



The Eastford Communicator

January, 2016 Calendar

- 1 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 4 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5pm
Fiddle & Song, EES, 5-9:00pm
School Readiness Council, EES, 6pm
BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 5 Conservation & Historic Comm, TOB, 7pm
- 6 Nahaco Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 7 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 1-2:00pm
Emergency Management Meeting, TOB, 7pm
Agriculture Committee, Selectmen's Office, 7pm
- 8 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 11 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5:00pm
Fiddle & Song, EES, 5-9:00pm
Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
Clean Energy, TOB, 7pm
Book Discussion, Library, 7pm
- 12 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 13 **Communicator Deadline**
Recreation Commission, TOB, 2pm
Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7:00pm
- 14 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 1-2pm
BOE, EES, 7pm
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 15 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 18 Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
- 19 Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 20 Woodstock Academy for Grade 8 Parents, EES, 6:30pm
- 21 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 1-2pm
- 22 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7:30pm
- 25 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5pm
Fiddle & Song, EES, 5-9:00pm
Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 27 Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- 28 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 1-2pm
Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 29 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am

Of Special Note

The Eastford Public Library in the Ivy Glenn Memorial Building has a great array of DVD's, children's books and new books for all ages. Also, discount passes are 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, The Wadsworth Atheneum and Connecticut's Old State House plus coupons for 20% off admission to the Connecticut Science Center & day passes to State Parks and Forests.

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:

Canned Goods & Doing Good, Budgets & Audits, Park Plan & Bridge Span

Once again this year the long line of charity proceeded from the Eastford Elementary School to the Town Office Building as students carried cartons of food and toiletries and paper goods to the Food Pantry. There as well were Food Pantry Coordinators Karen and Steve Broderick with their pickup truck laden with similar items. Melissa Lessard's eighth-grade class were the organizers of the annual school-wide, week-long food drive. More than 2,400 items, 2,401 to be exact, were collected, far exceeding last year's total of 2,100. Not only are the students to be commended for their generosity, charity, and sense of community, they benefit as well from learning in the context of health and nutrition education. And, most importantly, many Eastford folks in need will have a better life because of their caring attitude and actions.

continued on next page

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The Nahaco Park Commission, on December 7, 2015, submitted "The Nahaco Park Plan" to the Board of Selectmen. The plan, which is very comprehensive and which the Board applauded, responds to the ordinance creating the Commission which requires submission of a long-range plan to both the Eastford and Woodstock Boards of Selectmen. Through the submitted plan, the Commission has developed a disciplined management plan for the Park and a coherent funding structure to support Plan implementation. Among the Plan's goals are; to achieve robust self-sustainability, to assure the safety and serviceability of Park buildings, to develop community outreach, to promote passive recreational activity, to address any structural needs of the Trout Pond Dam, to practice good forest management, to acknowledge support services provided by both towns, to enhance the beach and waterfront area, to schedule and carry out routine maintenance/management, and to beautify the Park grounds. The Board said it welcomed receiving the Plan, and that the Commission should proceed with implementation.

The Board of Selectmen, on December 7, 2015, acting under authority granted by Town Meeting on May 18, 2015, appointed a committee to oversee the School Underground Oil Tank Removal Project. Appointed were Terry Cote, chair; Linda Loretz, secretary; Rob Ellsworth, Russell Mayhew, and Michele Bibeault. Among the duties envisioned for the Committee are approving plans, opening bids, agreeing to change orders, and granting final approval.

The pace of the project to replace the Mill Bridge Road bridge has accelerated. Federal funding has been formally approved and the Board of Selectmen has authorized me to enter into the process of advertising and awarding construction of the bridge as well as to enter into agreements for this construction and related construction administration and engineering. Bid advertising occurred in mid-December and bids will be opened in mid-January. The Town will then select the project contractor and make the award. Construction should start by April 1, with completion projected for the end of this year.

