

Selectman's Snippets:

Community – The town has recently purchased a truck for our Public Works Department from Bowen's Garage. The guys have been thrilled with this new addition to the fleet. The employees and patrons of Bowen's give back to the community as they have collected both food and monetary donations during the last few months for the Food Pantry. This tradition has continued for years. Thank you!

*Saturday, February 2, 2020 at 7:30 AM let us join as a community at the Ivy Glen for Eastford's very own Duck Day!

*The Recreation Committee is reaching out to the community for those holding interest in Heritage Day. Please visit our website at www.eastford.org. The Recreation page has full details.

We welcome you to visit our website to learn what is new.



"When one neighbor helps another, we strengthen our community." ~Jennifer Pahlka~

Budget – The town has completed its Audit process. The report indicates there are good budgeting practices.

Transfer Station – Thank you for recycling. If you are not sure what can be recycled go to williwaste.com click Recycling, scroll down to the question; Can I recycle it? After you type in an item the instructions are provided. We have a list available on our website as well. Stickers are to be affixed to windshield's lower left-hand corner. Limit: 2 cubic yards per week – roughly one level pickup load. We will be enforcing residents to comply with rules concerning the Transfer Station. Please secure rubbish pails as you travel to Transfer Station. **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 be contacted by email: emd@townofeastford.com or call (860) 974-0133 ext. 110.

Police Services – During the month of December Troop D responded to 39 calls. These calls of service included; Accidents: 7, Criminal Invest: 2, Burglaries 0, Larcenies 0, Traffic Citations: 1, Written Warning: 0, DUI'S 0, and Non Reportable Matters: 30.

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 (860) 974-0133 Ext 3.

Respectfully Yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

You can help local causes:

Town of Eastford: Food Pantry (POB 98)(p1)
Eastford Independent Fire Co. (POB 333)(p4)
Eastford Historical Society (POB 350)(p3)
Town of Eastford: 1806 Union Society Bldg.,
(POB 98)(p6)
Grove Cemetery Assn. (POB 284)(p10)
Crystal Pond Park (p.11)

THANK YOU DONORS!

The Communicator needs your donations. Many communities no longer receive town news as printing & postage costs rise. Please help us continue to provide news to more than 900 Eastford households.

THANK YOU RECENT DONORS:

Larry Baldelli
Mary & Charles Belden
Roger Fish
Sherry & Scott Huri
Anne & Tom Latham
Nancy B. Samuelson
Linda & Rick Torgeson
Thank you!

You are helping
The Eastford Communicator to survive!
Please send your donations to:
Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253
Eastford, CT 06242

Food Pantry by Steve & Karen Broderick

Hunger is closer than you think! Children and adults face hunger in every community across the country. Eastford is no exception. Your neighbor, child's classmate or even a coworker may be struggling to get enough to eat.

Very special thanks go out to Bowen's Garage and their customers, whose annual food drive resulted in over 250 nonperishable food items and a large financial donation. Special thanks once again to our town's Secret Santa who has generously helped a family in need for at least as long as we've run the Food Pantry. We thank Chris Nickerson, Trever Primus and His Oaks for their important ongoing support of the pantry, to Lisa Hackner for her donation of nonperishables, and to David Barlow for his very generous donation.

Financial donations are critical to the work we do and allow us to purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Thanks to the Sokoloski family, Mike & Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Gerald Sazama, Mary Parker, Roger & Judith Boisvert, Susan & Michael Clements, Allan & Joyce Hernberg, Scott Huri, David & Christine Hustus, Rick & Linda Torgeson, and several anonymous donors. Checks can be made out to the Town of Eastford with Food Pantry in the memo line and mailed to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242.

"Most Wanted" items include: Canned Goods: chili, ravioli, tuna, jelly, beef stew, hearty soup, pasta sauce, fruit. Drinks: coffee, juices. Packaged Items: macaroni and cheese, oatmeal, cereal, mashed potatoes, rice, stuffing mix, healthy snacks. Personal Products: shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, paper towels, toiletries, toothbrushes/toothpaste.

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 860-974-1618 or the First Selectman's Office: 860-974-0133 ext 3.

