

THE EASTFORD Communicator



DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

"Eastford: One of Connecticut's best small towns." - Carol Davidge

VOL. 33, No. 3

TRICK OR TREAT!



Adam Minor photo



Courtesy photo

EASTFORD — The town was filled with Halloween cheer in October as the town hosted two "Trunk or Treat" events for kids. The first event, at Buell's Orchard on Sunday, Oct. 27, featured more than a dozen stations for kids to visit. The second event was the town's official Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, Oct. 31, which featured even more trunks for kids to enjoy. Above, at left, Owen Barlow is a mad scientist at the town's Trunk or Treat. At right, Lorenzo (dressed as Rocky Balboa) and Elena Coccola (dressed as a "creepy clown") get into character at the Buell's Orchard event.

Communicator CONVERSATIONS



Katie Ball is the new director of the Eastford Public Library. Adam Minor photo.

Ball debuts as new library director

'I'VE BEEN WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS'

BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — Katie Ball has always loved to read. As it turns out, that love of reading has manifested itself into a new role as the director of the Eastford Public Library. Ball officially started on Oct. 22, and since then, she has been both learning and leading as she has been acclimating to her new job.

Ball has been a resident of Eastford for the past four years, previously living in Brooklyn and Killingly. She has two daughters, fourth-grader Rory, 9, and first-grader Reese, 6.

The Communicator sat down with Ball last month to talk about getting her feet wet at the library, her background, what being library director means to her, and her plans for the library moving forward.

Turn to **LIBRARY**, pg. 18

EES Auction nets more than \$18k for D.C. trip

EASTFORD — After a night full of frenzied sales and fundraising on Saturday, Nov. 16, the EES Goods and Services Auction boasted one of its highest totals in recent memory, netting \$18,247, according to auction officials as of press time. The event featured a live and silent auction, as well as a raffle, baked goods and coffee sales, pizza sales and other donations. All of the proceeds will be deposited in an account that funds the annual Washington D.C. eighth grade field trip, this year slated for June 3-6, 2025.



Abigail and Rachel Budd man the bake sale table.
Adam Minor photo.

IN
THIS
ISSUE



HARVEST
FESTIVAL AT
BUELL'S
PG. 4



EES SOCCER
SEASON
SPOTLIGHT
PG. 10

ELECTION RESULTS

PG. 3

CALENDAR

PGS. 8-9

THE EASTFORD Communicator

LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

VOL. 33, No. 3 | DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

MANAGING EDITOR: Adam Minor
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Arthur Brodeur
BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Randal Chinnock, Chairman; Michele Palulis, Vice Chairman; Nancy Gingras, Treasurer; Julia Torcellini, Secretary; Arthur Brodeur
CONTROLLER: Susanna Gaines

The Eastford Communicator is published bi-monthly, and as a non-profit 501(c)(3) venture, it is registered with the State of Connecticut and IRS, and is supported by advertising revenues and donations. All contributions are tax deductible.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Articles, calendar or event information, press releases, photos or questions may be sent to eastfordnews@gmail.com. Please send text in Microsoft Word format (not PDF), and high-resolution photos in JPG format. Send mail to Editor, Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242, by the 10th of the month preceding the next issue. All submissions to the *Communicator* are subject to editing. The *Communicator* reserves the right not to accept submissions.

To contact the *Communicator* by phone, call (860) 337-2481, and leave a message, and someone will get back to you as soon as we can.

ADVERTISING

E-mail ads.eastfordnews@gmail.com for advertising information and questions, or to be sent a copy of our rate sheet. Payments should be by check only, and should be sent to *The Eastford Communicator*, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242, by the 10th of the month preceding the next issue.

