

The Eastford Communicator

January 2021, Vol. 30, No.1

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 2021-2022 fiscal year. We continue to be in an audit process which we expect to have completed in this month.

Community – Great things happen in our community!

The pandemic has cast many challenges upon us all. However, the twinkling lights have been joyous to all! Thank you!

Many families and individuals have provided both food and monetary donations to the Food Pantry. Thank you all!

Whenever, possible be there for your neighbors using the safest practices. Be safe!

We welcome you to visit our website for all updated information at www.eastford.org/eastford

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

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

Police Services – During the month of November, Troop D responded to 18 calls. These calls of service included; Accidents: 1, Criminal Invest: 2, Burglaries: 0, Larcenies: 0, DUI'S: 0, Traffic Citations: 2, Written Warning: 2, and Non-Reportable Matters: 15 (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



EASTFORD SENIOR CITIZENS by Linda SM dos Santos.

We send wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Exciting New Year.

Bill Hopkins, 96 (photo left), is the first Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC) member to achieve Emeritus status, followed by Dominick Roto and Jane Budd. In addition to ESC Honorary Lifetime membership, Bill Hopkins is also a former President of the organization. He says his "encounters with people in the senior group were always pleasurable." Bill stated that he "is impressed by the kindness that Deb Richards, the Eastford Emergency Management Director, shows by calling to make sure that town seniors have what they need during times of crisis." Bill Hopkins, a 21-year resident of Eastford, likes "the quiet atmosphere of the town and the friendly attitude of the people."

Although buildings are closed at this writing, **services are available by phone**, please call: Eastford Town Office Building: 860-974-0133, www.eastfordct.org, Eastford Food Pantry, Karen or Steve: 860-974-1618 or Selectman's Office: 860-974-0133x3; Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Center: 860-774-1243; Senior Resources (plus Emergency Food Delivery Program): 860-877-3561, Eastford Senior Citizens: ESC06242@aol.com

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Eastford Cemetery Restoration Committee Report
Restoration is in progress at Eastford's Old Cemetery. In 2021, the Martin and Eliza Buss Base is to be repaired/leveled and marker to be reset (photo, left).

Thank you to donors:

Regan Clark
William Clark
Carol Davidge

Your donation will help.

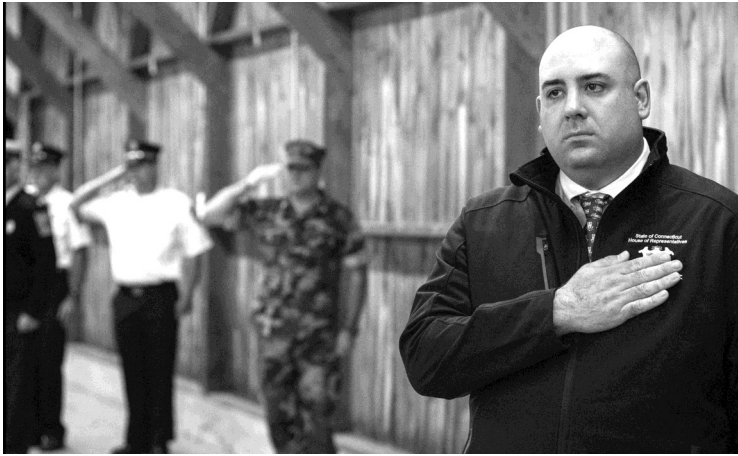
I wish to contribute to the Old Cemetery Restoration Project. My check in the amount of \$ _____, payable to Town of Eastford, is enclosed, with 'Old Cemetery' noted on the memo line.

Name _____
Address _____

Mail to: Eastford Selectmen's Office
PO Box 98, Eastford, CT 06242

From the Connecticut General Assembly

State Representative Pat Boyd (D-Brooklyn, Eastford, Pomfret, Union, Woodstock) has been appointed Chair of the CT House of Representatives' Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the 2021 legislative session which convenes January 6, 2021. As current Vice-Chair, Rep. Boyd worked to pass legislation that: granted better college access for military families stationed in Connecticut; provided additional \$500 in help with property taxes for certain disabled veterans and service member; exempted military retirement pay from the state income tax; prohibited discrimination based upon an individual's veteran status. Rep. Boyd also serves on the Children's Committee and Public Safety and Security Committee. To contact Representative Boyd: Email: Pat.Boyd@cga.ct.gov Phone: 1-800-842-8267; Link: <http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Boyd>



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Tips for Today by Liz Ellsworth

Winter is cold, and it's also a good time to explore some aspects of nature you might miss in the other seasons.

