



The Eastford Communicator

March, 2016 Calendar

- 1 Conservation & Historic Comm, TOB, 7pm
- 2 "Experience Eastford Day" Committee, TOB, 10am
Nahaco Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 3 Gentle Yoga, TOB, 1-2pm
- 4 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
Board of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 7pm
- 5 Board of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 9am
- 7 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5:00pm
Fiddle & Song, EES, 5-9pm
School Readiness Council, EES, 6pm
BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 8 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 9 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Recreation Commission, TOB, 2pm
Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- 10 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 14 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5:00pm
Fiddle & Song, EES, 5-9:00pm
Clean Energy, TOB, 7pm
- 15 Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
Grove Cemetery Trustees, TOB, 7:30pm
- 16 Family Story & Song, EES, 9:45am
- Communicator Deadline**
- 17 Senior Citizens, TOB, 11-2pm
Intro to Gardening, Library, 6 pm
- 18 Family Game Night, Charlie Brown Campground, 6:30-8pm
- 21 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5:00pm
Fiddle & Song, EES, 5-9pm
- 22 Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7:30pm
- 23 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- 24 Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 26 Family Egg Hunt, EES playground, 10am
- 28 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5pm

BRODEURBITS

[Brodeurbits is a regular compilation of writings and ramblings from the First Selectman and others and elsewhere, some profound, others mundane; all hopefully of interest and import, aimed at communicating and informing.]

[This month: Great Audit and Grand List, Building and Rebuilding, Winter Infernal and Spring Eternal]

The Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Municipal Audit for the Town of Eastford was presented to the Board of Selectmen on February 1, 2016 by Darin Offerdahl of the Town's auditors, the firm of Michaud Accavallo Woodbridge & Cassano, LLC. The audit was a very positive one, giving the Town an "unqualified opinion" and finding no material weaknesses. Particularly noted was the Town's strong position on internal control, a critical aspect in assuring the Board's compliance with the fiduciary responsibility with which it has been charged by the people of Eastford.

Also, at the February 1 meeting, the Board of Selectmen received and accepted the Eastford Clean Energy Communities Municipal Action Plan Summary Report. In so doing it commended the developers of the Plan for their thorough effort and the comprehensiveness of the Plan. The Plan was developed by

continued on next page

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OF SPECIAL NOTE:

**"Experience Eastford Day" will be July 16;
On March 2, join your neighbors to plan this event
March 16 - Family Story & Song, EES
March 17-Intro to Gardening, Library
March 18 - Family Game Night
March 26 - Family Egg Hunt, EES
Thru April 12 Pollywog Youth Basketball program
Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays - Yoga with Sue Orcott
Wednesday Nights-Adult Pick-Up Basketball
Fiddle and Song Free Violin Instruction
March 25 & 27 - Easter Activities**

INSIDE:

**Eastford Historial Quarterly &
Questionnaire Asking You to Participate in EHS
Seniors Membership Form**

an informal group appointed by me as First Selectman to study municipal energy usage and to bring forth energy-saving procedures and projects which can be planned and executed by Town Government and the Board of Education. The Municipal Plan group [led by Finance Director Tom Latham and including Paul Torcellini—a font of energy knowledge and expertise, School Superintendent Linda Loretz, and Public Works Supervisor Ben Schmidt, among other contributors to the Plan] has made its initial investigations and put forth its recommendations. With the group having fulfilled its obligation and completed its work, the task of action and continuing study rests with the Board of Selectmen and Public Works on the Town side and with the Board of Education and its Facilities Committee on the School side. These initiatives, when combined with the efforts of the Town's Clean Energy Group chaired by Ken Andersen, will enable the Town and those who live in it to achieve energy savings and benefits consistent with Eastford being classified by the State as a "Rising Star" among all Connecticut communities in energy conservation.

In the last three reporting months [November, December 2015, January 2016], nineteen building permits were issued by Town Building Official Joe Pajak for projects totaling \$276,552 in construction value.

