



# The Eastford Communicator

## September, 2016 Calendar

- 6 Conservation Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 7 Nahaco Commission, Nahaco, 7pm
- 8 Senior Citizens, TOB, 11am- 2pm  
BOE, EES, 7pm
- 9 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am  
KidsClub reg'n (K-6), Cong'l Church, 6:30pm  
Board of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 7pm
- 10 Board of Assessment Appeals, TOB, 9am  
Financial Freedom reg'n, Cong'l Ch, 6:30pm
- 12 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5pm; 5-8pm  
School Readiness Council, EES, 6pm  
BOS, TOB, 7pm  
Clean Energy, Library, 7pm
- 13 Planning Commission, TOB, 7pm
- 14 **Communicator Deadline**  
Recreation Commission, TOB, 1:30pm  
Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- 15 Solarize /Citizens Workshop, TOB, 6:30pm
- 16 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 17 Marilyn T. Krom 5K Race, EES, 10am  
Republican Dinner (all welcome), Nahaco, 5pm
- 19 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5pm; 5-8pm  
Yoga, TOB, 5:30-6:30pm
- 20 Republican Town Committee, Library, 7pm
- 22 School Open House for Families, EES, 6-7pm  
Cub Scout Open House/Reg'n, EES, 6-7:30pm  
Inland Wetlands Commission, TOB, 7pm  
Library Board, Library, 7pm
- 23 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am
- 26 Fiddle & Song, EES, 3:30-5pm; 5-8pm  
Yoga, TOB, 5:30pm – 6:30pm  
American Legion, TOB, 7:30pm
- 27 Democratic Town Committee, Library, 7:30pm
- 28 Registrars of Voters, TOB, 5-7pm
- 29 Union Society Building Comm, TOB, 8am  
Cub ScoutOpnHse/Reg'n, *AshfordSchool*, 6:30pm
- 30 Yoga, TOB, 8:15-9:15am

## TRANSFER STATION NOTICE

Items put in the Trash to Treasures shed must be unbroken and clearly reusable.

- NO TV's, working or not
- NO paint
- NO kerosene, etc.
- NO food of any sort
- NO clothes

NO junk – use common sense

Items listed above can be disposed of elsewhere at the transfer station. Consult your info sheet and the Attendant. Your exercise of discretion can help us keep costs down

## BRODEURBITS

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

[This month: A New Site and An Old Friend, More Trash than Treasures, Opening and Closing the Books]

*continued on next page*

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The Town of Eastford has a new website and I commend it to your perusal. It is reachable at [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org) The new look includes new graphics and photography, easier and quicker access to Town information and departments, an easier-to-reach calendar, and generally upgraded items and features that one would expect on a municipal website. The major credit for the new and improved site goes to Terry Cote of the Board of Selectmen. Working with Town and School personnel, Terry suffered the slings and arrows of transition and web migration and brought the new site to fruition. Applause and kudos and thanks go out to her.

The Trash to Treasures Building at the Town Transfer Station has been closed and will remain closed for an indefinite period of time. Over time the accumulation of material in the building has become overwhelming and, further, has contained many items not conducive to safety or health, among them materials such as kerosene and other flammables, foodstuffs which are left to age and rot, paint, and a variety of other items which are more properly thrown away than considered a "treasure".

The Board of Selectmen, at its regular meeting on August 1, 2016, extended the Town tree work contract with Country Landscapes & Tree LLC. for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. The Board also authorized the First Selectman to apply for a State Neglected Cemetery Account Grant, and to enter into a contract with DRVN Enterprises, Inc. for the future purchase of road salt under the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments [NECCOG] fixed rate proposal. The Neglected Cemeteries Account Program gives municipalities the opportunity to apply for up to \$2,000 to clear weeds and brush, to mow, to make repairs, and to keep cemeteries in orderly and decent condition.

Under the "fixed rate" salt agreement, DRVN's per-ton quote for salt will not change over a three-year period. At present, it stands below the State of Connecticut rate; if the State rate goes below the DRVN rate, the Town has the option to purchase from the State. Eastford uses some 400 to 600 tons of salt per year, depending on the severity of winter.

A familiar sight along Eastford's roads during the Summer months has been our long-time roadside mower, Freddie Combs. Freddie passed away on July 29. He was literally part of our landscape. His son, Fred L. Combs, Jr., will continue the Combs mowing tradition in Eastford.

