

The Eastford Communicator

Selectman's Snippets:

Eastford Elementary School – Let us all welcome Eastford Elementary School’s new Superintendent Dr. Donna Leake. She begins her position this month. May she promote the school goals while embracing the challenges that comes with educational leadership. I look forward to maintaining a collaborative partnership between community and school. Welcome to our lovely small rural Town of Eastford!



Thankful – Steve and Karen Broderick, the families of Eastford Elementary School and Whitcraft have collectively pooled to serve the growing number of families in need. Both Steve and Karen have had the interest of our local families and meeting their needs through the Food Pantry for many years. We are indeed blessed to have these two dedicated volunteers. It is through them, Eastford Elementary School families, generous residents, and Whitcraft and other local businesses, especially during the Holiday Season, that we all receive the value of giving from those who serve in our community. The Town Government would like to wish everyone a Healthy, Happy, Holiday Season. Thank you all!

Transfer Station – Thank you for recycling. You can find more information about recycling through the town website. Stickers are to be affixed to windshield’s lower left-hand corner. Limit: 2 cubic yards per week – roughly one level pickup load. We will be enforcing residents to comply with rules concerning the Transfer Station.

Police Services – During the month of September, Troop D responded to 41 calls. These calls of service included: Accidents: 2, Criminal Invest: 4, Burglaries: 0, Larcenies: 0, DUI’S: 0, Traffic Citations: 6, Written Warning: 1, and Non-Reportable Matters: 35 (No written report, such as a traffic stop). A reminder from our Troop D liaison: please continue to encourage people to report criminal activity or suspicious incidents to Troop D @ 860-779-4900, or in an emergency 911. Connecticut State Police

Respectfully yours,
Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

*Of Special Note: CALENDAR (p4)
Holiday Events (p6)*

- Live Nativity, EES Parking lot, Dec 8, 6pm (p6)*
- EES Winter Concerts, Dec. 14, 10am & 7pm*
- Discounts/Free Admissions to Museums-Library (p10)*
- Congratulations to Woodstock Academy awardees (p6)*
- Eastford Historical Quarterly (centerfold)*

THANK YOU DONORS!

In this special time of sharing, please consider donating to local organizations, including:

- Town of Eastford: Food Pantry (POB 98, p7)
YES-There is hunger in our small town.
- Eastford Independent Fire Co. (POB 333, p2,6)
Volunteers are urgently needed to sustain service.
- Eastford Historical Society (POB 350)
- Town of Eastford: Union Society (POB 98, p9)
- Grove Cemetery Assn. (POB 284, p11)

*The Communicator also needs your donations. Many communities no longer receive town news as printing & postage costs rise. Help us continue service **FREE** every month to more than 900 Eastford households.*

Please Buy Local!

Our advertisers offer catering, take-out, fruit, gifts, products, gift cards & personalized service.

THANK YOU RECENT DONORS:

- Susan Burns
- Robert Williams

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You are sustaining The Eastford Communicator!

*Please send your donations to:
Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253
Eastford, CT 06242*

Eastford
Holiday Celebration
Saturday December 8th
11:00 - 1 pm
Congregational Church of Eastford

Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Decorate some homemade cookies to enjoy with Cocoa Crafts for all ages ~ visit with Santa ~ Free family fun

Free photos available

LIVE MUSIC 11-12
THE ASHFORD BABCOCK BAND

Accepting Holiday Donations for The Eastford Food Bank

EES PTO fundraiser SnowFlakes available for Giving Tree

Bad Weather Date : December 15 at 11:00

All Are Welcome

Sponsored by EASTFORD RECREATION COMMISSION AND THE UNION SOCIETY

**S - O - S
In Morse Code, S-O-S means H E L P!**

Since 1942, the EIFC has prided itself in assuring Eastford residents that we are available 24/7 for your emergency needs and that someone will always show up quickly to help. We have lived up to those assurances. Unfortunately, times are changing in the world of emergency services.

Yes, the EIFC is on call 24/7, and we will always do our best. However, it is very disconcerting for us when we can only draw a membership of eight from a population of 1,800. People no longer live and work in the same town. But, why only eight when we used to have 25-30? Numbers have dwindled due to attrition, aging, and lack of commitment to volunteerism. Our young members join, do very well, go off to college, and then we lose them. All fire departments are feeling the pinch, not just Eastford. Public safety has to be a priority for residents, but we need more people for that to happen.

When we approach residents about joining, we often hear, "I'd like to, but I just don't have the time." The eight members we have are no less busy with jobs and family than anyone else, but willingly leave our homes at all hours of the day or night, in inclement weather, and handle the worst possible emergencies. We do this because public safety of Eastford is a priority for us and it should be for you.

Fortunately all of our members are cross-trained and highly skilled in fire suppression as Firefighter I, II and Emergency Medical Services. There is no emergency situation we can't handle. Eastford is very fortunate in that we have excellent ambulance resources from our neighboring towns with our primary receiving hospitals being Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam and Windham Community Hospital in Willimantic. That will remain the same.