The State Department of Public Health recently released a compendium of estimated populations in Connecticut as of July 1, 2014. Eastford's population as of that date was 1,734; Windham County had a population of 117,000 [the least populated county in the state, just behind Tolland County], and Connecticut's population was just short of 3.6 million. Of course that begs the question of population change between reporting dates and the present.

Efforts are underway to rebuild the once vibrant community institution which was the Eastford Historical Society. For some 50 years the Society has been an integral thread in the fabric of Eastford, weaving knowledge of the Town's past into an understanding of its future. But recently it has all but ceased to function. A core group of community members [Dagmar Noll, Kathy Healey, Carol Davidge, Jean Hixson, Barbara Aquila, Tom Latham, Carol Day, and Scott Bunnell] are engaged in a revitaliza-

tion effort which includes reaching out to all of us in Eastford to assess community support for bringing the Historical Society back from the brink of functional extinction. You will find a questionnaire in the EHS Quarterly (centerfold this month), which I hope you will fill out and return promptly. The EHS preserves Eastford's historical archives and provides many services, including responding to queries from the news media. I encourage you to support and participate.

The enforcement effort by the Connecticut State Police to discourage speeding on Eastford roads and disregard for traffic signals and signs continues. In the month of January, Troop D troopers issued 20 traffic citations in Town.

A key component of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Town Government budget building process is the Grand List. Town Assessor Mary Lavallee has completed the 2015 Grand List and it shows an increase in assessed value in Eastford of \$2,320,993, a percentage increase of 1.64 percent. The 2015 Net Grand List totals \$144,024,463, as opposed to the prior year's [2014] List total of \$141,703,470. The 2015 List breaks down, by category, as follows: Realty [Real Estate]--\$118,360,685; Personal Property--\$6,741,178; Motor Vehicles--\$14,985,720; and Elderly--\$3,936,880. Of the \$2.3 million increase in Total Assessment, the greater portion [\$1.5 million] is in Realty. There will of course be refinement in the Grand List and there is always the possibility of appeals to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

The next road surfacing project to be undertaken by Eastford Public Works, under the long-range road plan, will be the resurfacing of Crystal Pond Road from French Road to State Route 171. The Board of Selectmen, meeting in regular session, on February 1, 2016 accepted the \$81,621 low bid of the Gorman Group for the project. Work will begin as soon as weather permits, as will work, pending Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission approval, on a new storm water drainage improvement system at the intersection of Ashford and Westford Roads. This system, designed by Town Engineer Joseph Polulech, will be constructed by Town Public Works personnel.

A bid opening was held on February 3, 2016 for the Mill

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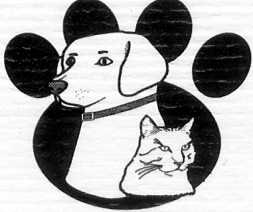


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Bridge Road bridge over Bungee Brook construction project. There were seven bids submitted. The bids ranged from \$2,436,954.50 to \$1,434,837 with the apparent low bidder being Mattern Construction Company of Baltic, Connecticut. State policy mandates award to the low bidder and the State Department of Transportation is now vetting the Mattern firm and doing due diligence. When that process is complete the Town can proceed to sign a contract and construction can begin, hopefully, by the projected April 1 planned date.

With snow covering the ground, and temperatures dipping into the sub-zero range, it is difficult to talk of "as soon as weather permits". But I am putting my faith in the multiplicity of ground hogs who prognosticated on February 2 and told us that "hope Springs eternal". But the time has come, the walrus said, to speak of many [Winter] things. Among them, a reminder that, according to Connecticut General Statutes 14-252a and 136-221, "depositing of snow onto a roadway is punishable by fines". Whether plowing, shoveling, or snow blowing, please make sure you, or your contractor, help us keep Town roads safe. As to the "snowplow versus mailbox" policy: mailboxes and or posts that

Legal Notice
Town of Eastford
Republican Caucus

Notice is hereby given that there will be a Caucus of all enrolled members of the Republican Party in Eastford on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Library to select delegates for the various Republican Conventions.

