

# The Eastford Communicator

## Selectman's Snippets:

**Budget** - Every department, commission, board and agency affiliated with the Town of Eastford has been requested to submit a budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We continue to be in an audit process which we expect to have completed in this month.

**Community** – The local Scouts brought numerous bags of food and many families and individuals have provided both food and monetary donations to the Food Pantry. Thank you all! The Recreation Commission and Union Society sponsored a lovely December afternoon at the Eastford Congregational Church to enjoy cookies, Santa, live music from the Ashford Babcock Band, crafts and family fun. Thank you for your service to our community. It has been suggested to begin a study and explore concerns related to our local Fire Department. Over the next couple of months, I would like to extend an invitation to any resident interested in joining this ADHOC Committee to please contact the Selectmen's Office.



**“When one neighbor helps another, we strengthen our community.” ~Jennifer Pahlka~**

**Weatherwane**- The Town Office Building is sporting a new weatherwane donated by Whitcraft Group. The skill and craftsmanship features a replica of the original airplane built at Whitcraft in 1960 by Mickey Whittenburg. We are so grateful to our local businesses, their unique capabilities and commitment to our town.

**Library**- There has been construction around the library to provide updated proper drainage surrounding the building.

**Transfer Station** – Thank you for recycling. If you are not sure what can be recycled go to [williwaste.com](http://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 the Town 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 rules for residents to comply with concerning the Transfer Station.

(continued p. 2)

*The Eastford Communicator needs your donations.*

*Many communities no longer receive town news as printing & postage costs continue to rise.*

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*Thank you!*

*You are sustaining The Eastford Communicator!  
Please send your donations to:  
Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253  
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### Of Special Note:

**Volunteers are urgently needed by the Eastford Independent Fire Co. No. 1—Eastford's First Responders!  
Tribute to 65-year EIFC Volunteer Clayton Shead (p6,7)**

*Calendar of Town & Community Events (p2)  
Jan 1—Taxes due January 1 (delinquent Feb. 1) (p3)  
Jan 7—Special Town Meeting, TOB, 7pm  
(details: [www.eastfordct.org/eastford](http://www.eastfordct.org/eastford))  
EES Reports (pp 4 & 5)  
EES Budget Meetings (p.4)  
Discounts/Free Admissions to Museums-Library (p10)*

*Mark your calendars for February events & deadlines:  
Scramble—Eastford's Alternative to Groundhog Day (p10)  
Youth Basketball (p9, p10)  
Cupcake Wars (p9)  
EES Music Scholarship Deadline: February 15, 2019*

**DONORS! In this special time of sharing, please consider donating to local organizations, including:  
Town of Eastford: Food Pantry (POB 98, p7)  
YES-There is hunger in our small town.  
Eastford Independent Fire Co. (POB 333, p2,6)  
Volunteers are urgently needed to sustain service.  
Eastford Historical Society (POB 350)  
Town of Eastford: Union Society (POB 98, p10)  
Grove Cemetery Assn. (POB 284, p11)  
Eastford Communicator (POB 253, p11)  
THANK YOU! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## January, 2019 Calendar

- 2 Writer's Group, Coriander, 2pm  
CrystalPondParkComm, Woodstock TH, 6pm  
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm  
Grief Share, Congregational Ch, 6:30pm
- 4 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
- 5 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 6 Finance Repair Group, Cong. Ch, 6:30pm
- 7 **Special Town Meeting, TOB, 7pm**  
(see details: [www.eastfordct.org/eastford](http://www.eastfordct.org/eastford))  
BOS, TOB, following Town Meeting  
Fix It Repair Group, Cong. Ch., 7pm
- 8 School Readiness Council, EES, 5:30pm  
Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm  
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 9 Writer's Group, Coriander, 2pm  
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm  
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm  
Grief Share, Congregational Ch, 6:30pm
- 10 EES Budget Community Input, EES, 6:30pm  
BOE, EES, 7pm
- 11 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
- 12 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 13 Finance Repair Group, Cong. Ch, 6:30pm
- 14 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm  
Fix It Repair Group, Cong. Ch., 7pm
- 15 Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm  
Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 16 **Communicator Deadline**  
Writer's Group, Coriander, 2pm  
Recreation Commission, TOB, 4:30pm  
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm  
Grief Share, Congregational Ch, 6:30pm
- 18 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
- 19 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 20 Finance Repair Group, Cong. Ch, 6:30pm
- 21 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm  
Fix It Repair Group, Cong. Ch., 7pm
- 22 EES Budget Meeting, EES, 6:30pm
- 23 Writer's Group, Coriander, 2pm  
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm – 7pm  
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm  
Grief Share, Congregational Ch, 6:30pm  
Clean Energy Task Force, TOB, 7pm
- 24 Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm  
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 25 Yoga, TOB, 8:15 – 9:15am
- 26 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 27 Finance Repair Group, Cong. Ch, 6:30pm
- 28 Yoga, TOB, 5:30 – 6:30pm  
Fix It Repair Group, Cong. Ch., 7pm  
American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 29 EES Budget Meeting, EES, 6:30pm
- 30 Writer's Group, Coriander, 2pm  
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm  
Grief Share, Congregational Ch, 6:30pm

