



# The Eastford Communicator

Volume 22, No. 11

## February, 2014 Calendar

- 1 Children's Story Hour, Library, 10:30am
- 3 Beginner's Yoga, TOB, 5:30pm-6:30pm  
BOS, TOB, 7:00pm
- 4 Zumba, EES, 6:30-7:30pm  
Conservation & Historic Comm, TOB, 7:00pm  
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7:30pm
- 5 Men's Pick-up Basketball, EES, 6:30-9:00pm  
Nahaco Commission, Woodstock T.H., 7:00pm
- 6 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 11:00am-12:00pm
- 7 Yoga Flow, TOB, 8:00am – 9:00am
- 10 Beginner's Yoga, TOB, 5:30pm-6:30pm  
School Readiness Council, EES, 6:00pm  
Book Discussion, Library, 7:00pm
- 11 Zumba, EES, 6:30-7:30pm  
Planning Commission, TOB, 7:00pm
- 12 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5:00pm-7:00pm  
Men's Pick-up Basketball, EES, 6:30-9:00pm
- 13 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 11:00am-12:00pm  
BOE, EES, 7:00pm
- 14 Yoga Flow, TOB, 8:00am-9:00am  
Family Valentine Party, Charlie Brown  
Campground, 5:30-8:00pm
- 15 Fiber Arts, Library, 10:00am
- 17 Beginner's Yoga, TOB, 5:30pm-6:30pm
- 18 Zumba, EES, 6:30-7:30pm  
Republican Town Committee, Library, 7:00pm
- 19 Union Society Exhibit, TOB, 1:30pm-3:30pm  
Men's Pick-up Basketball, EES, 6:30-9:00pm
- 20 Union Society Building Committee, TOB, 8:00am  
Gentle Yoga, TOB, 11:00am-12:00pm  
Rollerskating, Ron-a-Roll (Vernon), 6:00-9:00pm
- 21 Yoga Flow, TOB, 8:00am-9:00am
- 24 Beginner's Yoga, TOB, 5:30pm-6:30pm  
Eastford Youth Basketball, EES, 6:00-7:00pm  
American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 25 Transfer Station Committee, TOB, 1:00pm  
Zumba, EES, 6:30-7:30pm  
Recreation Commission, TOB, 7:00pm
- 26 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5:00pm-7:00pm  
Men's Pick-up Basketball, EES, 6:30-9:00pm
- 27 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 11:00am-12:00pm  
Library Board, Library, 7:00pm  
Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7:00pm
- 28 Yoga Flow, TOB, 8:00am-9:00am

## 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: Good Folks, Bad Signs; Audit and Transit]

We who live in Eastford have benefited in recent weeks from the talent, good will, and generosity of a number of our fellow residents and I want to take this opportunity to publicly commend them and thank them.

Eastford now has a new website. You can reach it at [www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford](http://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford). Once you find it, you might want to "shortcut" it so you will have it readily available for reference. The goal for the website is to provide -to-date information to Eastford residents and to those out-of-town who have an interest in what Eastford is and what is going on here. It is a work in progress and is evolving daily as Town officials are trained in the methods of putting departmental and functional information onto the site, expanding its utility to all who use it. Special thanks go out to School Superintendent/Principal Linda Loretz for coordinating the partnership between the School and Town websites and playing a critical role in the development of the Town site, to Megan Torcellini who put many hours into designing and developing the site and for whose creativity and technological expertise we are all grateful [Megan's e-address includes the term "cool star" and she is not only

*Continued on next page*

### Family Fun

At the Library: **Museum & Aquarium Passes**

Jan 30– **Spaghetti Dinner**, EES, see page 9

Feb 1- **Children's Story Hour**, Library,  
10:30am

Feb 14-**Family Valentine Party**, Charlie Brown  
Campground, 5:30-8:00pm

Feb 20-**Rollerskating**, Ron-a-Roll (Vernon)  
6:00-9:00 pm (bring Eastford I.D.)  
\$8.50 including all-you-can-eat pizza

Feb. 24-**Eastford Youth Basketball**,  
6:00-7:00pm  
(Monday nights starting Feb. 24)

Your town website: [www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford](http://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford)

cool, but also a star in my book], and to Jill Merlo whose photography enhances the site and gives a visual presence and appeal exceeded by very few municipal sites. And, most particularly applause and kudos to Terry Cote, of the Board of Selectmen, whose energy and sense of mission and perspicacity brought the entire endeavor to fruition.