Preliminary work on the annual Town financial audit has begun with auditing to intensify this month. Also, at its September meeting, the Board of Selectmen will close the Town's books for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

During the month of July, Troop D of the Connecticut State Police issued 28 traffic citations and nine written warnings in Eastford; the number for June was 19 citations and five written warnings. These efforts are part of an ongoing effort to diminish speeding and traffic sign violations on Town roads.

The total construction value of all building permits issued in Eastford from April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 totalled \$312,500.

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**Report of Special Town Meeting**

By Arthur Brodeur

A Special Town Meeting was held on Monday evening, August 22, in the Eastford Elementary School to act on the Town accepting the donation by Thomas O. Latham of real property at 65 John Perry Road to be operated as the Florence Warren Latham Museum of Eastford History, subject to certain conditions set down by the donor. Following approval of a motion to postpone action on the matter to a later date during which time a Study Group appointed by the Board of Selectmen would maximize community understanding and knowledge of the issues and would perform due diligence, there was extensive and lengthy discussion by the more than 100 townspeople in attendance. On the morning following Town Meeting, Mr. Latham withdrew his offer to donate the building. The matter, therefore, is now moot. There will be no subsequent Town Meeting on the donation nor will a Study

the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. The Last Green Valley is 77% undeveloped land with a multitude of opportunities for exploring the outdoors. Whether hiking, paddling, pedaling, or simply observing wildlife in your own backyard, the region has a rich assortment of opportunities for enjoying the natural environment. This program provides a look on the “wilder side of The Last Green Valley.

There are always a lot of smiles and joyful conversations when seniors gather. On Wed., August 10, the seniors departed Eastford Town Office Building & traveled on to North Grosvenordale for pizza and salad at Thompson House of Pizza on 1139 Riverside Drive & Cookies by Soleil & Suns Bakery, LLC of Woodstock and visited the Thompson Public Library for chocolate, paperback novels, breakfast treats & personal care items from CVS of Putnam and Oliver's Restaurant of North Windham.

**Renters' Rebate applications for Elderly & Disabled Residents** are available at Town Assessor's Office, 860-974-0133. There are State income requirements, rebate amounts range from \$50-\$900. **The application period ends Oct. 1.**

**Join Cub Scout Pack #92  
Sign up at Open House:  
Thursday, September 22, 6-7:30pm  
Eastford Elementary School  
(or Thursday, September 29, 6:30-8pm  
at Ashford School Open House)**

**or contact:  
Michelle Nemeth at:  
scoutpack92@outlook.com**

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Be A Scout*

**Eastford Seniors**

By Linda SM dos Santos

**SAVE THE DATE:** THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th a Light Lunch will be served at the Eastford Town Office Building's Lower Level at 11am. The lunch will include sandwiches from the Coriander Country Store & Café & more. The Last Green Valley's Chief Ranger, Bill Reid will discuss "**On The Wild Side: Exploring the Flora and Fauna of The Last Green Valley**" at 11:30am. To register, so that a meal is available for everyone attending, please call before Noon Tues. Sept. 6, Lou 860-315-5360 or text 860-538-8868. Funding for this **FREE** Senior Learn-at-Lunch program is from [wayne.simmons@clearcations.com](mailto:wayne.simmons@clearcations.com), The Public House in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, the Eastford Senior Citizens and the Town of Eastford. The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is the last stretch of dark night sky in

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### Report of the Board of Education

By Linda Loretz

At its August Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education discussed plans for an energy efficiency study that it plans to present to the Selectmen in September and subsequently put out to bid. The Board of Education reviewed the financial statements from the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year. Additionally, the Board examined disbursements for the end of the fiscal year and the disbursements made this summer. The Board of Education discussed the nearly completed replacement of the underground oil storage tank and the recently approved well. The Board received the actuarial report on OPEB (Other Postemployment Benefits) that U.S. state and local governments provide to their retired employees.

The Board heard about facilities projects that were completed over the summer

- Classroom counters were replaced in the sixth grade classroom and the Math/Health/BASP room.
- There are new tiles in the entry to the gym and the kitchen.
- Two rooms were painted: Science room and the Math/Health/BASP room.
- The front wall of the gym around the stage has been painted.
- There is new furniture for the two office assistants. These new, inexpensive items will enhance the storage capabilities and improve the aesthetics of the office.
- The ducts were cleaned.
- The town public works crew addressed the drainage on the playground blacktop.
- Doors were replaced on the classrooms in the 1949 wing.