The preparation of the Town Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year is underway. All Town offices, commissions, committees

and departments were to submit their budgets by close of business on December 30, 2015 as were those outside agencies which request funding from the Town of Eastford. The Board of Education budget is due by January 30 as is the budget of the Camp Nahaco Park Commission. My anticipation is that all necessary FY2016-2017 budget documents will be presented to the Board of Selectmen by February 12, with the knowledge that certain line items, such as State revenues, may be tentative or missing at that point. The Board can then proceed to begin its deliberations and preparation of a final budget to be presented to the Town in May at the Budget Hearing and be brought to the Budget Town Meeting for approval. All cognizant budget preparers were asked to be mindful of all the traditional factors which impact our Town Government budgeting—the nature of the Federal economy, the volatility of the State Budget and, therefore, the availability of State monies, and Eastford's Grand List. Concurrent with submission of the operating budget requests, Eastford entities were asked for a summary of significant capital items and estimated costs for the fiscal years 2016-17 to 2025-26, a ten-year plan.

The annual audit of Town finances for the year ending June 30, 2015 has been completed and will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on January 4, 2016 by the Town's auditors, Michaud Accavallo Woodbridge & Cusano [MAWC].

At its December 7, 2015 meeting, the Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Carrie Armitage from the Recreation Commission.

Eastford has joined with Ashford, Union, and Woodstock in an Eversource program to reduce the growth of small trees and brush from under utility lines. The critical aspect of the program is Eversource-funded shared use of a state-of-the-art roadside mower. The shared equipment program is beneficial to Eastford in a number of ways; low cost to the Town [once per year we contribute, along with the other towns, three-hundred dollars for lubricants, filters and the like], no cutter maintenance by Eastford Public Works [this is done by Woodstock staff], no need to contract out

continued on next page



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for over-the-fence mowing, and Eastford brush cutting hours are reduced. You should be aware that in the contract with Eversource it states that the width of the brush removal area shall be eight feet each side of the outermost power line conductor. All tree stems less than, or equal to, four inches shall be considered brush. Brush shall not be trimmed but rather cut at, or near, ground level. Should you have concerns for areas along your property it is important that you notify Public Works at 860-974-2259 so that we may come out and make note of areas you may not want brushed, and that Eversource may be informed. Public Works has no intention of clear cutting brush in front of homes with decorative shrubs, trees and the like. Again, any questions or concerns, call 860-974-2259.

While on Public Works, a few notes regarding the Transfer Station. Be aware that the Mattress Recycling Program accepts box springs as well. Please, no plastic bags in the Co-Mingle container bin and also it would be most helpful if you removed the caps from your plastic milk jugs and crushed them. The more compacted the Co-Mingle is, the fewer haul trips required and each haul costs the Town money. We can save a considerable amount of taxpayer money by crushing milk jugs.

Recreation Commission News

Valerie Katkaveck

We thank Charlie Brown Campground for helping us host "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa" December 12 with The Ashford Babcock Band, crafts, cookie decorating, and SANTA! The Recreation Commission is a group of volunteers dedicated to local activities for all ages. If you would like to participate or become a member, please come to our next meeting on January 13 at 2pm. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Town Office Building. We are always looking for fresh ideas and input from the community.

Report of the Union Society Building Committee

By Carol Davidge, Chair

The USBC thanks Gene Seevers of Alexandria, Virginia, Virginia Montgomery of Stonington, and Ken and Suzanne Anderson for their legacy donations to help preserve the Union Society Building. We also thank Greg Farmer, Circuit Rider with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, who attended the November meeting of the USBC to share trends and ideas for historic preservation. The USBC is studying grant opportunities for rehabilitating this building which represents a rare aspect of Connecticut's heritage - a multi-cultural center from the mid-1800s to 2000.

