



# The Eastford Communicator

## BRODEURBITS

### January, 2017 Calendar

- 3 Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 4 Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7pm  
Nahaco Commission, TOB, 7pm  
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 5 Agriculture Committee, TOB, 7pm
- 7 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 9 School Readiness Council, EES, 6pm  
BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 10 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 11 **Communicator Deadline**  
Recreation Commission, TOB, 1:30pm  
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm  
Solarize Workshop, Willington Lib, 7pm  
Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7pm
- 12 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 13 Home Energy Wkshp, Ashford, 7pm
- 14 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 16 Clean Energy, TOB, 7pm
- 17 Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 18 Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7pm
- 19 Deadline for Solarize applications
- 21 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 23 American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 25 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm  
Adult Pickup BBall, EES, 7pm
- 26 Library Board, Library, 7pm  
Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 28 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm

[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: Compaction and Consolidation, Audit and Abate, Heart Safe and Heartfelt]

On Monday, December 5, the Board of Selectmen received the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Municipal Audit, as presented by the Town Auditor, Darin Offerdahl of Michaud Accavallo Woodbridge & Cusano LLC. The summary of findings was that “there are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies to report”. In other words, the Town of Eastford received a “clean” audit report. The overall finan-

*continued on next page*

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### Of Special Note

**Food Pantry needs Food, Cash**

**Adult Basketball, EES, Wednesdays, 7pm**

**SolarizeCT Workshop, Willington Lib, Jan 11**

**Home Energy Workshop, Ashford, Jan 13**

**THE LIBRARY HAS**

**DISCOUNT/FREE PASSES TO:**

**Mystic Aquarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo**

**New England Air Museum, CT Science Center,**

**Wadsworth Atheneum, & New Britain Museum of Art**

**Eastford Historical Society offers match for donations**

**Starting Feb, K-3 Basketball, EES, Tuesdays (p. xx)**

cial health of the Town was deemed to be strong. Our internal controls are in place; our net position increased; our total fund balance increased; and the General Fund budget showed a positive variance. I want to commend all parties charged with managing Town finances, on both the Education and Town Government sides, for their acute sense of financial accountability and for manifesting that accountability through their financial management of individual unit budgets during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The Town's new self-contained compactor has arrived and been installed and is in operation at the Transfer Station. With it come new usage rules: the new compactor will accept Plastics [#1-#7], Metal Food Cans, Aluminum Cans, and Glass Bottles. Please empty bags and do not toss entire plastic bags of items into the compactor; bags are detrimental to its operation. Also no large plastic toys or building materials. We are keeping the old/former Co-Mingled container on site for use in the event of emergencies or over-capacity usage of other containers. As is always the case, the Transfer Station attendants stand ready to assist you at anytime.

The Board of Selectmen, meeting in regular session on December 5, 2016, granted several farm abatements under State Statute regarding tax abatements. Under Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81 (m), the Town has the municipal option to abate up to fifty percent of property taxes on dairy farm, fruit orchard, vegetable, nursery, nontraditional or tobacco farm, or commercial lobstering business operated on maritime heritage land.

Factoids: The value of building projects, ranging from pellet stove to photo voltaic installations, for which permits were issued in November was \$88,602. Connecticut State Police reported three vehicular accidents in Town in November, and issued 16 traffic citations and 13 written warnings. During a four mile trash pickup walk along Westford

Road, Church Road, and Old Colony Road to Route 44 recently, Public Works staff gathered 13 bags of roadside trash.

There has been considerable activity regarding Town projects being funded by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management [OPM] Small Town Economic Assistance Program [STEAP] grants. The Town has been informed that its two STEAP applications in the 2016 funding round have not been selected. These were for additional funding for an addition to the Union Society Building to enable use of that building as a Community Center, and for renovation of the fire station. In the case of the Union Society building, it is literally back to the drawing board. I requested a change in the scope of the current STEAP grant in the amount of \$100,000 which had been awarded us some time back. The request, which was to change the scope from an addition to the building to rehabilitating it to serve the Town by providing critically needed public event and meeting space, has been granted by OPM Secretary Ben Barnes. Given that approval, deliberations are underway, spearheaded by Union Society Committee Chair Carol Davidge, to accommodate and effect needed plan changes and to assure compliance with various State cultural and preservation regulations and mandates. I have also asked Secretary Barnes for an extension of the STEAP grant which is providing the State share [twenty percent] of the funding for the Mill Bridge Road bridge project. That funding ran out on December 31, 2016 but Secretary Barnes has granted an extension of funding. The bridge project is proceeding; the main precast unit through which the brook flows is in place. Next will be bridge railings and then a road surface over the bridge. How much can be accomplished before the depth of Winter sets in is a matter of civil engineering calculation, and conjecture, at this point. *continued on next page*



