

The Eastford Communicator

Selectman's Snippets:

Community – I have spent much time meeting members of the various departments. There are many wonderful people here in Eastford. It amazes me how the continuous efforts our town folk make create great things. The spray of greens tied in red ribbon hanging on Cemetery gates. The sprays just appeared one day and made me smile at the effort to remember those we have lost. When citizens spend hours and days focused on assisting the town to bring good, their dedication show selfless acts of kindness and love for their community!! Thank you!

Budget – Budget request letters have been sent to all Boards, Commissions and Agencies affiliated with Eastford. The BOS will review these requests and meet with members to discuss their budget for the 2018-2019 budget year.

Office Changes – The Building Inspector and Wetland/Planning Secretary Office is now located in the lower level of the TOB. It took a team effort to build and furnish space for this office change. What a great group of people!

Transfer Station – The following items are **prohibited** in the “**Metal Bin**”: televisions, computer monitors, appliances containing refrigerants, firearms, combustable, flammable, explosive, radio active materials, vehicles or equipment with undrained fluids, lighting ballasts, any free-flowing liquids, asbestos materials, broken/whole batteries, scrap metal with hazmat, toxic, or hazardous markings, gas tanks mixed within ferrous loads, closed containers, including unapproved drums, pressurized containers, mercury switches, garbage, rags, paper, and any other non-metallic, gas or pressurized cylinders that have not been satisfactorily opened. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

Emergency Management – Deb Richards is our local Emergency Management Director. She is a great asset to our town in emergency planning and preparedness. She can now be contacted by email: emd@townofeastford.com or call (860) 974-0133 ext. 110.

Police Services – During the month of November Troop D responded to 34 calls. These calls of service included; Accidents: 2, Traffic Citations: 9, Written Warning: 1, and Non Reportable Matters: 32.

Volunteers – It is so clear that volunteers are the heartbeat of our small rural town. We are indeed blessed to have such dedicated volunteers. Our town would not be what it is today without them. Thank you to all Boards, Commissions and those who serve our community for your volunteer work! Anyone interested in volunteering in any capacity, perhaps an hour a month or more—whatever your time allows, please contact the Selectman's Office.



Respectfully yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

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You are keeping the Communicator alive!

Please send donations to:

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Eastford, CT 06242

6 More Weeks of Winter?

Or Early Spring?

Of Special Note
CALENDAR p. 12

Feb 2, 7:30am
“Duck Day”

Hi! I'm Scramble the duck. I predict the weather on Groundhog Day!

February 2, at 7:30 a.m.

Ivy Glenn Memorial

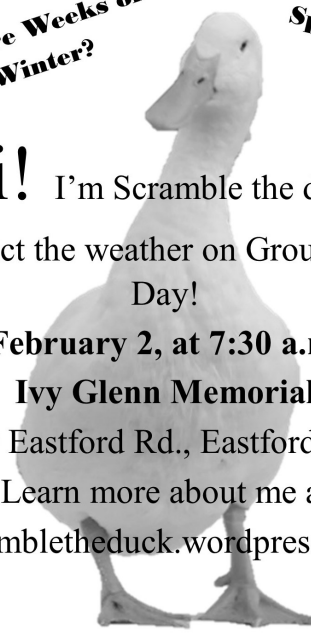
179 Eastford Rd., Eastford, CT.

Learn more about me at
scrambletheduck.wordpress.com

February 3,
Deadline to register for Cupcake Wars happening February 10 p.12

Feb 10, 10:30am
Story & Craft Time, Library

Agent for the Elderly p. 11



EES Teacher Report

Hello, My name is Beth Harrington and I am the new School Counselor at Eastford Elementary. I am a certified School Counselor and Teacher in Connecticut and I have a Master’s Degree in School Counseling. The goal of the School Counselor program is to reach out to all students to help them be successful in school. There are three areas to focus on to help students be their best: The Academic, Career and Personal/Social Domains. So far, I’ve been able to interact with all students in each classroom during a review of classroom anti-bullying games with art-related activities. In fact, we have an eight grade anti-bullying bulletin board and a fifth-grade unique snowflake bulletin board.

This month we are starting a new school-wide character education monthly program that will promote positive behaviors. Our January theme is Respect and includes respecting authority, tolerating differences, following directions and treating others with dignity. In the older grades, we will discuss choices and decision-making and how choices may or may not be respectful. We’re using the book *Wonder* as a guide in our class discussion and activities.

Students have been requesting to eat lunch in my office for impromptu lunch groups where we talk informally about peer relationships and how to improve those. I like to use Responsive Classroom games as strategies for improving communication and peer relationships. I also have board games in my room that students like to play with. I’ve been busy collaborating with classroom teachers with games and artistic classroom activities to help forge a stronger sense of unity within each classroom.

I am available to help any child with their study skills and organization, in developing job or career aspirations, and in developing successful interpersonal skills students will need to work with others in future jobs. A Girl’s Lunch Group will begin soon for girls in grades 2 – 4 and will last for 6 weeks. We will meet weekly to build camaraderie between the grades, to create crafts and discuss resiliency.

