

### Selectman's Snippets:

**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 2020/21 year. The climate of the state makes this a very challenging task.

**Community** – The Recreation Committee is reaching out to the community for those holding interest in Heritage Day. All crafters are invited to put up a tent. The Recreation page has details.

-The 2020 Census is coming! We encourage everyone to participate. Please visit our website for “What you need to know.”



-Please visit our website at [www.eastford.org](http://www.eastford.org). We welcome you to visit our website to learn what is new!

-March 29<sup>th</sup> is the Natchaug Epic bicycle ride through Eastford.

-Old Colony Road needs immediate attention. I am working with NECCOG to apply for a reimbursement of funds from both federal and state to replace and repair this road from 44 to 198. The pre-application is complete. The next step is to apply. I plan to keep you informed as we go with this rather large and time-consuming project.

**“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](http://williwaste.com) click Recycling, scroll down to the question; Can I recycle it? After you type in an item the instructions are provided. We have a list available on 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](mailto:emd@townofeastford.com) or call (860) 974-0133 ext. 110.

**Police Services** – During the month of January Troop D responded to 36 calls. These calls of service included Accidents: 1, Criminal Invest: 0, Burglaries: 0, Larcenies 0, Traffic Citations: 6, Written Warning: 0, DUI’S: 0, and Non-Reportable Matters: 35.

Respectfully Yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

### THANK YOU DONORS!

*The Communicator needs your donations.  
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printing & postage costs rise.*

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**March 2: EES students  
celebrate Dr. Seuss. Students  
encouraged to dress as their  
favorite book character (p.2).  
SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS are due in  
March (p.3)  
Calendar of Events (p.8)  
Eastford Historical Quarterly  
(centerfold)**



**HERITAGE DAY: MAY 2, 2-6pm. NEXT PLANNING MEEETING MARCH 8, 3pm, TOB. (See p.6 ) Below (l-r): Paige Burgess & Catherine DePercio, co-chairs, Jennifer Barlow, Mike Moran, Laura Barlow. ALL INVITED.**



**Superintendent’s Report by Donna Leake, Ph.D.**

During the month of February, staff and students shared many special thoughts of kindness and appreciation via the heart filled bulletin board created by Ms. Murana, the EES school counselor. February was also the month for the grades 5 and 6 D.A.R.E graduation and the schoolwide Geography Bee. During both of these events our students exhibited respect for each other’s accomplishments and appreciation of the staff that made the events possible. A special note of recognition is due to the first place, Robert Ellsworth, and second place, Jacob Murphy, finalists of the Geography Bee.

Consistent with this spirit of appreciation, special thanks are due to the members of the Building Committee, chaired by Paul Torcellini, that have been working on the steam heat to hot water conversion project. The members of this committee demonstrate the commitment to community service which is a source of great pride for the residents of Eastford. Through their efforts the Request for Proposals for the next phase of the heating conversion project was approved by the BOS and is now advertised with a due date of March 2 for submission of applications.

March is the month set aside to show appreciation for those community members who elect to serve on a Board of Education. They are Steven Bowen (chair) Terry Cote (Vice Chair) Lauren Skiff (Secretary) Adam Minor Robert Ellsworth, Megan Calchera, Jessica Perry. Our Board subcommittees met several times during the month of February to develop a 2020-21 BOE budget, revise the long-term facilities plan, and review applications for the five-year bus contract that will commence in 2020-21. At its February meeting, based on recommendations of the BOE subcommittees, the BOE took several important actions: Approved the 2020-21 BOE Budget for submission to the BOS; approved the 2020-21 revisions to the BOE Long Term Facilities plan for submission to the BOS; awarded a 5-year contract for regular and special education transportation services to EastConn. The BOE also changed the date of its March meeting from March 12 to March 19.

Of special note, graduating seniors and current college students that are Eastford residents are encouraged to review the list of scholarships, available through the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut (see p. 3). Applications can be found at: <https://www.cfect.org/Scholarships/Apply-for-a-Scholarship>. Also, if any community member is interested in contributing to an existing scholarship or creating a new one, information can be found at: <https://www.cfect.org/Donors/Giving-Options>.