But, there is a very simple answer and resolve to this S - 0 -S:

... YOU BY BECOMING A VOLUNTEER MEMBER OF THE EIFC—as a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or support. If our membership numbers were to increase, and soon, we could easily return to the days where we have plenty of manpower that is highly skilled and willing to protect their neighbors. Let's be "Neighbors Protecting Neighbors" again!

Below are facts and explanations that may answer some of your concerns:

FACT: COMMUNITIES SERVED BY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS DEPEND ON AND EXPECT THEM TO BE THEIR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR ALL TYPES OF EMERGENCIES.

FACT: VOLUNTEERS COMPRISE 71% OF FIREFIGHTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

FACT: WHILE THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS IS DECLINING, THE AGE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS IS RISING: We are finding it difficult to attract younger members who want to "give back" or have a sense of being a volunteer to serve. So, older members who have given years of service, some as long as 50 years, experience a sense of guilt when they retire because there is no one willing to step up.

FACT: SERVICES MANNED BY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SAVE LOCALITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AN ESTIMATED \$128 BILLION PER YEAR. You, as residents, need to seriously consider what it will cost in additional tax dollars for a paid department. The average cost for a paid department is approximately \$275,000 TO \$300,000 annually for two people, 24 hours a day at \$15.00 per hour. This includes salaries, insurance, benefits, etc. Breaking it down, typically, a PAID department will cost \$50,000 per firefighter annually in salaries, not including benefits and overtime. As a taxpayer, are you willing to absorb that additional tax increase? It is inevitable in the not too distant future if your protection is not taken seriously. Is your safety and protection any less important than the education of our children? Absolutely not. Our members are taxpayers in Eastford as well. We give, yet a tax abatement program that some towns offer to give us a little break does not support us. This is unfortunate since we only asked for \$77,575.00 this fiscal year to keep our doors open, train our members, provide OSHA approved gear, and keep our trucks NFPA compliant.

FACT: FIRE DEPARTMENT CALL VOLUMES CONTINUE TO INCREASE: The increase in calls, coupled with the decline in the number of volunteer firefighters mean that departments have to do more with less.

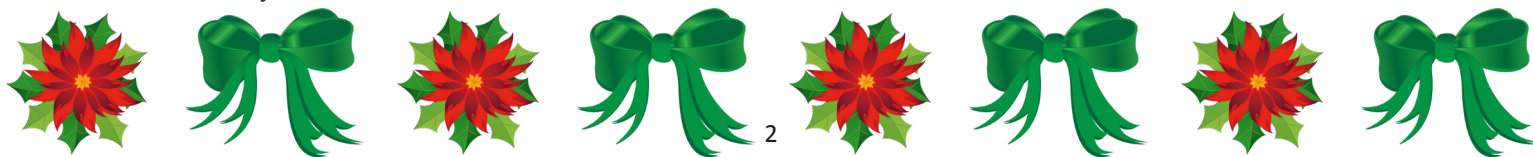
FACT: A SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS COULD SEND INSURANCE RATES SOARING FOR HOMEOWNERS: In some instances, rates could increase to as much as \$1,400 per year per household if a fire department is not in the town where you live. Can you afford that increase?

FACT: IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT WHEN IT COMES TO DAYTIME AVAILABILITY: During the day, the only options available might be someone who works a night shift or is retired. We currently only have two members who might be able to respond during the typical Monday-Friday, 9-5 workweek.

FACT: THE COMPOSITION OF A PAID DEPARTMENT WOULD BE A MINIMUM OF TWO PEOPLE, WHO ARE FIRE AND EMS CERTIFIED, TO SIT AND WAIT FOR A 12-HOUR SHIFT. Then what happens for the other 12 hours? The firehouse would have to be redesigned to accommodate the needs of the paid employees and that would have to be absorbed by the town, not the fire company. Our accommodations in a 78-year old facility are already less than satisfactory for the current membership.

FACT: VOLUNTEERS INVEST A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES: Your EIFC volunteer averages 25 hours per month per member for meetings and training. Every time we leave our homes for emergencies we are putting our lives on the line for YOU. There is no other organization or board in town that is willing to give that dedication. With more members, the burden on each one could drastically decrease.

Talk to your neighbors and friends! Time is running out. We need you to step up and protect the future of your town. The long-term result would bring the volunteer fire service up to where it is healthy again and save you, the taxpayer dollars along with a true sense of community.



Board of Education Report

At its November meeting, the Eastford Board of Education received updates of policies regarding anti-discrimination and slightly modified the policy regarding Secondary School Attendance. All Board of Education policies can be found on the website under the Board of Education tab. In addition, at the November meeting, the Board of Education approved a contract with Connecticut Public School District 19. This contract outlines the terms under which Eastford students may attend E.O. Smith High School.

The Board received information about the recent Community Conversation. Almost 100 people, including moderators, attended. Most participants showed support for both Eastford Elementary School and Woodstock Academy during this community event. More specific information about the conversation is included in the final report written by citizens Michael Beausoleil, Heather Beausoleil and Robert Boyd. The report is available at www.eastfordct.org/Page/379.