## Selectman's Snippets (continued):

**Police Services** – During the month of November, Troop D responded to 47 calls. These calls of service included; Accidents: 7, Criminal Invest: 2, Burglaries: 0, Larcenies: 0, DUI'S: 1, Traffic Citations: 5, Written Warning: 3, and Non-Reportable Matters: 38 (No written report, such as a traffic stop). A reminder from our Troop D liaison, please continue to encourage people to report criminal activity or suspicious incidents to Troop D @ 860 779-4900, or in an emergency 911. Connecticut State Police.  
Respectfully yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

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**News You Can Use** by Deb Richards/EMD

### What to Do If You Smell Natural Gas

**Immediate response to gas leaks is essential** to ensure that public safety is maintained. Do not delay. Do not ignore gas odors. Call 911 from outside your residence. Natural gas has no odor. Gas companies add a harmless chemical called mercaptan to give it its distinctive "rotten egg" smell. All natural gas and propane pipeline gas in Connecticut is odorized. **If you smell gas near an appliance**, it may be just a pilot light that has gone out or a burner valve that is open slightly. If you find this problem and can fix it, the problem may be solved.

#### **If you smell gas inside:**

Go to a phone that is not near the smell and call your local gas company right away. (If the smell is strong or you are unsure, leave the building and then call.) They will come and make the area safe at no charge to you. While waiting for the gas company field service representative:

- Keep everyone away from the area of the odor.
- Don't smoke or strike any matches.
- Don't light any candles.
- Don't flip light switches on or off.
- Don't use a telephone.
- Don't use any electrical equipment or lights that might create a spark in the area of the odor.
- Don't use the doorbell.
- Don't adjust thermostats or appliance controls.
- Don't use elevators.

Put out all open flames.

**If the odor is strong**, leave the premises immediately and tell others to leave. Then, call your local gas company from a neighbor's home.

**Outside gas odors** should be reported right away - do not try to locate the source yourself. If you smell or hear escaping gas: Don't position or operate vehicles or powered equipment where leaking gas may be present.

If you **hear** the sound of escaping gas, follow these steps:

- Telephone your local gas company immediately from a neighbor's phone.
  - Don't go back inside your home or building until your local gas company says it is safe.
- Keep others away from the area.

Your local gas company provides 24-hour emergency service every day of the year to provide immediate response to emergencies such as natural gas leaks. There is no charge to stop gas leaks.

**NEVER** turn the gas back on once it has been shut off due to a safety concern. Call your local gas company for assistance. All repairs to gas lines on your premises must be made in accordance with local regulations, by a licensed plumber where required or by your local gas company. Do you know where the Enbridge interstate pipeline runs through Eastford?

**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, 2017 is due and payable on January 1, 2019. The Tax Collector's office will be open for the collection of taxes each Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12 Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month until 6:30 P.M.

All taxes become liable to penalty on February 1, 2019 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, 2019 to avoid interest charges.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes not paid by February 1, 2019 will be reported as delinquent to Department of Motor Vehicles and registrations will be denied. **Personal checks and online payments for delinquent motor vehicle taxes require a 10-day hold of DMV clearance from date of deposit to ensure funds are received in our account. Cash payment is required for immediate release of DMV hold.**

For online viewing and paying of tax bills visit the Tax Collector's page at [www.eastfordct.org/TownofEastford](http://www.eastfordct.org/TownofEastford) and follow the link.