### Recreation Commission News

By Valerie Katkaveck, Chair

This is definitely the Rec's busy season, Tom's **Fiddle and Song** at EES will begin after labor day, Read his article for more info. Sue Orcutt's **Yoga** schedule will resume indoors at the town office building, see the calendar for days and times. The 5k (September 17) is just weeks away and as it is never too late to sign up, the price does go up the longer you wait. Our **5k** route has been professionally calibrated and certified, thanks to Sean Krom, who has paid for this service to make his race official to 5k runners. This race brings in runners from far and wide. The race starts at 10 am, hope to see everyone there! The Fall **town wide yard sales** are October 1 & 2 . As always, the maps are free and there is no charge to get on them. Just send an email to [valkat@charter.net](mailto:valkat@charter.net), with your address, the days and hours you want to be open and any description you want listed. its that easy. There will be flyers up in this and neighboring towns, posted in the calendar section of the villager and a small ad placed in the shoppers guide and the chronicle. The 6th annual **Chili and Apple Dessert cook-off** will be Saturday October 8th at Coriander. Find out if the town agrees that your recipe rules them all. You cook it, the town comes out to taste (for a small price) and vote on their favorite. All ticket sales go to the winners Cash prizes! If you're not cooking, come hungry! Sign up sheet is at Coriander Café. Sign up by September 20th and start your day with a free vote.



#### The Traveler Restaurant

The Traveler Restaurant Book Store is open all restaurant hours.

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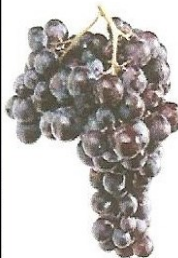
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**EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1  
FROM: JEANNINE SPINK, President**

Our condolences to the family of Arlene "Peg" Bowen who recently passed away. Peg supported the EIFC in her quiet manner during the years her husband, Charles, Sr. and son Chris, were members. Our sympathy goes to her daughter Pam and sons Richard and Charles, Jr. Thank you to the family for designating the EIFC to receive donations in her memory.

Chief Gordon Spink is pleased to announce that the EIFC has recently been awarded two grants.

One from FEMA in the amount of \$23,534 for two Thermal Imaging Cameras with truck mounted chargers and a PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Washer/Extractor/No Heat Dryer. Current cameras are outdated and no longer reliable. With the chargers, cameras will always be charged and ready to go at all times. This state of the art acquisition will improve the effectiveness of our fire and rescue procedures. The Washer/Extractor/No Heat Dryer will allow us to wash and dry our PPE in accordance with NFPA 1851, OSHA and FEMSA standards with a savings of hundreds of dollars in commercial laundering fees and protect our members from the chemicals and hazards we are exposed to.

Grant #2 is from the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program, Cooperative Forestry Act in the amount of \$4,699.69. The objective of the program is to improve the capability and effectiveness of Connecticut's rural volunteer fire departments to protect lives and property. This award will be used for the purchase of a 6'x12' trailer to move our Polaris Ranger from location to location. The Ranger is a vehicle that can access fire/medical emergencies in areas that fire apparatus and rescue vehicles cannot.

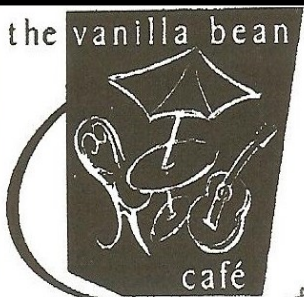
Congratulations to junior member Cameron Chandler who successfully completed the Cadet Firefighter Training at the Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. Participation consisted of 5 rigorous training days in which the Cadets participated in all aspects of basic firefighting skills. Days started at 5:30 a.m. with exercises ranging from running up and down the stairs of the 5 floor-training

tower to getting fully outfitted in turnout gear and doing push-ups. Throughout the week Cadets learned how to use a fire extinguisher on a real fire, stop forest fires from spreading, search and rescue, ladders, hose rolling, knots, airport rescue basic survival skills and use of hand tools. During the physical training Cadets marched at attention to classrooms for study. With the day ending at 9:00 p.m., 5:30 a.m. to do it all again came fast. Friends and family were invited to a graduation ceremony with awards at the end of the week. To quote previous EIFC Cadets, "It was one of the greatest experiences that we could ever have had to learn about the fire service at the age we are." Congratulations Cameron for a job well done.