As always, I look forward to meeting with residents of the Eastford Community. Please contact me at [dleake@eastfordct.org](mailto:dleake@eastfordct.org)

**From The Principal’s Desk** by Carole McCombe  
Students and staff at Eastford Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Day on March 2. All grades focused on reading related activities and some students and staff dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss or other book characters. Student athletes from The Woodstock Academy came to read with classes and special guest readers were invited to read with students. Each day during the week of March 2 was celebrated by a different Dr. Seuss theme! Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to reinforce the importance of and passion for reading at all ages and stages of life. I would like to remind families that March 6 is a professional development day for staff so students will not have school that day. Second trimester report cards will be issued on March 25 and parent-teacher conferences will be held in the evening on April 2 and in the afternoon on April 3. The PTO will sponsor the spring Scholastic Book Fair during the week of March 30. This will be a BOGO event with viewing days on March 30 and March 31 and shopping/purchasing days on April 1 thru April 3. April 3 will be an early dismissal day so teachers can conference with parents about student progress. In the month of March we can also look forward to daylight savings time and longer daylight hours! Spring is just around the corner!

**Eastford Elementary School students celebrate Read Across America Day on March 2.** This day is in honor of the famous author and illustrator, Dr. Seuss, and is celebrated on his birthday (March 2). All students are encouraged to dress as their favorite book character for the day. They will enjoy stories read by guest readers from The Woodstock Academy, participate in a "Switch-a-roo" activity where they choose to participate in a book-related activity from any classroom Pre-K to 8, and are treated to a K-9 story read by Officer Rhodes from the UCONN Police Department. Each grade level also plans their own reading-related classroom activities to make this a fun filled day of reading celebration for all students. To quote Dr. Seuss, "Oh the places you'll go" with a good book!

**Eastford School Readiness Program** by Maribeth Stearns, Liaison  
Although it’s been a mild winter, preschoolers and staff are all looking forward to spring and spending more time outside. They will be exploring their environments, taking walks and looking for signs of spring! Eastford preschoolers have kept busy with walks to the public library, learning phonics through a new program called Zoo Phonics and continuing to develop in all academic areas. This month, a second family event will be held, called Books and Blocks. All current families are invited, as well as families with children who will be attending preschool the fall of 2020. This is a great way for families to become familiar with staff and the school and to get to know other children that will be in the program. Needs assessment surveys were mailed out in January. If you have one that you have not completed and returned, please send it to the office. If you did not receive one, but have a child turning 3 or 4 during the 2020 – 2021 school year, please contact the school at 860-974-1130.

**Scout Troop 92 Report**  
In January, 100% of Troop 92 participated in the Klondike Derby winter campout with two overnights outdoors. Over 400 individuals were there in this regional event. The Troop also visited Mansfield’s Community Center for a “Tropical Vacation,” enjoying the pool and the teen game room after swimming. Cub Scouts had a Pack overnight at Worcester, Mass Ecotarium, science and environment center. Troop and Pack attended church services in uniform for Scout Sunday, Feb 23. Upcoming Activities: **Thursdays at Scout meetings: Registered Nurse Ray Green will present First Aid Merit Badge instruction. First Aid is a good thing to know. It is also one of the requirements for advancement to Eagle Scout, the highest Scout rank. March 2,** 7pm, Committee meeting at St Philip’s Rec Hall; **March 6,** Set up for Pinewood Derby; **March 7, Pinewood Derby.** Gravity powered race cars Cub Scout competition; **March 21,** Cub Scouts Applebee’s Pancake breakfast fundraiser; **March 30,** 7pm Committee meeting at St Philip’s Rec Hall. Scout Troop meetings are most Thursday evenings at 7pm at Knowlton Memorial Hall, next to Cumberland Farms store. New members and visitors are welcome. Nord Yakovleff, Ast Sct Mstr, Cory Blanchette, Scout Master

**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 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Library to select delegates for the various Republican Conventions.  
Attest: Daniel Belanger, Chairman , February 8, 2020

**Legal Notice**  
**Town of Eastford**  
**Democratic Caucus**  
Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Democratic electors of the town of Eastford on Wednesday, March 25th at 7 p.m. at the Eastford Public Library to select delegates for the various Democratic Conventions.  
Attest: Megan Calchera, Chairperson, February 12, 2020

### Scholarships for Eastford Students

The Town of Eastford encourages all Eastford students pursuing post-secondary education to apply for scholarships. A special group of Eastford-only scholarships are managed by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. In addition, Eastford students are potentially eligible for many additional scholarships that are managed by the Foundation. The online application is at <https://www.cfct.org/Scholarships/Apply-for-a-Scholarship>. The **deadline** for submitting an online application is **March 23** for current and non-traditional college students, **April 6** for high school seniors. The Town of Eastford's Board of Education Scholarship Committee continues its more than sixty year responsibility for evaluating applications and recommending scholarship awards for the seven Eastford-only scholarships. The Foundation identifies potential matches between Eastford students and the other scholarship funds under their management. A larger listing of potential scholarships is posted on the Eastford School website: <https://www.eastfordct.org/>