From the Principal by Carole McCombe

On January 28, 2020 a representative from The Woodstock Academy guidance department came to Eastford School to provide information about courses and registration to interested students and families. 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. This year students have applied to Killingly High School for Agricultural Education, Ellis Technical High School and ACT, the Performing Arts Magnet High School in Windham. When students are considering which high school would be the best fit for them, it is important to keep in mind that we do not provide transportation to all the schools that students may choose to attend. More information about high school choices may be obtained by contacting our school counselor, Stephanie Murana, or the school office at 860-974-1130.

Preschool Registration

If your child was born in 2016 or 2017, and you are interested in having him/her participate in Eastford's preschool program during the 2020-2021 school year, please complete a registration form. We cannot guarantee that there will be a spot for new registrants as we cap our enrollment at 17 students each year, 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 (www.eastfordct.org). Please submit your registration forms 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 2016 or 2017 would fill out a **Needs Assessment Form**. The data collected from parents, even those who choose not to send their children to preschool, is important to the Readiness Council. The Needs Assessment Form will be mailed to Eastford families that we know have preschool aged children and it is available on our website. Go to **For Parents**. Click on **Eastford Readiness Initiative** and scroll down to **Related Files**. Please don't hesitate to call the school office (860)974-1130 for registration and related information.

Kindergarten Registration

There is also a registration form available in the school office and online for children entering kindergarten. Children, who were born in 2015 or earlier, are eligible for kindergarten during the 2020-2021 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.

Eastford School Readiness Program

by Maribeth Stearns, Liaison

Attention Parents/Guardians of children born in 2016 and 2017

Eastford's School Readiness Council will be making decisions concerning the 2020-2021 preschool program at their next meetings (February 4 and March 3, 2020). We would like the input of families that may want to be a part of this program. If you have not already received a survey in the mail, we invite you to complete a short questionnaire that will help the Readiness Council in planning for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact the school (860-974-1130) and we will mail one to you. If you have already received a survey, please complete it and return it as soon as possible, but no later than February 28. If you have any questions, please contact the school. The next Readiness Council meeting is February 4 at 5:30 PM at the school. Please join us; we would love to hear from you!

EES Teacher Report by Melissa Lessard

This school year students in grades five through eight have been improving their reading skills and stamina with the help of the newly adopted Reader's Workshop curriculum. In the fall, students in grades six through eight completed a unit called A Deep Study of Character. This unit required students to self-select fiction texts and to begin thinking deeply about the characters and settings in their books. The following questions are ones students were faced with as they read and analyzed their novels: How are the characters complicated? What are the characters' less likable sides? What pressures the characters? How does the author's language evoke emotions and images of the characters and setting? How do group dynamics or powerful characters influence the setting? Etc. Students were required to keep track of these questions as they read, discuss the questions in small groups, and write about their findings in their reader's notebooks. My favorite part of this unit was watching students talk to their peers about their characters as if they were real people. This unit not only drummed up excitement for reading and books, but it was also a great way for students to cover social and emotional learning topics. For example, the main character in our weekly read aloud dealt with bullies, peer pressure, and making good choices; in turn, what this character was experiencing fostered meaningful classroom conversations pertaining to these topics.

Similarly, the fifth graders also completed a fiction reading unit in the fall; however, what was most exciting this year was their reaction to the winter nonfiction reading unit, Nonfiction Text Complexity: Moving Up Levels of Nonfiction. The unit required students to read self-selected nonfiction books while reading with a more analytical lens. Students were asked to analyze text structure, embedded statistics, unfamiliar vocabulary, captions, and theme. The focus of this unit was to show students how nonfiction texts are becoming more complex as they become more advanced readers and how they can go about tackling these complex texts with various strategies and tools. When we started this unit students were not thrilled about having to put their fiction novels aside as they picked up some nonfiction books; however, the students were pleasantly surprised when they realized that there is a lot of great nonfiction out there that is engaging and related to topics they enjoy.