The Board received the Annual Report for the school year 2017-18. This report may be found in its entirety at www.eastfordct.org/Page/1425.

The 2019-20 calendar was discussed. The Board of Education makes a concerted effort to align the Eastford Elementary School calendar to the Woodstock Academy calendar in order to keep families on the same schedule and to minimize busing costs. The calendar will remain on the agenda for another month or so before being finalized. The Board noted that the November meeting would be the last for Superintendent Linda Loretz before her retirement. The Board thanked her for her service.

From State Sen. Tony Guglielmo and State Rep. Pat Boyd:
Text 9-1-1: New Service Provides Ability to Send a Text Message in an Emergency When Absolutely Necessary, Including for Those with Disabilities and in Situations When a Voice Call is Not Safe. Text-to-911 provides residents with the ability to send a text message to 9-1-1 from a handheld device in emergency situations when it is either unsafe or they are unable to place a voice call. To use Text-to-911, enter the numbers "911" in the "to" or "recipient" field on a mobile phone or other handheld device. Text the location of the emergency & services needed (police, fire, ambulance). Answer questions and follow-up instructions will come from the 9-1-1 call center.

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EES Principal's Report

by Carole McCombe, Principal

The Eastford Elementary students and Auction Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the Annual Goods and Services Auction on November 17, 2018. The generosity of the community is greatly appreciated! The money raised through the event allows all eighth grade students the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. This year's auction marked the 17th year that this community has shown its continued support.

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Catherine Roto as our new school nurse. She has been with us since the beginning of the year as a long term substitute and we are happy to have her on board in this official capacity. We are also pleased to have Dr. Donna Leake with us as our new Superintendent. She took over December 1 from retiring Superintendent Mrs. Linda Loretz, who is looking forward to her well deserved retirement.

Our winter concert will be held on Tuesday, December 18 at 10am and 7pm. The Tuesday Morning Chorus, Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus and Advanced Band will perform a selection of winter and holiday related pieces. The community is welcome to attend and support our young musicians as they have worked hard preparing for this performance.

Our eighth grade students, under the supervision of the eighth grade class advisor, Melissa Lessard, organized a food drive the week of November 5 with tremendous success. All classes in the school participated in collecting and donating needed food and toiletry items. This time of year allows us an opportunity to show students how important and rewarding it is to help those in need. Eastford is a community that supports each other during challenging times. Students showed their sense of pride as they helped deliver the food to the Town Food Pantry.

Eastford Elementary School extends warm wishes to all families for a happy holiday season with family and friends. There will be no school for students from December 24 through January 1. School will resume for students on January 2, 2019.

From the Eastford Republican Town Committee

The Eastford RTC would like to thank our donors and all those who attended our annual dinner for their continued support. We very much appreciate you and your support. A welcome packet has been created for those new to town and is available upon request of any RTC member. The packets will be available at Town Hall, but we also hope to visit new residents.

Daniel Belanger, Chairman – Eastford RTC 860-924-1994
Chairman@EastfordRepublicans.com

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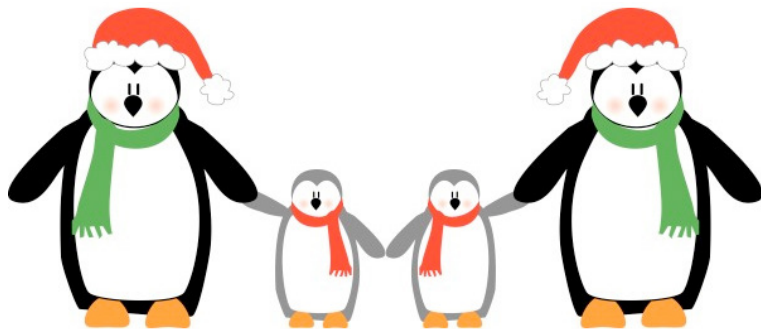
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EES Teacher Report

By Lori Crocker-Lincoln, Third grade teacher

Connecticut History Comes Alive for Third and Fourth Graders at Eastford Elementary

Third graders across the state learn about their town and state history in social studies classes. In fact, Eastford’s grade three has a text about each. Our Connecticut text is entitled Where I Live: Connecticut. This text also comes with a digital component that is very engaging. We are also lucky to have a locally written text about our town and it is aptly named Eastford. Each provides students with a wealth of information about their town and state, but sometimes just reading about history isn’t quite enough. On October 25, Eastford’s grade three and four classes traveled to Hartford and visited both the Wadsworth Athenaeum and The Old State House to gain information on the rich history of our fine state. While at The Old State House students participated in a program entitled *These Walls Do Talk*. This program showed students the various architectural features of buildings in the city of Hartford. Students were then able to look at more recent buildings in the city and accurately identify arches, columns, pediments, and urns. We may have inspired some budding architects at Eastford School! At the Wadsworth Athenaeum, students took part in a docent-led tour entitled *Connecticut People and Places*. While there, students were introduced to Connecticut’s rich history and culture through the events, people, places, and ideas depicted in works of art. Many of the works on display at the Wadsworth were created by Connecticut artists. Upon returning to school, the third graders were asked to reflect upon the trip and identify new learning in a written response. The vocabulary rich responses and detailed comments were impressive. Here are what a few of the students had to say: “I saw the Charter Oak on the second floor and that is the tree where the charter was hidden.” Porter Barlow. “When we are in fifth grade, we can run for kid governor.” Justin Szemrelyo. Additionally, Kyleigh Murphy and Will Ellsworth both commented about wanting to return for a visit with their families. Please contact me at lcrockerlincoln@eastfordct.org if you are interested in sharing artifacts or information about Eastford and/or Connecticut history with grade three this year.