Please consider donating to the scholarships which have been established for Eastford students and managed by the Foundation:

**The Dennis Barlow Scholarship**, given to a student interested in the fields of science, engineering, or pre-medical studies. Requirements are academic achievement and good character; financial need is considered. (\$1,600\*)

**The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship**, awarded to a student interested in studying History at any accredited two- or four-year college, university, or educational institution, and who also has manifested academic achievement and demonstrated good character via integrity, industriousness, and seriousness of purpose. Financial need is considered. **The Esther and Lucie Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship**, given to a student interested in any field of study but with special consideration given to non-traditional students returning to academia at any accredited two- or four-year college, university, or educational institution. Requirements are academic achievement and good character as demonstrated via integrity, industriousness, and seriousness of purpose. Financial need is considered. (\$1,000\*) **The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship**, to a student interested in any field of study and is based on scholastic ability and good character for study at any accredited two- or four-year institution or other accredited institution. Financial need is a consideration. (\$600\*) **The Mary King Sharpe Memorial Business Scholarship**, given for the study of Business at an accredited two- or four-year institution offering a business degree; must indicate school of choice in application. The student must be in good academic standing, financial need is not a consideration.

**The Emil Vaida Scholarship** goes to a student interested in any field of study at any accredited two- or four-year institution or other accredited institution. Financial need is considered. (\$250\*) **The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial** goes to a student who is in good academic standing to pursue any field of study at any accredited two- or four-year institution or other accredited institution. Financial need is considered. (\$2,000\*) **The Eastford General Scholarship** includes a non-endowed fund, from which all donations are used for scholarship awards each year, and a companion endowed fund, which will award scholarships to Eastford students in perpetuity. There is no minimum (or maximum) amount for individual donations. Donations, large and small, add up to meaningful support. Everyone contributing to these funds will be recognized in the year of their donation. Information can be found at: <https://www.cfct.org/Donors/Giving-Options>. Call for more information: 860.442.3572. \*Approximate amount of award.

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### Teacher Report - Second Grade by Laurie Bardsley 118 Postcards from around the world!

Thanks to all who sent postcards! The class collected 118 postcards. Our initial goal was to have 100 by the 100th day of school (February 6). We exceeded our goal by the end of January. Lauren Skiff initiated and launched the project. On the 100th day, using maps of the world, we located the states and countries where the cards were mailed. More than 31 countries and 26 states are represented. Now we are researching



the states/countries, using a collection of books from the classroom as well as many provided by our librarian, Mrs. Boyd. This will be an ongoing project for the class. From early on in the school year, this class showed an exceptional interest in maps, so geography for sure! It all came about when we were learning about rural, urban, and suburban areas. We started with discussing Eastford, then Hartford, and the towns just outside of Hartford. From there we discussed the big map of the United States, Then, when I pulled the big map of the world down, it was as if a portal had been opened! Their eyes lit up and their enthusiastic quest for knowledge of other places on the map has not waned. Some came from past students, relatives, friends...and total strangers. Word flew "around the world", via Face Book and people just passing on the information other ways, phone, emails. I can tell you that Dale Lundy's son sent us one from Vietnam. Dale is our afternoon custodian. Two of my friends, Russian and German, sent postcards. A former student who works in Washington, DC sent one. The Barlow family and the Murphy family had relatives send them. Mrs. Kathy Lundy, married to Dale, put the word out to many people. I am sure I am not recalling everyone, but thanks to all.

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**EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC**

Mark your calendars: The spring “All You Can Eat” Steak Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 beginning at 6:30 in 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. There are no takeout dinners, or tickets sold at the door. To reserve your dinner, call the firehouse at 860-974-0630, leave a message and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

As reported in the 2020 January Communicator, 2019 was the highest number of “911” calls at 213, recorded in EIFC history. With 7 calls for January, 2020, the EIFC had a slight reprieve from responses. Routine meetings and drills were held through the month. On December 18, 2019, members Active and Veteran, along with their families enjoyed an evening of relaxation, good food, and camaraderie. Children of members enjoyed a craft table to make holiday decorations. They also received “gifts” to open and play with. Adults participated in the “Count the Candy” jars, and “Yankee Swap”. The highlight of the evening was the annual collection of non-perishable food items and donations for the Food Pantry. Two grocery bags full of food was delivered to the Town Office Building. The EIFC has always prided themselves on their emergency efficiency and promptness to help our citizens. Included in that sense is also our annual support of the food pantry to help residents in town less fortunate than we are. The Chief and President thank members for their generous contributions.