The Union Society of Phoenixville House, owned by the Town of Eastford, was built in 1806 as a home. It was a multi-cultural gathering place for Phoenixville families from the 1850s-2000. The Society's earliest mission was to teach children to read during Sunday School because even into the 20th Century many rural children did not attend school due to 12-14 hour workdays on farms or in factories. Yet most families attended church. The building provided a nondenominational place for faith-based and social activities, hosting holiday events, pot-luck suppers, and games. All were welcome regardless of spiritual belief, ethnic heritage, gender or age. The building is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Legacy Memorials - For donations of \$100 or more, a memorial plaque will acknowledge the donor and list the names of individuals being honored. The plaque contains names of corporate, foundation and private donors, and is displayed at Heritage Day and other events. All proceeds from fundraisers 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 E-mail: carol.davidge@snet.net with "Union Society" in the subject line.



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Eastford Readiness Council

AKA Eastford's Preschool Program
Jennifer Barlow

Attention Parents/Guardians of children born in 2012 and 2013. The Readiness Council will be making decisions concerning the 2016-2017 preschool program at the meeting on February 1. We would like the input of the 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 survey that will help the Readiness Council in their decision. The survey can be downloaded from the school website eastfordct.org under the "instruction" tab, and then under Mrs. Kopplin, and then over to the listing on the left side of the page click on Readiness Council. If you do not have access to a computer please contact the school (860-974-1130) and we will mail one to you. Please complete and return the survey as soon as possible but no later than February 1. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school.

Update

This past month marked one third of the way through the school year. Mrs. Kopplin was busy meeting with each family updating them on the progress that their child has made thus far. The class and some visitors took a walking field trip the Eastford Public Library to listen to some stories read by Mrs. Shead. The group then went back to the school and participated in some Fall Themed activities. The class has had the opportunity to practice giving to others by bringing in items for the food drive and buying snowflakes for the PTO's giving tree. The preschoolers plan on going to the library on December 22. The Readiness Program in partnership with the PTO are also putting on an assembly for the school and any families with children from birth through 4 years of age. This laser presentation will be held on December 23rd at 2:00. Please have a Happy, Safe Holiday on behalf of the Readiness Council.

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

Mark your calendar!

- December 22: Walking trip to the Eastford Public Library (Call the school for a time)
- December 23: Laser Show @ 2:00 (EES)
- January 4: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (EES Teacher's Lounge)
- February 2: Needs Assessment Survey Due and Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (EES Teacher's Lounge)

Board of Education

Linda O. Loretz, Superintendent

The Board of Education received the 2014-15 annual report from the superintendent at its December meeting. Additionally, the Board of Education set meeting dates for the 2016-17 budget meetings. Budget meetings, which will be held on January 14 at 6:30 PM, January 21 at 6:30 PM and January 25 at 6:30 PM, are open to the public.

The Board of Education has begun its **2016-17-budget process**. On January 14 at 6:30 PM, one half-hour before its regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Education invites the public to give input regarding budget concerns for the upcoming budget development.

The following policy revisions were approved by the Board on December 10, 2015:

- Policy 1610, Pesticide Application on School Property;
- Policy 4112.5/4212.5, Employment Checks;
- Policy 4131/4231, Employee Use of the District's Computer Systems and Electronic Communications;
- Policy 5115, Student Attendance and Truancy;
- Policy 5116, Student Discipline;
- Bylaw 9221, Filling Vacancies; and
- Policy 5144.1, Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students.

All Board of Education policies are available on the website: http://www.eastfordct.org/board_education.cfm

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Library News
By Susan Shead

Happy New Year from the Library Board and staff of the Eastford Public Library.

The Eastford Public Library book discussion group will meet on Monday, January 11 at 7pm to discuss the book "Our Souls at Night" by Ken Haruf. All are welcome to attend.

The library would like to thank Eastford Emergency Management for their generous donation of books to the library. The books are currently on display for anyone who would like to take them out at the library.