Although, I go into classrooms and work with all students, I am also available for small-group and individual counseling along the three domains: Academic, Career, and Personal or Social areas. I would need your permission to work with your child in short-term individual counseling or in small groups, such as lunch groups. It is understood that anything that your child shares in counseling would be kept confidential except in the circumstances where a child’s safety may be in question. In that case, I would be required, as well as anyone would be, to report a situation if there is a clear and immi-

minent danger to your child or others.

If you absolutely do not want wish for your child to come down for lunch groups or to be pulled for individual counseling regarding matters that interfere with their school performance along any of the three domains, Academic, Career, or Personal/Social, then please print this form, sign it and return it to school. Otherwise, not returning this form would indicate that you do give permission for me to work with your child individually or in a small group, if needed, to benefit your child. I can always contact you with information about the group or small group counseling to explain what we did. Please call or email me with any questions about the program or how I could help your child succeed in school. I would love to meet you! bharrington@eastfordct.org or at [860-974-1130](tel:860-974-1130), ext. 106.

Eastford Readiness Council

AKA Eastford’s Preschool Program
Jennifer Barlow
12 Westford Rd, Eastford, CT 06242
(860)974-1130

Update

Last month the whole school, including the preschoolers, were able to shop for friends and family at the Holiday Shoppe. The PTO sponsored the Holiday Shoppe, which gave the students the experience to pick out gifts on their own. There will be a Winter Wonderland themed activity time open to all children through age 5 in the school library on January 30th. You do NOT need to have a child enrolled in the program in order to attend. If you are planning on attending please contact the school office and let them know so there will be enough supplies for all involved. There will be a story time at the public library on February 27th open to the same ages. For more information on the program please look online at the Program’s handbook or by contacting the Head Teacher, Christine Kopplin at ckopplin@eastfordct.org or the Readiness Council Liaison, Jen Barlow, at jbarlow@eastfordct.org

Mark your calendar!

January 30: Winter Wonderland Activity 10:15 (EES)

January 31: Needs Assessment Survey Due

February 5: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (EES Teacher’s Lounge)

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DID YOU KNOW? Eastford Historical Society

Did you know that Frog Rock was the brainchild of 1880's Republican State Legislator Thomas Thurber? He passed it day after day on his trip from Putnam to Hartford and finally decided to paint it like the frog he thought it resembled. It faded over time, but in 1997 Thurber's descendants repainted it green and added a little memorial to the 19th century statesman on a nearby rock.

In early times it was called Half-Way Rock being half way between Pomfret and Ashford. In the times of religious agitation, 1745-1800, the Seperates and others held open-air meetings there and use the rock as a pulpit. Descendants of some of the old families looked with disfavor on the grotesque transformation of the rock into a glorified bull-frog, because of its historic background.

It is located on what was once the state-owned Frog Rock Rest Stop (and picnic area) at 212 Pomfret Road (Rte 44). In recent years the land was sold and is now privately owned and home to a food stand and antique shop. (See: <https://www.facebook.com/FrogRockEastfordCt/>; <https://www.eastfordct.org/page/77>)



Resources: Eastford Town Website and Early Homesteads of Pomfret and Hampton by Susan J. Griggs.

Please consider joining our collaborative community album! Simply "google" Eastford Historical Society to access our website, then follow the directions to open the album. Comment on photos, help us identify unknown people in photos, add your own (we can help), and share this link with others. Eastford Historical Society contact information: ehsarchives@gmail.com or Tom at 974-1610 *****

IN APPRECIATION

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association would like to thank the following donors for their support of perpetual care:

Debbie Tyler Bishop
in memory of her parents,
Ruth and Richard Tyler
Sherry and Scott Huri

Donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to:
EGCA, Inc. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242

Tips for Today by Liz Ellsworth

Happy Valentine's Day! Be full of heart! Send some Valentine's Day cards to family and friends. Everyone loves a thoughtful note! Fashion your cards out of recycled paper, old pieces of wrapping paper/gift bags and ribbon, or those magazines and newspapers you've just finished reading. Re-purpose greeting cards you've already received, and make them into new notes. Utilizing the crafting materials you already own shows love for our planet. Reduce, reuse, and recycle!



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EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC

Jeannine Spink, EMS Captain

As EMS Captain of the EIFC Rescue Squad, it gives me great pleasure to publically thank Bill Bibeault, owner of Lindon Tree Service for purchasing, in its entirety, a LIFEPAK 1000 Defibrillator.

EMS often encounters patients who complain of chest discomfort. Sometimes this discomfort will be the result of a cardiac (heart) problem, possibly a heart attack. We are able to assist the patient by administering aspirin and oxygen therapy. Occasionally, we will encounter a patient who is in cardiac arrest – whose normal heartbeat and circulation of blood have completely stopped. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) can help postpone death for a short period of time through chest compressions and ventilations, but defibrillation MUST be performed as quickly as possible.