All in all, I am very pleased with this program because our students are reading more than ever before and there is nothing better than watching students develop a love of reading. If you have any questions about this new program or how you can better help your middle schooler with reading at home, please do not hesitate to contact me: mlessard@eastfordct.org

DID YOU KNOW?
by Eastford Historical Society

Did you know that in June of 1847 Zuinglus Bullard, James Deans, and Zenas Bugbee were appointed "Fence Viewers" for the newly established town of Eastford? Upon the request of any citizen they would inspect fences to see that they were in good repair, and in case of disputes between neighbors, work to resolve any differences. They dealt with such problems as size, condition, and distance from property lines. They also settled disputes arising from the trespass of livestock that escaped their enclosure. One of the oldest appointments in New England, Fence Viewers can be traced back as far as 1661.

The Eastford Historical Society seeks community support to continue its mission of collecting, preserving and sharing documents and artifacts that tell the story of Eastford's unique history. Kindly consider supporting our mission by becoming a member. Volunteer and/or financial support would be greatly appreciated. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to: Eastford Historical Society, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.

News and Notes from the Superintendent's Office by Donna P. Leake, PhD
On December 19, I had the good fortune to attend a performance at the Hartford Stage with the seventh and eighth grade students and teachers, Melissa Lessard and Steve Guilbault. I enjoyed spending this time with our students and was particularly impressed by their level of engagement in the Talk Back with the artists and technicians that took place after the performance. Although the afternoon performance at the Hartford Stage was impressive, I thoroughly enjoyed and give a standing ovation to the performance of 'The Grumps of Ring a Ding Town' that I attended that evening at EES. This program was a joint effort of our middle school students and the EES band. Thank you, Joseph Tomanelli, our general music teacher and David Vaughan, our instrumental music teacher, for your patience, collaborative efforts, and combined talents that made this event successful. Also on December 19, the third grade students in Lori Crocker-Lincoln's class and the fourth grade students in Megan Dill's class visited Coriander Café where they were treated to hot chocolate and cookies as a special award for accomplishing their December reading goal. Thank you to our teachers for organizing a monthly reading challenge for their students. Thank you to the staff of Coriander's for all your extra efforts to make this a truly delightful experience for our students.

In addition to the many delightful student experiences, there have been many other important activities occurring at EES. We recently received a positive review concerning the 2018-19 Annual Town Audit. A special thanks to Kymberli Gaylor, Financial Assistant and Assistant to the Superintendent, for the continued conscientious and timely efforts that contributed to this successful outcome. The Building Committee met on January 9 to review and approve the direction that CMTA will follow on the development of the Request for Proposals concerning the steam heat to hot water conversion project.

At its meeting on January 9, the BOE received preliminary information on possible new programs, facility projects and technology purchases for their review and consideration. The BOE budget workshop meetings will be held on January 21 and 28 at 6:00PM and February 4 at 6:30PM. Thank you, Principal Carole McCombe and School Counselor Stephanie Murana, for providing at this meeting an outstanding overview of the components of a comprehensive school counseling program and the relevance of a quality school counseling program to our district/school initiative to promote a positive social and emotional learning climate at EES.

I would be remiss not to extend a very special thank you to our BOE members for their commitment to serving the Eastford Learning Community. In addition to giving of their time to participate in BOE meetings and budget workshops, BOE members also serve on multiple subcommittees that are needed to address several aspects of Board/District/School business. The following committee appointments were confirmed at the BOE meeting: Policy (L.Skiff, J.Perry) Woodstock Academy (R.Ellsworth) EastConn (T.Cote) Facilities (R.Ellsworth, S.Bowen) Transportation (S.Bowen, A.Minor) Curriculum (A.Minor, L.Skiff) Scholarship (T.Cote, M.Calchera, J.Perry) Safety (M.Calchera, J.Perry) AFSCME Negotiations (T. Cote, R.Ellsworth, M.Calchera). In addition to confirming these appointments, the BOE approved the following budget transfers; \$3,066.58 from 100.1000.2.564.35.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EastConn) to 100.1000.2.561.33.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EO Smith); \$3,750.12 from 100.1000.2.564.35.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EastConn) to 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public).

I hope that you are all enjoying the slightly longer days as much as I am as we move through the winter season toward the spring. As always, never hesitate to contact me at dleake@eastfordct.org.