The library will celebrate 120 years of operation in 2016. In the coming months I will contribute a few facts on the library in the Communicator. In the year of 1896 the brothers and sisters of Alfred P. Carpenter gave the town \$500 as a memorial fund if the town would establish a library. The Eastford Public Library began on December 3, 1896. The first library was kept by Jane Walker in the hall of her home.

Discount passes are 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, The Wadsworth Atheneum and Connecticut's Old State House. We also have coupons for 20% off admission to the Connecticut Science Center. We also have State Parks and Forests Day pass. This pass can be used to cover the cost of parking at state parks and forests where there is an established parking charge.

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 in the front entrance.

Please note: The library will be closed on Monday Jan.18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The library hours are Monday 3-8pm, Tuesday 10am to 8pm, Thursday 3-8pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

From the Principal
By Heather Tamsin

Happy New Year from the staff at Eastford Elementary School. I hope that you all enjoyed the holiday season and had time with family and friends. We are eager to jump into a new year refreshed and enthusiastic about the new learning and experiences that await both students and staff.

Our students participated in our annual Giving Tree collection organized by our Parent Teacher Organization. Students donate money and receive a snowflake to place on our Giving Tree. Students learn about supporting one another and the importance of taking an active part in their community. The money collected is available to support local families in need throughout the year.

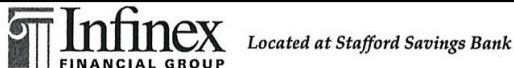
All high school students are reminded that if Eastford Elementary School closes or delays the opening of school due to weather, transportation to Woodstock Academy, Ellis Technical School, Quinebaug Middle College and Killingly is effected by that decision. If Eastford School is closed due to inclement weather, transportation is not provided to the high schools. Please check our website (www.eastfordct.org) on days that you are wondering about the status of Eastford transportation.

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INSIDE PROFILE: Kathy Healey by Sue Orcutt

You may not have noticed, but there's a house that lies between the fire station and Dave Olsen's house. It was built in 1810, and some of you may know it as the Spink's House. As I parked my car at the top of the driveway I was greeted by an array of cats who have made their residence at Kathy Healey's home. As I walked through the door, I saw two more indoor cats, providing evidence that Kathy is, indeed, a cat-lover. She volunteers at PAWS (Pound Animals are Worth Saving) when she has the time. Kathy had long wanted to buy an antique house, and after growing up in Waterbury, CT, had always wanted to live in the country. So when her husband accepted a math professorship at Eastern in 2001, and then gave Kathy a certain radius to look for houses, she was free to look for her wished-for home. There was a ton of renovating to be done, including replacing the sills, turning the back laundry room into a study, and taking down one whole side.

Before moving to Eastford, Kathy and her husband, Pete, lived in Sunapee, N.H. where both had jobs at Colby-Sawyer College. Kathy is an English professor at Worcester State University, currently teaching four freshman level writing classes, where she asks her students to write narratives and research papers. At the end of a semester, she has 100 papers to read, correct, grade and make comments on. (Remember those days of red ink?) When Kathy was at Colby-Sawyer, she taught a class on her favorite topic—Gothic Literature. This is her passion. It all began when she watched Dark Shadows as a kid. For her dissertation at Penn State University (where she received her PhD), Kathy wrote about the relationship of visual arts and landscape in the writings of a variety of American Gothic authors during the late 18th to early 19th centuries, including Charles Brockden Brown. What is Gothic Literature? You may have heard of Frankenstein or Dracula. A present-day author would be Stephen King. If you like scary movies (i.e. The Shining), ghost stories, and sci-fi (i.e. Star Trek, Star Wars, Babylon 5), then you would like Gothic Literature. Kathy likes to include spontaneous combustion, the supernatural, and sleep-walking to her list. Currently, she is editing a book that includes essays by various authors on Gothic Literature. Kathy is one of the authors.