Winter is still here anticipating more snow, ice and cold temperatures. Thoughts for fire prevention and safety must be considered: --There are more home fires in the winter than any other season. Heating sources during the winter is the second leading cause of home fires resulting 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.

--Consider installing a “talking” smoke/fire detector. A new study shows that maternal voice smoke alarms are more effective in waking children than conventional tone alarms.

--Each day there are reports of home fires and fatalities. These early reports provide only basic information about what happened, 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 makes follow-up broadcasts to inform t communities of “cause and 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.

**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.**

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**News You Can Use by Deb Richards - Emergency Management Director**

Creating a strong password is an essential step to protecting yourself online. Using long and complex passwords is one of the easiest ways to defend yourself from cybercrime. · Make your password eight characters or longer. Create a password with eight characters or more using a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols. · Use a long passphrase. Use a passphrase such as a news headline, a line from a poem, the name of a musical piece or song or the title of the last book you read. Then add in some punctuation and capitalization. · Don’t make passwords easy to guess. Do not include personal information in your password such as your name or pets’ names. This information is often easy to find on social media, making it easier for cybercriminals to hack your accounts. · Avoid using common words in your password. Instead, substitute letters with numbers and punctuation marks or symbols. For example, @ can replace the letter “A” and an exclamation point (!) can replace the letters “I” or “L”.

· Use phonetic replacements, such as “PH” instead of “F”. Or make deliberate, but obvious misspellings, such as “enjin” instead of “engine”. · Never share your password. Don't tell anyone your passwords and watch for attackers trying to trick you into revealing your passwords through email or calls. · Unique account, unique password. Use different passwords for different accounts and devices so that if attackers do guess one password, they will not have access to all your accounts. · Use stronger authentication. Always opt to enable stronger authentication when available, especially for accounts with sensitive information including your email or bank accounts. A stronger authentication helps verify a user has authorized access to an online account. For example, it could be a one-time PIN texted to a mobile device, providing an added layer of security beyond the password and username.

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**Eastford Clean Energy Task Force Report by Tom Hughes**

Would you like to save anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a month on your electric bill? This may be possible if you use the bulk of your electricity from 8pm to noon during the work week and on weekends. Eversource offers an off-peak pricing option that they call a Time-of-Day Rate 7. At a customer’s request, Eversource will bill you for electricity at two (2) different rates: a higher rate between noon and 8pm, Monday – Friday, and a lower rate at all other “off-peak” times. If your greatest use of electricity is during off-peak times, or if you can structure your greatest use to be during off-peak times, you can save money. Savings will vary depending upon how much electricity you use. Information on the “Time-of-Day Rate 7” is available on the Eversource website, or you can call Eversource at 800-286-2000. If you enter into this program Eversource will change your home electric meter to track the different usage periods. You must remain in the program for at least one (1) year.



Photos:  
 Above: First Selectman  
 Jacqueline Dubois (left)  
 & Food Pantry  
 Volunteer Steve  
 Broderick (right) with  
 Adam Minor & food  
 donations by Bowen  
 Garage.  
 Right: Food donations  
 by clients & friends of  
 Pilates Studio 111,  
 organized by Margherita  
 Shaw.