Animal tracks and animal scats are much more visible on the snow's white background. Left-behind animal tracks last longer in frozen mud.

To aid in your identifying some of these, look to this handy pocket guidebook: Scats and Tracks of the Northeast by James C. Halfpenny and Jim Bruchac (Falcon Guides). Wild Turkey tracks are the ones I see most often.

Identifying trees via their bark is rather tricky. In winter, trees lack foliage and offer an open door to prime bark exploration. Be inspired to learn by Michael Wojtech's Bark: A Field Guide to Trees of the Northeast. Yellow Birch trees are easy to identify.

Try these smartphone apps:

iTrack Wildlife or Pl@ntNet.

Happy Winter learning!

Please consider donating to Eastford organizations which make life better for all of us.

Eastford Independent Fire Co. (POB 333) Donations & Volunteers are needed to sustain service; who are you going to call?

Town of Eastford: Old Cemetery Preservation Committee (POB 98);

Town of Eastford: Food Pantry (POB 98);

Eastford Historical Society (POB 350);

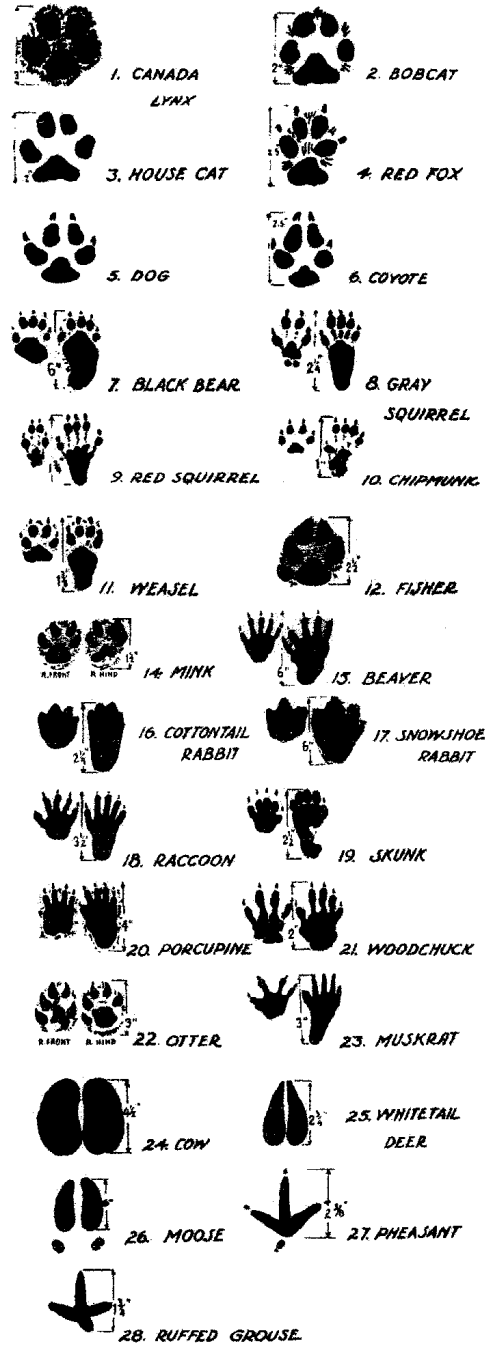
Crystal Pond Park Commission (POB 98);

Town of Eastford: Union Society (POB 98)

Grove Cemetery Assn. (POB 284),

American Legion Post 203 (POB 131)

Animal Tracks of New England



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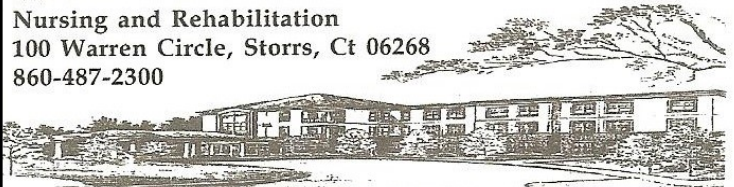
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Kamila Wysocki

GRADE 10:

Sophia Bulan, Gavin Driscoll, Jakub Sarzynski

GRADE 9:

Elizabeth Bishop-Klee, Kerry Blais, Hunter Larson

RECOGNITION

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Max Larkin, Aubrey Rumrill

GRADE 9:

Hunter Haynes

Ethel Cushing Gardner Fund Scholarship

for the 2021-2022 College Academic Year

Deadline: February 1, 2021

Eastford Students Entering or

Currently Enrolled in College are eligible.