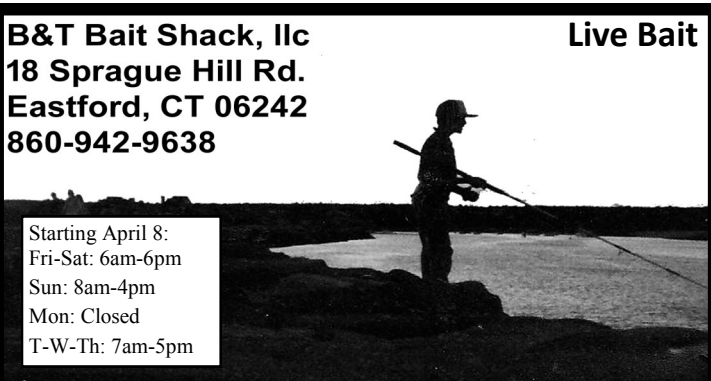
Congratulations to Lieutenant Matt Yakis who successfully completed Firefighter II certification. Hours of classroom and practical exam requirement, considered to be arduous, included Introduction to the Incident Command System, Firefighter Training, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service, Fire Suppression II, Vehicle Rescue with "The Jaws", and Fire Causation Investigation. To achieve the level of FFII, one needs to have drive, persistence, stamina and a strong mental constitution to think about taking on this challenging level and decision-making.

The EIFC runs deep in credentials and experience. 9 members have attained the levels of FFI, and FFII, 11 are Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), and 5 are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).

The EIFC responded to 19 emergencies during the month of July. Medical coverage was supplied for a motocross event on July 16<sup>th</sup>. A boating safety/personal watercraft certification class was attended by 10 members also on July 16<sup>th</sup> for a total of 16 who are certified in water craft. The firehouse and emergency vehicles were on display for Experience Eastford. The EMS drill for July was presented by EMS-I Paul Wentworth on the administration of NARCAN. Transportation was provided to Santa on for "Christmas in July" at the Charlie Brown Campground. And lastly, 2 visits were scheduled to "hose down" the campers at Camp NAHACO, and 2 visits to teach campers basic first aid skills and "hands only CPR". All in all July was a busy month for the EIFC, but we were always and are available to respond to a "911" emergency.



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## ASSESSOR'S ANNUAL NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

All persons liable to pay taxes are hereby notified to declare all tangible personal property owned by them as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. CGS 12-41(d) provides that the assessor must apply a 25% PENALTY for failure to file by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Assessor's Office will mail declaration forms to all property owners previously on record. Failure to receive a form does not negate the requirements to declare. Forms are available online and in the Assessor's Office.

**NOTE:** A declaration for real property or Connecticut registered motor vehicles is not necessary. Taxable personal property includes: unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Connecticut but registered in another state, office, manufacturing and farming equipment, machinery, tools, leasehold improvements, unregistered trailers, ect. Please see the declaration for a full list or call the Assessor's Office if you need clarification.

**VETERANS:** who served for more than ninety days during a time of war or have been disabled must have recorded their honorable discharge with the Town Clerk by October 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive an exemption against their 2016 tax bill.

**ARMED SERVICE MEMEBERS:** must submit an application to the Assessor's Office in order to receive 2015 Motor Vehicle benefits no later than December 2016.

**ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S EXEMPTION:** Increased exemptions are available for those who meet the necessary income requirements and file with the Assessor's Office by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Biennial filling is required and proof of income must be furnished at the time of application.

**ELDERLY PERSONS:** Connecticut offers an Annual Tax Relief Program for persons who are 65 years or older or totally disabled who meet certain income qualifications. To be eligible for a benefit for the 2016 tax bill, an application with proof of income must be filed during the following dates:

**HOMEOWNERS:** Feb. 1 through May 15 ~

**RENTERS:** April 1 through Oct. 1

**AMBULANCE-TYPE VEHICLE,** used exclusively to for the purpose of transporting any medically incapacitated individual, except for payment maybe eligible for exemption.

**TOTALLY AND PERMANTLY DISABLED PERSONS:** Any person under the age of 65 that has been awarded total disability must apply by October 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive a \$1000 assessment exemption. Applicants must furnish proof of award.

**FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT:** farmers **must**

file a notarized M-28 exemption form on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> annually to receive an exemption for farm machinery, ponies and horses if actually and exclusively used in the farming operation.