The Eastford Food Pantry is a stellar example of people helping people, of Eastford residents giving of themselves to help others in Town. The Food Pantry is now well-stocked thanks to the efforts of Karen and Steve Broderick, those anonymous donors who gave generously to the Pantry over the holidays, and to all who, on a continual basis, bring food and other essentials to the Town Office Building to be added to the Pantry's shelves. I most specifically want to thank Karen and Steve for their selflessness in expending much time and effort in organizing foodstuffs et al., for delivering them to those in need, and for general oversight and management of the Town's efforts to aid those in need. I am particularly proud to commend the students at the Eastford Elementary School for their successful and heartwarming charity project during December. Eighth grade students, and their adviser, Melissa Brown, facilitated the successful drive and they collected 1,640 items—toiletries, paper goods, boxes of cereal, canned goods, and protein-based foods. It was an emotional moment when they turned over the donated goods to the Brodericks. There were so many items that, for a time, there was a storage problem in the Town Office Building. But thanks to the efforts of Public Works Supervisor Ben Schmidt and the Surplus folks at the University of Connecticut, more space was cleared and more shelving added. So, to all of you students at the School, we thank you and we particularly congratulate those of you in Kindergarten who, spurred on by the incentive of a pizza party at drive's end, brought in the most items. Let youth be served, and they serve us well. They are our heritage and it seems to be in good hands.

And speaking of Heritage [how's that for artificially crafting your own transition to the next item] the Board of Selectmen has set Saturday, June 14, as Heritage Day 2014. This Day, resplendent with activities, is a highlight of the Town's year. Volunteers are needed to aug-

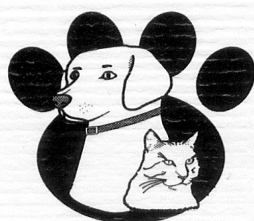
ment the hearty crew which each year makes Heritage Day more creative and more impressive. Contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-974-0133, ext.3 to volunteer.

At its meeting on January 6, the Board of Selectmen accepted the report of the Town's Auditors for the year ended June 30, 2013. The Auditors, MAWC Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, gave the Town a very positive report with only two material weaknesses which were, in fact, addressed and corrected prior to the issuance of the final audit through development of an Accounting Manual and through segregation of duties over tax collections between the Tax Collector and the Finance staff. The Auditors found the Town of Eastford to be in a strong liquidity position, and gave it an unqualified rating, a clean audit.

I learned during a professional life of more than 50 years in communications/public relations/advertising that one of the tenets of a good publicity campaign was to take down your signs shortly after the conclusion of the event. Too often around Town, folks will put up signs or placards for yard sales and such and not remove them, leaving them to linger, deteriorate, and become less-than-aesthetic clutter. So, I ask you: if you put 'em up, take 'em down—with alacrity.

I want to alert you once again to the availability of public transportation to the Town of Eastford through the Northeastern Connecticut Transit District [NECTD] operated by the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments of which Eastford is a member. The District provides two types of service: a so-called Deviated Fixed Route Service which operates Monday-Sunday with various scheduled stops located throughout the service area and the Elderly and Disabled Service which provides door-to-door service and is also available seven days per week by reservation with NECTD. You can reach NECTD at 125 Putnam Pike, PO Box 759, Dayville CT 06241, Telephone 860-774-3902, E-mail [rides@nectd.org](mailto:rides@nectd.org), or on the web at [www.nectd.org](http://www.nectd.org).

## February is Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month.



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- Nancy Samuelson

Most Sincere Thanks,  
The Volunteer Staff of The Communicator

**Report of the Union Society Building Committee**

The Union Society Building Committee is planning fund-raising projects to improve the 1806 Union Society of Phoenixville House, located at Routes 198 and 44. For donations of \$100 or more, a memorial plaque will acknowledge the donor and list the names of individuals being honored. We thank Arvind Shaw and Margherita Nichols-Shaw for their donation for this purpose. When building improvements are complete, the plaque will be inside the entry. For now, the plaque is displayed at major events. The plaque contains names of corporate, foundation and private donors. If you have interesting or new item to donate to our Heritage Day Silent Auction on June 14, please let us know. The Auction has always provided interesting things to the high bidders and all proceeds go to the Town of Eastford for the building. If you would like to make a financial donation, please make your 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, call Carol Davidge (860) 974-0756 or E-mail: carol.davidge@snet.net with "Union Society" in subject



**George Washington's  
Birthday  
February 22, 1732**

**ATTENTION**

All articles and news for the Communicator must be submitted to Deb Yazo, Eastford.communicator@aol.com  
Or sent to:  
The Communicator,  
P.O. Box 253,  
Eastford, CT 06242  
By the deadline in the Page one Calendar.

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**Eastford Astronomy**

By Ralph Yulo

**Getting Serious About Sirius**

Feeling at home in the night sky can seem daunting but a good beginning is to learn to recognize just one star. That star will lead to other stars and, eventually, to an enjoyable recognition that the night sky is a friendly and familiar place.