Christine E. Hustus, Tax Collector

**EASTFORD FOOD PANTRY**

Someone once said that whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others. The difference your support has made to our Food Pantry is extraordinary, and we have much to be thankful for. Once again we thank Ms. Lessard and the entire Eastford School for their annual November Food Drive – this year's was perhaps the biggest ever! We thank Chris Nickerson, Trever Primus and His Oaks for their important ongoing support of the pantry. We thank Sarah Dziedzic, who with her Woodstock Academy students operates the Caring Continues Food Pantry and shares non-perishable donations with us, as does Gary Brown of the Pomfret Food Pantry.

Financial donations are critical to the work we do and allow us to purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Many thanks to the Ashford Lake Property Owners' Association, the Eastford Republican Town Committee, Roger & Judith Boisvert, Sherrie Barrett, Thomas & Betsy Barker, Gerald Sazama, Allan & Joyce Hernberg, Michael & Kristine Lynes, Debra Granger & John Warren, Dorothy Davis, Tom Bresnahan & Anne Fleming, and several anonymous donors. This holiday season, thanks to the generosity of our residents, we were able to assist 13 Eastford families in need with holiday meal packages.

As a reminder, our "Most Wanted" food list includes low sugar cereals, oatmeal, rice, tuna, soup, canned fruits and juices, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, bisquick or baking mix, crackers, granola bars, snacks, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, toiletries. However, at this time of year especially, monetary donations enable us to purchase holiday meals for families and to purchase items missing from our shelves. Checks can be made out to the Town of Eastford with Food Pantry on the memo line and mailed to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242. Gift cards to grocery stores also are appreciated and can be dropped off at the First Selectman's Office.

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.

**From State Sen. Tony Guglielmo and State Rep. Pat Boyd:**  
**Text 9-1-1: New Service Provides Ability to Send a Text Message in an Emergency When Absolutely Necessary, Including for Those with Disabilities and in Situations When a Voice Call is Not Safe.** Text-to-911 provides residents with the ability to send a text message to 9-1-1 from a handheld device in emergency situations when it is either unsafe or they are unable to place a voice call. To use Text-to-911, enter the numbers "911" in the "to" or "recipient" field on a mobile phone or other handheld device. Text the location of the emergency & services needed (police, fire, ambulance). Answer questions and follow-up instructions will come from the 9-1-1 call center.

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**Board of Education Report  
by Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent**

I am delighted to officially be a part of the Eastford Learning Community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BOE for selecting me to lead the Eastford School District. I have been warmly welcomed by all of the community members, staff, faculty and students that I have had the opportunity to meet so far. This has been a time of resetting logins and passwords, meeting service providers and insuring all deadlines continue to be met. I had the opportunity to meet with Jacqueline Dubois, our First Selectman, and look forward to a continuing positive relationship between the town and the school. I want to extend a special Thank You to the three people at E.E.S., Carole McCombe, Mary Seguine and Kymberli Gaylor, who have taken time out of their very busy schedules to patiently answer all of my questions with a smile. I also need to thank Mary Jo Chretien, our Director of Pupil Services, who took me on a tour of the various off- site locations where our students are located.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, I participated in my first Eastford Board of Education meeting. At this meeting the BOE took the following actions of interest to the Eastford Community:

Recognized students William Ellsworth and Madison Bates as Citizens of the Trimester;

Recognized eighth graders Kenneth Botting and Sophia Bulan and Woodstock Academy senior Ely Driscoll as recipients of this year's Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Leadership Awards;

Approved policies regarding non-discrimination that will be posted on our website and made available, upon request, at the Superintendent's office;

Established a nominating committee for the Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship that is open to current Eastford seniors as well as those enrolled in a college or university program (information concerning this opportunity will be sent to all our high seniors and posted on our website:

<http://www.eastfordct.org> (deadline for submission is February 15, 2019);

Set the schedule for the 2019-2020 budget meetings which are: Community input on January 10, 2019 at 6:30pm; Budget meetings on January 22, 2019 at 6:30pm, January 29, 2019 at 6:30pm and February 5, 2019 at 6:30pm.