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One of the hallmarks of the community in which we Eastfordians live is generosity, a generosity which proceeds from a spirit of giving and an understanding and appreciation of the plight of those among us who are in need. This generosity is manifested year-round through continual and continued donations of money, food, and personal care items to the Town Food Pantry. Particularly noteworthy is the outpouring of support for the Pantry during the holiday season with an increase of monetary donations and food items such as baskets from the Congregational Church and turkeys from Whitcraft. And the literal inundation of items from the students of the Eastford Elementary School as a result of their annual food drive. The students collected more than 1,500 items: among them, 174 boxes of pasta, 116 jars of pasta sauce, 91 cans of soup, 196 cans of tuna, 29 jars of peanut butter, 122 cans of vegetables, 31 cans of fruit, more than 300 toiletries [there were so many they stopped counting at 300], and on and on. Kudos and applause to all, from the "regulars" to the students, and most particularly to Karen and Steve Broderick, without whom there would be no Food Pantry.

The Board of Selectmen, upon recommendation of the Board of Education, has awarded the contract for a comprehensive study of HVAC [Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning] and boiler control system upgrades and energy efficiency at the Eastford Elementary School to Hallam-ICS of Middletown, Connecticut. Hallam-ICS will provide a mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineering study to evaluate and provide recommendations for replacement of existing systems to get the best value from the School building, minimize the energy expenditure, plan on what needs to be replaced and a time line that will continually improve the facility, and meet the Town's aggressive energy cost reduction goals. Hallam-ICS has been extensively involved in a number of major similar projects at institutions and corporations such as the New York Public Library, Pfizer Global Research in Groton, Boston College, Smith College, Cornell University, Yale University and the University of Connecticut. The Project Manager in Eastford will be Jamie Spalding who lives in Chaplin.

Aubrey Hines has been appointed by the Selectmen to the Library Board to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Elizabeth Platt who has joined the Library Staff as Assistant Librarian.

The State Department of Health, specifically its Commissioner, Dr. Raul Pino, has proposed a plan to consolidate the number of local health departments and districts into larger regional agencies with the intent being to "improve the quality and continuity of health services and address health disparities in Connecticut". The Pino Plan would consolidate health districts into eight so-called "county" districts, would fund the "county" health districts through a 1.5 percent fee on the previous year's town operating budget, and would authorize the Commissioner to appoint the commissioners of the newly-created health districts. My deep concern is that this consolidation proposal would impose staggering costs on municipalities at a time

when municipal budgets and property taxpayers are already straining to fund delivery of critical services. Further, as one who has spent some fifty years on hospital boards and regional health care planning entities, I feel the Pino proposal fails to consider how consolidation of local and regional health districts would impact the cost and delivery of health services. Also to be considered is the potential undermining of the ability of local and regional health districts in small towns such as Eastford to perform routine functions, such as issuing permits for septic systems or wells because residents and health district employees would have to travel significant distances, reducing administrative efficiency while increasing overall operational costs.

There is good news from Commissioner Pino. He, along with the American Heart Association, recently wrote to congratulate Eastford for having met the renewal requirements for designation as a HEARTSafe community. The three-year redesignation recognizes Eastford's continued commitment to provide improved cardiac response and care to community residents utilizing the "Chain of Survival"--early 911 access, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation, and advanced care. I want to commend Jeannine Spink for her tireless and extensive efforts toward saving lives and improving the health of the residents of Eastford. Without her and her colleagues at the Eastford Independent Fire Company we would not have the improved potential for survival from sudden cardiac arrest. Our hearts go out to you Jeannine.

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**Eastford Independent Fire Company #1, Inc.**

From: Jeannine Spink, President

The EIFC hopes everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. We all suffer stresses in our lives, but we have much to be thankful for. Welcome to Jason Szemrelyo, who comes to us from Tolland. Jason is a Firefighter I, Hazmat Operations and a Paramedic. The EIFC is lucky to have him. Welcome, Jason to you and your family.

The company responded to 13 emergencies during the month of November.

In addition to our monthly business meeting, truck check and Line Officers meeting, the department participated in the following drills: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Communications, Chimney Fires, and review of Statewide EMS Protocols.

