

The Eastford Communicator

Selectman's Snippets:

Volunteers – It is so clear that volunteers are the heartbeat of our small rural town. Thank you to all volunteers who serve our community. Those who serve on Boards and Commissions are:

Agent for the Elderly: Michele Palulis

Agriculture Committee: John Lorusso-Chair, Terry Cote-Secretary, Amy Bowen, William Bradley, Arvind Shaw (Alt), 3 vacancies, 1 vacancy (Alt)

Burn Official: James Roy; **Assistant Burn Official:** Nate Fabian

Cable Advisory Board: Carol Davidge

Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC): Deb Lee-Co-Chair; Mary Ellen Ellsworth-Co-Chair; Frank Castagna, Thomas DeJohn, Tom Hughes, Anne Latham, Amanda Manso, Ed Parry, Michelle Poudrette, Adam Ryzinski, Paul Torcellini, Ralph Yulo, Jr.; Steve Broderick (Alt)

Subcommittee of CHPC-Clean Energy Task Force: Tom Hughes-Chair, Frank Castagna, Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Adam Ryzinski, Paul Torcellini

Crystal Pond Park Commission: Eastford representatives-David Barlow, Bill Bradley, Charles Lee, Rick Torgeson, Jim Trowbridge, (CPP is jointly owned by Towns of Eastford and Woodstock and has 10 Commission members: 5 from Eastford, 5 from Woodstock, staggered 2-year terms)

Emergency Management Director: Deb Richards

Emergency Management Advisory Council: Jacqueline Dubois, Ben Schmidt, Vacancy

Fire Marshall: Richard Whitehouse

Food Pantry Coordinators: Karen Broderick, Steve Broderick

Inland Wetlands Commission (IWWCC): Thomas DeJohn-Chair, Denis Day; Deborah Lee; Greg Roto, Robert Torcellini, Susan Welshman, Craig Whitehouse, Marcia Day (Alt).

MID NEROC Representative: Jim Trowbridge

Municipal Flood & Erosion Control Board: Denis Day, Jacqueline Dubois, Thomas Hughes, Rick Torgeson, Roger Wolfe

NE District Dept. of Health Rep: Deb Richards, Vacancy (Alt)

Planning Commission: Effie Vinal-Chair; Charles Lee-Vice Chair, Robert Torcellini, Denis Day (alt); Craig Whitehouse (Alt); Mary Scalise (Alt); Vacancy (Inland Wetlands Commission Representative); Vacancy.

Recreation Commission: Valerie Katkaveck-Chair, Michael Bilica, Paige Burgess, Tom Naughton, 5 vacancies

School Readiness Council: Maribeth Stearns-Liaison, Michelle Bibeault, Jacki Budd, Terry Cote, Catherine Depercio, Ashlyn Ellsworth, Christine Kopplin, Janelle Marengo, Lyn Moran, Jennifer Norman, Sue Shead.

Town Historian: Dagmar Noll



(continued page 2)

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Of Special Note:

Volunteers are urgently needed by the Eastford Independent Fire Co. No. 1—Eastford's First Responders! (p6)

Calendar of Town & Community Events (p 7)

Eastford Historical Quarterly (centerfold)

Youth Basketball & Adult Pickup Basketball (p2)

Disease Prevention w Linda Colangelo, March 28 (p8)

Creative Arts Evening, Cong. Church, March 30 (p10)

Plan now: Town-wide Tag Sale, May 18-19 (p10)

High School Seniors and College Students:

Scholarship Application Deadlines: MARCH 22 & APRIL 5:

Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut Scholarships

March 22 – Deadline for current & returning college students

April 5 – Deadline for high school seniors of any age.

Many are available for residents of any of the 42 towns in

the Foundation's service area, including for Agriculture,

Nursing & other fields; some are Eastford-only. Info:

<http://www.cfect.org/Scholarships/About-Our-Scholarships>

The Library has discount passes to destinations. The Last Green Valley has brochures, maps, and online information including a calendar of events (www.thelastgreenvalley.org).