Of course, my greatest joy since arriving in Eastford has been the opportunity to meet the students. The WELCOME TO E.E.S. banner and my visit to the Pre-K, K and K-1 classrooms brightened my first days. Serving the students of Eastford is my primary reason for being here and I look forward to working with all members of the Eastford Learning Community to continue the important process of "shaping futures together". If you have a question or concern or want to share an idea, never hesitate to email me at [dleake@eastfordct.org](mailto:dleake@eastfordct.org)

**Eastford School Readiness Council** by Maribeth Stearns, Liaison

12 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242 860-974-1130


Welcome to 2019!! We hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. We are all ready to take on the New Year and have the preschoolers build on the skills they have already mastered this year. We will continue to work on comprehension of words, how to use oral language, understanding the meaning of words and signs and increasing their vocabulary. Both receptive and expressive language will be encouraged through naming of objects, body parts, listening to and telling stories. Math skills continue to be developed through exploring concepts of numbers, matching and sorting objects.

During our parent/teacher conferences in the fall, Christine Kopplin was able to meet with most of our families and share information regarding their child and what's happening in the classroom. EASTCONN continues to provide staff with guidance and expertise for the re-accreditation of our program. Policies and program practices are being reviewed and revamped for this process. We look forward to a productive and successfully 2019!

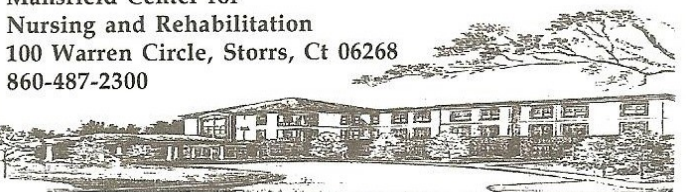
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**DID YOU KNOW?** Eastford Historical Society

Did you know that the Phoenixville and Town Center Schools were to be auctioned shortly before the opening of the Eastford Elementary School in September 1949? They were the only town-owned schoolhouses left in the original 8 school districts. On June 8, 1949 Selectmen Otto King, Charles Clark, and Harold Carpenter posted notice that the schools were to be sold at auction. The auction was held at the Town Hall on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., with Charles Clark acting as auctioneer. The Phoenixville School building and land (about ¾ acre) with a drilled well was bought by Edward Trepal for \$1,500. The Eastford Center School, building only, was bought by Medbury and Trowbridge, a Putnam construction company, for \$95, under the stipulation that it be moved within 3 months from the date of notice. The terms of payment were full purchase price at time of sale. Today, both schoolhouses serve as family homes, one on General Lyon Road and the other on John Perry Road. The Eastford Historical Society wishes you all a happy and healthy New Year!



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### EES Teacher Report by Charles Kernan

Grade 6 and 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies, EES  
Happy New Year! Before we turn to 2019, I'd like to share what Grades 6 - 7 have been learning and what Grade 8 will be learning. In Grade 6, besides reading from our Anthology, we have read novels such as Holes by Louis Sachar, Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson, and A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. Each of these stories connects to our 6th graders because the main character is about their age. While all different in plot and setting, the concept of understanding hardship, the realization that failure is part of life, all create a perseverance; that once learned, helps us understand that life is full of failure. However the real lesson, like our main characters learn, is what you do with that failure that defines who we are.

In 6th and 7th Grade Social Studies, we are studying some new material. The C3 Coursework has us exploring the 17 Global Goals on the United Nations. As this goes to print, both classes will have completed a Webquest examining the effects of water pollution and water conservation. We were fortunate to have visited with Kirsten Barlow. Ms. Barlow works for an organization called Child Voice. She has worked in places such as Nigeria and Uganda. She shared the struggle people have just to get water each day. It made our project real. I think our students have a greater appreciation for a resource we take for granted.

In 8th grade, we begin our study of the coming of the Civil War. We will continue to explore the economic differences that made up the North and South. We will look at the challenges that faced our presidents of this era as a young America attempted to assert itself throughout the world. Some of the key people and topics we will discuss are the Missouri Compromise, the Panic of 1837 and 1839, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, the Compromise of 1850, Abraham Lincoln, and the Civil War. Our class has had the opportunity to work with educators from Roseland Cottage in Woodstock. Students have been able to interact with their educators in reenactment style learning and trying to understand the mindset of various opinions from the first half of the 19th century. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful resource so close to our school.

### From the Principal by Carole McCombe

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.