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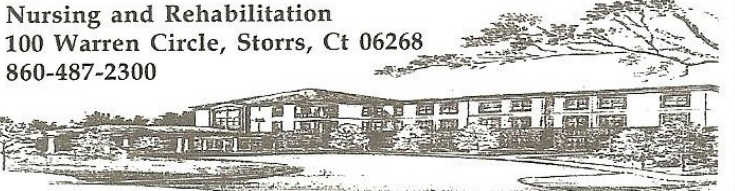
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News You Can Use by Deb Richards, Emergency Management Director
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Change passwords monthly. Use a password manager.

Use a stronger authentication such as a PIN or password that only you would know.

Watch for suspicious activity that asks you to do something right away, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or needs your personal information.

Think before you click.

Check your account statements and credit reports regularly.

Use secure internet communications. Use sites that use "HTTPS" if you will access or provide any personal information.

Don't use sites with invalid certificates. Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) that creates a secure connection.

Use antivirus solutions, malware, and firewalls to block threats. There are free programs including Malware

Regularly back up your files in an encrypted file or encrypted file storage device.

Limit the personal information you share online.

Change privacy settings and do not use location features.

Protect your home network by changing the administrative and Wi-Fi passwords regularly. When configuring your router, choose the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) setting, which is the strongest encryption option.

Look for unexplained charges, strange accounts on your credit report, unexpected denial of your credit card, posts you did not make showing up on your social networks, and people receiving emails you never sent. If you see something suspicious, immediately change passwords for all of your online accounts.

Scan and clean your device regularly.

Take an Active Role in Your Safety

Cupcake Wars! Date: Saturday, February 8, 2020 **Time:** 1-3pm, **Location:** Congregational Church of Eastford, 8 Church Rd, Eastford

All are invited to the 4th Annual Cupcake Wars! This is a **free**, community-wide, all age event. **Two divisions: Juniors**, age 15 and younger, and **Seniors**, age 16 and older, will compete in **two categories: Recipe (taste, smell, etc.) and Display (decoration, creativity)**. Contestants can enter one or both categories. Eastford community and business leaders will judge the cupcakes. **A People's Choice Award will be given to one contestant in each division.** Attendees will vote for their favorite cupcake in each division based on either recipe or display. See entry form on line at www.cceastford.org/events for more information or contact CCE at 860.974.0294 or email office@cceastford.com. Entry forms requested by Friday, February 7. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you love to bake them, decorate them, eat them or admire them, then be there. To compete, bring at least a dozen cupcakes to the baking contest. This year's judges include Eastford's First Selectman Jacqueline Dubois, Eastford School Superintendent Dr. Donna Leake, and Woodstock Academy's Associate Head of School, Holly Singleton.

Photo: Brooklyn Gervasio with a People's Choice 2019.



PLAN NOW: Creative Arts Night, Sat, March 28, 6:30-8pm. The Congregational Church of Eastford is again hosting a community-wide Creative Arts Night on Saturday, March 28, 2020, 6:30-8:00 PM. This is a free, all age event. Community members are invited to share their family-friendly creativity, such as drawing, poetry, quilting, knitting, photography, sculpture, singing, storytelling, etc. All non-participating community members are invited to come enjoy the presentations. Refreshments will be provided. Please see entry form on line at www.cceastford.org/events for more information or contact CCE at 860.974.0294 or email office@cceastford.com. Entry forms must be submitted by Thursday, March 26, 2020.

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EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY, #1, INC.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the EIFC.

2019 was a very busy year for the Company responding to 213 calls for service, the highest number of calls in recorded history. The Company has fifteen members, but that number is decreasing rapidly! We are in need for new membership to participate on any level, not necessarily firefighting or emergency medical services. If you are interested and would like to pursue a discussion, call 860-974-0630.

Below is a detailed break-down of calls, including mutual aid to other towns, call types, medical transports, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings and drills to maintain our skills:

186 emergency calls within Eastford.

MUTUAL AID:
Ashford – 6
Chaplin – 1
Pomfret – 2
Woodstock – 18

122 requiring medical transport.