Selectman’s Snippets—Thank you to Boards and Commissions (continued)

Transfer Station Committee: Jim Trowbridge-Chair, Norma Diulio, Bud Dumas, Helen Hollingsworth, John Paquin

Tree Warden: Dan Driscoll

Union Society Building Committee: Carol Davidge-Chair/Secretary, Ed Windecker-Vice Chair, Megan Calchera, Thomas DeJohn, Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Jean Hixson, Heather Parker, Chris Sardi

Veterans Memorial Committee: George Bean, Christopher Bowen, Charles Kernan, Harold Dumas, Russell Mayhew, Dave Olsen, John Paquin, Chad Therrien, Rick Torgeson, Jennifer Willich

Veterans Service Agent: Jennifer Willich

Elected Officials:

Board of Selectmen: First Selectman Jacqueline Dubois, Selectmen-Terry Cote, Robert Torcellini

Town Clerk: Melissa Vincent

Town Treasurer: Martha I. Burgess, Kimberly Cyr, Deputy Treasurer

Tax Collector: Christine Hustus

Board of Education: Christine Hustus-Chair, John Barlow, Stephen Bowen, Megan Calchera, Terry Cote, Robert Ellsworth, Gerald Marmat

Board of Assessment Appeals: Bette L. Danielson, Guy Grube, Robert Johnson

Constables: Charles Bowen, Michael D. Schultz, Kevin Shead, Arvind Shaw

Library Trustees: Dan Belanger-Chair, Barbara Aquila, Carol Barry, Amy Bowen, Rachel Budd, Kathleen Healey, Aubry Hines, Jim Trowbridge, Claire A. Williams

Registrars of Voters: Nancy Mayhew, Joyce Merlo

THANKS TO ALL! Anyone interested in volunteering in any capacity, perhaps an hour a month or more —whatever your time allows, please contact the Selectman’s Office (860) 974-0133 Ext 3.

Community – New phone directories are being delivered between 5/31/19 through 6/17/19. DexYP is providing towns advanced notice of the upcoming delivery. Residents can request to opt-out of future phone book deliveries by visiting www.YellowPagesOptOut.com Residents have until 3/25/19 to opt-out of the upcoming NORTHEAST CONNECTICUT directory.

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

It has been suggested to begin a study and explore concerns related to our Fire Department. I would like to extend an invitation to any resident interested in joining this ADHOC Committee to please contact the Selectmen’s Office (860) 974-0133 Ext 3.

Budget – – The BOS has been reviewing budget request from each department, agency and vendor affiliated with the Town of Eastford. We are working to provide a responsible financial budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

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. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

Emergency Management – Deb Richards is our local Emergency Management Director. She is a great asset to our town in emergency planning and preparedness. She can be contacted by email: emd@townofeastford.com or call (860) 974-0133 ext. 110.

Police Services – During the month of January, Troop D responded to 67 calls. These calls of service included; Accidents: 5; Criminal Invest: 2; Burglaries: 0; Larcenies: 0; Traffic Citations: 28; Written Warning: 6; DUI’s: 0; and Non Reportable Matters: 60.

Respectfully yours,

Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

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WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:30—8:30 PM

at EASTFORD ELEMENTARY GYM

BRING WHITE & DARK SHIRTS

E-mail Mike for more Information:

mbilica@gmail.com

Emergency Management News from Eastford's Emergency Management Director Deb Richards

NOTICE: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service Forecast Office, 445 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton MA 02780

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SKYWARN TRAINING in Eastford – Monday May 13th, 2019 – 7 to 9:30 PM

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Boston/Norton Massachusetts will be sponsoring a severe weather spotter training session, part of its SKYWARN program. The training session will be held at the Eastford Town office Building 16 Westford Road Eastford, CT on Monday May 13th, 2019 from 700 PM-930 PM.

The session is open to the public at no charge. Amateur Radio Operators, Emergency managers, police, fire, and other first responders are encouraged to attend. Everyone age 16 and older who stays to complete the training will be able to become trained NWS weather spotters.

The training session includes a two-hour and thirty-minute computer-based presentation, which discusses the development of thunderstorms, the criteria for “severe” thunderstorms, as well as the cloud features associated with severe thunderstorms and tornados. Additional information will be presented about winter storms and proper snow measurement and reporting of coastal flooding, river, stream, and urban flooding and rainfall measurements. The session will also present the procedure for reporting weather information to the National Weather Service. Safety procedures for the various forms of summer severe weather (severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning), winter storms, and flooding will also be covered in the training session. Anyone attending should bring a pen or pencil and bringing a notebook is optional. Use the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-training-class-eastford-ct-tickets-57278507558> to pre-register for the class as that is required. Contact KDICY-Rob Macedo at rmacedo@rcn.com for any questions or further info on the SKYWARN Training Class.