December, 2018 Calendar


- 1 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 2 Tree of Life Ceremony, Cong Ch, 5pm
- 3 BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 4 Free Holiday Meal/Celebration, Cong Ch, 11:30 (Res.)
School Readiness Council, EES, 5:30pm
Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 5 Crystal Pond Park Commission, Woodstock TH, 6pm
- 6 Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 7 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
- 8 Cookies/Cocoa Santa, Cong.Ch, 11am-1pm
Live Nativity, EES lot, 6pm (Snow date: Dec.15)
Nutcracker, Woodstock Academy, 7:30pm (Res.)
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 10 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm
Book Discussion, Library, 7pm
- 11 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 12 **Communicator Deadline**
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm
Clean Energy, TOB, 7pm
- 13 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 14 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
Winter Concert, WA, 6:30pm
- 15 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 17 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm
- 18 Winter Concerts, EES at 10am & 7pm
Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 19 Recreation Commission, TOB, 4:30pm
- 21 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
- 22 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight, Baptist Ch, 4pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight, Cong Ch, 7pm
- 27 Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 29 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 31 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm

SCHOOL vacations:

Woodstock Academy: Dec 22-Jan 6

Eastford Elementary School: Dec 24-Jan 2

CT Farm Bureau's 2018 Legislative Leadership Award goes to State Representative Pat Boyd (D-Brooklyn, Eastford, Pomfret, Union, and Woodstock) for success for legislation to continue a stand-alone State Department of Agriculture and funding of dairy assistance programs. "I'm honored to have the opportunity to advocate for farmers not only in my district, but across the state," said Boyd. The CFB elevates the stature of agriculture through education, marketing promotion, and legislative advocacy with 3,400 members statewide.



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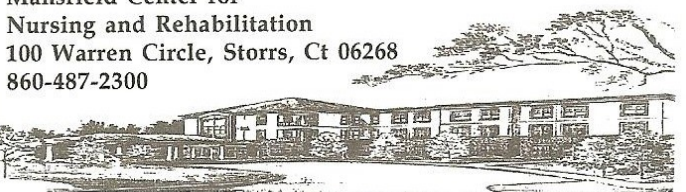
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**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EASTFORD**

The second installment of Real and Personal Property taxes and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes on the list of October 1, 2017 is due and payable on January 1, 2019. The Tax Collector's office will be open for the collection of taxes each Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12 Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month until 6:30 P.M.

All taxes become liable to penalty on February 1, 2019 and interest will be charged on any due or any part thereof, at the rate of one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date. Minimum penalty is \$2.00. Mail must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2019 to avoid interest charges.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes not paid by February 1, 2019 will be reported as delinquent to Department of Motor Vehicles and registrations will be denied. **Personal checks and online payments for delinquent motor vehicle taxes require a 10-day hold of DMV clearance from date of deposit to ensure funds are received in our account. Cash payment is required for immediate release of DMV hold.**

For online viewing and paying of tax bills visit the Tax Collector's page at www.eastfordct.org/TownofEastford and follow the link.

Christine E. Hustus, Tax Collector

Editor's Note: Please consider the EIFC when making your annual donations to charities.

The Eastford Independent Fire Co. No. 1, as 100% volunteer, rely on the generous annual monetary support received from the town. BUT, finances are tight in order to keep our doors open and serve you best. Often vehicle emergencies, replenishment of supplies and equipment fall outside the budgeted yearly allotment. Donations help the EIFC make a difference in OUR community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can send your tax-deductible donation to: EIFC, PO Box 333, Eastford, CT. 06242. You will receive by return mail a thank you showing the amount and date check was written for tax purposes.

Nature Notes—The Princess Pine By Micah Torcellini
Princess Pine (or Princes' Pine), *Lycopodium obscurum*, is a common, despite its name being *obscurum* (hidden, obscure), ground-level plant in the woodlands of Connecticut and much of the eastern United States and Canada. It is more biologically similar to mosses and ferns rather than trees. It is often used for Christmas wreathes and decorations, as its sporophytes (the structures that spread spores) resemble a miniature conifer of about four inches tall. Although it is classified as a common plant, it is a slow-growing and reproducing species, and excessive gathering can cause the population to significantly diminish. It is best to avoid gathering this plant in significant quantities, to avoid damage and to allow the population to continue. This plant grows both clonally, which means that many stems come from a common rhizome and are all genetically identical, and through spores. Pulling the plants can damage this rhizome and even possibly kill the entire colony, so if one decided to harvest them, it is best to use clipping shears instead of uprooting the sporophytes. In general, it is preferable to use more common species of vegetation such as hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) or eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) for Christmas decorations. If one wishes to use Princess Pine in decorations, use should be limited to accents.