Fire Calls	10	Power Lines/Poles	16
EMS	116	Service	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	28	Fire Alarms	17
Hazmat	5	Good Intent Calls	8

DRILLS & MEETINGS:

EMS	8	Fire	21
Public Relations/Education	5	Line Officers	11
Monthly Business	12	Truck Checks	10
Work Detail	1		

On a final note, the EIFC wishes former Chief John Paquin farewell as he and his wife, Denise move to Massachusetts. John was a steady and committed fixture to the Company and Town of Eastford, including all social events for over thirty years. In addition to service as Chief for fifteen years. We wish John well in his future endeavors.

The EIFC wishes all a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2020.

LIBRARY NEWS by SUSAN SHEAD

Occasionally during the winter months, the library closes due to bad weather. Library closings are announced on WINY radio in Putnam. When passing by the library check to see if we are open. The library is open when the WELCOME flag is on display at the front entrance.

There will be a **Valentine story time** with a craft on Saturday Feb.8th at 10:30AM. Please register your child by Feb. 1st by calling the library at 860-974-0125 or email at eastfordpublib@gmail.com. Please leave your child's name age and a contact phone number.

The library wishes to thank Brian Racicot for his generous donation of the entire series of Game of Thrones on DVD. Thank you Brian!

The price of copies made at the library has increased from 20 cents to 30 cents. Colored copies made on the library computers are now 40 cents a copy. Some new fiction in the library includes A Minute to Midnight by David Baldacci, the Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell, Twisted Twenty Six by Janet Evanovitch ,Stealth by Stuart Woods, The Confession Club by Eizabeth Berg, and Finding Chika by Mitch Albom.

There are discount passes available for Mystic Aquarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo, The New England Air Museum, and free admission passes to the New Britain Museum of American Art, Wadsworth Atheneum and Connecticut's Old State House. We also have 20% off general admission coupons to The Connecticut Science Center.

The library will be closed on Monday February 17th in honor of President's Day. Please note: The library hours are Monday 3-8pm, Tuesday 10am to 8pm, Thursday 3-8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

*The **EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY**, located on route 198, is a special place. The grounds are beautifully groomed and peaceful -- a perfect resting place for our late loved ones. If you are an Eastford resident, you may purchase a cemetery plot at Grove. We have redesigned the cemetery to provide more single and double plots, as well as a cremation section. Please contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349 for a confidential conversation about ownership.*

February 2020 Calendar

- 1 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 2 "Duck Day" (Scramble), Library, 7:30am
- 3 Board of Selectmen, TOB, 7pm
- 4 Conservation/Hist Pres Comm, TOB, 7pm
- Democratic Town Cmte, Library, 7:30pm
- 5 Crystal Pond Pk Cm, WoodstockTH, 6pm
- Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 8 Valentine Storytime, Library, 10:30am
- Cupcake Wars, Cong. Ch, 1-3pm
- AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 9 Heritage Day/Rec Comm, TOB, 3pm
- 11 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 12 Communicator Deadline
- Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 13 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 15 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 13 Book Discussion, Library, 7pm
- 18 Republican Town Cmte, Library, 7pm
- 19 Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- Clean Energy Comm, TOB, 7pm,
- 22 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 24 Youth BB, EES Gym, 6-7pm
- 26 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 27 Inland Wetlands, TOB, 7pm
- Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 29 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm

Union Society Building Committee Report by Carol Davidge, Chair

All improvements to this Town-owned 1806 building are from individuals and grants. The Union Society Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in part because in the early 1800s in Connecticut, union societies were organized by Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Quakers and others seeking to vote (the only people who could vote were men who were members of the Congregational Church, which was the town government). Thomas Jefferson then advocated for separation of church and state. In 1818 the state constitution was changed to guarantee that Connecticut men of other faiths could vote. (Note: at that time only men could vote). For the nearly 200 years, Eastford's Union Society was a gathering place residents of Phoenixville. All were welcome regardless of ethnic origin, spiritual belief, age or gender. The Society held holiday events, fundraisers for the fire company, and lessons so children could learn to read.