Prior to the Holidays, and continuing until January 11, our students participate in our annual Giving Tree collection that is organized by our Parent Teacher Organization. Students donate money and receive a snowflake that they place on our Giving Tree. By doing so, they 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. Please let me or Mrs. Harrington know if you, or a family you know in Eastford, is in need of additional support at any time throughout the school year.

I would like to congratulate students who earned high honors, honors and recognition for the first trimester. They are as follows:

**High Honors: Grade 6:** Katilyn Becker; **Grade 7:** Enzo Miglietta; **Grade 8:** Braden Ayer, Sophia Bulan, Gavin Driscoll, Abigail Horton

**Honors: Grade 6:** Linnea Barlow, Addison Beausoleil, Alyssa Gilbert, Lacie Horton, Alexis Laskoski, Jacob Murphy, Alyssa Szemreyl; **Grade 7:** Nathan Budd, Hunter Larson; **Grade 8:** Molly Katkaveck, Aubrey Rumrill, Jakub Sarzynski

**Recognition:** Johanna Blanchette, Allie Boyd, Hunter Brandriff, Abigail Budd, Kyle McAllister, Pola Wysocki, Madison Bates, Kenneth Botting, Ariana Lengel, Ethan Marshall

In addition, two students were recognized as **'Citizens of the Trimester'** for demonstrating outstanding citizenship: Madison Bates in grade 8 and William Ellsworth in grade 3. Congratulations to all students on a productive first trimester!

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, 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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## TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON SHEAD

As the Historian for the Eastford Fire Department, I've had the opportunity to research our history over the years.

It is with a heavy heart that the EIFC pay tribute to our 65 plus years member Clayton Shead, affectionately known as "Captain Pancake" who recently passed away. He was a visible character in our lives acting as advisor, confidant, supporter, friend, and disciplinarian. When Clayton spoke, we listened!

Clayton's training credentials were incredible. There weren't many classes offered he didn't attend. His personal training file will probably be one of the thickest in the Company's history. He would attend, bring back the information and teach us.

In addition to his training, the offices he held were equally as impressive:

Joined: February 5, 1952

President: 1952-1956

Lieutenant: 1974-1976

Fire Captain: 1976-1977

Deputy Chief: 1977-1994 (17 years)

Fire Police Officer: 1989-1994

Board of Directors: 1984-1989 and 1995 to 2005.

Clayton was one of the original rescue squad members providing basic first aid techniques well before Emergency Medical Services became a reality. Our regular monthly meetings today still include a section called "For The Good of the Company". In my research, I compiled what Clayton regularly offered as his good words of advice. This advice was always appreciated, and heeded. We didn't dare not heed his words. Some of us older members were so in tuned to Clayton, we could pretty much anticipate what he was going to say by what season it was. What we never heard from him, nor did he allow was: "We're just Eastford". He always considered us second to none. As time went on and he was not at meetings, which was rare, we would experience a lull, like we're expecting his voice to come out of somewhere and tell us what to do. Then someone would say, "if Clayton was here, he would say....."

### "Rules According to Clayton"

- Cold weather, dress warmly, and in layers
- Don't trust ice on the ponds – always go out with a safety line.
- Get to the budget meeting and vote!
- Beware of ticks
- It's hot out there, drink plenty of water!
- Watch for school busses stopping – heavy fine if caught passing.
- Be careful driving on town roads surfaced with fresh oil and loose stone. Road conditions can change rapidly.
- Follow the rules of the road. Don't slide through the stop signs at the center of town.
- When responding as an emergency vehicle, use lights and sirens.
- Don't forget to turn off your flashers in your personal vehicles when they are left at the station.
- The last member out of the station should check the lights and doors.
- Drive carefully on the way to all alarms. There have been some close calls lately. Don't make their emergency your emergency.
- Support your Neighborhood Watch Committee.

Want to make changes? Show up at drills and calls.

There is a firm rule that one does not back up a piece of equipment unless someone is outside the truck directing you.