What star should be the first one? The clear choice is Sirius, the Dog Star. It is the brightest star visible from Earth. Only the Sun, Moon, and planets like Venus and Jupiter are brighter than this star. During February, just look South about one-third of the way above the horizon. Sirius is so bright because it is one of the stars closest to the Earth (about nine light years away) and because it has a hot surface temperature (about 10,000°C compared to the Sun's 6,000°C). Sirius is the main (alpha) star in the constellation known as the Big Dog (Canis major). This faithful hunting dog is right behind Orion as he faces the enraged and charging bull, Taurus.


This bright star was well known by our ancestors and, curiously, ancient cultures always connected it to the figure of a dog or similar wolf-like creatures. The Romans and Greeks observed that Sirius rose with the Sun in late summer and concluded that was why July and August would be so hot. In fact, Sirius is the Greek word for "scorching" and the expression, "the dog days of summer," derives from this ancient belief that the combined influence of the Sun and the scorching Dog Star made summer so hot.

Early Egyptians also paid special attention to Sirius.

Some temples were built so that the light from this rising star could shine into them. Egyptian astronomers observed that the annual flooding of the Nile River – an event important to their agricultural society – began when Sirius was the last star visible on the horizon, just before dawn. This information was given to the Pharaohs but members of the working classes would not have had such knowledge. Thus, to their subjects, the Pharaohs must have seemed all-knowing and able to command the annual flooding of Egypt's mighty river. So Sirius is not only an object of brilliant beauty but also a tangible reminder that our ancestors paid careful attention to the stars and that virtually all ancient cultures believed that the stars influenced human affairs.

This month's full moon will be timely for romance because it occurs on Valentine's Day. Some Native American tribes called the February full moon the "Full Snow Moon" because heavy snows could be expected during this month. Similarly, because hunting was likely to be more difficult and less successful in deep snow, sometimes Native Americans called it the "Full Hunger Moon."

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### Report of the Eastford School Scholarship Committee

This month we continue profiling those in whose names the various scholarships and awards presented to Eastford students are given.


**The Mary King Sharpe Memorial Business Scholarship.** Mary King Sharpe grew up in Eastford, the daughter of Frank and Ana King. The family farm was located on the top of School House Hill. Mary was one of seven children: Hattie, Edith, Frank, Fritz, Walter, and Otto. Otto was Eastford's First Selectman for many years. When it was time to go to high school she chose to go to Putnam High, an option for Eastford students at the time. After graduating from Putnam, she went to work alongside her sister Edith at Medbury and Trowbridge, a Putnam construction company. She later married Richard Sharpe from Pomfret. The Business Scholarship was established after her passing and is given to a student who wishes to study Business at a two- or four-year school.

**The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship.** Harold David Carpenter was born in Eastford on June 4, 1904, the second of four children of Orlo and Mary Lawson Carpenter. On April 13, 1941 he married Leila Jones from Vian, Oklahoma, and they raised two children on the family farm at 333 Old Colony Road. The farm was noted for the Devon cattle he raised there. Mr. Carpenter was active in Town affairs and had a wealth of knowledge which he was always willing to share. An avid supporter of local history, he contributed a supplement to Diane Maher Cameron's *Eastford, The Biography of a New England Town*, published in 1976 by the Eastford Historical Society. In the supplement, he shares many memories of Eastford history, and its particular strength is that it is very first-hand information inasmuch as he was related to many of the families which had been in Eastford for generations—Bowen, Bosworth, Buell to name a few. He also made oral history tapes of his recollections which are in The Eastford Historical Society collection. Harold Carpenter died on October 4, 1977 while doing something he loved—working in the woods of Eastford. The Scholarship Fund was established after his death by the Historical Society. The Scholarship is for post-secondary education with special consideration given to candidates showing scholastic ability, quality of

character, and the need for financial assistance.

**The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship.** Eleanor Keith Lewis was born in Eastford in 1895, the daughter of Arthur and Lillian Keith. She grew up in Eastford, attended the Eastford Grammar School, and went on to Woodstock Academy, graduating in 1913. She became a teacher and took her first teaching position at the Phoenixville School. She served the Town of Eastford for 34 years as teacher and principal. Many of her former students still live in Eastford, among them her granddaughter, Scholarship Committee member Nancy Eleanor Lewis Mayhew. Mrs. Lewis and her husband, M. Darwin Lewis, lived for many years in the North Ashford section of Eastford in the old tavern where the Still River Café was recently in operation. They eventually moved “downtown” to be near her mother. The Lewises had one son, M. Keith Lewis, and three granddaughters. She was very active in Town, serving in 1947 as general chairman of Eastford's Centennial Celebration. She was the organist at the Eastford Congregational Church and an active member of the Betty Putnam Chapter of the Eastern Star. In 1954, after her passing, a committee was formed to establish a memorial fund the interest of which was to be used for an Eastford student graduating from secondary school. The scholarship has been awarded each year since 1956 and as contributions have grown over the years the award has increased in value.