DID YOU KNOW? Eastford Historical Society

Did you know that Eastford opened its first public dump in the 1930's? Until then most rubbish generated by a family could be used as mulch or compost, but the age of canned and pre-packaged food was dawning, and with it, the problem of rubbish disposal. An ordinance was passed prohibiting roadside dumping, and a committee was formed to locate a site for a public dump. Land was rented for public dumping from Orlo Carpenter for \$10 per year, until 1939 when land was purchased for \$250 from First Selectman Lewin Newth. Years later another committee was formed, this time to bring the “Dump” into the 21st century, and in 1991 the Eastford Transfer Station was established.

The Historical Society seeks community support to continue its mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing documents and artifacts that tell the story of Eastford's unique history. Kindly consider supporting our mission by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Both volunteer and/or financial support would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be mailed to: Eastfor Historial Soicety, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.

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From The Principal's Desk By Carole McCombe

This winter has provided us with roller-coaster temperatures and related unpredictable weather conditions. Fortunately, we have only had one full snow day to this point that will need to be made up in June. During our last weather related delay, you may have been surprised by the three-hour delay announcement. This is something new that The Woodstock Academy has instituted this school year. If The Woodstock Academy calls a three-hour delay for high school students, it becomes impossible for us to continue with a two-hour delay, as our buses cannot transport both high school and elementary students at the same time. We plan to work with Rukstela Charters and hope to have an alternative solution for next school year. In the mean time, we will announce delays and closings as early as possible so families can plan. We share these announcements on the school website and on WFSB, WVIT and on WINY radio. We appreciate that weather related delays and closings are an inconvenience for working families, but be assured that the safety of all of our students is of utmost importance.

On March 1, students and staff celebrated Read Across America Day. Students dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss character, teachers decorated their classroom doors with book related themes and we welcomed student athletes from The Woodstock Academy who read to students in all grade levels. Students in grades 4-8 were also treated to a presentation from Sam Du-charme. Sam is the author of Sole Searching on the Appalachian Trail. He provided an engaging presentation to students that chronicled his experience through hiking the Appalachian Trail. His message was one of perseverance and determination – good qualities for students to emulate! Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to reinforce the importance and passion of reading at all ages and stages of life.

I would like to remind families that March 8 is a professional development day for staff so students will not have school that day. Second trimester report cards will be issued on March 20 and parent-teacher conferences will be held in the evening on March 21 and in the afternoon on March 22. March 22 will be an early dismissal day for students. In the month of March we can look forward to daylight savings time and longer daylight hours!

Ode to the Pollinators

By Candy Mead, Science Teacher grades 3 - 8

At Eastford Elementary School, the students understand the importance of pollinators and take the business of caring for them very seriously. According to the USDA Forest Service, although wind and water play a role in pollination, animals are responsible for pollinating over 80% of the world's flowering plants. Without them, humans and wildlife wouldn't have much to eat. Examples of animals that assist plants in their reproduction as pollinators include ants, bats, bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, flies, moths, wasps. The purpose of the pollinator garden space at EES, which was designed, built and is maintained by students, is to help the animals that help us.

The triangle-shaped space west of the parking lot gets plenty of sunshine to support the many varieties of perennials and annuals in the garden. There is a section of milkweed designed specifically for the Monarch butterflies on their long migration south to Mexico. There are two sections of strawberry species placed there for birds to eat (no cheesecloth mesh protecting these berries), and a section of sunflowers for the squirrels to enjoy. It is particularly amusing to see the squirrels scamper up the stalks in the fall to get to the sunflower seeds, only to have the stalk bend under the weight, sending the critter straight back down to the ground. The squirrels are certainly determined and resilient in their efforts, and we always pick one of the sunflowers so that we can save the seeds over winter to plant the following spring.

Many species of bees are fed by the nectar from several flowering herbs and decorative plants, such as chives, catnip, and morning glory. In 2016, seven types of bees were placed on the endangered species list by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, but the problem, and therefore the efforts to help, are worldwide. For example, according to Daniel Boffey (in The Guardian 10.16.18), a team of scientists in the Netherlands (where half of the bee population is threatened) has developed a tiny drone by studying how flies can hover, rotate, flip, and fly in all directions. This technology could be in use to pollinate crops, especially in greenhouses, within five to 10 years, according to the article.