## Our Neighbors

### A Profile of Pilates 111 Studio's Margherita Shaw

Margherita Shaw teaches the world-renowned Pilates exercise program in her studio in Eastford. After learning to do Pilates and becoming certified to teach, she opened her Pilates Studio 111 here in 2003. "Pilates provides a full-body workout which anyone can do. It is a precise, mindful and sequential way to develop strength for improved posture, balance and flexibility which works from the center of the body outward. My passion for Pilates includes helping others achieve their goals at their individual level. I love my work and find joy in sharing it," said Margherita. She teaches group classes and offers private lessons. Her students praise Margherita's work and the results they have achieved with her. "I discovered Margherita's Pilates teaching a decade ago at the Mansfield Community Center. She is exceptional at what she does, and since then I've been making weekly trips to Phoenixville," says Ken. "As long as I'm doing Pilates under her guidance, I don't have lower back pain that had bothered me for decades." "Pilates has improved my strength, flexibility, and my ability to do heavy work without hurting my back by using proper ergonomics. I have also learned strategies to recover from muscle aches and pains after exerting myself," says Janet. "I feel my body has become stronger, more balanced and flexible. Margherita is a gifted teacher and coach. It is exercise for life!" says Carol. "My body has never been stronger, more flexible and less prone to injury." says Donna. Recently clients, friends and neighbors of Pilates Studio 111 contributed to a food drive for the Eastford Food Pantry. Pilates was developed by Joseph Pilates in the 1920's and is practiced worldwide. You'll find Margherita to be a quiet, inspiring teacher right here in Eastford.

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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. Very special thanks go out to Ray Bergeron and Eastford Building Supply for their very generous donation. We would also like to thank Margherita Shaw for coordinating a very successful food drive at her Pilates Studio 111. Thank you to Margherita and her very generous clients. We thank Chris Nickerson, Trevor Primus and His Oaks for their important ongoing support of the pantry. Financial donations are critical to the work we do and allow us to purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry. Thanks to Margherita Shaw, Debra Granger & John Warren, Martha Clark, Sandra Ashwell, Carl & Kathleen Winkler, and several anonymous donors for their financial donations. 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.



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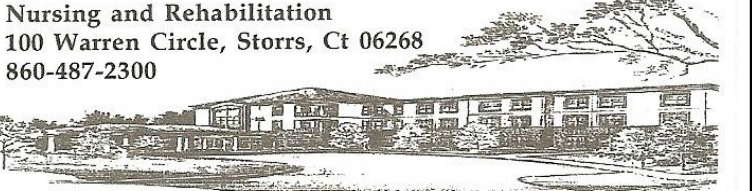
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*The **EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY**, located on route 198, is a special place. The grounds are beautifully groomed and peaceful -- a perfect resting place for our late loved ones. If you are an Eastford resident, you may purchase a cemetery plot at Grove. We have redesigned the cemetery to provide more single and double plots, as well as a cremation section. Please contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349 for a confidential conversation about ownership.*

**Recreation Commission News** By Catherine DePercio & Paige Burgess, Co-Chairs

The Eastford Recreation Commission's basketball clinic for youth in grades K-2 began February 24 and will run until April 6, meeting on Monday evenings from 6-7pm in the Eastford Elementary School (EES) gymnasium. Adult Pick-up Basketball is held on select Wednesday nights at 6:30pm in the EES gym from now until April. The schedule can be found on the town's website under the Recreation Commission's page. The annual Egg Hunt will be held on April 4 at the EES playground beginning at 2pm. The rain date will be April 5 at 2pm. The Eastford Recreation Commission is also requesting artisans, vendors, exhibitors, and volunteers for our 2020 Eastford Heritage Day on May 2nd from 2-6pm. If you are interested in hosting a space, please download our request form on the recreation commission page on the town website ([www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org)). Request forms may be brought or mailed to the town office or emailed to [recofeastfordct@gmail.com](mailto:recofeastfordct@gmail.com) by Friday, March 6. Our next meeting will be held on March 8 at 3pm in Eastford Town Hall's lower level. Our main focus will be on Heritage Day 2020. We invite all residents who are interested in planning future events to come and share their ideas and thoughts. If you have questions please email the Eastford Recreation Commission at [recofeastfordct@gmail.com](mailto:recofeastfordct@gmail.com).

**Mark your calendars!** **Adult Pick-up Basketball**, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:30pm (EES gym) **Eastford Recreation Commission meeting**, March 8 at 3pm (lower level of Town Office Building) **Egg Hunt**, April 4, 2pm (rain date: April 5 at 2pm) (EES field); **Eastford Heritage Day**, May 2, 2020 2-6 pm (EES & grounds)

**Tips for Today** by Liz Ellsworth **Happy March, and plan ahead for April!**

April 22, 2020 marks 50 years of Earth Day! Get a jump, one whole month's worth, on planning your own Earth Day event or activity. Volunteer with a local conservation group! Or make a personal goal to incorporate more eco-actions into your life, such as picking up trash along your roadway, or making an extra effort to turn the lights off or recycle more items. There may even be an event with The Last Green Valley's "Spring Outdoors" that looks like a great way to celebrate Earth Day: <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/spring-outdoors/> To learn more about Earth Day or for more ideas, visit: [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)



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Haley likes creating art in her spare time. She enjoys the outdoors – hiking and camping with family & friends. She is one of the new faces at Archambault Insurance.