Forested Farmland Grants from The Last Green Valley

Attention woodland landowners: Funding is available to improve woodland habitat for important bird species and to manage your woods for wildlife and people, ideally for landowners who have never had a forest management plan and own more than 10 acres of woodlands. The plan will contain recommendations for management measures aligning with the landowner's goals for the property. The plans will meet federal and state requirements and may be used to apply for property tax reductions at the local level (where applicable). Grant funds are available to pay for most of the forester's costs and to completely fund the bird habitat assessments. Landowners will be responsible for choosing a forester from an approved list and paying for a percentage of the total cost of the forest management plan. **Application deadline is Jan. 18, but it is recommended the process begin by early December to ensure the application is complete before the deadline.** Visit www.thelastgreenvalley.org for links to the application materials.



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Holiday Events

Eastford Tree of Life Ceremony

Sunday December 2 at 5pm

The Congregational Church of Eastford, 8 Church Road to benefit Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeast Connecticut. Come, light your love, support Hospice in memory or in honor of someone special who touched your life. (Info: daykimball.org/TreeofLife)

Tuesday December 4 from 11:30am–1:30 pm

Join us for a FREE Christmas meal!

Woodstock Academy's Hill Singers LIVE!
Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long
The Congregational Church of Eastford
Reservations Required – 860-974-0294

December 8 from 11am to 1 pm

**Cookies & Cocoa with Santa Family Celebration
Live Music—Free Photo with Santa**

Sponsor: Eastford Recreation Commission
at Congregational Church
Donate to Food Bank or PTO

December 8 at 6pm

Live Nativity

Eastford Baptist Church and Congregational Church of Eastford present a Live Nativity
Eastford Elementary School parking lot
Join us as we celebrate Christ's Advent together!
(Snow Date: Dec. 15)

Winter Concerts by EES School Children

Friday, Dec. 14, 10am & 7pm
EES

Christmas Eve Services - Monday, December 24

Eastford Baptist Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4pm

133 Union Road, 860-974-1414

Christmas Blessings, Pastor Tim Howard
and

The Congregational Church of Eastford at 7pm

A traditional Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Lessons. The service will be held by candlelight, and is a beautiful and memorable way for the whole family to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please join us.

Christmas Blessings, Pastor Mike Moran

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From The Woodstock Academy



4 Receive Awards at The Woodstock Academy's Annual Academic Convocation—Madelyn Grube '19 received the "Undergraduate who has done the most for The Academy" award. Maddie has held positions of leadership on her class council for the past three years and currently serves as the senior class president. Her aunt and Associate Head of School, Holly Grube Singleton '86, and her grandfather, Guy Grube '61, received the same award during their time at The Woodstock Academy—three generations of students from one family who are dedicated to making The Woodstock Academy a better place! The Grubes and Singletons live in Eastford. Madelyn also received an award for High Achievement in Forensics and was recognized as an AP Scholar. **Three other Students from Eastford also received awards** which recognize achievements made during the previous school year (2017-2018): **Zachary Bertram** received the Math Achievement Award and the Outstanding Achievement in General Biology Award. **Ely Driscoll** was recognized as an AP Scholar. **Zoe Marshall** received awards for High Achievement in ACP Biology and Outstanding Achievement in Wood Technology I.

2018 Quarter 1 Honor Roll – Eastford

High Honors

Paula Victoria Hernandez Aulet (11), Madelyn Jane Grube (12), Anna Faith Kellermann (9), Zoe Alana Marshall (11), Gavin Michael Miller (10), Lily Song Patenaude (10)

Honors

Izetta Lynn Asikainen (11), Cedric Joffre William Bilica (10), Henry Bushnell Driscoll (9), Oliver Bushnell Driscoll (10), Ely Bushnell Driscoll (12), Kayla Mackenzie Gaudreau (11), Shannon Elizabeth Hermann (12), Nicole Marie Marmat (12), Luke Morgan Mathewson (12), Jack Henry Savage (11), Clayton Warren Singleton (10), and Kelsey May Tyler (12)

Recognition

Zachary Peter Bertram (11), Michael David Bilica (12), Jordan Rhea Chiles (9), Amanda Ann Hair (10), and Emme L. Miglietta (10), Kamila Wysocki (9)

Of Interest:

SAT Testing - Dec. 1, 7:45 a.m. – Noon. **ACT Testing**—Dec 8, 7:45am Contact David Walley, director of college and career counseling, at dwalley@woodstockacademy.org

Michael Bolger's Nutcracker - Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Tickets at wacenterforthearts.org.