Defibrillation, through the use of the state-of-the art LIFEPAK 1000 defibrillator is the application of an electrical shock, diagonally through the heart muscle, in order to restart the heart's normal rhythm. Cardiac arrest is a situation in which we may actually be able to reverse someone's heart action by acting quickly and efficiently to deliver an electrical shock to stop the fibrillating (quivering) heart muscle and restore a normal heart rhythm.

Your Rescue Squad is highly skilled in this action, but without this life-saving piece of equipment, housed in Rescue 171, we might not be able to achieve our goal of life preservation. Through the purchase of a new defibrillator, the existing LIFEPAK 500 in R171 will be moved to Engine Tanker 171. The 3rd LIFEPAK 500 will be relocated to the Engine Tanker 271. Both Tankers, and Rescue 171 can simultaneously be used at MVA's in Eastford, and/or assigned to Mutual Aid companies as needed. Eastford Fire Department, and potential patients are very fortunate to have a generous benefactor such as Bill Bibeault and Lindon Tree Service.

REMINDER: Now is the time to clean around your mailboxes and/or green house number signs. They are **FREE**. These numbers that are fully visible will help us to find you quickly. If you have a common driveway that goes to 2 or more houses, get another set of numbers to direct us to the proper house. Is your green sign o.k? But your numbers not so much? Stop by the station any Wednesday night at 7:00 to get a new set.

Please consider making a tax-deductible charities donation to the EIFC. We, a 100% volunteer organization, rely on the generous annual monetary support we get from the town. **BUT**, finances are tight in order to keep our doors open and serve you best. Often there are vehicle emergencies, replenishment of supplies and equipment that fall outside the budgeted yearly guidelines. When this occurs, we hesitate to return to the town for more funding.

What does your tax-deductible donation do for us?

In addition to supplementing our expenses, you are demonstrating your support of our mission statement: "The Mission of the Eastford Independent Fire Company No. 1, Inc is to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Eastford, Connecticut and our mutual aid towns by providing the highest possible levels of service through fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and mitigation of the effects of natural and man-made disasters, consistent with the resources provided."

Through your generosity, you are helping us make a difference in **YOUR** community, and help us to sustain a feeling of personal satisfaction that we get from helping our friends and neighbors 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.

The EIFC has accomplished much during 2017. In the next edition, a detailed report will be created to show that although we are small in numbers, we are very extensive in our training and classes, in addition to the number of emergencies we responded to.

As you pass the firehouse, take notice of the beautiful potted greens by the flag. They are donated by Juliana and Dwain McNeal in memory of Sophie Broden and Charlotte Nowakowski.

HAVE A HEALTHY AND SAFE 2018!

**Experience Eastford
Summer Is Just Around the Corner...**

It's time to start planning Experience Eastford, our annual Town summer event. Everyone is invited to share their ideas and to help create a fun event for our families and friends.

The first planning meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 21st at 10 a.m.** at the Town Office Building lower level. We will also have evening meetings to include those who can't meet during the day.

- When would you like the Experience Eastford event to happen?
- What games and activities would you like available for children?
- What exhibits or talks are you interested in?
- Where should we hold the Heritage Day event? At the School? At Crystal Pond Park?

Please join us to answer these questions and more.... And if you cannot attend meetings, you can share your ideas by email at: Selectmen@townofeastford.com.

Board of Education Report By Linda Loretz

At its January 2018 Board of Education meeting, the Eastford Board heard a presentation by Michael Harten, Dean of Academics, and Christopher Sandford, Head of School, at Woodstock Academy. Dr. Harten shared information about the academic success of Woodstock Academy students over the years and highlighted Eastford students. Mr. Sandford summarized the 2018-19 operating fiscal plan for the Academy. Discussion also included aspects of residential life at Woodstock Academy. The presentation slides can be found on the Eastford website: <https://www.eastfordct.org/Page/1471>

The Board of Education accepted and approved the architect's plans for the gymnasium roof replacement at Eastford Elementary School. Copies of the plans can be obtained at the school.

The first version of the 2018-19 budget was reviewed at the January meeting. This version, in its entirety can be found on the website: <https://www.eastfordct.org/domain/1122>. Also, at this domain, the 2017-18 approved budget can be accessed for comparison.

The Board approved the ten-year capital plan for the school. This will be posted on the website. The Board also commenced its discussion of the 2018-19 school calendar. The calendar will be on the agenda for approval in February.

In addition, at its February meeting, the Board will discuss a request to use parent drivers for baseball.

Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship

Ethel Cushing Gardner, a former Eastford resident, left money to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to be distributed annually to one or more students who reside in the town of Eastford, who in the opinion of an appointed committee shall have **musical talent and a serious purpose with respect to the study of music**. If you are a young person who is serious about the study of music and would like to apply for music scholarship to augment your studies, please check the website (<http://www.eastfordct.org>) for a scholarship application. Please note that the deadline for submitting scholarship applications is March 5, 2018.