CIRCULATION

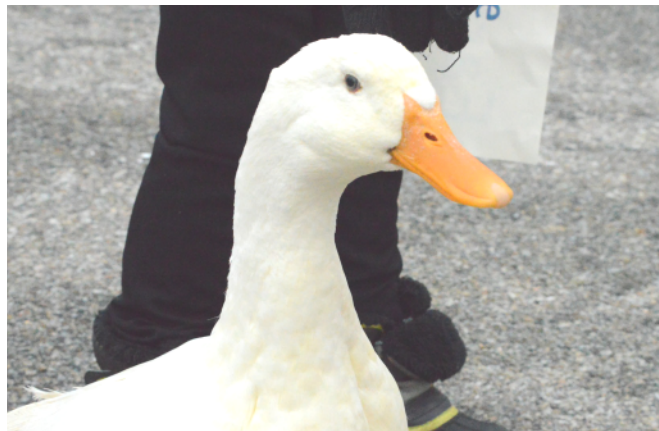
The Eastford Communicator is available online at <https://eastford.news/>, and in print, free of charge, to every home in Eastford. Out-of-town subscriptions are available by request, for an annual fee of \$25 (although additional donations are appreciated).

Scramble ready to predict future on 'Duck Day'

EASTFORD — Every midwinter, Americans across the country gather to hear from groundhogs whether winter will end early or last for another six weeks.

Eastford has its own unique tradition. For the past 10 years, fans both in town and in the surrounding area have gathered to hear Scramble the Duck's forecast for the rest of winter. According to legend shared with the groundhogs, if Scramble sees his shadow, winter will last, but if he does not see a shadow, spring will come early. However, in contrast to his furred rivals, Scramble boasts a perfect accuracy rate.

Once again, Scramble will make his prediction on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 a.m., at Eastford's Ivy Glenn Memorial. Following an opening speech, Scramble will secretly confer with his handlers about his prediction. Then, a translated



Scramble the Duck is preparing once again to predict the forecast for early 2025 on Sunday, Feb. 2. File photo.

announcement will be read to the audience. Fans are encouraged to come to the event to experience this historic moment.

Duck Day, as the event has become a staple for the winter months in Eastford. Fans enjoy spending time in the community when the cold weather prevents much other outdoor activity. Scramble's accurate prediction, combined with community lightheartedness, helps pass the winter months.

The Feb. 2 event will also be live streamed for those not able to attend in person. More information can be found on Scramble the Duck's website, scrambletheduck.org.

All signs point to...



Second grader Rio Souvigney was announced as the winner of the annual sign contest on Friday, Nov. 8. Adam Minor photo.

EASTFORD — On Friday, Nov. 8, Eastford Elementary School students, teachers, and staff gathered at the front entrance of the school to announce the winner of the annual sign contest, which has the honor of being featured on an insert on the school's main sign for the entirety of the 2024-25 year. The finalists this year were designs by fifth grader Zoe Labonte, first grader Avriella Barber, and second grader Rio Souvigney. As the sign was unveiled, Souvigney was announced as this year's winner. She won a \$25 Amazon gift card for the win, while the other two finalists received art supplies as a runner-up award. The theme for this year's sign contest was "Where Does Reading Take You?" The contest was open to all students. Three finalists were selected by the PTO, and voting on the three finalists' designs was conducted by EES students to determine the winner.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR GIFTS OF THEIR TIME, TALENT, AND/OR TREASURE

Charles and Mary Belden; Ken and Peg Bernier; Tom and Betsy Barker; Jim and Marian Slye

We have made every effort for this list to be complete and accurate; please excuse any omissions or errors and contact us to let us know.

DONATIONS MAKE THE COMMUNICATOR POSSIBLE!

Please consider a donation to the Communicator!

Send checks to:

Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242

Town election results echo national tallies

SUBSTANTIAL VOTER TURNOUT TOUTED BY TOWN CLERK

EASTFORD ELECTION RESULTS

The following results were submitted to the Communicator from by Town Clerk Johanna Wolfe.

Party key is as follows: Democrat (D); Republican (R); Working Families Party (WFP); Independent (I); Green (G); Libertarian (L); Cheaper Gas & Groceries Party (CGGP); Petitioning Candidate (P); Write-In (WI).

QUESTION #1

Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?

