

DUE TO COVID19, MOST TOWN EVENTS ARE CANCELLED—FOR UPDATES, GO TO: <https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford> EMERGENCY UPDATES: by Deb Richards, Emergency Management Director: For up-to-date news on Covid19 pandemic, please visit the following websites:

Town of Eastford: <https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford>

Northeast District Department of Health: www.ndh.org

State of CT: <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

**Sign up for CT Alerts “WE CAN’T ALERT YOU IF YOU DON’T SIGN UP”:
<https://www.ctalert.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp>**

Selectman's Snippets: Budget- In hopes to continue the practice of in person meetings, the Board of Selectmen has agreed to reschedule both the Town Budget Hearing for May 18 at 7pm and the Town Meeting for June 2 at 7pm at the EES. However, we must take necessary actions to follow the Executive Orders from our Governor. Therefore, we will keep you informed on how we may need to approach the process via teleconference if in person is not permissible. As in past practice, we will have the Proposed Budget copies available in the Post Office and at the Town Office Building prior to meetings. I strongly encourage you to visit the Town website for all updates that apply to the Town of Eastford's events and operations: <https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford> Continued page 2.



ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES—Crystal Pond Park (p3), The Last Green Valley (p5), Tips/Cornell (p5)

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS during this challenging time! Curbside or takeout offered, order/pay in advance.

BUELL'S ORCHARD is open for curbside pickup on Friday from 10-12 and 2-4. Email or call ahead anytime to order. If emailing, please include your phone number. Prepayment by credit card is needed before pickup. You can also visit our FaceBook page for some super deals that we're offering right now! (<https://www.facebook.com/BuellSorChard/>) . Great locally-grown apples, cider, preserves, honey, maple syrup, frozen pies, cheeses, gifts, books. Phone: 860-974-1150 or email: information@buelldorchar.com

Website: <https://www.buelldorchar.com/>

MIDWAY RESTAURANT & PIZZA—Curbside pickup/takeout—Regular Menu (15 min advance order) plus groceries available (order 2 hours advance, see list p 2). Build your own Pizza. Prime Rib Fridays & Saturdays! Specials daily on facebook. Open 7 days, Sun-Thurs 11-8, Fri-Sat 11-9, 174 Ashford Center Rd (Rt.44). Phone: 860-429-1932. Order online: <https://eatatmidway.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwayRestaurantAndPizza/>

TRAVELER RESTAURANT—Call ahead, curbside delivery. Regular Menu, 7 days full menu, family meals for 4, pizza daily (including party pizzas), puzzles, tee shirts. Fri, Sat, Sun 9am-7pm; Mon-Thurs 10am-7pm. Delivery within 10 miles in Union (\$35minimum)

Phone: 860-684-4290 . 1257 Buckley Hwy (at I-84), Union 06076. Info on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Traveler-Restaurant-234049429993458/>

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THANK YOU DONORS!

The Communicator needs your donations, now more than ever. The current emergency is challenging all of our advertisers, many of whom are providing call-ahead, curbside delivery. The Communicator also needs your help now to continue to provide news to more than 900 Eastford households.

Thank you recent donors:

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Judith & Roger Boisvert

Alice Eschholz

Maryeth Gorke-Felice

You are helping The Communicator to survive!

Please send your donations to:

Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242¹

EASTFORD FOOD PANTRY

These are obviously difficult times for many of us. We've all been blindsided and many people find themselves temporarily out of work. If you need help getting through all this, don't forget your town food pantry. We can help. Any Eastford resident in need of help from the food pantry can place a confidential call anytime to Steve or Karen at 974-1618, or contact the First Selectman's Office. We would like to thank the following for their very generous financial donations: Roger Fish; David & Christine Hustus; The Mitchell Phaiyah Foundation; David & Frances Buchholz; (continued p 4)

Midway Restaurant Info:

Open Sun-Thurs 11am to 8pm; Fri-Sat 11am-9pm
174 Ashford Center Rd (Rt.44) Ashford 06278

Menu items/Fri&Sat Prime Rib - call 15 minutes ahead for take-out or curbside pickup.