At school, however, students are taking a less-techy, very hands-on approach to helping our environment. We provide the plants that the pollinators need, tend the plants by hand without herbicides, and spread information and enthusiasm all around. We even leave some "weeds", because we know that those flowers are important. "Weed" is a word invented by gardeners that means *something we didn't plant and don't want*, but insects want and need all flowers. Now that spring is around the corner, EES students will spend some time outside working, learning, and growing (in more ways than one!)

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Superintendent's Report

By Dr. Donna P. Leake, Superintendent

February was the time for exchanging hearts, flowers and acts and words of kindness at EES. February was also the month for the EES Geography Bee. Having served as a volunteer at the State Level Bee event, it was very special for me to be part of the audience at this "grass roots" level. Congratulations are extended to students Robert Ellsworth for his first-place finish and to Alexis Laskoski for her second-place finish. During the week of February 11th, EES was among the few to have school on Tuesday and a three-hour delay on Wednesday. Although I am not particularly fond of shortened days, or to quote a common phrase "getting a day in", we do need to be cognizant of the need to attain a minimum 900-hour/180-day school year. Also, since the majority of our high school students do attend Woodstock Academy we attempt as much as possible to remain consistent with the decisions made by the administration of Woodstock and the other sending schools. Monitoring the track of the storm for Tuesday provided the information needed for a safe dismissal of our students at 11:00AM. The 3-hour delay on Wednesday was a deviation from our typical 2-hour delay. Woodstock Academy initiated the 3-hour delay this year and we tried it for the first time on February 13th. Based on this experience, we are reviewing the feasibility of continuing with a 3-hour delay in the future. I would like to thank families, the school staff and our bus company staff for working together to make these days as safe and productive as possible for our students.

Board of Education Highlights: (1) The BOE approved the 2019-2020 EES calendar which is posted on the EES website: <https://www.eastfordct.org/domain/78>. The key differences between the approved Woodstock Academy calendar and the approved EES calendar, with respect to student days, include: (1) WA will be in session a half day for students on August 30 (Woodstock Fair Day); (2) EES will not be in session; (3) WA will be in session on Veteran's Day; (4) EES will not be in session but will hold a PD for staff; (5) WA will return from break on January 6; (6) EES will return on January 2. (2). The 2019-20 proposed Board of Education budget reflects a 3% increase from the 2018-19 approved BOE budget. This proposed budget was reviewed by the BOS on Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30PM. The BOE will review the feedback provided by the BOS at its March 14th meeting. (3) The BOE approved a slightly revised 2019-31 Capital Projects Plan. Robert Ellsworth, the BOE facilities committee representative, attended the LoCIP meeting on Saturday, February 9th at the Town Hall, during which time the capital projects list was reviewed. The approved BOE plan has been submitted it to the BOS for review. The next proposed project on the capital plan is the conversion from steam heat to hot water heat. In the short time I have been here, EMCOR has been called in to do two significant repairs to our heating system. Past history shows multiple repairs to this system have been needed.

Eastford School Readiness Council

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

A new system for evaluation of preschoolers went into place this year, to comply with the School Readiness Grant's policy of two reports of progress for each child to be done annually. Eastford had been using three report cards, corresponding to the school's procedures. The first of the two report cards being introduced this year went home in January. Conferences will be realigned next year to correspond to this new schedule. A conference will be held in the Fall to discuss how children are doing and to answer questions parents may have about this new experience for the families and children. A second conference will then be scheduled to correspond to the first report card.

The renewal grant for School Readiness will be done this Spring. We are asking that any programs located in Eastford contact us if you are interested in becoming a part of this State sponsored child care initiative. You can get information about how to pursue this by contacting Maribeth Stearns, SRC Liaison at mstearns@eastfordct.org.