Attest: Jennifer Page
Chairman
February 2, 2016

The Eastford Recreation Commission
Easter Egg Hunt

March

26

10:00

at **Eastford**
Elementary School

playgrounds

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Loads of filled Eggs & Prizes

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FAMILY GAME NIGHT!!

Recruiting Party for new REC Commission Members

MARCH 18th 2016 6:30-8:00pm
@ Charlie Brown Campground

Families bring it ON!

Challenge your friends to a round on your favorite board game.

FOOD and DRINK provided.... Midway Pizza and Valerie's' famous punch.

We need new members in order to continue our great activities and events.

Please consider a fun night out and a seat on Eastford's Recreation Commission.



Notice from the Eastford Readiness Council

The Eastford Readiness Council is currently in the process of planning for a Competitive School Readiness Grant for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 fiscal year. The Eastford Readiness Council has an open-bid process for any programs seeking funding through the Eastford Readiness Council's Competitive School Readiness Grant. Head start approved, NAEYC accredited programs and programs not yet accredited may apply. Programs not yet accredited must become accredited within three years. Also, NAEYC- accredited programs located outside town borders may apply. Programs seeking to participate in the open-bid process should contact Mrs. Heather Tamsin at the Eastford Elementary School for further information. All bid proposals should be submitted by April 29, 2016.

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Eastford College Scholarships

The Town of Eastford has had scholarship funds for students since the 1950s. For decades, elected officials and volunteers from the Town oversaw the scholarship program's fund accounting, invested its financial assets, worked with residents to create new scholarship opportunities, processed donations, oversaw the student selection process, and completed a variety of other tasks to sustain and grow the Town's scholarship funds. In the spring of 2012 the **Town of Eastford** and the **Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut** joined forces to promote the Town's scholarship program.

The Community Foundation

Works with Eastford's Board of Education to provide stewardship for the Town's scholarships;
Supports Eastford's Board of Education as it identifies, focuses and evaluates its scholarship program and optimizes the impact of the scholarship awards; and
Administers the scholarship application process including marketing available scholarships to schools and students, developing and distributing applications, preparing completed application packets for the Board of Education's Scholarship Selection Committee, monitoring adherence to selection criteria as established by donors, notifying award recipients, and making payments to institutions of higher education.

The Town of Eastford's Board of Education

Provides a Scholarship Selection Committee to

- Review the completed scholarship applications for each scholarship fund; and
- Select the award recipients based upon each fund's criteria (as established by the original donor).

The Eastford Board of Education's Scholarship Selection Committee takes into consideration the completed application, the need of the student to meet the cost of their chosen educational program, and the submitted essay, to determine the scholarship awards. Students applying must have a permanent address in Eastford.

Questions? Contact Lilli Rhodes at 877-442-3572 or lilli-an@cfect.org

High school seniors living in Eastford and college students whose permanent address is Eastford are encouraged to apply for Eastford Scholarships. The application, which should be submitted online, can be found at:

<http://www.cfect.org/Scholarships>

The DEADLINE is April 10, 2016.

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From the Principal's Desk

Heather Tamsin

The winter provided some amazing scenery and weather challenges. As the snow continues to melt, we are looking forward to the transition to warmer and longer days with spring's approach.

Both our boys and girls basketball teams had a successful season. Both teams made tremendous progress in their individual and team skills. We are all so proud of their accomplishments this season. The girls' team competed in the conference finals. The student athletes appreciated the support they received from the attending fans. The games had a positive and supportive atmosphere with consistent sportsmanship shown by the athletes and encouragement by parents and fans.