Phone: 860-429-1932. Order online:
<https://eatatmidway.com/>

Specials: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwayRestaurantAndPizza/>

Grocery items for curbside pickup! Please call at least 2 hours in advance and we will have your order ready for you. If there is something you don't see but know we have, just ask!!

- Fresh ground beef - \$3.49/lb (2lb min)
- Fresh boneless chicken breast - \$2.49 (2lb min)
- Fresh chicken wings (7-9 count)- \$2.99/lb (2lb min)
- Fresh chicken tenders - \$2.99/lb (2lb min)
- Shredded mozzarella - \$4.99/lb
- Margarine- \$1.99 lb (one pound sticks)
- Sliced ham - \$5.99/lb
- Sliced turkey - \$5.99/lb
- Sliced Provolone - \$5.99/lb
- Iceberg lettuce - \$2.99/head
- Cucumber - \$.99 each
- Large green pepper - \$.99 each
- Tomatoes - \$1.99/lb
- Pint grape tomatoes - \$2.49
- Jumbo onions - \$1.89/lb
- Carrots - \$1.99/lb (2lb min)
- 5 pounds potatoes - \$3.99
- 16" Italian bread - \$1.49
- 6 pack jumbo hamburger rolls - \$2.99

Selectman's Snippets (continued)

Community – Great things happen in our community! Thank you to Eastford Baptist Church, Buell's Orchard and all who have donated to the Food Pantry. Your continuous efforts reach the tables of our neighbors.

I send my appreciation to the Whitcraft Group as they are currently working with UCONN to beta test their first ventilators. A prototype was partially designed/ made here in Eastford; fifteen were provided to the state as requested.

Join us every evening to ring bells on your front porch at 8pm for two minutes. If you do not have a bell use something similar. During these difficult times, this small gesture can be a beautiful way to bring us all closer to symbolize we are 100% together. We may be forced to be apart in a pandemic. However, we can continue to spread hope and solidarity and perhaps a little joy to all our residents.

We are all in this together!

"Life isn't about waiting for the storms to pass -

It is about learning how to dance in the rain." Vivian Green

Police Services – During the month of March, Troop D responded to 32 calls. These calls of service included Accidents: 1, Criminal Invest: 0, Burlaries 0, Larcenies: 0, Traffic Citations: 5, Written Warning: 1, and Non-Reportable Matters: 31.

Respectfully yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman

From the Superintendent & Principal:

The month of May will bring us to about day #45 of the Coronavirus closure and social distancing mandates. The staff of Eastford Elementary School remains committed to meeting the needs of our families and students during this unexpected, unusual and sometimes unsettling period of time. If there is anything that we can do, please do not hesitate to contact us. Students and their families continue to receive specific information as to instruction and support from their teachers. All general correspondence and updated information is posted on the school website. At this time, it is anticipated that our earliest date for students to return to school will be May 20. The Board of Education, at its meeting on April 9, approved Friday, June 12 as the last day of school. As we receive more information and guidance from the State regarding graduation and other end of the year celebrations, we will let you know. We miss all of our students and their families as well as the community volunteers that provide enriching activities for our students. We remain hopeful that we will be able to open our doors again to them before the close of this school year.

