eastford Elementary School)
- April 20: Story time 2:30 (Eastford Public Library)
- May 1: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (Eastford Elementary School Teacher's Lounge)

CPR/First Aid Training

American Heart Association instructor Jeannine Spink, is pleased to report that she, along with EIFC member Lexi Lathrop, are instructing the 8th grade health students at the Eastford Elementary School in CPR/First Aid.

With the cooperation of "Mrs. T.", the students are learning the lifesavings skills in the areas of Hands-Only CPR for infants/children/adults, traditional CPR, Rescue Breathing, Heimlich Maneuver, Conscious to Unconscious also for infants/children/adults. First Aid skills include "head-to-toe" injuries, environmental emergencies, and illnesses for all age levels. Upon completion of this course that is held weekly until all areas have been addressed, each student will receive a certification card from the American Heart Association in Basic Life Support.

These students are to be commended for their commitment to learn these lifesavings skills. From an instructor perspective, they are responsible and acknowledge this information with respect and seriousness. And our thanks to "Mrs. T." and Principal Tamsin for allowing us to work with the students.

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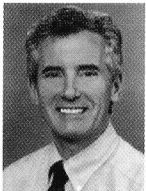
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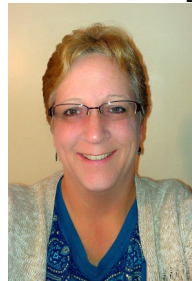
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Community Cupcake Wars!

By Cupcake Wars Coordinators: Robin Sabad, Frietha Lawrence, Allison Gormley

The first community-wide Cupcake Wars! was held 2:00-4:00 PM on February 11, 2017 at the Congregational Church of Eastford. Eighteen contestants from Eastford and surrounding towns vied for the best recipe and for the best display of their cupcakes. Contestants ranged in age from young children to older adults. Three leaders of the Eastford Community, Heather Tamsin (Eastford Elementary School Principal), Lennox Brodeur (wife of Eastford's First Selectman, Art Brodeur, who was unable to attend at the last minute), and Brett Laffert (Proprietor of Coriander Café in Eastford), took on the challenging task of judging the competition. Awards were given to first, second, and third place in each category. Best recipe: 1st place – Molly Rourke; 2nd place – Madison Bates; 3rd place – Johanna Wolfe. Best display: 1st place – Liz Johnson; 2nd place – Johanna Wolfe; 3rd Place – Cindy Labbe. The event was attended by many on-lookers. Everyone had fun whether watching the judges deliberate, decorating their own cupcake with the cupcakes and variety of decorating supplies available, or chatting with new and old friends. There was much talk about next year's competition. We think we've started a new tradition here in Eastford!

**Eastford
Town Wide**

Saturday  Sunday
May 20 May 21

Eastford

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Please send me: your address, day(s) and hours of operation
With a brief description of sale items before the deadline - 5/13

Sponsored by the Eastford Recreation Commission and the Union Society

Eastford Seniors
By Linda SM dos Santos

The Spring Celebration Dinner is on **Saturday, April 8** from 5:30 - 8 PM. Bring your guests to enjoy a Terrific Turkey dinner & an Evening of surprises, while listening to the fabulous "Second Helping", a Singing Acoustical Act, at the Midway Family Restaurant, 174 Ashford Center, Route 44, Ashford, CT. Members \$13, Non-Members \$18, tickets will be sold at the Eastford Post Office on Saturdays. The Midway was established in 1937 by husband & wife, Pete and Annie Knath; named for its location halfway between Hartford CT and Providence RI.

The current Midway owner's, brothers, George & Peter Lytras celebrated their 30th year open on December 6, 2016. The Midway has served Ronald Reagan in the 1950's, Paul Newman (who opened the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in 1988 just two miles away), Alec Baldwin, Harry Belafonte, Bernadette Peters, Bruce Willis and more. **Eastford Senior Citizens** are current and former Eastford residents and friends, ages 50 & up, who enjoy sharing good times, discussing senior issues, and enjoying gathering together for fun activities. For Senior Meeting information, please refer to flyers that appear from time to time in the Eastford library, Town Office Building, Post Office, The Eastford Communicator, and in on-line updates, "What's New for Seniors?" 860-538-8868.



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Tips for Today
by Liz Ellsworth
Happy Spring!

Support your local, favorite state parks! There are so many outdoor activities you can do: hiking, kayaking, birding, biking, camping, letterboxing and geocaching/earthcaching, mountain biking, fishing, canoeing, and swimming. For more details on locations and activities, visit the State of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's webpage: http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&Q=533930&deepNav_GID=1650

ATTENTION

All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to Deb Yazo:
E-mail: eastford.communicator@gmail.com
Deadline: 2nd Wednesday of each Month

Eastford Communicator Volunteers

Executive Editor Carol Davidge
Composition/Layout Deb Yazo
News Collection Deb Yazo
Volunteers Ruth Yulo
Tom French
Megan Calchera

All items for The Eastford Communicator must include submitter's name, address & telephone, for verification. All items submitted are subject to editing. The Communicator reserves the right to reject any submissions. Opinions expressed are those of the submitters and not necessarily those of The Communicator. The Communicator will not print items it regards as offensive or slanderous.

Dear Readers:

We hope you will contribute to The Eastford Communicator. Advertising revenues do not cover printing and postage costs. The Communicator is Eastford's main source of news about local events, town government, committees, organizations. We need donors to support this effort if we are to continue. If you can, please send a donation. **Thank you!**

Your Name: _____

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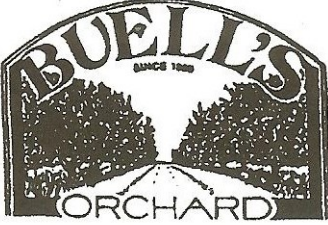
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