With lights blazing, members participated in Putnam’s 15<sup>th</sup> Dazzle Light Parade. We may have been one of the smallest fire departments that participated, but undoubtedly one of the brightest. Nice job members!

**RECIPE FOR FIRE-SAFE COOKING DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

- Keep an eye on what you fry
- Don’t leave pans unattended
- Wear short sleeves or roll up sleeves
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove
- Keep a pan lid or cookie sheet nearby to smother a pan fire.
- Do not use water to extinguish a cooking fire
- Keep the cooking area clear of anything that

burns

More and more people are frying turkeys these days. Follow these safety rules:

- Use a fryer with thermostat controls. This will ensure the oil does not become overheated.
- Thaw your turkey completely. Ice on the bird will cause the oil to splatter.
- Don’t overfill the pot with oil. If you do, the oil will overflow when you add the turkey causing a fire hazard.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the fryer.
- Always use the fryer outdoors.

By following these safety tips, you will have a delicious and fire safe holiday. **LET THE FIREFIGHTERS HAVE DINNER WITH THEIR FAMILIES, NOT YOURS.**

**IS YOUR HOME SAFE?**

With winter storms, chimney fires, carbon monoxide poisonings and generator mis-use, emergencies are on the rise. One of the most frequent fire emergencies is disposal of ashes from fireplaces and woodstoves. Ashes

must be disposed of in a metal pail. Do not use boxes or plastic containers. Once filled, place outdoors far away from structures or leaves that can ignite. Ashes can smolder for days.

Carbon monoxide poisoning, the “Silent Killer”, can kill you. Improper heating is often the source. CO is odorless, colorless and tasteless. Symptoms are similar to flu: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.

Follow manufacturer’s instructions when installing and using a generator. Allow generator to cool before refueling. Store gasoline outside the living area. Ensure fumes do not enter living areas. Keep children away from generators. Parts are hot and can result in burns.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR  
WE HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING THE LIGHTS ON THE STATION**

**News You Can Use**

Deb Richards – Emergency Management Director

Following the tragedy at Sandy Hook FEMA, (Federal Emergency Management Association, DEMHS, (Department of Homeland Security) and DESSP, (Department of Emergency Services and Police Protection) mandated that CT schools provide a security plan that is updated and approved by CT DEMHS annually. Of all 50 states only Arkansas requires specific security infrastructure for new schools. As for non-infrastructure requirements, eight states require school security or emergency response plans, (CT is one of the 8) and several require other steps such as outside review of the plans.

Linda Loretz, Superintendent filed the original plan with the help and support of NDDH, town administration, CT State Police, EIFC, EES School Safety Committee and Emergency Management. The annual update was recently due to DEMHS and submitted prior to the deadline by Heather Tamsin, principal. Included in this report is an evacuation plan for EES. In case of an event that would require the evacuation of EES, the children will be brought to Eastford Congregational Church for sheltering and released only to a parent or guardian.

Pastor Mike and Debbie Torcellini have been very helpful in creating a plan to support this evacuation and sheltering plan of the children from EES. In the event such an evacuation takes place, parents will be notified via phone email and radio broadcasts, on WINY.

It is very gratifying to live in a town with people so willing to cooperate and support each other in case of a serious event.

**Library News**

By: Susan Shead

Happy New Year from the Library Board and staff of the Eastford Public Library. The library book discussion group will in January to discuss the book *One Second After* by William Forstchen. If interested call the library at 860-974-0125 for further details.

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 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, The Wadsworth Atheneum and Connecticut's Old State House. We also have coupons for 20% off admission to the Connecticut Science Center.

**Please note:**

**The Eastford Public Library will be closed on Monday January 16, 2017 in honor of Martin Luther King Day.**

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

**Eastford Seniors**

By Linda SM dos Santos

When the corporate sponsor pulled out of the Grandparent's Holiday Helper Program in December, the Burres Family went into action. Although the Burres' stated this would be a onetime event, they made sure that every local child in need, (given at the November Eastford Senior Citizens meeting,) received a holiday gift in December. If you have knowledge of a possible corporation to continue this worthwhile program for December 2017, please call 860-538-8868.

2016 has been a very exciting year with wonderful speakers, interesting activities, informative programs, & fun filled meals. 2017 seems to be just as exciting:

Thurs., **March 16, 2017 - 11 AM - Brown Bag Lunch** Please bring from home a bagged lunch. In addition, bring photographs, musical instruments, poems or a story to share at Eastford Town Office Building's Lower level.