Now comes the commercial: Giving our young people an opportunity to further their education and to continue to grow academically and socially is a rare opportunity. We ask that you consider availing yourself of this opportunity by donating to the existing scholarship and award funds of your choice, adding to a general scholarship fund, or starting a new fund. A Scholarship Donation Form is available on the Eastford Elementary School website, easily found by searching <http://www.eastfordct.org/ScholarshipDonationForm>. Principal/Superintendent Linda Loretz [860-974-1130, [lloretz@eastfordct.org](mailto:lloretz@eastfordct.org)] and Scholarship Steering Chair Art Brodeur [860-974-1795, [awbrodeur@charter.net](mailto:awbrodeur@charter.net)] are also available to assist you.



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**Board Of Education Report**

The School Performance Index (SPI) and the District Performance Index (DPI) issued by the State of Connecticut can be found on the school's website Also included on the website is a guide to interpreting these documents. Please visit [http://www.eastfordct.org/board\\_education.cfm?subpage=100521](http://www.eastfordct.org/board_education.cfm?subpage=100521) for more information.

At its January meeting, the **Board of Education began to prepare its budget for the 2014-15 school year.** All budget meetings are public and the Board appreciates input from citizens.

Also at the January meeting, the Board approved new policies related to Parent Teacher Communications ( 6116) and Physical Activity for Students (5119). All Board of Education policies can be found on the website ([http://www.eastfordct.org/board\\_education.cfm](http://www.eastfordct.org/board_education.cfm))

At the Board of Education's request, the Town of Eastford is sending a drainage project out to bid that will improve drainage on the east side of the school:

Request for Proposals  
Town of Eastford

**Title: Subsurface Drainage Improvements**  
Eastford Elementary School, 12 Westford Road, Eastford, CT

**Bids Due: February 25, 2014**  
1:00 PM at which time they will be opened and publicly read  
**Contact:**  
Linda Loretz, Principal/Superintendent, 860-974-1130

**Description:** Project requires excavation, installation of piping, gravel and two catch basins necessary to improve drainage. Bid schedule and other requirements can be downloaded from the school's website ([www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org)) or picked up at the school. Drawings are also available at the school.

PreBid Inspection and Walkthrough: February 11, 2014 at 1:00 PM-- meet in the main office of the school.

Please return bids to:  
Linda Loretz, PO Box 158, 12 Westford Rd, Eastford, CT 06242  
lloretz@eastfordct.org  
860-974-0837 (fax)

**Recreation Commission News**

by Valerie Katkavick

If you enjoyed January's Parents Night Out, please let us know, and we will try to do it more often.

**Valentines Fun!**

Friday, Feb. 14, 5:30 to 8 pm  
at Charlie Brown Campground  
Sweet treats, Pizza, Dancing & Crafts.

**Do you like Rollerskating?**

February 20, 6 to 9 pm  
Ron-a-Roll in Vernon.  
Thursday night rate: \$8.50 including rentals, all you can eat pizza, and 3 hours of rink time.  
**BUT** on February 20, **bring proof that you live in Eastford,**  
and you will get a discounted price of \$5.

**Eastford Youth Basketball**

Monday nights at EES from 6-7 pm  
Start date: Feb. 24, 6-7 pm  
Registration forms will be sent home from EES or Call Coach Kathy at (860) 974-9871 for more information.

**Men's Pickup Basketball**

Wednesday nights, 6:30-9 pm through March  
EES Gym

**Zumba with Linda Thayer**


Tuesday nights until June  
EES, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Information: Linda (860) 974-1807

**Yoga with Sue Orcutt**

Beginners Yoga-Monday nights 5:30 pm  
Gentle Yoga-Thursday mornings 11:00 am  
Yoga Flow-Friday mornings 8:00 am  
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**NAHACO NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

by Mary Ellen Ellsworth

The Planning Committee for The Day Camp at Crystal Pond met in early January. We are excited about our 11<sup>th</sup> Day Camp summer! This year's program will run for 5 weeks, from July 7<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be 2 two-week sessions [July 7-18 & July 21-Aug 1], with the usual activities—Red Cross Swimming Lessons, Sports, Outdoor Adventure [fishing, boating hiking], Arts and Crafts—plus special programs presented by volunteers, including music, 19<sup>th</sup>-century history, fire department presentations, K-9 units, and special event days for the children—perhaps summer birthday day, hot dog roasts, parents' day. The 5<sup>th</sup> week, August 3-8, will be a theme week, and the children will choose Swimming, Sports, or Drama for their concentrations. We will aim for a maximum of 90 campers per week. Pre-K and Kindergarten children go for ½ day, and parents supply the children's transportation. The other campers, grades 1 through 8, can take bus transportation from the Woodstock and Eastford Elementary Schools. Their days run from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to be counselors in Training [CITs].

Check out the Day Camp on Facebook!