Kathy graduated with her undergraduate and master's from UCONN, and has been teaching at the college level since 1986. She met her husband at UCONN. They dated for ten years, marrying in 1995. Kathy and Pete have two sons—Robert, 17, and Nathaniel, 13. Despite working full-time, Kathy is very involved in the town. She has been working at the historical society for twelve years, and is on the library board. For two years she took minutes for the Nahaco Commission. She used to be on the PTO for EES and was on the auction committee. She was a chaperone for Robert's trip to Washington DC, as she will be for Nathaniel's, and was a Cub Scout leader. Her hobbies include oil and watercolor painting, sewing, and gardening (although this year a groundhog ate everything except the potatoes, tomatoes, and peppers). Kathy is planning to stay here (she says there are no ghosts in her house). She loves the availability of Camp Nahaco, and spends time up there appreciating the peaceful environment. She has met a lot of great people in town, and has directly experienced the town "coming together" to help someone in need. When Nathan was two, Kathy had a medical emergency. People that she didn't even know showed up at her door with food. Kathy encourages people to become involved, to become invested in the town. She can always use more volunteers in the historical society.

News You Can Use

Deb Richards – Emergency Management Director

In these changing times, Connecticut has many agencies and employees constantly watching for terrorist activities in our state. Below is a brief overview of a few of these agencies.

The Office of Counter Terrorism utilizes all resources within state government to develop unified safety and security measures to prevent, mitigate and manage incidents threatening the quality of life of the citizens of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) includes a co-located team of federal, state and local partners (including DESPP, Department of Correction, Connecticut National Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States Coast Guard, Office of the United States Attorney, federal Department of Homeland Security, and municipal police). CTIC collects, analyzes and disseminates both criminal and terrorism-related intelligence to law enforcement officials throughout the state, and pertinent vetted information to authorized and appropriate agencies within the first responder and private sectors.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIPU) works to assess and protect Connecticut's public and private critical infrastructure assets and key resources, both physical and cyber-based, that are essential to maintaining the minimal operational capabilities of government and are necessary to the well-being of the economy.

The Joint Terrorism Task Force is a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Task Force to which OCT personnel are assigned.

The State of Connecticut also utilizes *Snaprends*, a social media monitoring software empowers organizations to visualize social conversations by capturing and analyzing social media content in any specified geographic location.

The Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC) encourages individuals to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity potentially related to terrorism using the **Homeland Security (HLS) Tips Line**.

The Office of Counter Terrorism operates a 24/7 toll-free tips line, which allows the citizens of Connecticut a single point of contact to report suspicious incidents or suspected acts of terrorism. **TIPS Line: 1-866-HLS-TIPS (1-866-457-8477)**.

For more information go to www.ct.gov/demhs.

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IN APPRECIATION

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc.
would like to thank:

P. Willis Construction, Inc.

for donating services to pave the asphalt apron
at the parking lot entrance

Parking Lot /Safety Subcommittee

Herman Barlow, Bill Bibeault, Howard Budd, Ken Grube
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Eastford Elementary School Class News

Melisa Lessard, 7th & 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher

Eastford Elementary School has been a busy place this fall for students in seventh and eighth grade, and to add to the excitement we have numerous events planned for the upcoming months.

Sports

The middle school girls' soccer team had a successful season. The girls only lost one game during their regular season; as a result, their hard work lead them to earn the title of "Regular Season Champions." The girls made it to the tournament championship game and lost to Canterbury 1-0. Basketball season has begun. Games are held on Mondays and Thursdays. The junior varsity team plays at 3:30pm and the varsity team plays at 4:30pm. For updated game schedules, please check the EES website. Track season will be here before we know it. Track practice will start in early April and is open to students in grades five through eight. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Melissa Lessard at mlessard@eastfordct.org.