Sat., **April 8, 2017-5:30 PM Spring Celebration Dinner & fabulous "Second Helping" Singing Acoustical Act, Midway Pizza Restaurant, rte 44, Ashford, CT.** Members \$13, Non-Members \$18, register by Noon, Tues., April 4, **860-315-5360.**

Mon., **May 1, 2017 - 11 AM Coriander sandwiches & enjoy a National Law Day Presentation.** Over stuffed 1/2 sandwiches, beverage, & fruit, register by Noon Fri., April 28. Members \$4, Non-members \$7, **860-315-5360.** Eastford Town Office Building's Lower level.

Thurs., **June 8, 2017 - 11 AM Canterbury Car Caravan**

Take A Step Back In Time Tour. (Lunch at your own expense.) Will leave from Eastford Elementary School parking lot, next to the Lower level of the Eastford Town Office Building. Call **860-315-5360**, by noon Mon., June 8. Let us know if you are a driver or a passenger.

If you are interested in becoming a member, there is an application attached below. If you are interested in volunteering, call 860-538-8868.

**Quick tips for cold weather:**

EMD

Layer up! Don't forget your furry friends. Bring pets indoors.

Be careful in your use of fire for warmth. Protect your pipes. The kitchen is for cooking. Never use an oven to heat your home.

Use generators outside. Never operate a generator inside the home,

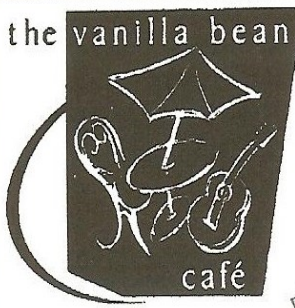
Sign up to have a call made to your loved one via the Eastford Emergency Registry (available at the TOB or library).

If you need heating assistance – [www.operationfuel.org](http://www.operationfuel.org), listen to WILI or WINY for local emergency information.

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## Report of the Union Society Building Committee

by Carol Davidge, Chair

The 1806 Union Society Building is located in the Phoenixville section of Eastford at the junction of Routes 198 and 44. It is listed on the national register of historic places and is one of only two Union Society buildings still standing in Connecticut. It is culturally important because it was one of the earliest places in Connecticut where gatherings welcomed everyone regardless of spiritual belief, ethnic heritage, gender or age.

### History

The origins of the Union Society are believed to have started with the tax and civic protest movement that sought "disestablishment." Prior to 1817, the only persons allowed to vote and govern town affairs in Connecticut were men who owned property and were members and paid taxes to the Congregational Church. "Disestablishment" is the legal change that was advanced when President Thomas Jefferson first stated the phrase "separation of church and state" in the early 1800s. His advocacy, along with citizen protests, resulted in the Connecticut law that ruled that church and state should be separate, permitting men of many faiths to vote. (Women were not allowed to vote until 1920).

Through the 1800s and 1900s, the Union Society building served immigrants from many countries who settled in the village of Phoenixville. For more than 150 years, people came together there for holiday parties, croquet, indoor and outdoor games, flea markets, pot-luck suppers and Sunday services where families could worship and children could learn to read. Fundraisers for the Fire Co., funerals and other activities also took place there.

The Town of Eastford purchased the building in 2002. The Union Society Building Committee, formed in 2006, researches the history, advises Town officials and helps raise funds to rehabilitate this important building so it can again serve as a public meeting place.

We thank First Selectman Art Brodeur for requesting that the Office of Policy and Management apply an earlier \$100,000 STEAP to rehabilitation of the building, which has been approved. We also thank the Board of Selectmen, State Senator Tony Guglielmo and State Representative Mike Alberts who supported this request. The USBC will be seeking additional grants and donations to move this project forward so the building can be used again by the public.

With the agreement by OPM for the STEAP grant to move forward, a strong basis for improving the building is in place, but additional contributions are critical as much needs to be done to provide accessibility and structural improvement. Donations in any amount are most welcome.

**Donations and Legacy Memorials.** Donations in any amount are most welcome.

Legacy Donations of \$100 will be acknowledged with a memorial plaque showing the name of the donor(s) and list the names of individuals being honored. The plaque contains names of corporate, foundation and private donors. It

is displayed at major events and will be mounted in the entry to the building. 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 Clean Energy Task Force

The **Eastford Clean Energy Task Force** continues with the **SOLARIZECT** and **HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS** campaigns.