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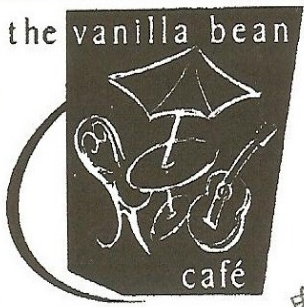
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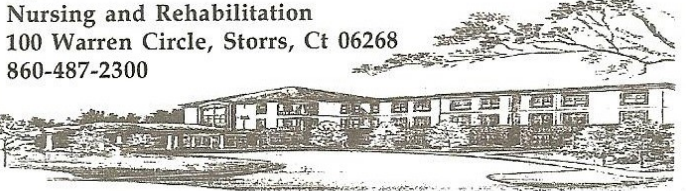
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EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC By Jeannine Spink, Secretary

Condolences to the family of Pat Day, who passed away recently. Pat served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary for a number of years. Under her leadership, the Auxiliary played a big part in the building and outfitting of today's firehouse with needed equipment, organizing many fundraisers and always leading a support system for fires providing food. She has earned her own fire department memorial flag that will wave alongside her husband Warren's flag. There are a few original Auxiliary members remaining in Eastford. No need to wait until their passing to thank them for their dedication and a job well done for the EIFC.

Mark your calendars: The spring "All You Can Eat" Steak Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2019 beginning at 6:30 at the firehouse. All dinners are \$20.00. The Menu consists of: Top quality steak, baked potato, salad, green beans, rolls, dessert, beverage and a FREE Raffle ticket. To reserve your dinner, please call John Paquin at 974-0256 or Jeannine Spink at 974-1678.

Winter is still here with more snow, ice and cold temperatures to come. Fire prevention and safety thoughts we must all consider:

-It is no surprise there are more home fires in the winter months than any other season. People are heating their homes during the winter and heating is the second leading cause of home fire. Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 7 reported home fires and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths. Improper disposal of ashes contributes to a large number of fires.

-Cooking is, by far, the leading cause of home fires and injuries.

-Have you considered purchasing and installing "talking" smoke/fire detectors? A new study shows that maternal voice smoke alarms are more effective in waking children than conventional tone alarms.

-Each day on the news there are reports of home fire fatalities. These early reports provide only basic information about what happened, such as how many fatalities, when and where the fire happened, and the type of home, apartment or mobile home. Most fires require investigations that can take weeks or months to complete, but press never make a follow-up broadcast to inform the communities the "cause".

JOIN THE FIGHT!! - Fire is everyone's fight to unite the fire service, life safety organizations and professionals in an effort to reduce home fire injuries, deaths and property loss. The goal is to change how people think about fire and fire prevention.

FIRE SAFETY QUICK TIPS:

Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food.

Keep space heaters 3 feet from anything that can burn.

Inspect electrical cords and replace or repair loose or damaged cords.

Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Prepare and practice a home fire escape plan.

Install smoke alarms – test monthly – change batteries when you change the clocks.

REMEMBER: CARBON MONOXIDE IS THE "SILENT KILLER" The colorless, odorless and tasteless gas is a byproduct of burning organic fuels., i.e., household appliances and equipment fueled with gas, oils, coal, kerosene or wood. Examples are furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, cars, charcoal grills, lanterns, clothes dryers, ovens, fireplaces, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning often mimic the flu – headache, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness and loss of muscle control. Severe symptoms can lead to convulsions, unconsciousness and possible death. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, leave your home right away, do not open windows or doors and call 911 for your local fire department to respond and test for the source of the carbon monoxide exposure.

A FEW RESPONSIBLE, COMMON SENSE PRECAUTIONS WILL KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.

News You Can Use by Deb Richards/EMD

Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related crime.

This includes, but is not limited to:

-Unusual items or situations:

A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package/luggage is unattended, a window/door is open that is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations occur.

-Eliciting information:

A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about a building's purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.

-Observation/surveillance:

Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.

Some of these activities could be innocent—it's up to law enforcement to determine whether the behavior warrants investigation. Public safety is everyone's responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to local law enforcement or a person of authority.

Describe specifically what you observed, including:

-Who or what you saw;

-When you saw it;

-Where it occurred; and

-Why it's suspicious.

Do you pay attention to your surroundings? Take the challenge. **Cut and paste the following link to your browser.**

<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/take-challenge>.

If there isn't an authority nearby, call 1-866-HLS-TIPS (1-866-457-8477). It's a free call and it's available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Sometimes, something suspicious can turn into an emergency situation, requiring a more urgent response. If you believe there is immediate danger, do not hesitate to call 911.