New this year, the Ethel Cushing Gardner Fund Scholarship is listed with other Foundation scholarships in Individual Scholarship Funds at the Hartford Foundation on its online scholarship directory at hfpg.org/scholarships. (Ed note: This allows the student's application to be linked to other possible scholarships.)

Criteria for the Ethel Cushing Gardner Fund Scholarship: "The student (applicant) must reside in the Town of Eastford & have a serious interest in the study of music."

Award amount: \$1,500-3,000; Number of awards: 1-2.

Scholarships awards are for the 2021-2022 academic year. Additional Information on EES Website:

<https://www.eastfordct.org/>

News and Notes from the Superintendent's Office

by Donna P. Leake, PhD

Another new year begins. Each year brings a new set of challenges, accomplishments, and surprises. The Eastford learning community will work together to successfully overcome all challenges, celebrate all accomplishments, and hope that all surprises are positive. One of the first challenges the BOE faces is the development of the 2021-22 budget. At the January 14 BOE meeting, I will present a recommended budget to the BOE for review. The BOE will begin to review the recommendation that evening and continue the review at special budget meetings on January 21 and 28 and February 4 and 9. The Facilities Committee of the BOE met on December 10 to review the status of facility projects as well as begin to prepare the Long-Term Capital Project list. The Facilities Committee will meet again on January 14 at 6:30 PM to review and finalize this list. At the December Board Education meeting, the BOE took the following actions:

1. Approved the 2021-22 school calendar;
2. Did a first reading of several policies. One policy of particular importance is the Student Dress Policy.

In other news, information for the Ethel Cushing Gardner Scholarship Fund is posted on the Eastford Elementary School Website.

All the best for a safe and healthy 2021. As always, never hesitate to contact me at dleake@eastfordct.org.

From the Principal by Carole McCombe

Happy New Year from the staff at Eastford Elementary School! I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season and was able to relax and rejuvenate! We are eager to jump into a new year, refreshed and enthusiastic about new learning and the experiences that await both students and staff.

Recently, 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 will support the Eastford Food Pantry and it will be used to support local families in need throughout the year.

I would like to thank all the local organizations that assisted us in supporting our families with toys, food and other necessities throughout the holiday season. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all!

All high school students are reminded that if Eastford Elementary School is closed due to inclement weather, transportation is not provided to the high schools that Eastford residents attend. At times, we may initially declare a delayed opening to give us enough time to properly consider road conditions in Eastford and surrounding towns, but then the delay changes to a closing once we have this additional information. Please check our website (www.eastfordct.org) on days that you are wondering about the status of Eastford Elementary School and out of town transportation. WINY, WFSB and NBC CT all broadcast our status.

EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC by Jeannine Spink

The EIFC wishes ALL Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. It is our wish that 2021 will be rewarding for all. We experienced loss in our ranks, and dealing with COVID-19 is stressful. But we wear masks, wash our hands, and practice social distancing. In keeping with our Mission Statement, and the restrictions mandated by OSHA and NFPA, the EIFC has managed to respond to “911”, continue training and meeting schedules without hesitation.

To the delight of children of all ages, the Company did a “drive around” town on Sunday, December 13th. Thanks to EMS Lieutenant Steve Kitson and his wife Hannah, they were able to contact Santa Claus inviting him to come and visit our town. Santa was safely driven to all points of town on Engine Tanker 171, escorted by decorated Rescue 171, Hose Tender 171 and Service 171. Everyone on our route enjoyed a personal holiday greeting from Santa. If all goes well, and Santa liked what he saw, maybe we can invite him back next Christmas and hold our Breakfast with Santa in 2021. Santa was impressed with the town support and assured us that it was fun and would return if Mrs. Claus lets him. He would do his best to put in a good word to the Easter Bunny. Thanks to Steve and Hannah for contacting Santa.