The Commission is looking forward to Nahaco Park's busy season, during the warmer months, and we are making plans for continued improvement of our facilities. We will be planning Spring Volunteer Day—probably in late April, near Earth Day and Arbor Day. This fall we had a hard-working group of 6 Hyde School youngsters, who cleaned up leaves in our main Dining Hall area. We are hopeful that they, and other school, church, and family groups, will join us this spring.

Suzanne Woodward, a Woodstock Nahaco Commission member for nearly 2 years, recently resigned from the Commission—though she says she will continue to take part in various volunteer projects! We will miss her! Should you be interested in becoming a Commission member from Woodstock, we, thus, do now have one opening. Please contact any current Commission member, or Woodstock's Select Board.

We hope February will bring good "woods walking" weather; it is a perfect time of year to follow the terrain, and to note the various forms of our forest trees. Come explore!

Sam Asikainen

Beach Baywood

Mary Ellen Ellsworth

Tom Hawkins

Gary Kendrick

Chuck Lee

Philippa Paquette

Tony Perreault

Missy Vincent

**Eastford Track and Field**

By Julie Fox, Coach

The Eastford School Track and Field team has grown over the past seven years to become a fully participating team. It spans across four grades, offers 11 events for both boys and girls and is coached by both a head coach and assistant coach. These features make track and field a unique sport.

Track and field is considered a non-contact sport. Because of this, students in grade five are eligible to participate. By opening up the sport to fifth graders the team benefits in several ways. The size of the team grows so that as a school Eastford is able to participate in more events. The student athletes receive training earlier in their career as an athlete and are able to improve their performance in later years. Students who stick with track all four years while at Eastford Elementary develop a level of dedication and passion for the sport.

Track and field offers events in multiple areas. Track events include both sprinting and distant events. Sprinting events include the 100 and 200 meter dashes, and the 4 by 100 meter relay. Distant events include short distance of 400 meters and the 4 by 400 meter relay and longer distances of 800 and 1600 meters. Field events are separated into throwing and jumping events. Throwing events include the shot put and the discus. Jumping events include the high jump and the long jump. Overall, each athlete may compete in a total of four events which must be a combination of field and track events. For example, an athlete may compete in the 100, 200 and 4 by 100 and the high jump thus complying with a combination of mixed events.

Last year the number of track and field athletes increased to 34. At that time the administration approached the Eastford Board of Education for an assistant coach, which was approved. With two coaches and community volunteers, who are former athletes and/or coaches themselves, the track team members have received instruction and training in all events.

Enthusiasm for the sport continues to grow and Eastford Elementary School looks forward to continued participation and dedication to the sport.



**February 17, 2014**

**From the principal:**

This month, a guidance counselor from **Woodstock Academy** will meet with **eighth graders** to discuss registration for ninth grade courses. The Eastford Board of Education recognizes **Woodstock Academy** as Eastford's designated high school. The Board's policy allows students who are accepted to Ellis Tech, Windham Tech, ACT (Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet High School), or Killingly Vo-Ag to attend those high schools at no cost to families. Parents may request that the Board of Education pay tuition at another public high school, but in order to be considered, this request must be in writing to the Board of Education.

During the month of February, the PTO will sponsor its annual magazine fund-raiser. If you are planning to purchase or renew magazine subscriptions, please consider supporting our students.

We are accepting registrations for **preschool and kindergarten** for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms may be found on the school's website (<http://www.eastfordct.org/documents.cfm>). Please contact the school office if you need further information.

**Preschool Registration**

If your **child was born in 2010 or 2011**, and you are interested in having him/her participate in Eastford's preschool during the 2014-2015 school year, please file a registration form. We cannot guarantee that there will be a spot for new registrants, but the Readiness Council, which oversees this program, would like to plan for the upcoming school year. Registration forms are available in the school office and on our website. Please submit one as soon as possible!

In addition to the registration form, the Readiness Council would be very grateful if parents of **children born in 2010 or 2011** would fill out a Needs Assessment Form. The data collected from parents, even those who choose not to send their children to preschool, are important to the Readiness Council. The Needs Assessment Form will be mailed to families and can be found on the website. If you or somebody else has not received a Needs Assessment form in the mail, please call the school office (860-974-1130).

**Kindergarten Registration**

There is a registration form available in the school office and online for kindergarten. Children, who were born in 2009 or earlier, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2014-2015 school year. We will accept registration forms at any time. Students who are attending Eastford Elementary School's preschool do NOT have to re-register .

**Attention Veterans & Families of Eastford Veterans**

The Eastford Historical Society has an archive of Eastford's military service. We hope that residents have photos of individuals while in the service, that could be copied for our records. We need the photos, branch of service, dates of service, places of service. If you have letters or documents that we can scan for our files, please let us know. With your permission, we will publish photos in the EHS Quarterly. The deadline for the March EHS Quarterly is February For information or to send digital photos, contact Carol Davidge, [carol.davidge@snet.net](mailto:carol.davidge@snet.net) or (860) 974-0756. Thank you.