Stay safe and stay healthy, Donna P. Leake and Carole McCombe

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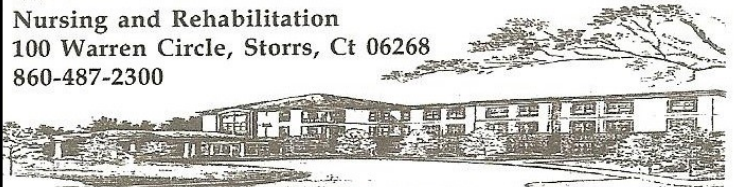
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*The **EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY**, located on route 198, is a special place. The grounds are beautifully groomed and peaceful -- a perfect resting place for our late loved ones. If you are an Eastford resident, you may purchase a cemetery plot at Grove. 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.*

EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC

The EIFC announces the passing of Gordon L. Spink, Sr., 74 on April 7th. Born and raised in Eastford, he typified the typical "Outdoor Man". He and his wife Jeannine enjoyed 53 years of marriage in Eastford along with their children Gordon, Jr. and Kimberly. A highlight of his life was his 36-year commitment and dedication to the EIFC beginning as a member at age 14, serving at Lieutenant, Captain and Veteran Member. He followed the Spink tradition of dedication beginning with his father Charter Member Harvey, uncle Ellsworth, Sr. paving the path to Gordon, Jr. former Chief, EMR, and Veteran Member, granddaughter Heather, EMR and Jeannine, retired EMS Captain as an EMT and business officer. He participated at all social events up to his retirement, and was considered to be the "master operator" of Hose Tender HT171. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the EIFC, PO Box 333, Eastford, CT. 06242.

The EIFC extends its thanks to Deborah Richards – EMD (Emergency Management Director), for her support of the company by securing the much-needed Isolation PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Most are not aware of the seriousness of the work the EMD does. The Director designs emergency response plans and procedures to respond to emergencies such as natural disasters and town-wide emergencies. They often work in coordination with government agencies, public safety officials, non profit organizations, elected officials and help lead the response during and after emergencies. In addition, they protect, preserve and raise community awareness, media and communications that is always noted in the monthly Communicator. Eastford is very fortunate to have someone the caliber of Deborah Richards as our EMD. Thanks, Deb.

The company responded to 13 emergencies in the month of March. The virus pandemic has not interfered with emergency responding nor weekly drills and meetings. In these tough times, we cannot stress enough the importance of wearing appropriate masks and gloves as recommended by the CDC.

It is critical that should you need to call "911", be as specific as possible in telling the dispatch center EXACTLY what your needs are. Knowing this in advance, will give the responders ample opportunity and time to don what we need to wear for our protection. We appreciate, in advance, your cooperation.

It is the mission of the EIFC to provide prompt and efficient service to the town of Eastford. If you want to make a difference in Eastford in 2020, consider joining the fire company. New members are always welcomed.

Editor's Note: Donations needed: Eastford Independent Fire Co. (POB 333), Eastford CT 06242

 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>

 The Presidential Preference Primary & all other primaries in Connecticut have been rescheduled to August 11, 2020; any enrolled member of a party is eligible to vote for a candidate for such party's nomination for President or other offices.

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THE LAST GREEN VALLEY (TLGV)
 in Eastern Connecticut is a National Heritage Corridor.
 Brochures about the great things in our region are available by E-mailing:
 e-mail@tlgv.org or calling 860-774-3300.
 In addition, The Last Green Valley has information on trails & destinations of all kinds on its website at:
www.thelastgreenvalley.org

In Memory of and to Honor Joseph Phaneuf, II.

Donations are requested for a bench in Memory of Staff Sergeant Class Joseph E. Phaneuf, II, KIA, December 15, 2006 in Afghanistan.

A stone bench with memorial plaque will be installed in Eastford's Veterans Memorial, hopefully by Memorial Day. Joe served with the Connecticut Army National Guard from 1987-1997 and 2001-2006, in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was killed in Action December 15, 2006 while serving with the 1st Battalion 102nd Infantry Unit. To make a donation to this memorial, donations may be made by sending your check payable to: American Legion Post 203, and mailed to Post Office Box 131, Eastford, CT 06242.