FIRE POLICE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS - Continued

An official “mutual aid” agreement was entered into in 1963 with the base station in Putnam. The number to call was 928-2727. In 1975, Quinebaug Valley Dispatch, located at the Danielson Police Barracks, Troop D, was formed along with the implementation of the “911” system.

To assure the safety of its members at motor vehicle accidents and fires, a Fire Police Squad was formed in 1965 and joined the Tri-County Fire Police Association. Their charge was to provide protection to members and redirect traffic when needed. Thus, began the era of “paperwork”, where the DMV required blue light permits to be carried in all privately owned vehicles.

By 1975, it was apparent that the Woodstock Fair seemed likely to become an annual fundraiser. We started with popcorn, then changed to ice cream and soda. The Ladies Auxiliary became an important participant. A building was built by members of the Company for long-term use.

Fire Prevention became a major annual event. The program, aimed primarily at educating the children of the town, was started in the Eastford School. Today, members still visit the school to conduct the first mandated, annual drill for planning and student accountability. Following the drill, lower grade students are escorted to the gym to watch a video about fire safety, talk to the firemen in gear and tour the trucks. Of course, nothing is a success without the usual “bag of goodies”. The Auxiliary sponsored posters created by the children for fire safety awareness for many years. The posters were then hung around the firehouse for all steak supper attendees to appreciate.

In 1972, mutual aid departments were thinking basic first aid skills, not just firefighting. The first class, sponsored by the American Red Cross, certified 27 members in the area in Basic First Aid. By 1974, it was becoming evident that there needed to be a higher level of emergency medical training, thus the formation of the Emergency Medical Service. Ashford was designated our official ambulance service. The first, formal EMT class was held in 1983.

Member Clayton Shead was synonymous with “Captain Pancake”. Clayton was the guru of flipping pancakes, cooking bacon and keeping everyone in line. Breakfasts under his watch were always a success, especially Breakfast with Santa and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. The pancake breakfasts were extended to Heritage Day.

On June 7, 1973 Eastford suffered one of the biggest structural losses in its history. Tatem Manufacturing burned, putting many people out of work. The “Mutual Aid” system was successfully used. No lives were lost and no one badly injured. Our Auxiliary went above and beyond providing food, drink and support for the days following the fire.

In 1979, the town suffered another large fire, the Ivy Glenn. The EIFC and Mutual Aid system was put to the test again. Fortunately, damage was kept to a minimum. Not only was the structure saved, but also many books, pictures and art treasures spared from destruction.

State mandated requirements were starting to infiltrate the fire service. A Class “2” driver’s license was required for all members before driving a fire truck. Training was becoming mandated i.e., New Hampshire Fire School, Intermediate State Firefighting Course at Bungay Fire Brigade in Woodstock, Breathing Apparatus, Firefighting Tactics I, II, training in emergency medical services, in addition to required weekly in-house drilling and meetings. MORE TO COME.....

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BE SAFE!

News You Can Use by Deb Richards- Emergency Management Director

As the new year 2021 starts we must pause a moment to thank some outstanding folks and all the ways Eastford residents came together to support each other during the pandemic. The pandemic, drought, food insecurity affected many of us and our everyday life. Residents, businesses, and our schools were all impacted but admirably faced these challenges. The teachers, administrators, school nurse and other staff made herculean changes during this pandemic to ensure the children in Eastford would continue their education in a safe, secure environment. Amid many sacrifices and challenges, they persevered. Kudos to the staff, the parents/guardians, and children of Eastford Elementary School. Farm to Table, was a program funded by the federal and state governments and supported by local municipalities to provide boxes of food for people who are food insecure. That program has ended for the time being but the Eastford Food Pantry, run by Steve and Karen Broderick, is an outstanding resource for Eastford residents. All contacts are confidential, and Karen and Steve are always willing to help. Reach out to them at: sbroderick@charter.net Thank you also to Ben and James from PW for helping with pick up and distribution of the food boxes to Eastford. Whether it is a drought, heavy rains, or winter weather, Eastford comes together to help each other. The staff at the Town Office Building, EIFC, transfer station, the churches, local businesses - all lend a hand to help support the residents of our town. It is with much gratitude towards the residents of Eastford who willingly help each other and thus gives us a reason to look forward to a healthier, safer New Year. If you are interested in helping with emergency management, please contact, emd@townofeastford.com

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.