Donations and Legacy Memorials are needed to move the project forward. For donations of \$100 or more, a plaque acknowledges the donor and individuals being honored. All proceeds from fundraisers go to the Town of Eastford for rehabilitation of the building. To make a donation in any amount, please make checks payable to: Town of Eastford (write Union Society in the memo line), and mail to Union Society Fund, Town of Eastford, P.O. Box 98, Eastford, CT 06242. For information, please e-mail:

carol.davidge@snet.net, and put Union Society in the subject line. Thank you.

"Tips for Today" -by Liz Ellsworth

Hunker down this winter and read some books about the local landscape. One of my favorites is Tom Wessels' Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England. You'll be able to interpret the hills and paths of the pastures, and the thriving trees, and downed logs in the woodlands. Wessels' other titles are just as well-written; he makes local history and science easily accessible and fun! It's a New Year, so why not add a daily nature lesson to your year? Read Naturally Curious Day by Day written by Mary Holland. Her vivid photographs and quick nature bits are seasonally accurate and will add much to your walks in the Quiet Corner and beyond. Happy 2020!


Merlo's Home Improvement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Custom Kitchens >Entertainment Centers >Interior Finish Work >Additions >Garages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Bathroom Vanities >Hutches >Exterior Finish Work >Remodeling >Roofing
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Scout Troop 92 Report

In January, scouts received survival instructions for the Klondike Derby Winter Camping event at the June Norcross Webster reservation where scouts spend 24 hours or more without going into a heated building; this is a regional event, so there are often 300-400 Scouts at the Klondike. The theme of this year's Klondike Derby is "The Hobbit," based on Tolkien's popular novel. The competitive events involve mystery and intrigue!



Upcoming activities:

- February 3, Monday 7:00 PM committee meeting at St Philip's Rec Center.
 - February 7, Friday Cub Scout Pack Monthly meeting and Blue and Gold recognition.
 - February 8, Tropical Vacation, Scouts and Cubs visit Mansfield Rec for swim and use of games in the teen room. The extra warm "therapy pool" is available for relaxation in the pool area.
 - February 23, Scout Sunday. Scouts attend church services in their Scout uniforms.
 - March 2, Monday 7:00 PM committee meeting at St Philip's Rec Center.
 - March 6 Friday evening, Pinewood Derby set up at Knowlton Memorial Hall.
 - March 7, Saturday Time Pinewood Derby. Gravity powered car competition for Cub Scouts. Time TBD.
- Scout meetings are most Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM at Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford, next to Cumberland Farms Store. New members and visitors are welcome. Nord Yakovleff Ast Sct mstr; Cory Blanchette, Scout Master.

Photo above: Scouts from Troop 92 are instructed in proper equipment and clothing for winter camping. All gear and clothing is inspected prior to the Klondike Derby. Clockwise from Left: Xavier Green, Cory Blanchette, Enzo Migliatta, Jacob Murphy, all from Eastford, Cooper Desrosiers, Ashford, Cory Blanchette, Eastford, John Zulick, Ashford.

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Recreation Commission Report by Catherine DePercio, Co-Chair

The Eastford Recreation Commission will be holding a basketball clinic for the youth of Eastford in grades K-2. It will be held on Mondays, February 24th—March 30th from 6-7pm in the Eastford Elementary School (EES) gymnasium. The form will go home with students at EES and will be available on the town website. Adult Pick-up Basketball on select Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm in the EES gym from now until April. The schedule can be found on the town's website under the Rec. Commission's page.

The Eastford Recreation Commission is also requesting vendors, exhibitors, and volunteers for our 2020 Eastford Heritage Day on May 2nd from 2-6pm. If you are interested in hosting space for your committee or business, please download our request form on the recreation commission page on the town website (www.eastfordct.org). Request forms may be brought or mailed to the town office or emailed to recofeastfordct@gmail.com by Friday, February 7th.

Our next meeting will be held on February 9th, beginning at 3 pm in the Eastford Town Hall building's lower level. Our main focus will be on Heritage Day 2020. **Any other committees that would like to be involved and/or included in this event please make every effort to attend** so this event can be a success. We invite all residents, who are interested in planning future events, to come and share their ideas and thoughts. If you have questions please email the Eastford Recreation Commission at recofeastfordct@gmail.com.