– Haley Gumula  
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**Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission**

**THOUGHTS ON EASTFORD'S OPEN SPACE FUND** by Steve Broderick, Alternate member

Back in 2003, the citizens of Eastford voted overwhelmingly at town meeting to create a town open space fund. They appropriated an initial sum of \$25,000 and continued to add money to the fund for several additional years. Currently the balance in the fund stands at approximately \$177,000. Over the years some have asked "Why do we need an open space fund? We have plenty of open space in this town." Or "Why should we be holding funds for this purpose when we have so many other needs in town"? Or "Shouldn't we be promoting development to help with the tax burden, instead of protecting open space?" These are valid questions that deserve answers. Let me take a shot at answering them.

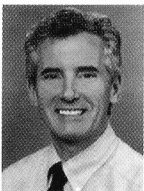
First, no one has ever proposed that the town gobble up every piece of open space that becomes available. A town open space fund exists for that once in a decade, once in a lifetime property that, once developed, is lost forever. Think Crystal Pond Park. Or perhaps a unique piece of forest that connects two important wildlife habitats and has a valuable drinking water aquifer beneath it. Or a family farm that has been an important part of a town's fabric and character for decades, but suddenly is in danger of not continuing because of changed family circumstances. In other words, parcels with such exceptional environmental, recreational and/or economic importance that their loss would a permanent detriment to us all. State, federal and even private foundation funds are sometimes available to help with the cost of protecting such properties. But competition for these funds is fierce, and today virtually all of them require a town to provide a "match", i.e. chip in some of the cost. This match may not be much – as little as 20% of the purchase price – meaning a town can receive 3 to 5 dollars or more for every dollar it provides. But without that match, there is usually no point in even applying. Further, when such parcels go up for sale, most townspeople have little advance warning. Private landowners have a right to keep their family business private. Yet when the need for money arises, families often must act quickly. Towns without a dedicated fund in place can rarely move fast enough to generate the needed contribution and get a deal done. It's important to note that the benefits of open space protection are not just environmental. They are economic as well. Many, many independent studies on this subject have been done all over the country. What they all show is this: a typical acre of farm or forest land generates more money in tax revenue than it costs the town in expenses. Trees and cows don't go to school, they don't drive on the roads, and they rarely require fire or police protection. But when that land is converted to housing, these services are all required. In every study done, the cost of town services to the average home exceeds the tax revenue that home provides. Other studies have shown that the resale value of properties adjacent to permanently protected open space can be 30% or more higher than similar properties without that benefit.

In 2004-5 the Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission completed a comprehensive open space inventory of Eastford, identifying areas and properties that had exceptional conservation and environmental value. The inventory also revealed areas that could be prioritized for future economic development without the likelihood of environmental conflicts or degradation. The CHPC is now in the early stages of updating that inventory. If you would like to learn more, help participate, and/or are interested in learning about open space protection, feel free to contact me at 860-974-1618.

It's open space that keeps our well water clean, cleans our air, provides a home for wildlife, provides forest products of all kinds and provides places for our children to unplug from their devices and learn to appreciate the great outdoors. It also is what sustains our town's rural character, something we all cherish. A well-managed open space fund is a small but critically important tool in ensuring that all these things will stay in place in Eastford for generations to come.

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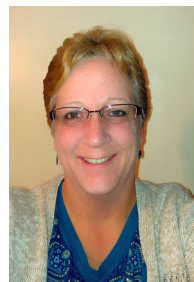
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**March 2020 Calendar**

- 2 Read/Seuss, EES all grades  
Board of Selectmen, TOB, 7pm
- 3 Conservation & Hist Pres Comm, TOB, 7pm  
Democratic Town Cmte, Library, 7:30pm
- 4 Crystal Pond Park Com, TOB, 6pm
- 5 Woodstock Academy Art, 5-7pm  
Woodstock Academy Talent Show, 7pm  
Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 7 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 8 Heritage Day/Rec Comm, TOB, 3pm
- 10 Eastford Seniors, TOB, 12noon: Program:  
**Exploring The Last Green Valley**  
Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 11 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm  
Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 14 AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 16 Communicator Deadline
- 17 Republican Town Cmte, Library, 7pm
- 18 Clean Energy Cmte, TOB, 7pm  
Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm
- 19 Bd of Ed, EES, 7pm  
Grove Cemetery, TOB, 7pm
- 20 Bd of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 7pm
- 21 Bd of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 9am  
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 24 Republican Caucus, Library, 7:30pm
- 25 Registrar of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm  
Adult Pickup Bball, EES, 6:30pm  
Democratic Caucus, Library, 7pm
- 26 Inland Wetlands, TOB, 7pm  
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 28 Creative Aarts, Cong Ch,  
AA Meeting, TOB, 7:30pm
- 30 Woodstock Academy Music Concert, 6:30pm
- 31 Woodstock Academy Music Concert, 6:30pm