Scout Troop 92 Report

In January the Troop participated in the Nipmuck District Klondike Derby. Two overnights of winter camping. The theme of the Klondike was "On the Trail of Sasquatch." Over 300 Scouts and leaders participated in this annual event. Troop 92 from Ashford/Eastford placed 3rd place at the Skagway First Aid test. They got an honorable mention for their sled design. They cooked soup on the trail and had hearty meals back at the campfire. February 1st the Cub Scout Pack held their annual Blue and Gold meeting. In February, the Troop followed up with a "Tropical Vacation" event. We enjoyed the facility at the Mansfield Community Center, Using the warm swimming pool and the teen game room. Everyone who showed up had fun. One of the leaders is still the undefeated Foosball champion. The annual Scout rechartering for 2019 is now complete. We can now focus on another year of exciting activities for Scouts. Scouting promotes leadership skills, teamwork and communication. It also builds self-confidence and self-reliance in our youth. Please support Scouting. They are our future leaders.

Upcoming Activities: March 2 Saturday, at 10.00 AM, Pinewood Derby. Cub Scout race gravity race cars. Don't miss the excitement!; April 1 Monday, 7:00 PM Troop committee meeting at St Philip's Rec Center.

Most Scout meetings are Thursday Evenings at 7:00 PM at Knowlton Memorial Hall next to Cumberland Farms store. New members and visitors are welcome. Nord Yakovleff Ast Sct Mstr, Cory Blanchette Scout Master

March, 2019 Calendar

- 2 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 4 Youth Bball, EES, 6-7pm
BOS, TOB, 7pm
- 5 School Readiness Council, EES, 5:30pm
Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm
Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 6 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Writers Workshop, Coriander, 2pm
Crystal Pond Park Commission, Woodstock T.H., 6pm
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 8 Board of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 7pm
- 9 Board of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 9am
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 11 Youth Bball, EES, 6-7pm
- 12 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 13 Writers Workshop, Coriander, 2pm
Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 14 BOE, EES, 7pm
- 15 Special BOS, TOB, 1pm
- 16 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 18 Communicator Deadline
Youth Bball, EES, 6-7pm
- 19 Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 20 Writers Workshop, Coriander, 2pm
Recreation Commission, TOB, 4:30pm
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 21 Grove Cemetery Trustees, Library, 7:30pm
- 22 Scholarship Application Deadlines
- 23 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 25 Youth Bball, EES, 6-7pm
American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 27 Special BOS, TOB, 9am
Writers Workshop, Coriander, 2pm
Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5pm - 7pm
Adult Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 28 Senior Citizens, TOB, 11am
Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 30 Creative Arts Evening, Cong. Church, 6:30-8pm
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm

Tips for Today by Liz Ellsworth Happy March!

Celebrate Earth Hour on Saturday, March 30 from 8:30-9:30pm. This global conservation effort encourages individuals, families, towns, cities, communities, businesses, and civic groups to turn off non-essential lights for ONE hour. Organizers wish to highlight how much energy is consumed worldwide. What might each one of us do to lower the amount of electricity we use, and how do these actions protect our planet? To learn more about Earth Hour, visit: www.earthhour.org/celebrate-the-hour

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EASTFORD FOOD PANTRY: THANKS AGAIN TO A CARING, GENEROUS COMMUNITY

The Food Pantry would like to thank 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 the Eastford PTO and to Rick & Linda Torgeson for their generous donations to our pantry. 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.

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.

Any Eastford resident 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.

Eastford's 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. 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. **Michele Ann Palulis, Esq. – Eastford Municipal Agent for the Aged**

Eastford Seniors By Edward Desmond, Secretary
 AAAAHH!! Big stretches, after a long winter's nap. Coming up for March...The Publick House in Sturbridge is putting on it's **Irish Feast Fundraiser for the Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC)** and others on **Monday, March 11th, for the 4:30 seating**. This is a Drive Yourself event, so pack the car. This is an **All-You-Can-Eat** Corned Beef and Cabbage, all the fixin's, so have your belly ready to be packed full. PLEASE RSVP Call/text 860-538-8868 to join in, tickets must be purchased by March 9 for this event. Tickets for adults are \$14, ESC members \$10, kids \$5. No tax, No seat.