**LAND CLASSIFICATION:** Persons seeking to apply under farm, for the first time, must file an application between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> with the Assessor's Office. Persons who have previously applied need not reapply. Persons seeking to apply for forest must have the land certified by a forester submitted by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

**MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT** used in the manufacturing process may be allowed an exemption if certain guidelines are met. A completed application **must** be filed by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NEW COMMERCIAL TRUCKS** with a gross rating in excess of 26,000 lbs. should check with the Assessor's Office for tax exemption eligibility. Applications **must** be completed and filed with the Assessor by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **LOCAL OPTIONS:**

**ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS DEFERRAL PROGRAM:** Senior Citizens or disabled individuals can defer one quarter of the amount of the tax credit calculated from the Homeowners program if approved for the Homeowners program.

**FARMLAND ABATEMENT:** Annual application filing period is between October and November 1<sup>st</sup>. must meet the requirements stated in 12-81 (m). Specifically for Orchards, Dairy and Hydroponic farming.

*Most applications can be found on our town website.*

**FOR QUESTIONS ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS  
PLEASE CALL 860-974-1291 X7.**

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### **Thank You Ken Andersen**

Ken Andersen deserves a big "Thank You" from the people of Eastford for all his work helping the town reduce its energy costs and become more energy efficient. Ken, who has recently moved away, was the prime force behind establishing Eastford's Clean Energy Task Force. Because of Ken's foresight and hard work Eastford is making the municipal buildings more energy efficient and encouraging greater use of clean, renewable energy by the town and its residents. Ken left the task force and town with a solid foundation on which to build. The work of the Clean Energy Task Force continues with initiatives to make home energy audits and solar energy solutions available to town residents.

**Eastford Elementary School**  
By: Heather Tamsin, Principal

Everyone has returned to the 2016-17 school year renewed and ready for another exciting year of learning and memories. The positive energy and sense of connectedness is evident in the interactions witnessed in classrooms and hallways. We are looking forward to our **Open House** for families **on Thursday, September 22 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm**. This is a great opportunity for families to meet teachers and visit their child's classrooms.

Mr. Kernan and Mr. Johnson hosted our first *Amazing Race Through Eastford*. Teams of 2 to 4 people were given clues that brought them to four different historic sites in Eastford. After answering an academic question, they were given a physical challenge to complete before receiving their next clue. Families enjoyed the activity and we hope to continue this offering next summer! Thank you to all of the volunteers that waited for families at the locations and provided them with the important information for their adventure!

We are committed to providing another positive and productive school year for students and families. Remember to visit and bookmark the school's new website at [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org). We continue to update the school calendar with upcoming events and information. Please check the website regularly for scheduled events and last minute changes. Delayed openings and snow days will also be listed on the website. **High school students are reminded that when Eastford cancels school due to inclement weather, all transportation is cancelled.** I look forward to another positive and productive year with this learning community.

**Eastford Clean Energy Task Force**

**EASTFORD RESIDENTS – DO YOU WANT TO REDUCE YOUR MONTHLY ELECTRIC AND HOME HEATING BILLS?**

If so, here is some important information for you.

The Eastford Clean Energy Task Force is undertaking two (2) exciting initiatives to help family finances in Eastford and to benefit the environment:

**SolarizeCT** – Eastford is joining a long list of other Connecticut communities by setting up a program to help local people explore options for individual home-based solar energy systems. Roof and ground mounted electric solar systems are becoming increasingly common around the Quiet Corner. Such systems can provide real cost savings for household budgets. A **SolarizeCT Workshop** with an experienced installer will be held on **Thursday, September 15, 2017 at 7 pm** in the Town Office Building. All interested Eastford residents are invited to attend to learn more about home solar energy systems. Come with your questions!

**Home Energy Solutions** – We all spend lots of money heating our homes. A home energy audit can help identify ways to reduce costs. The Eastford Clean Energy Task Force is working to set up a low cost audit program using experienced private vendors. A home audit can identify both short and long term property improvements to reduce heating and other energy costs. Watch for more information on this in the near future.

The Eastford Clean Energy Task Force will coordinate these efforts for Eastford. The volunteer task force is a subcommittee of the Town's Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission. Support for these efforts is being supplied by the State of Connecticut and industry at no cost to town government. Residents who partake in these efforts will realize reduced energy costs as a result of renewable energy systems and energy conservation. Our town government can also benefit. Because Eastford is a certified "Clean Energy Community" the town government will receive grants if the town meets certain targets for increases in solar systems and energy audits. These grants can be used for municipal energy saving projects. It's all part of Connecticut getting smarter about energy.