Food Pantry (continued):

Elizabeth Grodzicki; Gerald Sazama; David Barlow; Jeff Conrad; Thomas Morehouse; Susan Burns; Robert Williams; Roger & Judith Boisvert; and Joseph & Nancy Beaudoin. And, thank you to Lynn Nelson for her donation of non-perishables. We also want to thank all the anonymous donors who have brought non-perishables to the TOB. Most every time we go into the pantry there are donations on the table along with a long list of financial donations. We are humbled by the generosity of our fellow Eastfordites. Please know how much it is appreciated. If you would like to donate, right now we are particularly short on canned goods including corn, creamed corn, green beans and pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, tomato paste; pasta sides, mayonnaise, ketchup, vegetable oil, flour, sugar, evaporated milk, coffee. Paper products are always welcome. In addition, financial donations allow us to purchase essential items that are missing from our pantry shelves. And, grocery store gift cards are always welcome. Checks can be made out to the Town of Eastford and mailed to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242. Just write *Food Pantry* on the memo line.



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Executive Director, TEEG
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DID YOU KNOW? Eastford Historical Society
 Did you know that a telegraph line once ran through Eastford? The line passed by the simple dwelling of Andrew Lamphier at the intersection of the Old Boston and the Rhode Island-Hartford Turnpikes, (the north side of Route 44 near the Ashford line). His house was made a testing station for the wires, and Mr. Lamphier served as the first telegraph operator, receiving and transmitting messages. During the Civil War the office received messages reporting sickness, wounding, or death of men in the Army. Here in August of 1861, came the sad news that General Nathaniel Lyon had been killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

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

Tips for Today-by Liz Ellsworth – ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
 The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has some great Citizen Science projects which you can do right from home. Watch your bird feeder or note the birds that sing from your trees.

www.birds.cornell.edu/citizenscience

CRYSTAL POND PARK IS YOUR PARK!
 Website: <http://www.crystalpondpark.com/>
Owned by the Towns of Eastford and Woodstock, Crystal Pond Park on Weeks Road in Eastford offers FREE year-round access to one of Connecticut's loveliest clear-water lakes, with a beach, picnic tables, swimming, fishing, hiking trails, disc golf (donation), a dining hall that can be reserved (fee) & park can be rented for special occasions (fee).

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 Guinea Fowl, Chicks & more.

Please note that during the COVID pandemic the Town Hall is closed to the public. All dog licenses can only be obtained through the mail. Please send a copy of rabies vaccine certificate from your veterinarian, a check made out to the Eastford Town Clerk and a return stamped envelope. mail to: P.O. Box 98, Eastford CT 06242

**TOWN OF EASTFORD
 NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS**



**LICENSES MUST BE OBTAINED
 DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE**

Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older, except dogs kept under a kennel, shall cause such dog to be licensed in the Town Clerk's Office in the town where such dog is kept, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30th ANNUALLY, or at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually thereafter, on or before June 30th.

Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog shall submit to the town clerk a RABIES CERTIFICATE signed by a veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating that such dog has been vaccinated against rabies, the date of the vaccination and the duration of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be issued unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by the vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

Proof of spay or neuter is required in the form of a veterinarian's certificate.

Kennel licenses also need to be obtained or renewed in the month of June. FEES:

- SPAYED FEMALE or NEUTERED MALE..... \$8.00 each
- FEMALE OR MALE\$19.00 each
- KENNEL LICENSE (10 TAGS).....\$51.00
- A \$1.00 per month penalty will be charged for each dog that remains unlicensed.

Melissa Vincent, Town Clerk



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WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD By Joanne M. Warren, Master Naturalist, James L. Goodwin Conservation Center