Other Eastford Scholarships Please consider donating to **Eastford Scholarships**. The new Eastford General Scholarship includes a non-endowed fund, from which all donations are used for scholarship awards each year, and a companion endowed fund, which will award scholarships to Eastford students in perpetuity. There is no minimum (or maximum) amount for individual donations. Donations, large and small, add up to meaningful support. Everyone contributing to these funds will be recognized in the year of their donation. Donate on-line: <http://www.cfct.org>. Look for Town of Eastford General Scholarship in the drop-down list of funds. OR Fill out the submission form: <http://www.eastfordct.org/2017ScholarshipDonationForm> Call for more information: 860.442.3572

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LIBRARY NEWS

By Susan Shead

The library will hold a story time and craft for children 3+ on Saturday February 10, 2018 at 10:30AM. Please register your child by Saturday Feb.3 at 860-974-0125 or email at eastford-publib@gmail.com. Please leave the child's name, phone number and age.

Interlibrary loan is back at the library. We are hooked up to CONNcert which is an interlibrary loan service connecting agent verso libraries here in the northeast.

Recent new fiction at the library includes End Game by David Baldacci, The Midnight Line by Lee Child, Two Kinds of Truth by Michael Connelly, and Uncommon Type by Tom Hanks. Recent DVDs include Hidden Figures, Sully, Beauty and the Beast, Scrooged and My Cousin Rachel.

There are discount passes at the library 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 will be closed on Monday Feb. 19th in honor of Presidents Day.

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

From the Principal

By Carole McCombe

Eastford Elementary School would like to welcome two new staff members. Ms. Rebecca Moran will be teaching art on a part time basis and Mrs. Denise Chambers will be with us two days a week as our school librarian. We are pleased to have them join our staff and look forward to working with them throughout the remainder of the school year.

On January 24, 2018 a representative from Woodstock Academy will be at Eastford School to provide information about courses and registration to interested students. Although The Eastford Board of Education recognizes Woodstock Academy as Eastford's designated high school, students may also elect to attend other area high schools. More information about high school choices may be obtained by contacting our school counselor or the school office.

Preschool Registration

If your child was born in 2014 or 2015, and you are interested in having him/her participate in Eastford's preschool program during the 2018-2019 school year, please complete 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 (<https://www.eastfordct.org/Page/340>). Please submit one as soon as possible! Registration documents include the registration form, affidavit of residency, long form birth certificate and income verification documents. In addition to the forms required for registration, the Readiness Council would be very grateful if parents of children born in 2014 or 2015 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 was mailed to Eastford families and can be found on our website. Go to **For Parents**. Click on **Eastford Readiness Initiative** and scroll down to **Related Files**. 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 also a registration form available in the school office and online for kindergarten (<https://www.eastfordct.org/Page/341>). Children, who were born in 2013 or earlier, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2018-2019 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 for kindergarten.

Please contact the school office if you need further information about registration or have additional questions.

BEAUTYCOUNTER

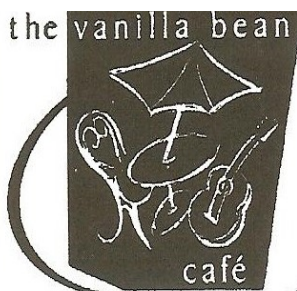
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Scout Troop 92 (Ashford/Eastford) News

By Nord Yakovleff, Ast Sct Mstr (Ashford)
& Cory Blanchette, Scout Mstr (Eastford)

In November, five Scouts came for a Saturday morning ride into the wilderness at the Yale-Meyer's Forest. This is our most difficult ride of the year. Elevation changes of almost 1,100 feet plus unimproved woods roads make it tough. Hillside road is no picnic! All the riders completed the 15.5 mile ride. It took us 3 1/2 hours. We stopped to look at old abandoned homesteads and an ancient water powered factory in this historic area. We didn't see Bigfoot, but we are still examining photos.



At the top of Hillside Road we were met by the rescue vehicle with hot chocolate and doughnuts. After the ride, Troop 92 joined up with Cub Scout Pack 92 for a campout at Mashmouquet State Park in Pomfret. They enjoyed military MREs for lunch, then went on a two hour hike. They camped out there overnight in tents. Busy day!