Music Department Winter Concert - Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m. Contact Lauren Churchill, instrumental director, at lchurchill@woodstockacademy.org

Winter Holiday Break - No School - Dec. 22 – Jan. 6

Eastford Food Pantry by Steve & Karen Broderick

As many of us begin our holiday preparations, it's important to remember there are some in town who are not as fortunate as others. The need for food and the need to donate are year-round. We are so thankful for every donation, from the one small bag that appears in the TOB to the food drives by local organizations, clubs, churches, and businesses. As of this writing, thanks to the Eastford Elementary School, we just completed a wonderful

restocking of our food pantry shelves. For the 6th consecutive year, Mrs. Lessard and her 8th grade class coordinated a school-wide food drive, and this year's was probably the most successful drive to date. The Food Pantry extends a very hearty "THANK YOU!!" to the Eastford School and the residents of our town for their generosity. Our heartfelt thanks also go out to: The Congregational Church of Eastford for their food drive; Cory Blanchette and the Eastford Boy Scouts for their food drive; Whitcraft Corporation, who for the fourth consecutive year generously provided holiday turkeys for our clients; Sarah Dziedzic, a social science teacher at Woodstock Academy, who with her students operates the Caring Continues Food Pantry at the Academy and offered to share nonperishable donations with Eastford; and Robert Williams and Susan Burns for their donation. Because of all these folks, both our shelves and our hearts are full. But the need is ongoing and this food will very quickly make its way into the homes of our needy clients.

As a reminder, our "Most Wanted" food list includes:

low sugar cereals, oatmeal, rice, tuna, soup, canned fruits and juices, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, bisquick or baking mix, crackers, granola bars, snacks, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, toiletries. However, at this time of year especially, monetary donations enable us to purchase holiday meals for families and to purchase items missing from our shelves. Checks can be made out to the Town of Eastford with Food Pantry on the memo line and mailed to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242. Gift cards to grocery stores also are appreciated and can be dropped off at the First Selectman's Office. **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.**

News You Can Use

by Deb Richards - Emergency Management Director

Make a plan, be prepared.....

Have a go bag ready if you have to shelter in place or evacuate your home. Your go bag can be part of your emergency kit, just make sure it is in a bag or easy to carry container and that it is easy to get to.

Think about these items for your go bag:

- Battery powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Lightweight blankets
- Emergency information, including insurance policies
- A list of medications and correct dosage, doctor's names
- Personal items such as toothbrushes, soap, extra glasses, etc.
- Whistle
- First aid kit
- Change of clothing
- Non-perishable snacks
- Books, cards or magazines to pass the time
- Hand sanitizer or wipes
- High protein wrapped snacks

Consider these additional items for infants and children:

- Baby formula and food
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Blanket or toy

Consider these additional items for medical conditions:

- Empty pill bottle(s) or a list of current medications
 - Your doctor's phone number
- *Make sure you update your go bag when your medications change.

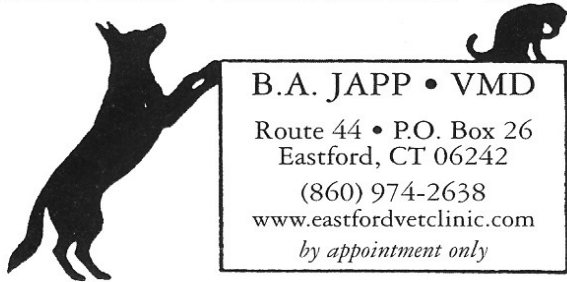
For pets:

- Pet food & water
- Collar with ID tags
- Pet medication(s)
- Pet carriers and leashes
- Medical records from vet
- Photos of your pet
- Microchip information

Additional ideas: Create emergency kit for your car; Stash some cash in case ATM's and credit card machines are not usable;

Sign up for emergency alerts: www.ctalerts.gov
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING: SAY SOMETHING:
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Eastford Senior Citizens By Edward Desmond
 Here's the latest buzz. The Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC) recently held their Annual Harvest Potluck Dinner at The Congregational Church of Eastford...yum yum. A wide variety of homemade favorites graced our tables. Thanks for the contributions everyone! Special thanks to Illiano's Restaurant, Coriander Country Store & Cafe, Soleil and Suns Bakery, and our friendly neighborhood Key Bank for blessing us with their delicious contributions. Way to go folks! We loosened up the belts, and chowed down to the acoustic sounds of "Second Helping", our dynamic musical duo, Michael Gallison and Bill Blanchard. Good Times, kids, Good Times! Kudos as well to The Town of Eastford and the ESC for helping make this happen. **Congratulations** to Jane Budd, and Mary & Dominic Roto, who became Honorary Lifetime Members of the Eastford Senior Citizens. Well done, and thanks so much for your past and continued support. Bravo! Oh, and hey, let's throw some hugs out to Mary Ann Lally for the cool door prizes, too.

Attention: The Congregational Church of Eastford, the Church holds its Annual Community Day Luncheon on December 4th at 11:30am. A wonderful ham meal will be provided, and Woodstock Academy's "HillTop Singers" will open and once more grace us with their melodic voices. Really can't wait for this one. RSVP to the Church at 860-974-0294. If you reserve your seats and later are unable to attend, please call the Church, not ESC, to release the seats for someone else. For more details, call 860-974-0294, or email the church at office@cceastford.com.