There is a lot of traffic on the radio. We should try to refrain from adding to it. Very often if you hold back for a minute, you will hear the answer to your question. (continued p. 7)

**EIFC TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON SHEAD (continued)** Clayton kept a tight reign on us over the years to keep us alert and safe. What I wrote previously was but the tip of the iceberg. Even today, his words come back to us. Below is a small, probably incomplete list of his contributions to the advancement of the department:

- Part of the team in 1969 for the first basic First Aid training through the American Red Cross.
- First time as Pancake Breakfast Chair in March of 1974.
- Attended the first EMT course in December of 1974 with Dick Gagnon, Bryan Hirtle and Bob Scranton.
- Headed up the truck Committee for WF1-6 in November of 1974.
- Created the first fire log or run sheet in May of 1975.
- Designated as WF-19 in September of 1976.

Participated on the House Committee in 1977 to re-vamp the front of the house the first time around.

To quote Fire Police Chief William Anderson on March 4, 1969, regarding his Fire Police Squad, which best describes Clayton and his peers of Fire Police:

“We can be very proud of this team’s dedication to control traffic and thus make firefighting easier, more effective and safer. They are well organized, well equipped and above all, spirited in their duties.”

Clayton became a presence on the mutual aid scene. Our mutual aid Chiefs didn’t have to worry about traffic control or the safety of their people when Clayton was on the road. Our mutual aid companies shared a little part of Clayton as well as Eastford. Often the call came in for Fire Police, not trucks. With Clayton at the helm, the job was done the way it should be done. Too bad for the driver who had to experience the wrath of Clayton on the road and give him a hard time.


Clayton touched the lives of many little people as well. Many of our children and grandchildren grew up around him. He earned and expected their respect and admiration. He was a true role model for several generations.

Even in his last days, and our last visit, we were confident he knew we were there, and he had earned the respect of all whose lives he touched. Things haven’t always been easy for him, especially at the end. We were with him, and he knew that through his tough times he could always count on his Eastford Fire Company family, no matter what.

Now, we know that Clayton is watching over us, and will lead us as only Clayton can do.

Clayton, We Salute You  
We Thank You

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**Ed's Note:** Please consider donating to the EIFC. The Eastford Independent Fire Co. No. 1, as 100% volunteer, rely on the generous annual monetary support received from the town. BUT, finances are tight in order to keep our doors open and serve you best. Often vehicle emergencies, replenishment of supplies and equipment fall outside the budgeted yearly allotment. Donations help the EIFC make a difference in OUR community 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can send your tax-deductible donation to: EIFC, PO Box 333, Eastford, CT. 06242. You will receive by return mail a thank you showing the amount and date check was written for tax purposes.

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## Library News by Susan Shead

Happy New Year from the Library Board and staff of the Eastford Public Library. 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. The library has received a donation of DVD's including westerns with John Wayne and James Stewart. Come down to the library and check them out! As you may know the lower level of the library has some serious water issues. Much of the downstairs collection is being housed elsewhere temporarily while this problem is being addressed. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused our library patrons and we hope to have it resolved soon. Thank you for your patience in this matter. 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. **Please Note: The library hours are Monday 3-8pm, Tuesday 10am to 8pm, Thursday 3-8pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm. The library will be closed on Tuesday, January 1 (New Years Day) and Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> in honor of Martin Luther King**

## EASTFORD YOUTH BASKETBALL

Basketball Fundamentals

A Co-Ed Basketball program for kids in grades K - 2  
Learn Basketball basics, get some exercise, and have some fun

Monday nights from 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
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Only \$15 for 8 sessions!

Download a registration form at [eastford.org](http://eastford.org)



## From Eastford's Agent for the Elderly MICHELE'S SENIOR MOMENT

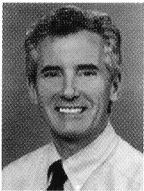
2019 is here and I hope everyone is looking forward to a happy and healthy new year. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few things you can do to make that happen. As tax season is upon us, I will remind seniors that there are many area free tax services for those of you that need to file. Service is free for those making less than \$55,000 and you should call 211, press 3 then press 6 to set up an appointment. Locations providing assistance are in Mansfield and Putnam. It is also again time to apply for energy assistance, if you have not done so already. You must make an appointment with Access Agency in Danielson (860-413-1600). You must provide copies of certain documentation for income and expenses. Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that Connecticut has a program called CHCPE - the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders. This program can provide caregiving services, companions, homemakers, grocery shopping and many other services. Certain asset and income restrictions apply, but it can help to keep our elders in their homes much longer by providing care at home and help they need to thrive. Call Connecticut Community Care, Inc., at 866-845-2224. This program also helps younger folks who are disabled. Happy New Year - let's make it a great one!