Our 8th grade students have begun preparations for their transition to high school. Representatives from various high schools in the area met with our 8th grade students to provide information and answer questions. Mrs. Lessard organizes visits with guidance counselors to give students information regarding the different options available to them. The Board of Education has updated its policy on secondary school attendance. The official policy can be found on the Eastford website at <http://www.eastfordct.org/files/72829/5117%20secondary%20school%20attendance.pdf>

Our Local Prevention Council grant provided transportation for a field trip to The New Children's Museum on November 3, and additionally provides funding for after school activities. Through the support of staff and community members, students have built and launched rockets, completed a variety of craft projects and most recently used recycled materials to make creations for our upcoming S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) night on April 28 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Eastford Veteran's Memorial Committee

Honoring Those Who Served

Inscribed Pavers are being offered for those Eastford residents who served in the military. Pavers purchased from now to **April 1, 2016 will be installed for Memorial Day 2016.** The cost is \$50 per veteran paver and proper military documents indicating honorable discharge required. Must demonstrate past or present residency proof for consideration. Cost includes paver, inscription, and installation at the Eastford Veteran's Memorial. Application form and information available in the Selectmen's Office.

From the Board of Education

At the February meeting of Eastford's Board of Education, fifteen bylaws were revised. The bylaws are set up to provide organizational rules related to the actions of the Board and its members. The bylaws are divided into the following categories:

- Role of Board and Members—Powers, Purposes, Duties
- Organization;
- Members; and
- Methods of Operation.

Some of the Board of Education's bylaws had not been updated since the 1990s; this is a testament to the strength of the bylaws that have been adopted in the past by Eastford's Board. Many of the changes adopted in March 2016 were recommended by the attorneys in order to ensure that the bylaws comply with current statutes and customs.

Also at the February Board of Education meeting, Board members discussed the budget presentation for the townspeople and the capital project plans for the future.

The Board of Education adopted a calendar for the 2016-17 school year. This calendar is available on the school's website.

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Saturday 7am-5pm
Sunday 8am-4pm
& by appointment

Eastford Independent Fire Company #1, Inc.
From: Jeannine Spink, President

Condolences to the family of Robert Newton, former firefighter who recently passed away. Bob joined in 1967 and served for more than 15 years. During his tenure, he served as Lieutenant from 1969 – 1978, the Board of Directors from 1970 – 1976, a member of the original rescue squad and a fixture, along with his wife Fran in our Woodstock Fair Ice Cream Booth, Chicken BBQ's and Steak Suppers. Thank you Bob, for a job well done.

The EIFC welcomes two new members. James Sibelle from Vermont as our latest EMT, and Chad Morency, a junior member with aspirations to be a firefighter. Welcome aboard!

In addition to our monthly meeting and Wednesday night drills, members attended a drill at the Bungay Fire Brigade relative to house / chimney fires at homes that have roof-top solar panels. The drill presentation alerted firefighters of the potential dangers involved when fighting a house fire. Also, another drill was attended at the Bungay station for the first of three mandatory annual EIFC drills regarding HAZMAT Awareness.

Spring is almost here, but lurking in all households are the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. With the dangers of winter storms, chimney fires and closed windows and doors, carbon monoxide poisonings and generator mis-use emergencies is always present.

One of the most frequent fire emergencies is the 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 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 the flu: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness.

Smoke detectors in your home on all levels near the ceilings are a must. Equally as important is the installation of a CO detector low to the floor.

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

By implementing and practicing simple safety rules, your family will enjoy the fun and beauty of winter and spring.