If you have questions, please contact Georgianne Copley at 860-974-2300.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SOLARIZE WORKSHOP**  
**Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 7pm**  
**EASTFORD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**



**ARCHAMBAULT INSURANCE ASSOCIATES**

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**Conserve, Protect & Enjoy!**

News You Can Use from the Eastford Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission

An Aquatic Menace (or Nip it in the Budd!) The ECHPC sponsored the 15<sup>th</sup> annual water chestnut removal on Budd's Pond in early July. This annual aquatic plant has large, grotesquely sharp seed pods, like some medieval torture instruments and we are getting close to eradicating it in Eastford. It hasn't been hard work. Who wouldn't like to spend a lovely July Saturday morning canoeing or kayaking on a beautiful pond in Eastford? That's what we have done for 15 years now. The secret of our success has been persistence. Back when the Commission first started on this project we hauled away nearly a dump truck full of bags of water chestnuts, the work of a single Saturday morning. This year we pulled out all that we could find and there were barely enough plants to cover the bottom of one garbage bag! By removing the water chestnut from Budd's Pond we have protected surrounding ponds from invasion.

Google "invasive water chestnut" so you will know what to look for and be able to help us keep an eye out for this menace in any other ponds around Eastford. If you do see it, please contact the Town Hall. Infestations of water chestnut in nearby towns have gone unnoticed for years and are now huge problems. They can spread from pond to pond by water fowl or downstream transport of the seeds. The smaller the population, the lower the chance it has to spread. Aggressive growth of this plant clogs up ponds or lakes making them very unattractive for recreational use. Recently, an Ashford pond owner with a big water chestnut problem mentioned how the infestation has seriously devalued her property.


A Purple Menace Another invasive plant that has appeared in Eastford in recent years is the purple loosestrife. This is a very pushy plant that takes over wetland areas, squeezes out native plants that should be growing there and thus starves out animals that rely on that native vegetation for food, shelter, and nest sites. Since it hasn't been in Eastford for long, this is a good time to try to bring purple loosestrife under control – while the populations are small. One quick thing you can do right now if you see purple loosestrife on your property is to cut off the flower heads that are now starting to set seeds. Dispose of those cut off flower heads & seeds by putting them in the garbage or burning them. Don't just let them fall to the ground.

Gypsy Moths Many trees in our area were eaten alive by gypsy moths this spring and summer. Luckily gypsy moths just have one generation per year. Now the caterpillars have turned into non-feeding moths who have laid their eggs and then died. The affected trees are recovering. Have you seen the gypsy moth egg masses on tree trunks? They are tan & fuzzy, dry blobs. The eggs inside aren't going to hatch until next spring, so you've got plenty of time to go out and gently scrape them into a plastic container. The eggs are very tough, so don't just scrape them off onto the ground. They can survive very cold temperatures. You can put the container into the garbage or microwave it

and then put it in the garbage. Many egg cases are unreachable up in the trees, so we can expect that we'll have the caterpillars back next spring, but by removing the egg cases that you can reach, you will have helped to reduce next year's gypsy moth population and protect our trees. More info on what you can do next spring will follow in a later edition of the Conservation Commission news.

Enjoy! ECHPC members have been busy out in the woods maintaining some of the town's trails so that you and your family (2-footers & 4-footers) can safely use and enjoy them. The trails at Camp Nahaco and the Boston Trunpike Trail have been re-blazed (newly painted trail markers) and cleared of downed trees and branches. The George Askew Trail, behind EES, was cleared of encroaching shrubs and trees in the spring. You can check out of the Eastford Public Library a special backpack that contains an Askew Trail Guide and various nature field guide books. Please enjoy these lovely town resources.

Join Us! Do you enjoy getting out in nature? Are you concerned about preserving Eastford's natural rural beauty and historic legacy? Do you think it's important to conserve our natural resources? Drop by one our monthly (except August) meetings that are usually on the first Tuesday at 7pm in the basement meeting hall of the Town Office Building.



Renee Schmidt  
rvschmidt@snet.net

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**Fiddle & Song**

Tom French

[tomfrench@charter.net](mailto:tomfrench@charter.net)



“Glory be to God for dappled things,” and although Hopkins doesn’t include them in his poem, Pied Beauty, my mind is immediately smattered with the yellow, orange, red, and golden maple leaves coming up this month. Nothing is so beautiful as the unexpected amazement of nature; and nothing defeats it as quickly as pathetic human efforts to re-organize it. My life has been a perpetual love affair with trees that began as a young boy wandering into the various woods around Eastford. They were places to find a brook, build a hut, or just endlessly explore via a myriad of assumed paths. Now at the other end of my life, my house is closely surrounded by as many trees as I dare let grow toward it. You can talk to trees if you are fortunate enough to know their language.