Field Trips

Our students are very fortunate to be able to attend so many educational field trips. So far this year, students in grades seven and eight have visited: two Newport mansions, the Worcester Art Museum, Nathan Hale and Jonathan Trumbull homes, and the Connecticut Science Center. On December 22nd, students will be traveling to the Hartford Stage to watch a production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Eighth Graders

The Class of 2016 has been active planning events for the school and community. In November, eighth graders held a pumpkin decorating event after school for students in grades three through five. In addition, grade eight recently helped organize the annual EES food drive, and on November 23rd eighth graders delivered the 2,401 items to the Eastford Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone in the community who donated and made this our most successful collection yet! In preparation for high school, students in grade eight have visited: Ellis Tech, Quinebaug Middle College, and Woodstock Academy. Also, representatives from the Capitol Theater Arts Academy (ACT) and Killingly High School have visited EES to speak with students about what their schools have to offer. On January 20th at 6:30pm, a representative from Woodstock Academy will be meeting with grade eight parents at EES to discuss the course selection process for Woodstock Academy.

EASTFORD FOOD PANTRY: THANKS TO A CARING, GENEROUS COMMUNITY

Steve and Karen Broderick

The Food Pantry extends a very hearty "THANK YOU!!" to the Eastford Elementary School and the residents of town for the incredible holiday food drive in November. For the third consecutive year, the entire school participated, and their efforts resulted in donations of more than 2,000 items of food, toiletries and other non-perishables! Thanks to Mrs. Lessard and her eighth grade class for not only coordinating but using their free period to deliver the items to our pantry and help fill the cabinets.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Congregational Church of Eastford and to Whitcraft, whose generous contributions enabled us to provide special holiday packages to our clients at Thanksgiving.


Financial donations are critical and allow us purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Thank you to Susan Burns, Margarita Halpine & Brian Holley, the Eastford Republican Town Committee, Rick & Linda Torgeson, the Ashford Lake Property Owners' Association, Gerald Sazama, Ceceila & Paul Vaida, and Mike & Mary Ellen Ellsworth. We also want to thank the several anonymous donors who have brought food and/or checks at the town hall. It is very much appreciated.

Part of the definition of a real community is that we willingly help one another out in times of need. At a time of year that can be particularly difficult to make ends meet, Eastford has once again proven that we are a close knit community of caring, generous people. Many, many thanks to you all.

At this writing, we are preparing Christmas holiday baskets. Donations can be mailed to or dropped off at the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EASTFORD**

The second installment of Real and Personal Property taxes and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes on the list of October 1, 2014 is due and payable on January 1, 2016. The Tax Collector's office will be open for the collection of taxes each Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month until 6:30 P.M.

All taxes become liable to penalty on February 1, 2016 and interest will be charged on any due or any part thereof, at the rate of one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date. Minimum penalty is \$2.00. Mail must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2016 to avoid interest charges.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes not paid by February 1, 2016 will be reported as delinquent to Department of Motor Vehicles and registrations will be denied.

Please note: You will not receive a bill for 2nd installment of real estate and/or personal property taxes. Please use the coupon that was sent to you in June. If you do not have a bill, call our office for a duplicate copy. Remember, failure to receive a tax bill does not negate your responsibility to pay any tax and interest due.

Christine E. Hustus

Tax Collector

Fiddle & Song

Tom French

tomfrench@charter.net

After two months of holiday tunes, January musically tends to be a month of silence. Although there is plenty of snow in January, even the songs about snow disappear with the holiday music. If your ancestry or inclination is Scotch you might be looking forward to January 25th, Robert Burns Night: a night of eating haggis, drinking Scotch spirits, and singing many of the Scotch songs Burns wrote and collected. But most likely you just sang Burns' hit song, Auld Lang Syne, during the first minute of January, 2016 and then ended your new year's eve celebration.