THE FIRST "ALL YOU CAN EAT" STEAK SUPPER IS SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH AT THE FIREHOUSE BEGINNING PROMPTLY AT 6:30 P.M. THE TICKET PRICE IS \$20 PER DINNER TO INCLUDE TOP QUALITY STEAK, BAKED POTATOE, GREEN SALAD, GREEN BEANS, ROLLS, DESSERT, BEVERAGE AND A RAFFLE TICKET. For tickets, call John Paquin at 860-974-0256, Jeannine Spink at 860-974-1678 or see any member. Tickets sell out

Eastford Seniors
By Linda SM dos Santos

Come join the Fun, on Thursday, March 17 at 11 AM at the ESC, Eastford Senior Citizens' **Senior Brown Bag Luncheon. Please bring a sandwich, plus photographs, poems, or musical instruments. ESC volunteers will provide fruit, & beverages. This learn at lunch program will include **Speaker Dave Bamber, a brief meeting of the ESC, a celebration of memories, and hundreds of sugary treats.** This is a **FREE** event held in the lower level of the Eastford Town Office Building on Westford Rd in Eastford. Seating is limited; please register before Noon Monday, March 14, call or text 860-538-8868. **Speaker Dave Bamber**, Director of Marketing at Creamery Brook Village in Brooklyn will give a presentation about housing options for seniors. He will touch on "Should I consider a move", "Why move to a retirement community", "Assisted living vs. in-home care" and will be plenty of time to ask any questions that you may have. Dave has helped to be a resource to seniors and their families for the past 10 years. A brief ESC meeting follows, and then a lively conversation-sharing neighbors past, present and future memories, while enjoying candy treats provided by the CVS in Putnam.**

SAVE THE DATES:

Wednesday, April 6 from 5:30 - 8 PM come join an enjoyable evening of surprises and bring your guests to the **ESC Spring Senior Potluck Dinner** at the Congregational Church of Eastford.

On March 18, at 10:15 AM, Gary Landren, Honky Tonk Piano, will perform at the Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Center in Brooklyn. Cost is \$10 & includes at 11:30 AM garden salad, Irish soda bread, corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, carrots, & warm bread pudding w/sauce. Payment is required by Friday, March 11, questions 860-774-1243.

Fridays March 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1, 8 from 9:30 AM-2 PM Killingly Public Library has **AARP tax assistance** volunteers to assist low to moderate income tax payers, especially those 60+. Appointments required, call 860-779-5383.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Eastford Senior Citizens are current and former Eastford residents and friends, ages 50 & up, who enjoy sharing good times, discussing senior issues, and gathering for fun activities.

Mail to: C/o Linda SM dos Santos, Program Director - Eastford Senior Citizens, P.O. Box 370, Eastford, Connecticut 06242

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Best time to call _____

Email address (PLEASE) _____

Please enclose cash or check for \$10.00, dues for March 2016-June 2017.

For Senior Meeting information, please refer to flyers in library, town hall, post office, articles in the Communicator and "What's New for Seniors?" on-line updates. Volunteer drivers needed for meetings, call 860-538-8868.



News You Can Use

Deb Richards – EMD

With all the preparedness discussion over 50% of Americans are still not prepared.

If a disaster occurred, nearly 40% of people said they would only last two weeks based on their current supplies

When asked how prepared they felt they were compared to their neighbor, 53% said they were "about as prepared" as their neighbors. Ironically, 85% felt that "in the event of a catastrophe," Americans as a whole would be under-prepared.

24% of Americans said they would help a neighbor in a disaster by sharing resources or supplies.

According to 56.8% of respondents say they have a family communication plan so that they can contact family members or loved ones if they get separated during an emergency.

Only 40.8% of Americans say they have developed a plan for an extended stay at home.

It doesn't take much, just start doing a little every month or week to start building your food storage, emergency kits, and emergency plans. We strongly recommend that you sit down as families to discuss and practice your emergency plans so that, if the time comes, every family member knows what to do.

It's a new year – time to check the dates on your emergency supplies. Canned food does have a shelf life, check the dates on those cans, plastic bottles used for water stored begin to break down, and batteries need to be replaced. Make sure mice haven't eaten your emergency blankets, replace pet food, medications, personal health products stored in your go bags. If you loose power you must CALL Eversource 1-800-286-2000 to report your outage location.