All items for The Eastford Communicator must include submitter's name, address, and telephone number for verification. Items written on behalf of an organization require the signature of an authorized spokesperson. No letters will be accepted concerning political issues or candidates. All items submitted are subject to editing, and the Communicator reserves the right to reject any submissions. Readers should be aware that opinions or articles by individual writers or organizations are bit necessary those of The Communicator. The Communicator will not print items it regards as offensive or slanderous.

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**February 2, 2014**





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5:30 - 7:30 pm take out  
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**Dinner includes:**

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- Pasta, meatballs, sauce**
- Roll**
- Drink**

**\$5 per person**

**ADVANCE Sales:** EES Families - return the bottom portion of this flyer with your payment to Carole McCombe at EES.

**ADVANCE "Reservation":** Non EES Families - email Sharon at [kozoy8@hotmail.com](mailto:kozoy8@hotmail.com) the number of people attending and if you are eating in or taking out

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**EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC.**

**FROM: JEANNINE SPINK, PRESIDENT**

Condolences to the family of Stewart Tatem who recently passed away. Stewart was a Charter Member in 1942.

2013 has come to a close. It has been a very busy year for the EIFC. We wish Eastford residents health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you to those who sent us donations following services provided to them throughout the year, and donations just to say "thanks".

We respond without hesitation to your emergency needs any time of the day or night, in good weather and bad. Your donations in support of the best fire and EMS services we can provide are greatly appreciated.

**The company reached a record high 178 emergency calls in 2013:**

<b>-Medicals:</b>	<b>134:</b>
<b>(92 ambulance transports and 42 No Transports and Lift Assists)</b>	
<b>-Motor Vehicle Accidents/Fires:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>-Smoke/CO Investigations:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>-Structure/Chimney Fires:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>-Trees/Wires Down/Brush Fires:</b>	<b>7</b>

**Incorporated in the 178 calls, we responded 16 times mutual aid to the Ashford, Bungay, Pomfret, and Chaplin fire departments.**

**How have our calls increased? Reflecting back to history, yet only recorded since 1975:**

- we responded 43 times in 1975,**
- increasing to 96 in 1991,**
- increasing to 140 in 2001 and**
- increasing to 178 in 2013.**

Each year as our call volume increases, so do demands of mandated skills' training / education, and maintenance of our vehicles and equipment to keep them "call ready" and maintenance of the house.

Average man-hours per month that each volunteer devotes to vehicles, meetings, drills, and house, in addition to "911" calls, is approximately 20.

During the year, these hours were increased with the following events:

- 2 Steak Dinners
- Camp NAHACO visits x 4
- Fire Prevention – EES
- Mandated hose, pumps, and ladders' testing
- Rapid Intervention Training (RIT)
- Bike/Walk sponsored by the EES
- Monthly contributor to "The Communicator"
- "Dazzle Light Parade"
- Heritage Day

- Memorial Day Parade
- Install/remove FD flags/markers – Grove Cemetery
- "Christmas in July"-Charlie Brown Campground
- Halloween Night
- Chicken BBQ
- "Q" / "CDL" driving courses
- Graduation Citizenship Award presentation at EES
- Certification classes and workshops for EMS and FFI
- Flu Shot Clinic

Although this volunteer service is small in numbers, we are constantly on the move learning, participating, providing and most important – caring. The majority of members have multiple certifications in firefighting, fire police and emergency medical services.

The deep sense of volunteerism and the wide range of years of commitment and dedication is what make the EIFC unique. The incorporation of youthful energy and new skills blended with experience and years of service is a winning combination.

**Who are the members of the company? Below is a list of names, current ranks held and years of service:**

- Chief Gordon Spink: 30 years**
- EMS Captain/President: Jeannine Spink: 28 years**
- Fire Police Captain Lincoln Budd: 25 years**
- Lieutenant John Paquin: 15 years (Former Chief)**
- EMS Lieutenant Elizabeth Scranton: 12 years**
- Deputy Chief Doug Beaudoin: 12 years**
- Captain James Roy: 9 years**
- Lieutenant Nate Fabian: 5 years**
- Lieutenant Matt Yakis: 5 years**
- Lieutenant Ryan Yakis: 5 years**
- Dwain McNeal: 40 years**
- Tony Greer: 21 years**
- Jim Rivard: 15 years**
- Matt Roy: 4 years**
- Nate Yakis: 1 year**
- Elizabeth Gaston: 1 year**
- Debi Johnson: 1 year**
- Silas Bunnell: 5 months**
- Kyle Tyler: 4 months**
- Nathan Hull: 3 months**
- Welcome to Jill Merlo, recently voted in as a Probationary Member.**