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

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

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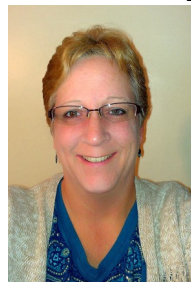
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**“Tips for Today” -by Liz Ellsworth**

New Year - New You! Take a couple of steps to be greener this year. Need a reusable water bottle? Get one! Lost your reusable grocery shopping bags? Get some new ones! Have you been meaning to get a home energy audit? Schedule an appointment! Do you have something you no longer need? Donate it to someone (or a civic group) that can use it! Wanna do more to protect your rural surroundings? Volunteer! There are so many easy steps to take. You can do this!  
Happy 2019!

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**Recreation Commission News** by Valerie Katkaveck,  
ChairEastford Youth basketball will be starting February 25! It will run for 8 weeks this year on Monday nights from 6 - 7 pm at EES. This activity is open to any kids from K - 2nd grade and we accept kids from surrounding towns and homeschooled, too. We are asking \$15 for enrollment fee with a discount for additional family members. Help is always given to families with financial difficulties. The fee will help pay for T shirts for all the kids who register by February 7th. You can find the registration form on the town website. We will have 8th graders helping with the coaching for their community service program but would love some adult coaching assistance. If you have the time and feel you could help the kids have fun and learn basketball fundamental skills, please don't hesitate to speak up and get involved! Contact Valerie at 933-8102 or Paige at 933-2910 to get started. Adult pick-up basketball continues on Wednesday nights-bring a light and dark shirt and get a great work out. There is no charge for this community activity.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cupcake Wars! Date:** Saturday, Feb 9 **Time:** 1-3pm  
**Location:** Congregational Church of Eastford, 8 Church Rd.,

Registration Deadline: Feb 5


The Congregational Church of Eastford is hosting the third annual Cupcake Wars! on Saturday, February 9, 2019, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. This is a free, community-wide, all age event. This year, contestants will be divided into two age groups: 14 years and younger and 15 years and older. Two categories will be judged: **Recipe** (taste, smell, etc.) and **Display** (decoration, creativity, etc.). Contestants can enter one or both categories. Judges will be Eastford community and business leaders. There will also be a People's Choice Award. Attendees will vote for their favorite cupcake in each age group based on either recipe or display. Please see entry form on line at [www.cceastford.org/events](http://www.cceastford.org/events) for more information or contact CCE at 860.974.0294 or email [office@cceastford.com](mailto:office@cceastford.com). Everyone is welcome to attend! Entry forms must be received by Tuesday, February 5, 2019. Submit entry to the Congregational Church of Eastford, PO Box 177, 8 Church Rd, Eastford, CT 06242 or complete your entry on-line at [www.cceastford.org/events](http://www.cceastford.org/events).

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## Congregational Church of Eastford –

### January Programs for You, Our Community

1. Fix it Yourself – Home and Auto Repair Basics – Mondays 7 pm, Jan 7 – Feb 11
2. Financial Peace University with Dave Ramsey – Personal finances help and freedom, Sundays 6:30pm Jan 13 – Mar 10.  
Kids grades K – 6 can join our Kids' Club while parents take class.
3. Grief Share – Weekly grief support.  
Wednesdays 6:30pm, Jan 16 – Apr 10

For info or to sign up, contact us at 860-974-0294 or [office@cceastford.com](mailto:office@cceastford.com) or visit [www.cceastford.org/events/](http://www.cceastford.org/events/)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Scout Troop 92 Report

Nov-Dec Activities: The Scouting for Food drive resulted in over 214 bags of food for the food banks in Eastford and Ashford. Good work, Scouts! Upcoming Activities:  
Jan 11, Friday Rain Gutter Regatta. Sail boat competition for the Cub Scouts. 7:00 PM at Knowlton Memorial Hall.  
Jan 18, Friday, Cub Scouts overnight at Mystic Aquarium.  
Jan 24, Thursday Troop Court of Honor 7pm, Knowlton Memorial Hall.  
Jan 25-27, Klondike Derby. Outdoor winter camping weekend.  
Jan 28, Monday, Committee meeting at St Philp's Rec Center.  
Feb 1, Friday, Cub Scouts Blue and Gold annual pack meeting.  
Feb 9 or 10 Troop and Cub Scouts: Mansfield Rec swimming and sports.  
Mar 2, Saturday Cub Scout Pinewood Derby.  
Scout meetings are most Thursday evenings at Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford located next to Cumberland Farms store. New members and visitors welcome. Troop 92 Scouts are from Ashford, Eastford and Mansfield. Nord Yakovleff Ast Sct Mstr, Cory Blanchette Scout Master