The first ESC meeting of the year will be held **Thursday, March 28, from 11 to 2**, at the Eastford Town Hall, with **Linda J. Colangelo**, Education and Communications Coordinator for the Northeast District Department of Health will discuss **Lyme Disease Prevention, other tick-bourne & mosquito-bourne illnesses & rabies prevention**. Admission is \$7, includes Lunch, and again RSVP before Mon., March 25, call/text 860-538-8868!! Can't wait to see all of your shining happy faces again, and get the ball rolling for this year. See you there! On **Monday, April 11, from 11-2 PM**, the ESC will be at Eastford Town Hall and joined by **Chief Ranger Bill Reid**, of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. Admission is \$7, includes Lunch. PLEASE RSVP Call/text 860-538-8868!! We'll also chat about upcoming events, like Oliver's in July, and a few other things in the works. Bring your calendars!!

The **2019 AARP Driver Safety course** is **Fridays from 9 AM - 1 PM on March 1, April 5, & May 3**, call 860-774-1243 to reserve your seat, cost \$15 AARP Members or \$20 for Non-Members. Join us in the Meeting Room at the Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Center, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, Connecticut. In addition, there will be a **Living Wills and Advanced Directives Workshop** on **March 26 at 10:15 AM**. Tammy Harris, a retired Elder Law Attorney will present this workshop. Please call 860-774-1243 to sign up.

Prevent disease and stay fit. A positive outlook can reduce stress & may benefit your overall health. Stay social. It can brighten your outlook. Find things meaningful to do. If you feel depressed or anxious, talk with your doctor (from QV Healthy Aging). Oh, and don't forget, you can always touch base by calling/texting 860-538-8868 or email ESC06242@aol.com Signing off for now...be safe, healthy, kind, and most of all, Have Some Fun!!

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HAPPY SPRING! MARCH 21

Spring is almost at our door! Longer and warmer days are right around the corner! The Eastford Public Library will be sponsoring a **magic show** during school vacation week on **Monday April 15th at 4:00PM**. No registration is needed for this event. Call the library at 860-974-0125 for more details.

Some of our newest magazines available at the library are Discover, Scientific American, Eating Well and The Week. Of course we still have old favorites like People, The New Yorker, Better Homes and Gardens, Good Housekeeping, Time and Weight Watchers just to name a few. Here at the Eastford Public Library the latest issues can be checked out.

The downstairs project at the library is almost complete. However, all of the library books in the downstairs collection are still being housed elsewhere. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused our library patrons. Thank you for your continued patience in this matter. If you are looking for a particular book that is not here at the moment we can put in an inter-library loan for you. Just ask at the circulation desk.

Tax forms (both federal and state) are no longer available at the library. Patrons can go online at www.irs.gov and print the forms themselves.

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. We also have 20% off general admission coupons to The Connecticut Science Center.

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

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**The Future is NOW!
From Eastford's Clean Energy Task Force
by Frank Castagna**

Are you aware that the average driver travels 12K miles per year - 33 miles per day? If this is you, perhaps you should be considering an electric vehicle.

Among the operating advantages are instant torque (power available), and low maintenance. Required maintenance by an owner is: Replacement of cabin air filter and wiper blades, brake fluid changes, and tire upkeep. At this time, the normal eight-year warranty on the battery is transferable with car ownership. There are presently battery chargers in our area in Stafford Springs, Mansfield, Windham, Putnam and Pomfret; specific locations can be found online. For added convenience, a home charger can be purchased in a wide range of prices and features.

New electric vehicles depreciate relatively quickly because of continuous innovations and advancements; however, pre-owned cars can be purchased at considerable savings. An example is an offering on cars.com for 2015 Nissan Leaf models, priced from \$11,900 to \$14,200.

While fossil fuel vehicles discharge, via exhaust, about 33% of the energy produced, electric vehicles have zero emissions. In consideration toward conservation of natural resources and a more positive impact on the environment, the worldwide trend is a move toward replacing fossil-fueled vehicles with electric vehicles.

What are your thoughts about installing a charger in Eastford?

Save money, save the planet!

Creative Arts Night

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: Congregational Church of Eastford, 8 Church Rd, Eastford

The Congregational Church of Eastford is hosting a Creative Arts Night on Saturday, March 30, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM. This is a free, community-wide, all age event. Community members are invited to share their family-friendly creativity, such as drawing, poetry, quilting, knitting, photography, sculpture, singing, storytelling, etc. All non-participating community members are invited to come enjoy the presentations. Refreshments will be provided. For information and to register, please visit www.cceastford.org/events.