For information about Eastford Seniors, call 860-538-8868 or email ESC06242@AOL.com. Happy Holidays to all, take care, be well, and stay warm. See you soon, Ciao for now.
 (edited by Linda dos Santos)

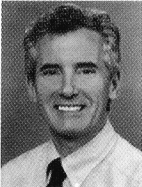
Eastford School Readiness Council

Maribeth Stearns, Liaison
 12 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242
 860-974-1130

November and December were times for our Preschoolers to explore outdoors, picking apples and tasting cider, finding leaves to collect and compare, and discussing the concept of thankfulness. Families were invited to the school for Information Night, where we discussed the curriculum and new assessment tools, in preparation for parent conferences and report cards. We also held a Thankfulness Celebration during the school day so many families could share in some of the activities we do daily and to strengthen the home-school partnership. As our School Readiness Initiative Council continues to work on improving our program, moving toward re-accreditation with the National Association for Early Childhood (NAEYC), we wish to reach out to the community to anyone who might be interested in joining our group. We are particularly looking for parents with children in the preschool program, health personnel and others who might be willing to give some time. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 at the school. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. McCombe, Principal at Eastford School -cmcombe@eastfordct.org, or Maribeth Stearns, School Readiness Liaison at mari-beth527@hotmail.com.

Scout Troop 92—Scout meetings are most Thursday evenings at Knowlton Memorial Hall at 7pm next to Cumberland Farms store. Visitors and new members are welcome. October/November: **Campout at Goodwin State Park** in Hampton: Webelos Cub Scouts participated and all enjoyed the hike and outdoor cooking. **Court of Honor:** Scouts were awarded the merit badges that they earned. Advancement in rank took place at this time as well. **Bicycle ride on the Hop River Bike Path:** Scouts rode 14 miles (our last bike ride until spring). **Scouting for food:** Yellow food collection bags were distributed to collect food for the Ashford and Eastford food banks. Thank you to all that donated to this worthy cause. Additional food donations will be accepted at the rec building behind the Baptist church in Ashford. **Upcoming Events:** Dec 3, Leaders committee meeting at St Philip's rec hall, Monday evening. Dec 20, Holiday party and Court of Honor. Scout Troop 92 hopes all of you have a happy and safe holiday. Nord Yakovleff Ast Sct Mstr, Cory Blanchette Scout Master

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Report of the Union Society Building Committee

By Carol Davidge, Chair

The Union Society building is one of only two Union Society buildings left in Connecticut. It is at the intersection of routes 44 and 198 in Eastford, making it a welcoming icon at the gateway to the Quiet Corner.

This modest white house is a place where villagers gathered in community efforts for more than 200 years. Built in 1806 as a wedding gift to a new bride, it became a gathering place for many purposes.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, union societies sprang up around Connecticut to protest taxation without representation. Prior to 1818, the only people in Connecticut who could vote were property-owning men who belonged to the Congregational Church in their town and who paid taxes to the Congregational Church because the church was the town government. Thomas Jefferson advocated for separation of church and state and in 1818 Connecticut's constitution was changed to allow property-owning men of all faiths to vote ("disestablishment" from church governance).

At the Union Society of Phoenixville, children were taught to read, villagers gathered for holiday celebrations, oyster supper fundraisers were held for the fire company, 4-H and Boy Scouts learned leadership skills, and the group held games and potluck dinners for families. Everyone was welcome regardless of ethnic origin, spiritual belief, gender or age. The building served mostly poor immigrants in the southern part of Eastford. If you have information about the Union Society in Eastford, please send an email to address below.

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 rehabilitation of the building. To make a donation in any amount, 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, please e-mail: carol.davidge@snet.net, and put Union Society in the subject line.

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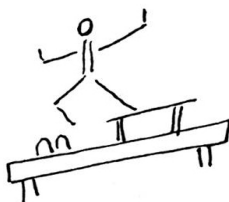
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Nov. 6 Eastford Election Synopsis by Carol Davidge

GOVERNOR & Lt. GOVERNOR

Democrat/Working Families: Ned Lamont/Susan Bysiewicz-288
Republican/Independent: Bob Stefanowski/Joe Markley-502
Libertarian: Rodney Hanscomb/Jeffrey Thibeault-4
Griebel Frank for CT: Oz Griebel/Monte E. Frank-59
Amigo Constitution Liberty: Mark Stewart Greenstein/John Demitrus-0
Write In: Lee Whitnum/Jacey Wyatt-0

U.S. SENATOR:

Democrat/WF: Christopher S. Murphy-380
Republican: Matthew Corey-450
Libertarian: Richard Lion-11
Green Party: Jeff Russell-5
Write In: Fred Linchk-0
Write In: Kristi I. Talmadge-0

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS (2nd District):

Democrat/WF: Joe Courtney-429
Republican: Danny Postemski, Jr-397
Libertarian: Daniel Reale-7
Green Party: Michelle Louise Bicking-9