**SOLARIZECT** updates :

The last **SOLARIZECT** workshop will be held on **Wednesday January 11, 2017 , 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Willington Library** . If you missed the earlier sessions and are interested in solar PV panels for your home, we urge you to attend this informational meeting.

The **SOLARIZECT** campaign ends on January 19, 2016.

To sign up for a **FREE** site evaluation and a solar quote, visit <http://solarizect.com/our-towns/eastfordwillington/> and click the "GET STARTED" button.

**HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS** updates :

**HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS** Workshops will be held on **Friday, January 13, 2017,**

**7– 9 PM in Ashford at Knowlton Memorial Hall,** and

on **Thursday February 16, 2017,**

**7--9 PM in Eastford at the Town Office Building, lower level.** Presentations on Home Energy

Solutions will be followed by an opportunity to speak with vendors from **Lantern Energy and**

**Access Energy** . **LED bulbs to swap** (limit 5) will be available. Both workshops are open to

Eastford and Ashford residents. We urge you to attend if you are interested in a more energy-efficient home!

Watch the **The Eastford Communicator** for more details.

Call 877-947-3873 or visit

[EnergizeCT.com/HES](http://EnergizeCT.com/HES) for more information and sign up.

We are happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for making Eastford an energy-efficient and cleaner community.

Georgianne Copley, Mary Ellen Ellsworth, and Tom Hughes

Eastford Clean Energy Task Force

**Election Results**

By Carol Davidge

On Nov. 8, during the election, 24 new voters were registered by our heroic registrars of voters, Joyce Merlo and Nancy Mayhew. Turnout was 80% of the registered voters. Elections results were as follows:

**President:**

Clinton & Kaine-367

Trump & Pence-513

Johnson & Weld-48

Stein & Baraka-21

Write in votes for:

McMullin & Johnson - 13

**U.S. Senate:**

Blumenthal-477

Carter-448

Lion-20

Russell-14

**2nd U.S. Congressional District:**

Courtney-497

Novak-418

Reale-20

Pelto-21

**State Senator-35th District:**

Avery-317

Guglielmo-636

**State Representative-50th District:**

Boyd-485

Valentine-453

Write-in votes for:

Ty Perry-8

**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. As we approach a new year, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and set new goals. There is an enthusiasm about new learning opportunities 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 affected 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](http://www.eastfordct.org)) on days that you are wondering about the status of Eastford transportation.






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### Report of the Board of Education

By Linda Loretz

The Board of Education received the 2015-16 annual report from the superintendent at its December meeting. Additionally, the Board of Education set meeting dates for the 2017-18 budget meetings. Budget meetings, which will be held on January 12 at 6:30 PM, January 17 at 6:30 PM and January 31 at 6:30 PM, are open to the public. In addition, at the December meeting, the Board was asked to approve three new textbooks: Health, Science and a novel for Language Arts.

The Board Chair appointed Gerald Marmat and Christine Hustus to join two members of the scholarship steering committee, Stephen Sokoloski and James Barlow, and select the recipients for the 2017-18 Ethel Gardner Music Scholarship. The application for this scholarship can be found on the school's website.

The following policy revisions were approved by the Board on December 8, 2016:

- Policy 5144, Administration Of Student Medications In The Schools
- Policy 4129-4229 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-free Workplace
- Policy 3150, Board Budget Procedures And Line Item Transfers
- Policy 5146, Reports Of Suspected Abuse Or Neglect Of Children [Or Sexual Assault Of Students By School Employees](#)
- Policy 4152/4252 Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)
- Policy 6116, Parent-Teacher Communication
- Regulations 4112.51-4212.51, Use and Disclosure of Criminal Justice Information

All Board of Education policies are available on the website: <https://www.eastfordct.org/domain/85>

The Board of Education has begun its **2017-18-budget process**. On January 12 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.



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### Eastford Food Pantry

THANKS TO A CARING, GENEROUS COMMUNITY

The Food Pantry extends a very hearty "THANK YOU!!" to the Eastford School and the residents of town for the incredible holiday food drive in November. For the fourth consecutive year, the entire school participated, and their efforts resulted in hundreds of donations 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 and to provide perishable food items for holiday food baskets. Thank you to Charles Belden, Michelle & Bill Bibeault, Paul & Ceceila Vaida, the Eastford Republican Town Committee, and Tom & Anne Latham. 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. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Eastford with Food Pantry noted on the memo line.

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.