No: 432

Yes: 413

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Trump/Vance (R): 599

Harris/Walz (D): 445

Stein/Ware (G): 5

Oliver/ter Maat (L): 7

Kennedy/Shanahan (P): 12

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Matthew M. Corey (R): 565

Christopher S. Murphy (D): 413

Christopher S. Murphy (WFP): 35

Justin C. Paglino (G): 6

Robert Finley Hyde (CGGP): 18

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Mike France (R): 562

Joe Courtney (D): 484

STATE SENATE

35TH SENATE DISTRICT

Jeff Gordon (R): 651

Merry C. Garrett (D): 388

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

50TH HOUSE DISTRICT

Pat Boyd (D): 62

VOTER TURNOUT

1,073 out of 1,250 registered
(85.84%)

BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — Regardless of where you fall on the political spectrum, last month's General Election (Nov. 5) was an important day in the history of the United States, as the country tallied their votes for several offices, ranging from the President of the United States, to more local offices like State House of Representatives and State Senate. On the national level, Donald J. Trump was elected to a non-consecutive second term as President, while incumbent GOP State Sen. Jeff Gordon was victorious over Democratic challenger Merry Garrett.

For complete results from the Town of Eastford, see the chart at the left.

According to Wolfe, out of Eastford's 1,250 registered voters, a total 1,073 showed up to the polls to cast a vote, a staggering 85.84% voter turnout. This includes those that voted early, those that voted on Nov. 5 in person, absentee ballots, and same-day registration.

In Eastford's only local contested race, incumbent GOP Sen. Jeff Gordon was re-elected overall in the district (which consists of Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, a part of Ellington, Hampton, Pomfret, Stafford, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington, and Woodstock), with a tally of 28,613 (53%) to Democratic challenger Merry Garrett's 25,453 votes (47%) according to WFSB. Gordon declared victory in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Nov. 6, and in a press release sent to the Communicator that day, Gordon expressed his gratitude for being chosen by the district to the Senate.

"I am honored to be re-elected as the State Senator for the 35th District," he said. "Wow! Thank you to the people for the opportunity to continue working as your State Senator. I appreciate that they saw through the intense negativity thrown at me and recognized the positive campaign that I ran on the substance of the issues important to us all. Working together matters. Listening to people matters. Working for



State Sen. Jeff Gordon was re-elected to another term last month in the General Election, defeating challenger Merry Garrett (D). Courtesy photo.

people matters. Getting good things done matters. Integrity and character matter. Common sense matters. I am here to represent everyone, something that I take seriously. Today, I continue my ongoing work as your State Senator. I look forward to it. I have faith in Connecticut, and I have faith in our communities. Again, thank you for re-electing me as your State Senator."

DID YOU KNOW?

EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Did you know that the first settler of Eastford was Captain John Perry of Marlborough, Mass.?

Perry, born in Middlesex County in Massachusetts in 1682, was a post carrier on the route from Hartford to Boston. In 1710, he purchased 350 acres north of the Stoddard tract lying on both sides of the Still River in Ashford. He settled on 160 acres in the central part of the purchase that would become known as Eastford. His house once stood on the east side of John Perry Road, just south of the Historical Society Museum. In 1718, Perry was one of the founders of the Congregational Church in Ashford for which he

was later granted a special pew in honor of his service.

In 1722, John Perry was named captain of Ashford's newly formed military company. At the time, Ashford's residents were fearful of an Indian presence in the area. Perry was charged with protecting the town from a possible Indian attack. He established a military watch, a scouting patrol in the northern part of town, and prepared his company for any outbreak of hostility.

When Ashford began to divide into the Eastern and Western factions, Perry became a leading man in Eastern interests. In 1732, he was elected as the town representative to the General

Assembly of the State of Connecticut.

John Perry died on Feb. 2, 1746. He is buried in the Old Cemetery on Westford Road. In 1977, the Eastford Historical Society erected a monument to John Perry, first settler of Eastford, on the grass triangle across from the Town Office Building.