“Beyond the Gold” Sports Camp

July 22 – 26, 2019

8:30 am – 12:15 pm

\$50 per camper!

Sports Camp for kids ages 4 - 12 years old is to be held at the Eastford Elementary School the week of July 22 - 26, 2019 from 8:30 am - 12:15 pm each day. Only \$50/camper for the week! Soccer, basketball, and cheerleading (girls only) offered, as well as Team 45 skills camp for ages 4 and 5 (sports skill development program which includes activities like running, kicking, throwing, catching, jumping, dribbling, etc.). Sponsored by Congregational Church of Eastford, Eastford Baptist Church, and Living Proof Church. Christian college student athletes from Uncharted Waters run the program with the assistance of trained church community volunteers. Quality sports instruction. Positive role models. Daily Bible times and Take-Home studies. Skits and fun. Every camper receives a Camp T-Shirt and Daily Collector's Pin. Campers encouraged to bring their own balls for maximum playing time. Online signup coming soon at www.cceastford.org/events/.

Community Cupcake Wars!

By Cupcake Wars Coordinators: Robin Sabad and Allison Gormley

The third annual community-wide Cupcake Wars was held on February 9 at the Congregational Church of Eastford. Contestants from Eastford and neighboring towns competed in two divisions, Junior (age 15 and younger) and Senior (age 16 and older) for the best recipe and for the best display of their cupcakes. Judges were leaders of the Community. Jacqueline Dubois (Selectman for the Town of Eastford), Carole McCombe (Eastford Elementary School Principal), Sheryl Spink (Eastford Independent Fire Co.), and Jen Lindsay (Ashford School Grades 7/8 Language Arts teacher) met the challenge of judging the stiff competition. Awards were given to first place and runner up in each category and division. A People's Choice Award was also given based on attendees voting for their favorite in each division.

Junior Division

Best Recipe: 1st place – Brooklyn Gervasio of Woodstock;

Runner Up – Molly Rourke of Ashford

Best Display: 1st place – Porter Barlow of Eastford;

Runner Up – Linnea Barlow of Eastford

People's Choice: Brooklyn Gervasio of Woodstock

Senior Division

Best Recipe: 1st place – Cindy Labbe of Eastford;

Runner Up – Sandra Grossi of Eastford

Best Display: 1st place – Cindy Labbe of Eastford;

Runner Up – Zoe Marshall of Eastford

People's Choice: Melissa DeKoster of Columbus, OH

Family, friends, and community residents attended the event. All had the pleasure of tasting some very delicious cupcakes and viewing some fantastically decorated! It was a wonderful time of catching up with old and making new friends. As judge Jen Lindsay stated, it was "a wonderful day of creativity, talent and bursting flavors!"

The Town is selling 6 used computers for \$150 each. Please inquire in the Selectmen's Office.

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Notice

Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc.

1. 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 the 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.**

2. Landscaping/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.

3. Trustees' Meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30p.m. at the Ivy Glenn Library.

4. Board of Corporators Annual Meeting: Monday, **April 8, 2019 at 7:00pm** at the **TOB.**

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

operation. Questions? Call (860) 974-1349. You may also visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>

Kindly consider assisting the nonprofit Eastford Grove Cemetery Assn. in its pursuit of efficient perpetual care of the Grove Cemetery.

Yes, I would like to help.

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Send to: Eastford Grove Cemetery Assoc., Inc. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242

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

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The Volunteer Staff of The Communicator

ATTENTION: All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to E-mail: 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

Woodstock Academy Honor Roll

High Honors

Anna Kellermann (9), Lily Patenaude (10), Izetta Asikainen (11), Paula Hernandez Aulet (11), Zoe Marshall (11), and Madelyn Grube (12)

Honors

Henry Driscoll (9), Cedric Bilica (10), Emme Miglietta (10), Gavin Miller (10), Kayla Gaudreau (11), Nicole Marmat (12), and Luke Mathewson (12)

Recognition

Jordan Chiles (9), Kamila Wysocki (9), Amanda Hair (10), Clayton Singleton (10), and Ely Driscoll (12)

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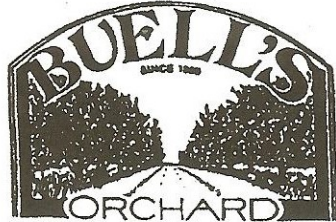
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