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Animal Tracks of New England



Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission by Ralph Yulo Winter Walks on the Askew Trail

While it may be tempting to stay inside – snug and warm – winter walking can be refreshing and surprisingly rewarding because so many things are more easily seen when the trees are leafless.

Eastford has many trails that beckon you in the Natchaug State Forest and Yale Forest but one of the most rewarding walks is the one-mile Askew Trail located just behind the Eastford School. This is one of the local trails maintained by members of Eastford's Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC). The path is well marked and is user friendly, especially because of two recent Eagle Scout projects that resulted in new steps for an uphill section of the path and Bog bridges over sections of the path that may be seasonally wet.

The trail also has benches located strategically along the path. These benches were constructed by CHPC members for resting but also to encourage walkers to slow down and drink in the sights and sounds. Dark-Eyed Juncos and Evening Grosbeaks may greet walkers who pause and listen. The trees may be bare but there are numerous evergreen plants like the Christmas fern (with leaflets that look like Christmas stockings hung on a mantle) and Winter Berry and Partridgeberry (with shiny red berries). Squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks, and deer abound and their tracks are often evident in freshly fallen snow. A pamphlet ("The Askew Trail") prepared by CHPC members offers a more complete listing of things to seek and discover as well as interesting historical and natural history information.

Available for loan at the Eastford Town Library is a knapsack that CHPC members have stocked with field guide books, binoculars, and magnifying glasses. So, with all that in mind, winter is really a revealing and rewarding time to enjoy the Askew Trail, a time to get outside to refresh, restore, and discover.

Happy walking!

Animal tracks source: Stokes Nature Guide

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Additionally, you could leave a gift to the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association in your will or living trust, known as a bequest. This allows you to offer future support without giving up assets today. Or, you may also wish to consider making "The Grove Cemetery Association" the recipient of a memorial donation ("in lieu of flowers").

We appreciate your consideration of our appeal and welcome any questions or concerns regarding the cemetery operation. Questions? Call (860) 974-1349. You may also visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>

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

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Connecticut Magazine's cover story in March 1993 showed Eastford with Bowens Garage, Coriander, the Ivy Glenn, cows, trees and people walking around the village. Rankings were based on quality of life, affordability, good schools, low crime rate, leisure and other measures. Those qualities remain today. Information: www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford and Facebook: Eastford CT06242

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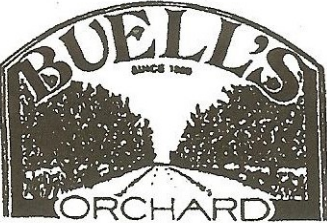
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HAPPENINGS ...

February 8: 2 events:

Valentine Story time at the Library, 10:30am (p.5)(reservation)
Cupcake Wars (p.4)

Congregational Church, 1-3pm. Bring your cupcakes or come and taste the delicious offerings. Can you top Porter Barlow's "Spaghetti & Meatballs", a winning entry from 2019? (p.4)

From Rec Commission (p.8)

Adult Pickup Basketball

Wednesdays, EES Gym, 6:30pm

Youth Basketball Clinic, EES Gym

Mondays, Feb 24-Mar 30, 6:30pm

From Conservation Commission:

Nature Trail, animal tracks (p.9)

Crystal Pond Park—Free (p.11)

The Last Green Valley (p.11)

Library has Museum / Destination Discounts (p.5)



HERITAGE DAY 2020 ANNOUNCEMENT:
The Eastford Recreation Commission requests vendors, exhibitors & volunteers for our Eastford Heritage Day on May 2, 2020 from 2-6pm. If you are interested in hosting space for your committee or business, please download our request form on the recreation commission page on the town website (www.eastfordct.org). Request forms may be brought or mailed to the town office or emailed to: recofeastfordct@gmail.com by Friday, February 7.

Duck Day Feb 2, 7:30am at the Ivy Glenn

Find out what our next six weeks of weather will be from Scramble, the Duck who is 100% accurate in predicting Eastford weather over the past five years! (versus that groundhog in Pennsylvania with only 39% accuracy). Learn more at: scrambletheduck.org. Photo: Scramble with the Torcellini brothers—Micah, Isaac and Benjamin in 2019