The Eastford Historical Society wishes you all a Happy Holiday season. Kindly consider joining the Historical Society, renewing your membership, or honoring us with a donation during this season of giving. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Checks may be sent to P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.

Our next issue will be published on:

Feb. 1

Please send all submissions to
eastfordnews@gmail.com by:

Jan. 15



Harvest Festival continues fall tradition at Buell's



Harper Sandness is all smiles as she enjoys her time in the Buell's Orchard pumpkin patch.



Beau Dubina arrives at the pumpkin patch ready for a photo op.

EASTFORD — Buell's Orchard hosted its 44th Annual Harvest Festival Saturday, Oct. 12 and Monday, Oct. 14, over the Columbus Day holiday weekend, bringing in thousands of people from all over New England to enjoy a slice of New England autumn fare. From apple and pumpkin picking, to BBQ items, live music, face painting, hay rides, and ice cream from Buck's Soft Serve, the annual Harvest Festival enjoyed good weather throughout the weekend, and provided a great way to spend a day with family and friends.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LIBRARY?

KATIE BALL

As we begin to transition to shorter days and colder nights, Jennifer and I are busy planning holiday events here at the library!

Story Time, Maker's Night, Grim Reader's Book Club, Movie Night, Children's Crafts and our very first Holiday Fair will be filled with festive cheer! We are excited to recognize Rebekah Budd for her drawing of the Ivy Glenn Memorial (pictured). Her beautiful illustration will be showcased on tote bags created by The Friends of the Eastford Public Library as well as our brand-new library cards.

A sincere thank you to all our patrons who have continued to be very welcoming! There is so much to love about our small town, and I look forward to the future.

Library hours will continue to be Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 6:30

p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. You may reach us at (860) 974-0125, or by e-mail

at eastfordpublib@gmail.com.

Upcoming events and programs can be seen on the town website or on social media. If you haven't yet, please follow Eastford Public Library on Facebook and/or Instagram at @eastfordpubliclibrary.



THE PASTOR'S PEN TIMOTHY HOWARD JR.

As we move into the busy holiday season, it's easy to let the spirit of gratitude fade away. While Christmas decorations go up and shopping lists grow, it can feel like Thanksgiving was just a pause before the holiday rush. But the spirit of Thanksgiving is something we ought to carry with us every day, not just once a year. The Bible calls us to maintain a grateful heart, regardless of the season. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Therefore, gratitude isn't just a momentary feeling - it's a discipline that helps us see God's hand at work in our lives. For those of us here in Eastford, we have many blessings to remember and celebrate. When we pause to reflect on Thanksgiving, we often think of family, friends, health, and the gift of a peaceful, supportive community that does so much to care for and show love to one another, especially at this time of the year. These blessings aren't confined to a single day in November; they are gifts to be cherished year-round.

With Christmas approaching, it's easy to get caught up in the busyness of

shopping, decorating, and preparing. But if we keep our Thanksgiving spirit alive, we also prepare our hearts to fully celebrate Christmas. We remember that the holiday season isn't about rushing from one celebration to another — it's about recognizing the greatest gift of all, Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), or "God with us". When we carry a heart of gratitude into Christmas, we approach the season with joy and a deeper appreciation for what it truly means.

So, this year, let's remember to keep thanking God for His many blessings. Psalm 136:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." Let's continue to keep Thanksgiving alive, not just in our words, but in our hearts, and in the way we live every day. May the peace and gratitude of Thanksgiving be a foundation that helps us truly appreciate the wonder of Christmas.