**We acknowledge former member and officer Joe Meier who passed away in September.**

**This is your fire department. New members between the ages of 14 and ?? are always welcomed. We have a job for everyone!**

**News You Can Use**

Deb Richards – Emergency Management Director

**Quick - Emergency Management Tips-**

1. Have small bills on hand: ATM's & credit cards may not work during a disaster.
2. Keep copies of insurance policies, deeds & property records in a safe place ( a safety deposit box) away from your home
3. Buy a weather radio w/ a hand crank & cell phone charger plug-in so you can charge both radio and cell phone if needed
4. If you take medicine or use a medical treatment, be sure you have what you need to make it on your own for at least a week
5. If your disaster plan involves flying by the seat of your pants, it's time to rethink: <http://ready.gov/prepared2014>
6. There is no substitute for running a live drill to practice your emergency plan. Practice makes perfect
7. Have a minimum of 5 days of food and water for each person (and pet) in your household. One gallon of water per person or pet per day.
8. *Make sure your home's exhaust vents are clear of snow & ice to allow dangerous carbon monoxide to vent outside.*

**Eastford Seniors**

By Linda SM dos Santos

Area seniors ended 2013 listening to the glorious refrains from the Woodstock Academy Hill Top Singers. Nearly 100 community members took part in the December 12 holiday event, which included a marvelous meal prepared by Keri Buell and the volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford.

An exciting 2014 year starts with the Senior Brown Bag Luncheon at 11:30 AM on Thursday, March 6 at the Eastford Town Office Building (TOB) on Westford Rd. The Brown Bag Luncheon, sponsored by the Eastford Senior Citizens, is a great time to gather, to see old & new friends, to share tales from our winter, and to serve up some fun surprises, including TEEG providing dessert and a visit from Emma King. An accurate count is needed, so that all can enjoy dessert, please RSVP before Tuesday, March 4, 860-928-9177 or 860-538-8868. King, former Constituent Services Representative for US Congressman Joe Courtney, is the new TEEG Community Programs Manager. King will answer questions regarding, "Accessing Health Insurance Options in CT's New Health Exchange." Seniors, who wish to take part, must apply before March 31, 2014.

**Save The Date:** The Eastford Senior Citizens Potluck Dinner is at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, April 8 at the Congregational Church of Eastford (details in next month's Communicator).

Payment is due before February 21 for the Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Ctr. (QVSCC) trips on March 22 to Foster's Downeast Clambake in York Harbour, Maine, and, for April 5 to New York's Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island tour, 69 South Main St., Brooklyn, CT 06234, 860-774-1243.

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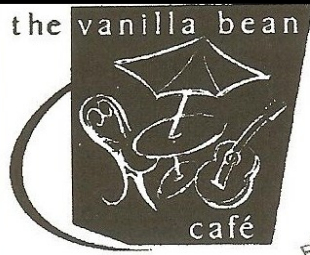
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**We hope you will contribute to The Eastford Communicator.** Advertising revenues do not cover printing and postage costs. The Communicator is Eastford's main source of news about local events, town government, committees, organizations. Articles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

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**Library News**

By: Susan Shead

The Eastford Public Library will be celebrating **Take Your Child to the Library Day** on Sat. Feb. 1, 2014. Children accompanied by parents are welcome to drop by for story time at 10:30 AM. This would also be a good time to get your child a library card!

The Eastford Public Library book discussion group will meet on Monday Feb 10th at 7:00PM to discuss the book *Margot* by Jillian Cantor. All are welcome to attend.

The Fiber Arts group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday ( Feb.15th) of the month at 10:00AM. If you want to knit, crochet or do rug hooking or spinning or any other fiber arts craft please join us!

The library has discount passes and coupons available for places like Mystic Aquarium, The Wadsworth Athenaeum and the New Britain Museum of Art. Call the library for more info at 860-974-0125.

Tax forms (both federal and state) are no longer available at the library. Patrons can go online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and print forms themselves.


Recent new fiction at the library include: *Longbourn* by Jo Baker *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt, *Dust* by Patricia Cornwell *Takedown Twenty* by Janet Evanovitch and *King and Maxwell* by David Baldacci.

Please note: The library will be closed on Monday February 17, 2014 in observance of President's Day.

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

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**INSIDE PROFILE-Catie Botting**  
by Sue Orcutt

It was apparent, as I entered Catie’s home, that family is of utmost importance. The shelves, made by Catie’s husband, Ken, hold photos of the family while paintings by Catie’s great-grandmother are hung on the walls. What struck me most, though, was the exuberance that emits from Catie Botting.