<https://www.eversource.com/NSTAR/outage/OutageMap.aspx>
To check for outages in your area.

We were in luck Eastford was lucky during the last storm with only 5 residences without power overnight. Thank you to Eastford PW for keeping our roads clean and passable and for the response from Eversource in restoring power to the 385 residents without power at the peak of the storm.

IN APPRECIATION

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their contributions:

Faye Logee

in memory of Jim Logee

Lauren Anderson

in memory of Lucille & Bill Anderson

Tom Latham

for his volunteer services

Donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to: EGCA, Inc. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242

Fiddle & Song

Tom French

tomfrench@charter.net



Last month's Communicator Ethel Gardner music scholarship announcement simply stated that Ethel Gardner was a former resident of Eastford. She left her entire estate, other than her prized music and instruments that went to close chamber music friends, to help young musicians. Her goal in life was to make musicians; more specifically, concert pianists. Before her death, her impact on music and art in Eastford was immense. She lived with purpose. Miss Gardner taught art to my mother; she was the piano teacher for me and many others. At that time in the 1940's and 1950's, when there was no school music education, Ethel Gardner was the source of music in Eastford.

When I studied with Miss Gardner between 1954 and 1959, she was quite old. But when it came to teaching piano, she certainly was not at all frail. As my mother knew Miss Gardner to be very strict, she initially had me study piano with another lady until she left Eastford. At my first lesson with Miss Gardner I was promptly informed that I would have to repeat all the pieces in the Diller-Quail piano book. The other "inferior" books were tossed. Immediately, I was set to drill on scales and soon after, many study exercises. Miss Gardner, soon initiated music theory training which mystified me. Week after week and year after year, piano lessons were essentially tough. It was a perpetual struggle and feelings of failure dominated.

I attended a private school, and studied voice there, determined to stop piano forever. But within a month or two, I found myself playing some sonatas from another student's book, and then exploring pieces I had never played before. Vacation time at home found me playing for hours every day insatiably. Amazingly, Miss Gardner had introduced me to the pure joy of music.

The Traveler Restaurant

The Traveler Restaurant Book Store is open all restaurant hours.

Come enjoy the great food, pick out your three Free Books, then wander through our "Best Cellar" book store.

Full Bar • Something for everyone, from Milk Shakes to Martini's!

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Pizza Thursday, Fri. & Sat.



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Carole McCombe, grade 4 teacher

On February 3, 2016, students in grades PreK-8 at Eastford Elementary School participated in Global School Play Day, joining tens of thousands of other children around the world. Global School Play Day began in February 2015 and since then, over 175,000 students around the world have participated. The movement behind this special day is the work of Dr. Peter Gray, who argues in a well-known TEDx talk that today's children do not grow up playing enough, and that has negatively impacted them in many ways. Gray said he believes that, in order to nurture in children the skills to thrive in today's world, they must be entrusted to steer their own learning and development. Drawing on evidence from anthropology, psychology and history, he demonstrates that free play is a primary means by which children learn to control their lives, solve problems, get along with peers, and become emotionally resilient.

At Eastford Elementary School, some grades set aside large blocks of time for free play, while others only allotted an hour or two, but regardless, feedback and reactions from both students and staff throughout the school was positive. Some student comments captured while they engaged in free play include:

"I just realized playing is like science. I am thinking and I am building."

"How did you do that? That's amazing!"

"Do I have to follow the directions or can I just build something new?"

"That was fun."

"I can teach you how to play that."

In reflecting on the experience, some teachers, who were initially wary, found that students were respectful and well behaved with the abundance of freedom they were given to structure their own time. In grade four students generated a few "rules" for the day – be safe, be respectful, share and cooperate. They had no problem abiding by these as they played with Legos, board games, puzzles, dolls and colored. At one point during the day, students in grades six, four and Pre-K had free time in the gym together. Gym teacher, Meribeth Tedisky was extremely pleased with the choices students made and the care they took to ensure everyone's safety. Students played basketball, hula-hoops, ping-pong, badminton, beach balls, jump ropes, and board games, and even though there were numerous adults in the gym, the students problem solved and shared

without adult intervention. When asked about their day, students said the best part was: "Being able to do what we wanted." And, "We got to play like little kids." "It was fun being able to play and talk with classmates as long as we wanted."