One of our senior Scouts had his Eagle project tentatively approved, so he will go forward with that. This project will improve the appearance of the Warrenville area. Coming soon! Our adult leadership is rechartering our Troop with the national organization. It's a lot of paperwork and cost, but it covers us with necessary insurance and other benefits. December involved training for our newer Scouts and a holiday party. Two Scouts advanced in rank at our Court of Honor. In January our Troop attended the Klondike Derby at Camp JN Webster. It's winter outdoor camping. We hope it snows, but not too cold. This is a unique experience that you will never forget. Very few people have ever done winter outdoor camping and cooking. Warm up the Maple syrup or it just won't pour! For February we are planning a "Tropical Vacation" to the Mansfield Recreation Center, to use their (warm!) swimming pool and (warmer!) therapy pool. This is a great way to spend a winter Saturday. We will have snacks, and use the game room there. So far, one of the leaders is the Foosball champion. In February we will start planning destinations for bicycle rides. We usually do four rides, two in the spring and two in the fall. Maybe the Scouts will want to go to Cape Cod again for the 50 miler. Our "shake out ride" is the 30 miler East Bay Bike Path ride in Rhode Island. EBBP is flat and very scenic. This spring the Eastford Cub Scout Webelos will be joining our Troop. We are looking forward to that. I hope that they like to ride bicycles! Scouts in Troop 92 are from Ashford, Eastford and Union. Meetings are on Thurs evenings at 7 PM at Knowlton Memorial Hall. New members and visitors are welcome. Below: Star Scout Justin Parent instructs Eastford Cub Scouts how to start a campfire.





An Editorial from Head of School Christopher Sandford

Consistent Fiscal Responsibility

As a designated independent high school for many communities in Northeast Connecticut, it is important that The Academy supports our educational partners. We are an independent town academy, one of the three in Connecticut, and we are fortunate that we have several different revenue streams which allow us budget flexibility. Additionally, our independent governance provides us the freedom to make decisions based on what is best for students and our educational partners without outside governmental forces dictating our decision making. Through this independence, we are pleased to be able to maintain a stable tuition for the benefit of all our educational partners.

While final budget approval will be determined by the full board soon, The Academy's Finance Committee has endorsed the 2018/2019 Operating Budget. We thought it was important to provide detailed information about this budget to the local community. Each year we develop budget goals, and this year was no different. The three main goals were: (1) continue to meet the mission and goals of The Academy; (2) recognize the difficult financial year facing our many educational partners; and (3) enhance our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) program.

The 2018/2019 sending town regular education tuition is \$13,892, which represents an increase of only 1.59%. Overall, the total increase in sending town regular education tuition revenue is \$26,973. As contractual increases are approximately 5%, or about \$400,000, numerous reductions in other areas were made to accommodate a total increase of only \$26,973.

Private tuition rates are also seeing minimal increases of up to 2%. While there are several components of our revenue, the major part of this editorial is to explain in detail the sending town regular education tuition revenue.

The Academy is proud of its history of prudent fiscal management. As mentioned above, next year The Academy will collect a total of \$26,973 of new sending town tuition revenue. In 2009/2010, The Academy collected \$12,736,692 in regular education tuition revenue from our local communities. For the 2018/2019 school year, we will collect \$13,087,206 in regular education tuition. We are proud that, in the last nine years, the total sending town regular education tuition revenue has only increased \$350,514, an average increase of only \$38,946 each year.

(Continued . . .)

Based on the most recent data available in the Connecticut 2016-2017 school year per pupil expenditure report, The Academy's tuition was the 5th lowest in the state. Surrounding area high schools have a much higher per-pupil expenditure; some are even double our expenditure.

Tuition for each sending town is based on each year's student enrollment at The Academy. While The Academy has been able to maintain a very stable tuition rate, enrollment fluctuations do occur in sending towns. For example, the town of Woodstock is seeing an increase of 32 students, for a total of 429 for the upcoming 2018/2019 school year. This will be the highest student enrollment from Woodstock since the 2011-2012 school year. The overall tuition increase for the town of Woodstock is \$537,000. The town of Pomfret, however, is seeing a decrease in enrollment. Its overall regular education tuition payment has decreased by approximately \$367,200.

We truly believe that our mission of providing a top-notch education is enhanced by our partnerships with our local communities. Over 67% of sending town tuition reverts back to sending towns as revenue through the salaries/benefits of resident employees, or through services paid to local businesses. Taking into consideration the larger Northeast Corner, approximately 85% of our operating budget reverts to this larger community. This figure does not include the money generated by our students and their families who visit The Academy and the surrounding area.

For example, although Eastford paid approximately \$711,000 in tuition revenue this year, over \$400,000 will revert to the town in either salaries/benefits to its residents or to local businesses. This year, while Woodstock paid approximately \$5,436,000 in tuition revenue, approximately \$5,700,000 will be returned to the town in either salaries/benefits to its residents or to local businesses. We take our fiscal responsibility very seriously; we work very hard to keep our resources local and try to hire individuals who are from the area.

Over the past five years, The Academy has undertaken many projects to benefit our students including new science labs, a new culinary lab, a remodeled gymnasium, a new STEAM Center, a remodeled auditorium on South Campus, a new art gallery, and the purchase of South Campus. Funding for these projects has come through revenue sources outside of sending town tuition increases and include donations from alumni and other supporters. These major advancements contribute to our success and benefit all students who choose to attend The Academy. Alongside our faculty and staff, these advancements help us to provide a fantastic learning environment, achieve some of the highest SAT scores in the region, offer more than 100 clubs, activities, and athletic teams, and reach a 100% graduation rate.