This particular song (life is music) had its beginning this past June when I attended the opening 2016 Yale/Myers School of Forestry lecture, about two weeks after their main buildings burned to the ground. The topic, under the new tent, was the physiology of trees, or more simply: trees drinking water. We drink down with the help of gravity, but trees have to drink up: gathering water with massive unseen root systems, moving it cell by cell to each leaf, and ultimately releasing it into the air. At the closing question period, it came out that the typical mature trees around our town drink about 60 to 70 gallons of water per day. In tall trees such as Sequoias and Redwoods a molecule of water spends about 7 days traveling


from root entry to leaf release. Our local trees suck it up and spit it out in about one day. A person I knew, who is a spring kayak river run enthusiast, always blamed the trees for emptying the local rivers of water by early spring. Until this last June, I didn’t believe him.

On Earth, our America has the largest trees, the Sequoias (“General Sherman” 52,500 cubic feet in volume), and the tallest trees, the Coastal Redwoods (“Hyperion”, 380 feet), as well as the oldest living trees, the Bristlecone Pines (“Methuselah” 5000 years). I’ve visited them multiple times. If you are out west in California and Nevada, be sure to take the time to meet them. While you’re here, you can find Connecticut’s largest tree, the Pinchot Sycamore in Simsbury, and the tallest tree, a White Pine in Cornwall, CT. The Pinchot Sycamore is also the oldest with an estimate of 200 to 300 years in age. And I expect a walk in the woods near your house would find some other very notable members of freedom. And it is those notable trees near your house that clean your air and prevent New England from becoming a desert by tempering the climate. Life would be very different without trees.

A song which I have been singing for the last four years is called the Tree of Life, a song of the 1960’s Civil Rights movement. It says, “There are things that we know that we don’t know that we know,” and then calls on us to “Come to the Tree of Life.” The Tree of Life is prominently mentioned in Garden of Eden story, but trees have held prominence in many religions, beliefs and myths. As I continually watch the trees around my house reach for the sun that falls over my roof, I understand why the forest overtook Sleeping Beauty’s castle. J.R.R. Tolkien introduced us to Treebeard and the Ents that aided in the defeat of the evil that threatened Middle Earth. And the stories of Merrie and Pippen as they ride on the bows of Treebeard are not so different from the excitement and joy of climbing a tree as a youngster. Most of us live in houses of wood, eat at wood, sit on wood and sleep on wood. In our community trees are a source of food and heat and provide work for many as the logging, trimming and building industry. All of that comes from a living being, just as alive as we are. No wonder humans have found understanding in their own lives through the examples of earth’s largest and oldest life forms. Yes, do come to the tree of life.

I mentioned talking to trees. Remember, trees are very old and move very very slowly as they reach for the sun. In their wisdom, they speak equally slowly. If you’d like to communicate with the trees, step into their shade and silently be there.

Oak and Ash and Thorn  
Legends, stories, myths Sleeping Beauty, Tolkien, the Ents, Treebeard  
Tree time pace,  
Communicating with trees  
Tree songs

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**Library News**

By: Susan Shead

The summer reading program On your mark, Get set... READ! Was very successful. The library hosted a performance of Pumpernickel Puppets on Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM. The title of the puppet show was Sir George and the Dragon. It was a delightful program enjoyed by all! I would like to thank the Junior Volunteers who helped out at the library this summer. They are Sophia Bulan, Meadow Bulan, Anna Kellermann, Violet Young, Abigail Horton, Isaac Torcellini and Micah Torcellini. Thank you for your time and help over the summer.

The library book discussion will be starting up again this month. Our first book of the season will be In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blume with the time and day yet to be decided. Call the library at 860-974-0125 for more info.

There are discount passes available for Mystic Aquarium, Roger Williams Park Zoo, The New England Air Museum, and free admission passes to the New Britain Museum of American Art, The Wadsworth Atheneum and Connecticut's Old State House. We also have coupons for 20% off admission to the Connecticut Science Center.

**Please note:**

**The library will be closed on Monday Sept.5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day.**

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

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**Congregational Church of Eastford**

8 Church Road, PO Box 177  
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www.cceastford.org

**September 9:** AWANA Kids Club starts up again!  
*Open to all kids ages Kindergarten - Grade 6*  
Fridays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
(Sign up on website or at 6 pm on September 9th.)