You probably know Catie if you have kids in the school. She started the drama program six years ago, and this spring will mark its fourth production. The drama club includes 50 of the 174 kids in EES. You can see why there’s standing room only at these plays! Catie believes that acting serves an important role in the kids’ lives. “Acting creates an outlet where kids can express themselves positively.” In addition, Catie goes into the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades once a week to generate some improv. “This is just what the doctor ordered,” cites Catie, referring to the confidence that improvisation gives the students. “The students support one another, knowing that they have a voice and are respected in the classroom.” Catie speculates that this added confidence and comfort level may give students the self-assurance to raise their hand in class.

Catie attended The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in N.YC with the idea of becoming an actor. Then she met her husband, Ken. End of story. She loves being a wife to Ken and mom to Emma, age 10, and Kenny, age 8, and is happy and satisfied where her life has brought her. Catie is still acting—she had the lead role as Frances in “No Sex Please, We’re British” at the Bradley Playhouse. In addition, Catie is the sole proprietor of her in-home care business. Ken (The Tile Guy) is gifted at creating tile rugs and laying tile in homes and businesses. When they’re not working, she and Ken love spending time with their kids, playing board games, cooking, enjoying the pool, and going to the beach. They raise their own meat and laying chickens, have a vegetable garden in the summer, and live as healthy a life style as they can.

Because Catie was raised in Woodstock, she wanted to stay in the area. One day Ken was driving around in the

area, spotted the house they are currently living in, and knew it was the place for them. That was seven years ago. She loves Eastford, loves how small the school is. When I asked Catie how she became involved in volunteering, she said it all started when she became involved with the Readiness Program. She was on that committee, and that led to the creation of the pre-school program that EES now has. From then on, it was warp speed for Catie. She has received nothing but support from principal Linda Loretz and from the teachers.

Then I asked Catie how others in town could become involved in volunteering. She said that there are so many ways to become involved in the community. “Come to events, enjoy the events, and maybe you’ll participate the next time. Whatever you give to the town, your town will give back ten-fold. Volunteering uplifts you and your family. If you want to do anything in this town, you can do it because everyone will come together to make it happen. There’s a lot of ‘yes’ people in town.” Catie has met wonderful people who will be life-long friends, and she plans to age gracefully with them.



**Boy Scouts Day**  
**February 8, 2014**

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**Raw Apple-Turnip Salad**

Submitted by Carol Davidge

Raw turnips have a great crunchy, spicy taste! This salad is adaptable, expandable, fun.

Important: first prepare your favorite vinaigrette-type dressing or have your favorite bottled dressing ready to pour.

Dressing:

2 Tbsp Lemon Juice

2 Tbsp Olive Oil

3 Tbsp Orange Juice

Sugar, Salt & Pepper to taste

1 or 2 large apples (sliced or cut into match-sticks), immediately douse with salad dressing to prevent browning

1 medium or large turnip (sliced or cut into match-sticks)

1 carrot (sliced or cut into match-sticks - can use bagged sliced carrots)

Optional: 1 bag salad greens or cole slaw


Repeat: **immediately upon cutting the apple, mix it with dressing to prevent browning.** Mix all ingredients together. Chill well before serving. Can be made day before. Optional additions: Dried cranberries, cherries, raisins, nuts, grapes, cherry tomatoes. Optional: just before serving, add a bag of salad greens or cole slaw to expand amount.

This is great with hearty winter soups and meals. Remember: apples from Buell's are crispy and delicious!

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Storytime: 10:30am**



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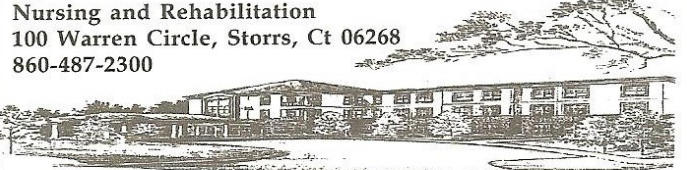
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February 15 - March 17

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JOSHUA'S TRUST WALKS

Winter is a wonderful time to explore the out of doors. Joshua's Trust offers weekend and weekday walks at its preserves, and all are invited. Weekday walkers, Thurs., Feb 6: Bradley-Buchanan Woods and Echo Woods, Mansfield Center, 1 pm. Weekend walkers: Sat., Feb. 15, 1 PM, Hubbard Sanctuary, Chaplin, February 15, 1 pm, led by Warren Church. For information, contact Marcia Kilpatrick (860-455-1226 or email [Kalmia1234@gmail.com](mailto:Kalmia1234@gmail.com) (include [JTwalk](#) in the subject line). You need not attend all walks in order to be part of the weekday group. See website: [www.joshuaslandtrust.org](http://www.joshuaslandtrust.org). Schedule changes due to weather will also be posted on the website.

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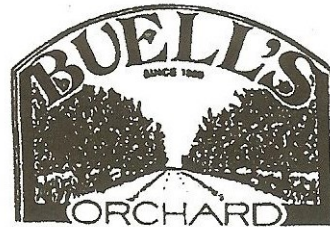
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