The Academy values our relationships with our sending town communities. We work hard to develop funding strategies that recognize these important relationships. We encourage anyone with budget questions to reach out to me at my office, or email me at asktheheadofschool@woodstockacademy.org.

News You Can Use

Deb Richards - Emergency Management Director

emd@townofeastford.com

Preparing for the possibility of power outages from the bombastic snow storm I requested manpower if we needed to open the warming center in Eastford. Many of you responded that you would help and now I hope you will take the next step in training for how to help your town in case of an emergency event. CERT, (Community Emergency Response Team), is a vehicle used to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, using the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, began promoting nationwide use of the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** concept in 1994. CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

If a disastrous event overwhelms or delays the community's professional response, **CERT** members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills that they learned during training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives. CERT skills also apply to daily emergencies.

CERT members maintain and refine their skills by participating in exercises and activities. They can attend supplemental training opportunities offered by the sponsoring agency and others that further their skills base. Finally, CERT members can volunteer for projects that improve community emergency preparedness.

CERT Training will teach participants to:

- Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and communities.
- Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
- Take steps to prepare themselves for a disaster.
- Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces.
- Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid.
- Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock.
- Conduct triage under simulated conditions.
- Perform head-to-toe assessments
- Select and set up a treatment area.
- Employ basic treatments for various wounds.
- Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
- Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.
- Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication.
- Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.

CERT classes are offered approximately twice a year usually in neighboring towns. If there is sufficient interest I hope to offer this training in Eastford. If you are interested in supporting your town and neighbors, please sign up to learn more about CERT. Send an email to: **emd@townofeastford.org**

FREE Smoke Alarms!

The American Red Cross is offering FREE smoke alarms installed in your home through their Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. You can call or register online: www.redcross.org/ct/schedule-a-visit or call 1-877-287-3327 and choose option 1. Installation will be done by trained volunteers at takes approximately 20 minutes.

**From the Town's Agent for the Elderly
MICHELE'S SENIOR MOMENT**

Some tidbits of knowledge for our seniors this month – did you know Eastford is part of the Northeastern Connecticut Transit District – Elderly Disabled Direct Service? NECTD provides door-to-door service for pre-qualified elderly and disabled persons. You simply complete and application and once approved you can schedule ride 24 hours in advance Monday through Friday (must schedule by Thursday for a Monday ride). This can be very helpful for shopping, doctor appointments, volunteering, etc. Contact NECTD at 860-774-3902.

Did you know that many seniors may qualify for energy assistance? Energy assistance helps with winter heating costs such as oil delivery, electric bill credit for electric heat, cordwood for those who heat with wood, and other assistance depending on heating source. Up to \$660 in winter heating assistance for 'vulnerable' households (Households which have one or more members who are elderly (age 60 or older), or who have a disability, or are under the age of 6.) For more information contact The Access Agency (860) 450-7400 for the Willimantic office or (860) 412 - 1600 for the Danielson office.

Lastly, Eversource has a winter protection program. It stops shut-off of your electricity between November 1st and May 1st but you must apply.

Call 800-286-2828 for more information as certain criteria applies

The Municipal Agent for the Elderly is a volunteer position, appointed by the BOS to assist town residents ages 60+ by providing information and referrals to local, state, and federal services and benefit programs. Municipal Agents are familiar with programs and benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP (Food Stamps), Social Security, protective services, legal services, adult day care, housing, transportation, and local senior and community groups. Many also help seniors fill out application forms for benefits. I am a local lawyer practicing in the areas of elder law and other areas, and hope to provide helpful information to the seniors of Eastford. If there is something you'd like me to write about, please feel free to call me at 860-481-6655 (google voice number) or 860-928-9928 (office number) or email me at michele@attorneypalulis.com.

Michele Ann Palulis, Esq. – Eastford Municipal Agent for the Aged

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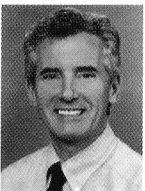
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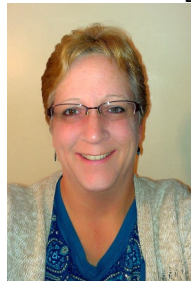
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Cupcake Wars!
Saturday, Feb. 10
1-3 PM
Congregational
Church of Eastford
8 Church Rd
Entry Deadline: Feb. 4

The Congregational Church of Eastford is hosting another Cupcake Wars! on Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. This is a **free**, community-wide, all age event.

This year contestants will be divided into two age groups: 13 years and younger and 14 years and older. Two categories will be judged: Recipe (taste, smell, etc.) and Display (decoration, creativity, etc.). Contestants can enter one or both categories.

Judges will be Eastford community and business leaders. New this year will be a People's Choice Award. Attendees will vote for their favorite cupcake in each age group based on either recipe or display. Please see entry form for more information or contact CCE at 860.974.0294 or email of-office@cceastford.com. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Entry forms must be received by Saturday, February 3, 2018. Submit entry to the Congregational Church of Eastford, PO Box 177, 8 Church Rd, Eastford, CT 06242. Alternatively, complete your entry on-line at www.cceastford.org/events.