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**EES Grade 1 Teacher Report**

By Mrs. Rhynhart

Our Eastford Elementary School community recently kicked off a “Get Along” campaign to recognize and support kindness and understanding throughout our school community. All students participated in a writing activity to demonstrate how we can show kindness with “Our Voices and Our Choices.” Several students in each grade level had the opportunity to share these ideas during an all school assembly. The assembly also included a slideshow of photos and videos of Eastford Elementary School students displaying friendship and kindness with one another. Staff members supported the kick off by wearing “Get Along” shirts and all students left the assembly with a “Get Along” bracelet as a reminder of this theme. We are so lucky to have a close community that cares about one another, and this initiative is a way to recognize that and to remind all of us about the positive power of kindness and friendship in our school community and in our lives!

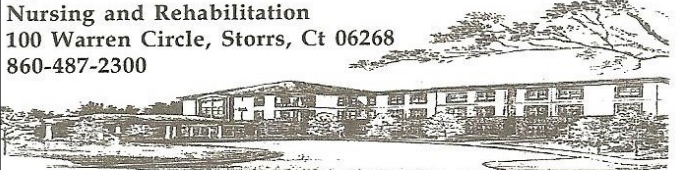
**Tips for Today**

by Liz Ellsworth

Happy New Year!

New Year – New(er) you! What environmental actions will you take this year? Ideas include: Donate to local eco-groups; carpool; take public transportation; read an eco-book or essay to learn more about various environmental issues; volunteer time to maintain forest trails or to monitor water quality; participate in your local, community eco-initiatives; contact your local and state government(s) to voice your eco-concerns and compliments; make good personal choices, such as using less water or recycling more.

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**Eastford Grove Cemetery Association**

**Military Veteran Flag Staff Order**

On the Memorial Day weekend, the Trustees of the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association would like to see all American flags placed in flag holders. This would ensure that the flags are uniformly and properly displayed throughout the summer. Therefore, we would like to provide you the opportunity to purchase a military grave marker for your veteran(s). The marker and rod can be ordered to designate a certain branch of the military (i.e., Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine, etc.). Although the markers can be purchased through us, the marker would be your property. If you are interested, you must return the attached form, with your check. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349. **The cost of the bronze marker is \$60; the aluminum marker is \$20; shipping is included.**

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ bronze marker(s) @ **\$60 each**  
I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ aluminum marker(s) @ **\$20 each**

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchaser's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Veteran's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Payable to: Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc. Mail to: P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242**

**Eastford Readiness Council**

AKA Eastford's Preschool Program  
Jennifer Barlow

**Attention Parents/Guardians of children born in 2013 and 2014.** The Readiness Council will be making decisions concerning the 2017-2018 preschool program at the February 6th meeting. 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 January 31st. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school. The Readiness Council meeting is February 6th at 6:00 PM at the school. Please join us; we would love to hear from you.

**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. Mrs. Kopplin asked parents at these meetings for their input on topics for an upcoming parent/family activity or training. If you have any ideas please contact her. The Readiness Program hosted a family Thankfulness Celebration before the Thanksgiving break. This activity was open to the public and many families came out to join the fun. 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.

For more information on the program please look on-line at the Readiness Handbook, contact the Head Teacher, Christine Kopplin at [ckopplin@eastfordct.org](mailto:ckopplin@eastfordct.org) or the Readiness Council Liaison, Jen Barlow, at [jbarlow@eastfordct.org](mailto:jbarlow@eastfordct.org).

**Mark your calendar!**

January 9: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (Eastford Elementary School Teacher's Lounge)  
January 31st: Needs Assessment Survey Due

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**ATTENTION**

All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to Deb Yazo:

E-mail: [eastford.communicator@gmail.com](mailto:eastford.communicator@gmail.com)

Deadline: 2nd Wednesday of each Month

**Eastford Communicator Volunteers**

- |                    |               |
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| News Collection    | Deb Yazo      |
| Volunteers         | Ruth Yulo     |
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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.

Dear Readers:

**We hope you will contribute to The Eastford Communicator.**

Advertising revenues do not cover printing and postage costs. The Communicator is Eastford's main source of news about local events, town government, committees, organizations. We need donors to support this effort if we are to continue. If you can, please send a donation. **Thank you!**

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**THANK YOU!**

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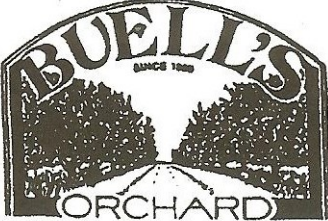
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