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Woodstock Academy Events-Public Welcome**

**March 5, 5-7pm-Exuberant! Opening Reception**

Loos Center for the Arts – South Campus  
A student-curated show of colorful and energizing artwork from Pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from Woodstock, Pomfret, Eastford, Union, Canterbury, Rectory School, and The Woodstock Academy. The show will remain on display through March 25. Contact gallery director, Gloria Hanczar, at [gal-levy@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:gal-levy@woodstockacademy.org) to arrange individual and group visits.

**March 5, 7pm - Woodstock's Got Talent Show**

Bates Memorial Auditorium – North Campus See the talents of WA students while supporting the WA Senegal Exchange. Tickets \$10 at the door.

**March 30 & 31: Spring Music Concert**

March 30, 6:30 pm - Part 1; March 31, 6:30pm - Part 2  
Loos Center for the Arts – South Campus  
The Woodstock Academy performance ensembles present their annual spring concert. Free and open to the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

**March 28, 6:30-8pm—CREATIVE ARTS NIGHT.** The Congregational Church of Eastford, 8 Church Rd. invites all to this free, all age event. Community members are invited to share their family-friendly creativity, such as drawing, poetry, quilting, knitting, photography, sculpture, singing, storytelling. All non-participating community members are invited to come enjoy the presentations. Refreshments will be provided. Please see entry form on line at [www.cceastford.org/events](http://www.cceastford.org/events) for more information or contact CCE at 860.974.0294 or email [office@cceastford.com](mailto:office@cceastford.com). Entry forms must be submitted by Thursday, March 26, 2020



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**Eastford Seniors by Linda SM dos Santos**

Anticipation is high for the first 2020 meeting of the Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC). On **Tuesday, March 10 at 11:30am**, senior volunteers will begin setting up the room; the excitement will build as the winters cold has kept old friends apart. **By 12noon, lunch will begin. At 12:30pm, Speaker Chief Ranger Bill Reid** will begin a presentation on **“Exploring the Last Green Valley”**, followed by an informative Question and Answer period. Ranger Bill conducts programs and outreach events throughout the region, and coordinates the work of more than 30 volunteer rangers within the The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. To help manage food & beverages to be provided, please, please, call 860-576-7209, call/text 860-538-8868, or email [ESC06242@aol.com](mailto:ESC06242@aol.com) by Sat. March 7, Members \$4, Non-members \$7. Come join the fun, and share your winter experiences, a memory, or a story & bring your friends to the lower level of the Eastford Town Office Building, 16 Westford Rd. A level entry and parking are available adjacent too the the Lower Level TOB entrance. All ages welcome to attend this program. **Mark Your Calendar for Tuesday, April 14 at 5:45 PM**, when seniors will gather again for another Exciting ESC Evening Dinner Event, for details call 860-538-8868. In addition, the Quinebaug Valley Regional Senior Citizens Center on 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT will be hosting the Grande Country Breakfast on **Sunday, April 19** and on **Monday, April 27** Speaker Laura Crews, Senior Resources will discuss the Medicare Savings Program - Soup & Sandwich Luncheon. Both of these activities require pre-registration ASAP, call 860-774-1243 for activities & 860-779-7074 for Lunches. This has been a hard winter for some of our neighbors. Please donate to the Eastford Food Pantry for those in need; if you have needs, your call to Steve or Karen at 860-974-1618 or to the First Selectman’s Office 860-974-0133 ext 3 is confidential.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Library News by Susan Shead**

Spring will soon be upon us! The days are getting longer and the air is getting fresher! Did you know that you can get e books at home on your device of choice? First you must have a library card and be an Eastford resident and second you must register for our e- book collection which is Overdrive through Bibliomation by coming down to the library. We will give you a pin number and set you up for obtaining books and audio at home. The library had a nice turnout for the Valentine story and craft program on Saturday February 8. We will have another event for Mother’s Day! Be sure to watch the upcoming Communicator articles for details. Some new DVD’s at the library besides the entire 8 seasons of Game of Thrones are Downton Abbey the movie, Aladdin, and The Lion King.