ENTRY FORM:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Best Way to Contact You: ___ Phone ___ Email

Text (be sure to include cell ph. #)

AGE GROUP: ___ 13 yrs & younger ___ 14 yrs & older

Please check each category you are entering:

___ RECIPE (smell, texture, taste, etc)

___ DISPLAY (presentation, creativity of decoration, etc.)

Contest Rules:

1. Recipe contestants must submit 12 cupcakes at event start.
2. Display contestants must submit 3 cupcakes at event start
3. Must include list of ingredients
4. Only one (1) entry per category per contestant.
5. Awards given to each age group for 1st Place & Runner Up in each category.
- 6 One People's Choice Award given to each age group.
7. Entry deadline: Saturday, February 3, 2018.
 - a. Mail entry to the Congregational Church of Eastford, P.O. Box 177, Eastford, CT 06242
 - b. Drop off during Church Office hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon & 1-3pm
 - c. Submit online at www.cceastford.org/events

For information, please contact the Congregational Church of Eastford Office at 860.974.0294 or office@cceastford.com
 Or visit www.cceastford.org/events

February, 2018 Calendar

- 2 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 3 A Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
Deadline, Cupcake War Regist'n
- 5 Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
School Readiness Council, EES, 6pm
BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 6 Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 7 Crystal Pond Park Comm, Woodstock TH, 6pm
Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7:30-9pm
- 8 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 9 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 10 LoCIP Committee, TOB, 9am
Story Time/Crafts for Kids, Library, 10:30am
Cupcake Wars, Congregational Ch., 1-3pm
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 12 Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
- 13 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 14 **Communicator Deadline**
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7:30-9pm
- 15 Union Society Building Committee, TOB, 8am
- 16 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 17 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 19 Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
Clean Energy, TOB, 7pm
- 20 Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 21 Experience Eastford Day Comm, TOB, 10am
Recreation Commission, TOB, 4:30pm
Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7:30-9pm
- 22 Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 24 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 26 American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 28 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7:30-9pm

Nature Sightings

A North American Otter was photographed by Bob Willis as it sunned itself on the ice of the Still River behind the Willis home. Eastford is home to these rarely-seen and protected otters. Bob's photo was posted on the facebook page: EastfordCT06242.

The Last Green Valley and CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection co-sponsored a Bald Eagle Survey on Jan. 13, and counted 26 Bald Eagles. 29 volunteers at 31 locations watched for the symbol of American Liberty. A great place for bird watching and seeing herons, Golden and Bald Eagles and many other birds is the State Trout Hatchery in Plainfield. Eastford, too, is great for migratory bird sightings in March and all through the year.

**Bowen's Garage and others donated to
Eastford's Food Pantry**
This is an ongoing need in Town for a number of families.
Please give generously

(Photo: Courtesy Bowen's Garage)



Recreation News

By Valerie Katkaveck

Start the year off right by joining Sue Orcutt's yoga class January 1st at 5:30 pm. Make it a new years resolution to go back every Monday night and/or Friday mornings at 8:15. Adult (over 18) pickup basketball is another great workout. Wednesday nights 7:30 to 9. Bring a white and a dark shirt, there is no charge to participate. Our meetings our the third Wednesdays our every month at 4:30 pm. Volunteers are needed and Eastford residents are always welcome. Happy New Year!

TOWN FOOD PANTRY

Someone once said that whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others. The difference your support has made to our Food Pantry is extraordinary.

Beginning with the Eastford School's Annual Food Drive in early November, our cabinets were replenished.

We thank Melissa Lessard and her 8th grade class for coordinating this drive and helping to deliver these items to our cabinets.

We also would like to thank Vicki Welch and the Eastford Girl Scouts & Webelos & the Green family for their donations of non-perishable items. We would also like to thank the Eastford Independent Fire Company for their donation.

And, once again, a thank you to Bowen's Garage and their generous customers who helped fill our shelves with their annual food drive.

Thanks once again to our town's Secret Santa who has helped a family in need for at least as long as we've run the Food Pantry.

We also want to thank Patricia Lagasse and the Ashford Business Donation who collected toys at the July Car Cruise night in Ashford for children in Ashford, Eastford, and Willington. These toys along with holiday food packages brightened the holidays for many families in our town.

Financial donations are critical to the work we do and allow us purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Thank you to Tom & Anne Latham, Michael & Kristine Lynes, Allan & Joyce Hernberg, Mary Ann Norman, Mike & Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Michelle Bibeault, John & Maureen Tacy, Art & Lenox Brodeur, the Ashford Lake Property Owners Association, Scott & Sherry Huri, Gerald Sazama, Bob Burgess, Tom Breshnahan & Anne Fleming, and Ray Bergeron of Eastford Building Supply for their very generous cash donations.