But January also brings us the opportunity to honor Martin Luther King. Many of us remember the man and lived during the tumultuous 1960's when civil rights were being demanded in accordance with the law through rallies and civil disobediences. Much of the inspiration and hope that kept the Civil Rights movement alive was music. Most of us readily remember We Shall Overcome and it remains a worthy and meaningful song, as today's news remains alive with stories of racial brutality and oppression. We have yet to realize the line: "We shall live in peace some day. For deep in my heart I do believe, we shall overcome some day."

This past year I have been singing a civil rights song, Come to the Tree of Life, which points out that "There are things that you know, that you don't know that you know." The title of yet another civil rights song asks Ain't You Got a Right to the Tree of Life? The Tree of Life is within each of us; it is also in all of us as a community and as a nation. January is the beginning month. Find your inner Tree of Life, and let it spring forth and blossom in 2016.

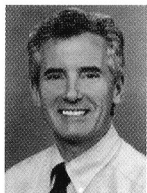
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In addition to the weekly fire/ems drills, a five-department live burn was held in the "burn house" at the Pomfret Fire Department on Sunday, Nov. 15th. This drill enabled departments to interact together in a mutual aid setting. Firemen participated in numerous skill scenarios of "live fire" in a safe environment.

The monthly EMS drill was to review emergencies involving hypothermia and cold-water rescue. Members practiced putting on Mustang Cold Water Rescue Suits. On Saturday, Nov. 28th, three Rescue Squad members attended a certification class on Pediatric Emergencies, Evaluation and Assessment at the KB Training Center in Killingly.

The highlight of the month was our annual participation in the "Dazzle Light Parade" in Putnam. We may have been one of the smaller town entries, but by far one of the brightest. Thanks to our junior members who gave up their Sunday to decorate the trucks and be in the parade.

The 4th annual flu shot clinic was held at the station on November 18th in collaboration with the NDDH.

HOLIDAY SEASON TIPS.

It's time to have fun and celebrate the holidays in anticipation of the new year.

If you burn candles, incense or oil burners, remember to extinguish them before leaving the house, before retiring for the evening and NEVER put them close to something flammable.

Be sure smoke detectors, fire alarms and CO detectors are working and the batteries are fresh.

Don't forget pets. They are part of the family. If you are using fireworks, anything with loud noises or fire, be sure they are kept away from our pets.

If you are staying in to celebrate or traveling to a party, follow a few safety tips to ensure that you're safe when the clock strikes midnight ringing in 2016:

Be aware of your surroundings if you are the driver. Holiday season is notorious for drunk drivers. Be alert, drive defensively and wear your seatbelt.

Pay attention to how much you and others consume. Alcohol intake, when too much is consumed, can have lethal affects.

New Year's Eve can be a fast-paced, crazy night. Stick together and be sure to travel in groups, especially women.

If you are hosting a party, and some do not drink, designate them to drive other people home that have had drinks.

"BUZZ DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING"

We want to ring in 2016 with celebrations and wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity. This may not happen if the gathering of family and friends becomes a somber experience.

**Legal Notice
Town of Eastford
Republican Caucus**


Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the town of Eastford on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Eastford Library to endorse candidates for the Republican Town Committee.

**Attest: Jennifer Page, Cairman
December 2, 2015**



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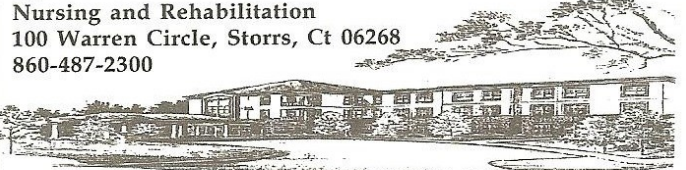


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The Volunteer Staff of The Communicator


ATTENTION

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

Eastford Communicator Volunteers

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


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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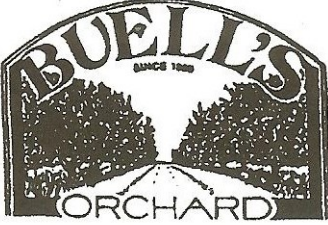
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