Taking time out for unstructured play has many researched benefits. Students at EES learned about these first-hand as they "unplugged" and stepped away from their core academics to engage in imaginative and unstructured free play. Was a valuable day of academic time wasted? Absolutely not, according to EES staff and families. Students incorporated many Common Core skills as they practiced listening and speaking, reading informational text to set up and play board games, strategic thinking, perseverance and problem solving skills were reinforced, counting, using money, visual and spatial skills in building with Legos and Lincoln Logs, story telling and imaginative play in developing and sharing a puppet show, and many other connections could be made. All in all, it was a day full of cooperation and fun and greatly enjoyed by those who participated!

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EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday Service - March 25th, 7 PM
(at the Congregational Church of Eastford -8 Church Rd.)


Sunrise Service - Sunday, March 27th, 6:30 AM
(at Buell's Orchard-108 Crystal Pond Rd.)

Easter Breakfast - Following Sunrise Service
(at Eastford Baptist Church-133 Union Rd.)

Resurrection Sunday Worship Service
Sunday, March 27th, 10:30 AM
(at Eastford Baptist Church-133 Union Rd.)

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Library News

By: Susan Shead

The Eastford Public Library will celebrate 120 years of service this year. To celebrate the anniversary I will toss out a few library facts each month. In 1916 the library moved to the upper room of the Center School. This was to accommodate the growing space problem. The book wagon was discontinued in 1916. By 1922 the Phoenixville Sunday School was acting as a vehicle for the distribution of books to residents of the southern part of Eastford.

Recent new non-fiction books at the library include After Hitler by Michael Jones, Everyone is Italian on Sunday by Rachael Ray, Fresh Thai by Ol Cheepchaiissara, Boys in the Trees by Carly Simon, and Lights Out by Ted Koppel.

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.

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

**Introduction to Gardening Presentation
March 17, 2016
6PM-8PM**

Eastford Public Library

Please join us for an Informational Presentation about Gardening,

Led by Mr. John Lorusso

**Sponsored by the Eastford Agricultural Committee
And**

The Eastford Public Library

Eastford Food Pantry: Thanks Again to a Caring, Generous Community

By Steve and Karen Broderick

The Food Pantry extends a very hearty "THANK YOU!!" to the many residents of Eastford who have helped replenish supplies to our pantry. Demand for our services remains high and thanks to our residents, we have been able to meet that demand.

Financial donations are critical and allow us purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Thank you to Tom & Anne Latham, Russ and Nancy Mayhew, Allan & Joyce Herberg, Gail Scranton, Bob & Malin Eubanks, and the Putnam Lodge 46 AF&AM. We also want to thank the several anonymous donors who have brought food and/or checks to the town hall. It is very much appreciated.

A special thank you to Stephen Bowen and all the folks at Bowen's garage for their holiday food drive. They collected over 300 food items and then matched that amount among themselves, so that the Eastford and Ashford pantries each received over 300 items for our respective clients.

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.

Congregational Church of Eastford

8 Church Road, Eastford 06242

www.cceastford.org

860-974-0294

Good Friday Service - March 25 at 7 pm

Join us, together with the Eastford Baptist Church, for this special worship service.