With more people outdoors for longer periods of time this year, we all have the opportunity to observe more of nature. At this time of year, birds are migrating north, mating, building their nests, and having their young. You may have the chance to see the young ones learning skills from their parents in order to survive in the wild. These young ones, called fledglings, may look like little fuzz balls and may not be flying very well yet. They may have a short tail and wings and only flutter short distances at a time. To some people they may appear to be injured; however, this is a crucial stage in their development in which they are learning to become more independent. Fledglings are also often mistakenly assumed to be orphaned because the parents that are nearby watching over them may be out of sight. Please leave the fledglings where they are. When they are taken from the wild, the parents will no longer be able to teach the young birds the skills that they need to survive in the wild. When a human takes them in and tries to care for them, the chances are greatly reduced that they will survive because humans cannot prepare them as the parent birds can. If you find such a young bird who has not yet quite learned its flight skills, make sure that you keep your pets indoors and stay away from the area for a few days so that the parents can do their job. If you find a baby bird that has fallen out of the nest, replace it back in the nest if you can. If you cannot reach the nest or find it, try to find something you can put the bird in such as a berry container or basket that has drain holes, fill it with some grass, then put it in a tree somewhere near the nest. Don't worry about the scent from your hands as it should not affect parental care with birds. Remember, only the parent bird can care for its baby so that it can best survive in the wild.

TOWN OF EASTFORD ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING: FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Due to the current public health crisis, the Hearing has been rescheduled: Monday, May 18, 2020 7pm

EASTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7pm

in the Eastford Elementary School Gymnasium for the Town Government and Board of Education budgets for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

At this time, it is planned this will be in an in-person meeting. In the event it is not, this meeting will be held via teleconference. Details will be posted on our website. <https://www.eastfordct.org/eastford>

Copies of the budgets will be available the morning of May 12, 2020 at the Town Office Building. Other locations will be announced prior to May 12, 2020.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Eastford

TOWN OF EASTFORD TOWN BUDGET MEETING: FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Due to the current public health crisis, the Town Meeting has been rescheduled: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7pm

EASTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

The Town Budget Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7pm

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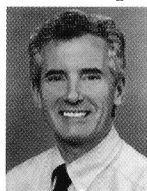
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Board of Selectmen, Town of Eastford

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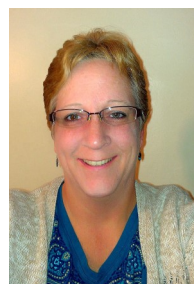
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EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Notice

Submitted by the Board of Trustees

The Annual Meeting scheduled for April 8th has been postponed until further notice.

Flags: American flags and Fire Department Flags will be placed at the cemetery on Friday, May 22nd @ 5:00 p.m. The Memorial Day weekend is May 23-25, 2020; all flags are removed after Veterans' Day, November 11th.

Flag Holder: If you are interested in ordering a flag holder for your veteran's flag, contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349 by **Friday, May 1st**.

Plot/Space Purchase: Appointments can be made to view the cemetery grounds and to select a plot for purchase. To make an appointment, call 860-974-1349.

Plot Diagrams Available: Plot owners, or a family member, may obtain a diagram of their plot by writing to: EGCA, INC. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, 06242.

Mowing Season: Between **March 15th and Thanksgiving**, only **live flowers** may be planted, or placed in plastic pots, **within 12" of the base of the monument**; all artificial flowers and ornaments are **prohibited during the mowing season and will be removed**.

Donations Appreciated: If you would like to contribute in any amount to the beautification of the cemetery and future projects, please send your tax deductible donation to: *The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association, Inc.*, P.O. Box 284 Eastford, CT 06242 (Note: **Grove Cemetery does not receive funding from the town.**)

For more information, contact a member of the Board of Corporators:

Joe Andert, Audrey Carabeau, Carol Day, Jim Ellis, Tom Fabian, Ken Grube, Bev Lindemann, Faye Logee

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

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You can visit online at
<https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>.

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Thank you for your support. Carol Davidge, Editor

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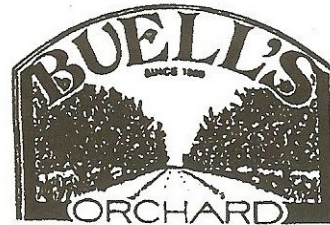
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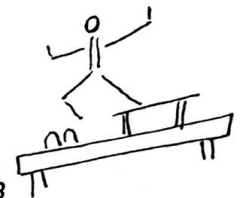
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