There are discount passes available for Mystic Aquarium, The New England Air Museum, and free admission passes to the New Britain Museum of American Art, Wadsworth Atheneum and Connecticut’s Old State House. **Please note:**

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

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Eastford Historical Society  
Did you know that George Hewitt Myers, his wife Louise Stoddard Chase, and his three children— Persis, Mary, and Louise—are buried in a secluded private cemetery in the Yale-Myers Forest?

Myers graduated from Yale in 1898, and in 1902 he was a member of the first graduating class of Yale Forest School with a degree of Forest Management. He began acquiring land in Union, CT in 1904. An heir to the Bristol-Myers pharmaceutical fortune, he went on to acquire land in Eastford, Ashford, and Woodstock. In 1917 Yale the School of Forestry began using the Myers property for field instruction. In 1933 the school camp buildings were built on the former Morse farm property. Myers transferred ownership to Yale in 1934. Today the 7,800-acre forest is managed by the School of Forestry as a multiple-use working forest with scientific research and teaching, balanced with commercial timber production. It is reputed to be the largest private landholding in the state.

“The best things in life are never rationed.  
Friendship, loyalty, and love do not need coupons.”  
....George Hewitt Myers

Donations of original writings, old photographs, and small historic items are greatly appreciated. If you have items to donate or loan please call Tom Latham, 860-972-1610 or Linda Torgeson, 860-933-0468

The Eastford 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. Volunteer and/or financial support would be greatly appreciated.

Tax-deductible donations may be set to: Eastford Historical Society, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242

\*\*\*\*\*

Editor’s Note: US CENSUS 2020 March starts the 2020 U.S. Census Count. Much depends on every resident being counted (from Federal grants to roads to school programs). Folks can respond online and find information at: <https://portal.ct.gov/census2020>

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**EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**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, wreathes, 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 15<sup>th</sup> of March**.

**Landscaping/Mowing Season:** After March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ivy Glenn Library

**Board of Corporators Annual Meeting:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the TOB

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

Kindly consider assisting the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association in its pursuit of efficient perpetual care of the Grove Cemetery. We are a non-profit group that does not receive funding from the Town of Eastford. A tax deductible donation from you will help us meet present and future beautification and maintenance requirements. Contribution in any amount will allow us to continue to meet the goal of providing a well-maintained, respectable final resting place for your loved ones. Additionally, you could leave a gift to the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association in your will or living trust, known as a bequest. This allows you to offer future support without giving up assets today. Or, you may also wish to consider making "The Grove Cemetery Association" the recipient of a memorial donation (“in lieu of flowers”). We appreciate your consideration of our appeal and welcome any questions or concerns regarding the cemetery operation. Questions? Call (860) 974-1349. You may also visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>

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THE LAST GREEN VALLEY (TLGV) in Eastern Connecticut is a National Heritage Corridor. Brochures about destinations and activities are available at town halls, libraries, restaurants, or information kiosks. To receive a brochure: [mail@tlgv.org](mailto:mail@tlgv.org) or 860-774-3300. The Last Green Valley has information plus a monthly calendar of numerous events of all kinds at: [www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org)

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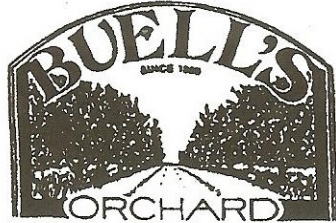
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## ***HAPPENINGS... Calendar Page Eight***

**Photos:** Left: Neighbors at Pilates Studio 111 collect for Eastford Food Pantry (See Page 5 for story & Bowens donation)  
Below: Scout Troop 92 at 2-day outdoor overnight campout (story Page 2)



**Congratulations Eastford Division Champs (Photo right)** Front: Hunter Haynes, Conner Buell. Back: Coach Bridgewater, Matt Johnson, Hunter Larson, Alex Harakaly, Taylor Laskoski, Assistant Dan Lussier. Missing are: Nathan Budd, Tristan Reynolds and Jacoby Pendergast. Photo below: **Duck Day** with State Sen Dan Champagne, Micah, Isaac & Benjamin Torcellini, State Rep. Pat Boyd & Scramble.