Once again, we thank Ms. Lessard and the entire Eastford School for their annual November Food Drive. Thanks again to Whitcraft Corp., who for the 6th consecutive year, provided holiday turkeys for our clients.

Financial donations have allowed us to purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Many thanks to the Eastford PTO, Ashford Lake Property Owners' Association, Martha Clark, Ralph Yulo, Allan & Joyce Hernberg, Mary & Charles Belden, David & Christine Hus-tus, Peggy & Kenneth Bernier, Tom Bresnahan & Anne Fleming, Loring & Jane White; Debra Granger & John Warren; Putnam Lode #46 Freemasons; Roger & Judith Boisvert; and several anonymous donors for their generous donations. We would also like to thank Phil Finch, Will Halpin, Jeff Conrad and Jeff Sulloway for their donations of non-perishables that rivaled a small food drive.

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

DID YOU KNOW? Eastford Historical Society

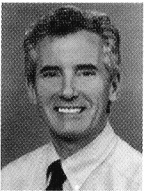
Did you know tradition claims that a small cemetery off Ashford Road is the final resting place of a murderer? Oliver Watkins, born in Ashford in 1793, strangled his sleeping wife, Roxana, on March 22, 1829 in Sterling, CT. Tried and convicted, he was sent to the gallows on August 2, 1831. It is said that thousands traveled to witness the last hanging in the county seat of Brooklyn, Connecticut. (This story was recently found in the March, 2003 Quarterly while working in the EHS archives.)

The Historical Society wishes you all a happy and healthy 2021 and reminds you that donations of old published documents (letters, diaries, account books, etc.), old photographs, and small historic items are greatly appreciated. Please think of us when cleaning out basements and attics or sorting through the belongings of loved ones. What may not seem important to you, may be important to the preservation of Eastford history. If you have items to donate, please call Tom Latham, 860-974-1610 or Linda Torgeson, 860-933-0468.

Kindly consider honoring us with a donation. Your support would be greatly appreciated. (P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242)

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EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Message From the Board of Trustees

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association is committed to helping families with their decisions regarding plot purchase and size of plot as it pertains to burial wishes. It is with this in mind that the Association is offering its assistance to you whether you are making plans for yourself or for a loved one. The decisions you may face are more complex than most people realize and are usually not done easily when people are grieving. Our board can confidentially aid you in considering various plot options for full and cremation burials, memorial (flush) markers and monuments. Feel free to call for an appointment with Lauren Anderson, President of the Grove Cemetery Association, at 860-974-1349. The E.G.C.A. is a non-profit organization.

NOTICE

-Seasonal Decorations: Artificial flowers will only be allowed from **Thanksgiving, November 26, 2020 to March 15, 2021**. After March 15, the seasonal decorations will be removed and only **live plants** will be permitted.

The EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

greatly appreciates the following donors who have given to the perpetual care fund:

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Mimi Bloom

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Board of Trustees: Alex Kowalchuk, Carolyn Hazard, David Barlow, Herman Barlow, Lauren Anderson, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson, Scott Huri

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P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242

Scout Troop 92 Report.

Scouts enjoyed hiking at Goodwin State Forest in Hampton. To keep things safe, social distancing was practiced. Scouts met in David Gratton's workshop to fabricate wreaths for donation. Happy New year, everyone! We hope that 2021 will be a great year for all of us. Stay safe and stay healthy. For information, E-mail Nord Yakoleff at: nordy177@gmail.com. Troop 92 BSA, Ashford/Eastford. Nord Yakovleff Ast Sct Mstr; Cory Blanchette, Scout Master; Chris Murphy, Ast Sct Mstr

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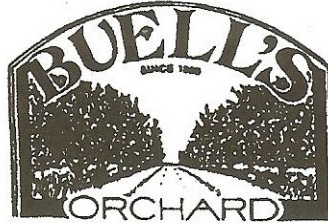
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