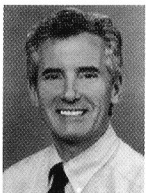
Easter Sunrise Service - March 27, 6:45 am

Free Breakfast to Follow

Easter Morning Service - March 27, 10:30 am

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Notice

Spring Clean-up

The Trustees will conduct a general clean-up of the cemetery grounds **after March 15th**, on a date to be determined. Seasonal flowers, wreaths, logs and other objects will be removed at the time of clean-up. If you wish to recycle your own decorations, you should do so at your earliest convenience, but **prior to the 15th of March.**

Landscape/Mowing Season

After March 15th, live flowers may be planted or placed in plastic pots **within 12" of the base of the monument**; artificial flowers, ornaments, and other objects are not allowed and will be removed because they are a risk to the groundskeepers and their machines.

Trustees' Meeting - Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the T.O.B.

Annual Meeting - Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the T.O.B.

For more information, contact a member of the Board of Corporators: Joe Andert, Bill Bibeault, Howard Budd, Audrey Carabeau, Carol Day, Jim Ellis, Tom Fabian, Scott Huri, Alex Kowalchuk, Faye Logee, Lincoln Phillips, Jim Vaida, Paul Vaida, or Trustees: Lauren Anderson, Herman Barlow, Ken Grube, Bev Lindemann, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson.

Eastford Readiness Council
 AKA Eastford's Preschool Program
 Jennifer Barlow
 12 Westford Rd
 Eastford, CT 06242
 (860)974-1130

Update

The Readiness Program had a wonderful turn out at the Winter Wonderland Activities. We hope that all who joined us had a great time. Mrs. Kopplin would like to invite all those non-students to come and get to know her and the school by having a time of stories and songs on March 16th.

We are currently accepting registration for the upcoming school year. If you would like a form please contact the school office or find the registration form on the school's website. Having accurate numbers helps the council with the registration process. For more information on the program please look on-line at the Program's handbook or by contacting the Head Teacher, Christine Kopplin at ckopplin@eastfordct.org or the Readiness Council Liaison, Jen Barlow, at jbarlow@eastfordct.org

Mark your calendar!

March 7: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (Eastford Elementary School Teacher's Lounge)

March 16: Stories and Songs (9:45 @ EES Library)

April 4: Readiness Council Meeting 6:00 (Eastford Elementary School Teacher's Lounge)




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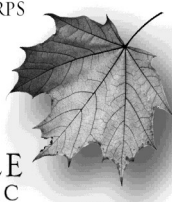
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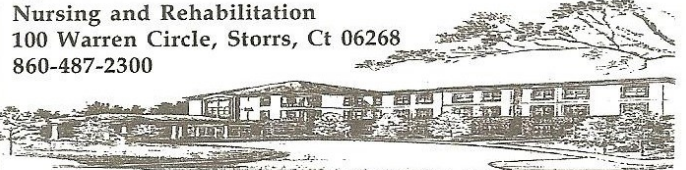


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Get Involved!

“Experience Eastford 2016”

A meeting will be held at 10 am on Wednesday, March 2nd at the Town Office Building to start planning the July 16th, 2016 “Experience Eastford” annual event. Coffee and baked goods will be available.

All citizens are welcome to join in and to provide input on what activities you would like to see on that day. Please come to the meeting with your ideas, or email your ideas before March 2nd to Terry Cote at Selectmen@townofeastford.com.

ATTENTION

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

E-mail: eastford.communicator@gmail.com

Deadline: 2nd Wednesday of each Month

Eastford Communicator Volunteers

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

All items for The Eastford Communicator must include submitter’s name, address & telephone, for verification. All items submitted are subject to editing. The Communicator reserves the right to reject any submissions. Opinions expressed are those of the submitters and not necessarily those of The Communicator. The Communicator will not print items it regards as offensive or slanderous.

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!**

Your Name: _____

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THANK YOU!

The Volunteer Staff of The Communicator



March 13, 2016


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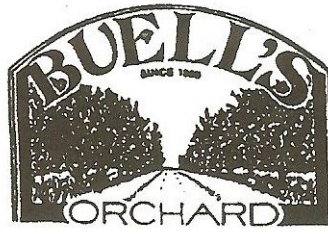
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