\*\*\*\*\*

**Report of the Union Society Building Committee** by Carol Davidge, Chair  
The Town of Eastford owns the historic 1806 Union Society Building. Grants from The Last Green Valley and CT Department of Economic and Community Development with donations from individual are making it possible to start repairs and paint walls this spring. We thank Joseph and Nancy Beaudoin for their legacy donation which assists construction needs. Eastford's Union Society Building is one of only two Union Society buildings still standing in Connecticut. At the junction of Routes 44 and 198, this modest white house is a place where villagers gathered in community efforts for more than 200 years. Built as a wedding gift to a bride, it became a gathering place for many purposes. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, union societies sprang up around Connecticut to protest taxation without representation. Prior to 1818, the only people in Connecticut who could vote were property-owning men who belonged to the Congregational Church in their town and who paid taxes to the Congregational Church because the church was the town government. Thomas Jefferson advocated for separation of church and state and in 1818 Connecticut's constitution was changed to allow property-owning men of all faiths to vote. At the Union Society, children were taught to read, villagers gathered for holiday celebrations, oyster supper fundraisers were held for Eastford Independent Fire Co. No. 1, 4-H and Scouts learned leadership skills, and the group held games and potluck dinners for families. Everyone was welcome regardless of ethnic origin, spiritual belief, gender or age. The building served mostly poor immigrants in the southern part of Eastford. Christmas celebrations featured Santa Claus who gave each child an orange and box of candy. The Union Society also took modest gifts to the homes of those who otherwise would not have received presents. The building was sold to the Town of Eastford in 2002. Donations are needed to restore the building so it can again be used as a public gathering place. **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. Information, please e-mail: [carol.davidge@snet.net](mailto:carol.davidge@snet.net), and put Union Society in the subject line.

## January Events at The Woodstock Academy

- No School - Winter Break** December 22 – January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Jan. 11, WA Founding Day Celebration. The school community will celebrate the founding of The Woodstock Academy in 1801.  
Jan 16, 6pm-Piano Recital. Info: Contact piano teacher Lauren Churchill at [lchurchill@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:lchurchill@woodstockacademy.org) for more information.  
Jan 18, 3:30-5pm, NHS Middle School Leadership Summit. Local middle school students are invited to an afternoon of leadership-building activities hosted by the Woodstock Academy's National Honor Society. Information-NHS advisor, Julia Budd, at [jbudd@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:jbudd@woodstockacademy.org)  
Jan 21, No School - Martin Luther King Day  
Jan 23, Exams for Periods 1 & 2, Noon dismissal  
Jan 24, Exams for Periods 3 & 4, Noon dismissal  
Jan 25, No School - Transition Day  
Jan 28, 2nd Semester Begins  
Jan 30, Senior Graduation Planning Night. Information-Amy Favreau, assistant head of school for enrollment at [afavreau@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:afavreau@woodstockacademy.org)  
**Board of Trustee Meetings**-For information on Board of Trustee and committee meetings contact Julie Woodland, executive assistant, at [jwoodland@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:jwoodland@woodstockacademy.org)  
Jan 2, 7pm-Executive Committee Meeting;  
Jan 7, 5:30pm-Academic Committee Meeting; 6:30pm-Building & Grounds Meeting; 7pm- Finance Committee Meeting  
Jan 15, 7pm-Full Board of Trustees Meeting

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ATTENTION: All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to E-mail: [eastford.communicator@gmail.com](mailto:eastford.communicator@gmail.com)  
 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 does not print letters to editor, or items it regards as offensive or slanderous. Carol Davidge, Editor

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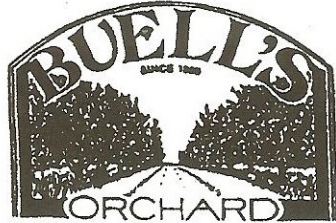
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