**September 10:** Financial Peace University begins!  
9-week course through November 5  
Saturdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
*Open to all in the community*  
(Fee for course materials; classes are free!)

**September 11:** Regular hours resume (Please join us!)  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service  
Noon - 4 pm Church Picnic at Camp Wabbaquasset

**News You Can Use: CT Prepares app**

Deb Richards – Emergency Management Director

To highlight September as *National Preparedness Month*, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced the launch of a new emergency preparedness mobile application for Connecticut residents that provides information and alerts in emergency situation, and also helps residents prepare in advance of an emergency.

The "[CT Prepares](#)" app, which can be downloaded to most smartphones, incorporates and integrates text messaging, email, and social networking, allowing residents to communicate with family members during an emergency.

Real-Time notifications including emergency news, state office closings, and public safety messages can be sent directly to the device, providing up-to-the-minute information for residents. With just a keystroke, anyone can download the CT Prepares app to their mobile devices and in a matter of a minute, be better prepared for any disaster or emergency they may face. That's especially important as we approach the height of this year's hurricane season in Connecticut.

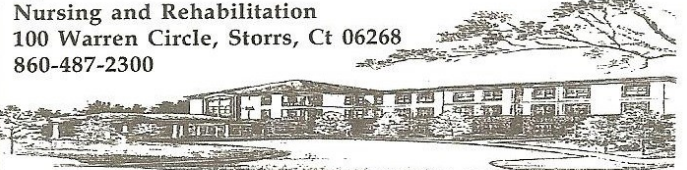
The app can be downloaded for free from the [iTunes Apple Store](#) for Apple devices and [Google Play](#) for Android devices by searching the keyword "CT Prepares." It was developed jointly by DESPP and Connecticut Interactive.

Other features of the app include:

- Send an "I'm Safe" message to contacts via email, text, and social networks
- View real-time alerts for emergencies, weather and traffic
- View current and extended National Weather Service forecasts based on current location
- Access Connecticut Emergency Management Agency news and events
- View emergency preparation guides for different types of emergencies

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### Eastford Food Pantry

The Food Pantry extends a very hearty "THANK YOU!!" to the many residents of Eastford who have helped replenish supplies to our pantry. A particular thank you goes out to the Ashford Business Association, Terry Cote, Katherine Roy and many anonymous donors for their food collections this month. We would also like to thank Patricia Lagasse and the Ashford Business Association for the many toys donated to our town at their Christmas in July fundraiser.

As generous as friends of the pantry are, there is usually a decline in donated food during the summer months. The need, however, remains steady. Among items most needed are: low sugar cereals, oatmeal, rice, tuna, canned fruits and juices, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, bisquick or baking mix, granola bars, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, toiletries. Please consider buying a few extra items on your next trip to the grocery store. You can drop them off in the Selectmen's Office or call Karen & Steve Broderick for pick-up at 860-974-1618. Please note that financial donations are also critical and allow us to purchase items essential to a balanced diet that may be missing from our pantry. Donations can be made payable to: Town of Eastford (Food Pantry on memo line), P.O. Box 98, Eastford, CT 06242. Eastford residents in need who would like to avail themselves of the food pantry can place a confidential call anytime to Steve or Karen at 974-1618, or contact the First Selectman's Office.



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### ATTENTION

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

E-mail: eastford.communicator@gmail.com

Deadline: 2nd Wednesday of each Month

### Eastford Communicator Volunteers

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

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

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## Tips for Today

by Liz Ellsworth - Celebrate Autumn!

The Autumnal Equinox occurs on Thursday, September 22, 2016. We welcome the bursts of bright, leafy color, and the cool, crisp(er) days, and the abundance of apple and pumpkin-themed everything. It's also a time to start over, aligning with the fresh start often found within "the new school year." How will you be more eco-friendly this fall? How will you begin again to be an environmental steward of your favorite, local nature spot?



## New Look for Eastford Website

Check out the updated Town of Eastford website at:

[Townofeastford.org](http://Townofeastford.org)

You can check the new website for town news, events, town features, office and transfer station hours, town calendar, departments, boards and commissions, commission and committee minutes--you can even pay taxes online now!

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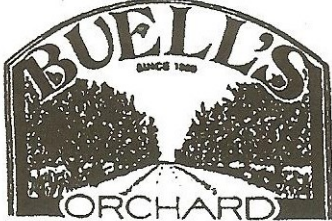
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