STATE SENATOR (35th District)

Democrat/WF/I: John Perrier-366
Republican" Dan Champagne-469

STATE REPRESENTATIVE (50th District):

Democrat: Pat Boyd-460
Republican: A.J. Kerouac-374

SECRETARY OF THE STATE:

Democrat/WF: Denise Merrill-355
Republican/I: Susan Chapman-474
Libertarian: Heather Lynn Sylvestre Gwynn-6
Green Party: S. Michael DeRosa-5

TREASURER:

Democrat/WF: Shawn Wooden-341
Republican/I: Thad Gray-477
Libertarian: Jesse Brohinsky-16
Write In: W. Michael Downes-0

COMPTROLLER:

Democrat/WF: Kevin Lembo-346
Republican/I: Kurt Miller-471
Libertarian: Paul Passarelli-7
Green Party: Edward G. Heflin-5

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Democrat/WF: William Tong-303
Republican/I: Susan Hatfield-528
Green Party: Peter D. Goselin-11

JUDGE OF PROBATE (26)

Democrat/Republican: Leah Shad-823

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS:

Democrat: Joyce Merlo-291
Republican: Nancy Mayhew-544

TOTAL WHO VOTED NOV. 6: 854

TOTAL REGISTERED: 1209

(Synopsis includes Absentee Votes: 27
Election Day Registration: 12)

Library News by Susan Shead

Season's Greetings from the Library Board and staff of the Eastford Public Library. The library book discussion for December will be held on Monday Dec. 10th at 7PM. The book we are discussing is Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. All are welcome. **Looking for a good gift idea for the holiday? Why not adopt a book from the library and recognize someone special in your life.**

As you may know the lower level of the library has had some serious water issues. Much of our downstairs collection is being housed elsewhere temporarily while this problem is being addressed. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused our library patrons and we hope to have it resolved soon. Thank you for your patience in this matter. 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. Library Holiday Schedule: The library will be closed on Monday Dec.24th/Tuesday Dec.25th/Monday Dec.31st/Tuesday Jan.1, 2019**

Eastford Conservation & Historic Preservation

Commission Report by Mary Ellen Ellsworth

Eastford's Town Pound: An Historic Gem

The regulation and impoundment of straying farm animals was an important topic for early Eastford officials, and in 1849 they contracted with their pound keeper, Ephriam Trowbridge, to build a pound. Eastford's Town Pound still stands, on Pound Road! Today the encircling stone walls are about 5 feet high, though originally they may have been higher. The pound is large, being 7 rods square. Construction matches mid-19th century techniques: large field stones at the bases of the walls, probably moved by teams and sledges, with smaller stones, probably lifted by hand, on top. Some openings among the stones may have been there originally and purposefully, so that stray sheep in the enclosure might see out, be calmer, and, thus, better behaved! The gate posts show obvious quarry marks, and the holes into which we have placed the hardware for our 21st century gate are original to the stones' first settings. The Eastford Conservation and Historical Preservation Commission is charged to preserve Eastford's history as well as to conserve its land, so the Town Pound, closely connected with Eastford's beginnings and agricultural heritage, has been a natural focus. Come visit!

Thank you to The Eastford Agriculture Committee, town officials, town public works, Pastor Mike Moran, community members near and far, and any other kind soul who made this special gift possible. We are humbled and grateful for the planting of this Red Oak Tree in memory of Jacob Oliver Bowen. From the bottom of our broken hearts we thank all of you for this amazing tribute to Jacob! Thank you for your thoughtfulness, support, compassion and love. We do believe as this tree grows we will see his smile and feel his spirit. Jacob will forever be grateful and may his love of life grace all of you, today and always. With sincere appreciation, Richard, Amy and Caleb Bowen

EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY

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 at: <https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>

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ATTENTION: All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to E-mail: eastford.communicator@gmail.com

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 does not print letters to editor, or items it regards as offensive or slanderous. Carol Davidge, Editor

Tips for Today-by Liz Ellsworth

Be Thankful for nature! Create your own Thankful Tree. Fashion the tree trunk and branches out of newspaper, art supplies, recyclables, or whatever other re-purposed item from your home. Or use a tree branch from your yard! Encourage family members to craft their own "style" of leaves out of art supplies. Then each day, throughout the month of November, each person can write down something they are grateful for on a self-designed leaf and hang it on the Thankful Tree. At the end of the month you'll have an excellent reminder of all the things people are thankful for. For some other ideas on creating a kid-friendly Thankful Tree, go to the PBS website: www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/thankful-tree/ or for other more elaborate ideas, visit the HGTV website: <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/new-thanksgiving-tradition-create-a-thankful-tree> Happy Thanksgiving! And thanks for all you do!



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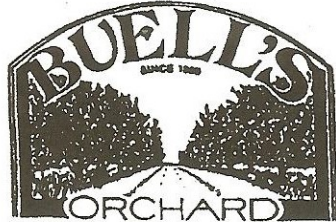


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