We also want to thank the several anonymous donors who have brought food and/or checks to the town hall. It is very much appreciated.

Financial donations can be mailed to the Selectman's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242 with "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Non-perishable items can be dropped off at the First Selectman's Office.

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

Report of the Union Society Building Committee

By Carol Davidge, Chair

The Union Society of Phoenixville, owned by the Town of Eastford, has a unique heritage due to being an organization founded in the early 1800s that welcomed folks from all walks of life, with diverse spiritual beliefs, from many countries, and regardless of gender or age. This early organization is so rare that the building where these residents gathered, the Union Society building, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Eastford's Union Society building is one of only two Union Society buildings still standing in Connecticut. Recently the Town of Eastford has received grants from the State of Connecticut that form a basis for major renovations to restore the building to its former use as a gathering place for meetings and events. **History** Until 1817 in Connecticut, the only persons who could vote and have a role in town government had to be men who were property owners and members of the Congregational Church who paid their taxes to the local church. The Congregational Church was the governing body for each town. In fact, in order to become a town, a Congregational Church had to first be established at a place. Union Societies formed as a protest to this limitation by people of other faiths who wished to participate in the governance of their towns-Baptists,

Quakers, and others. President Thomas Jefferson propelled the populist movement to give men of other faiths a vote by sending a letter to a Danbury congregation urging "separation of church and state," the first time that phrase was recorded. The result was a new Connecticut law to "dis-establish" church governance and providing for tax-paying males to vote. (Women did not get the vote in the U.S. until 1920, a century later). Eastford's Union Society building represents that movement.

Later in the 1800s the Union Society followed another movement started by the Methodist Church to teach children to read during Sunday School. (In those times and into the 20th century, children rarely went to school in order to work on farms and in factories to assist their families. Their work days might be from 12 - 18 hours a day). Especially in rural areas, Sundays were times for coming together within communities for both spiritual and social activities. Participants were of Jewish, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Native American and other beliefs. In 1906, the Union Society of Phoenixville purchased the 1806 building at the junction of Routes 44 and 198, where it served as a welcoming place for all until membership dropped to a few members and it was sold to the Town in 2002.

The USB Legacy Project is an ongoing and major fundraiser in support of the building. For donations of \$100 or more, a memorial plaque will acknowledge the donor and list the names of individuals being honored. When building improvements are complete, the plaque will be inside the entry. At present the plaque is displayed at events in Town. Many companies, individuals, foundations and the State have contributed to the ongoing work of making this building a gathering place for the people of Eastford.

We thank all who have donated. If you would like to make a financial donation, in any amount, 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. **All donations are held by the Town of Eastford to be used for building improvements.** For information, please email carol.davidge@snet.net and include USB in the subject line.



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Eastford Seniors By Linda SM dos Santos

Anticipation is high for the first meeting for 2018 of the Eastford Senior Citizens: Thursday, **MARCH 15 at 11 AM** at the **MEMORIES BROWN BAG LUNCHEON**. Please bring a sandwich from home, plus photos, poems, music, or a story. Come share your winter experiences & bring your friends to the Eastford Town Office Building's lower level. Volunteers will provide fruit & beverages. All Eastford seniors are welcome to this **FREE** event. Seating is limited, please call/text 860-538-8868 or email ESC06242@aol.com to Register by noon, March 13. **SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 12, 11 AM - CAR CARRAVAN** from the Eastford TOBs Lower Level. Boarding cars begins at 10:45, departing promptly at 11 AM. Enjoy a bowl of vegetable wonton soup plus a sampling of Thai taste treats at **The Thai Place** in Putnam, CT followed by a private tour of the **WINY Studios**. Bring your cameras-a fabulous view of Cargill Falls from the studio parking lot. Members \$5.00, Non-Members \$8.00 Call/Text 860-538-8868 or email ESC06242@aol.com by 12Noon, April 9 to Reserve a seat & Are you a Driver or a Passenger? **SENIOR BUS TRIP, APRIL 17 COUNTRY JAMBOREE** to the elegant Log Cabin Banquet Facility in Holyoke, MA; \$84/person. Reservations: Kay Warren, 860-487-3744. Payment due Mar 17, checks payable to: Kay Warren & Mail to: 31 Amidon Drive, Ashford, CT 06278 **FEBRUARY 2, MARCH 2 & APRIL 6, The AARP Smart Driver Course** is available in the Meeting Room, Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Ctr, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT, \$15 AARP members, \$20 Non-members. Call 860-774-1243 for Reservations. **AARP Tax Assistance** volunteers assist low/moderate income taxpayers, with special attention, to those over 60 at the Killingly Public Library by appointment only, 860-779-5383.

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Deadline: 2nd Wednesday of each Month

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



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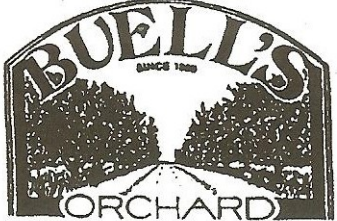
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