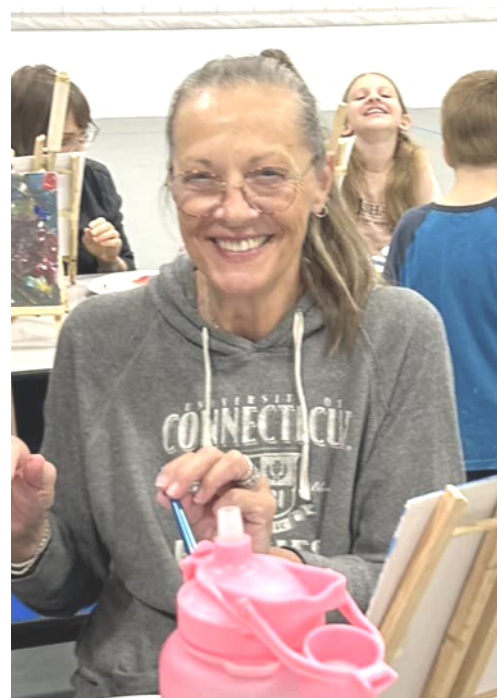
I would like to invite you to join us at Eastford Baptist Church for our Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, Dec. 8, at 10:30 a.m., and our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

Blessings!

EBC class nurtures the joy of painting

EASTFORD — Eastford Baptist Church hosted its latest Community Painting Class on Saturday, Oct. 19, bringing together many who wanted to explore their artistic side. The event, which was held in the church's Family Activity Center, explored a peaceful island and ocean scene, using acrylic paint on canvas. The Community Painting Nights are held periodically throughout the year. For more information, or to be alerted when the next class is held, e-mail eastfordbaptistoffice@gmail.com. Pictured, at right, Stacey Cheney shows off her painting during the class. At top right, Pam Knowlton pauses to smile for a photo while painting. At bottom left, Karissa and T.J. Howard are excited to work on their paintings. At bottom right, the group poses with their fresh paintings after the class.

Courtesy photos



IN THE GARDEN SUSAN BURNS

As you observe your yard during this downtime, make notes on where you need to add something. If you haven't already considered adding shrubs to your yard that provide interest in winter, your list will help when deciding what to plant come spring.

The Holly (Ilex) family is one genus, both deciduous and evergreen, that can provide colorful berries in red, yellow and orange. Not only do they make the winter landscape pop, they provide excellent food for the birds during the winter months.

The evergreen Pine (Pinus bungeana) has colorful bark to enjoy during winter.

The native Witch Hazel (Hamamelis

virginiana) flowers when most other garden shrubs have finished their bloom. As brilliant yellow leaves drop in the fall, the branches become covered with small yellow flowers that sustain late season pollinators.

Paperbark Maple (Acer griseum) is a handsome tree with scarlet foliage in autumn. This tree becomes distinctive and elegant with age, as its papery sheets of bark peel to reveal cinnamon-brown new bark.

Kousa Dogwood (Cornus Kousa) develops exfoliating patches of tan and brown bark, which adds to winter beauty when enhanced with layers of snow.

With the coming of winter, our

thoughts turn from the garden to the house. If we turn to the inside, we have Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen and Poinsettias to give us color when it's gray outside. There are several citrus (lemon, lime, and Calamondin orange) plants that smell heavenly during their bloom time in winter inside the house. You can bring them outside during the summer. You can purchase small citrus plants at Logee's Greenhouses in Danielson.

Paperwhite Narcissus bulbs can provide heavily scented white flowers with very little work. Take a tall jar or vase, place stones in the bottom. Place your bulbs on top of the stones filling in as many as will fit but not touching.

Add water to the bottom of the bulbs. Soon you will have flowers for weeks.

Of course, I can't end without mentioning Amaryllis. These can be purchased very cheaply already placed in soil. Just add water and six weeks later you will have a flower or two. You can keep Amaryllis for years and years. Place the container outside in the summer. Water when needed. Bring them into your basement during winter. Repot when you see new growth. Water and you will have flowers again.

You can enjoy the pleasure of flowers, ornamental fruit and bark all 12 months of the year, outside and inside, with minimal effort!

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN DEB RICHARDS

Governor Ned Lamont signed early voting legislation in May 2023. This piece of legislation became effective for any elections after Jan. 1, 2024. The legislation, Public Act 23-5, requires 14 days of early voting for general elections, seven days of early voting for most primaries, and four days of early voting for special elections and presidential preference primaries. This will apply to elections and primaries that occur on or after Jan. 1, 2024. Every municipality in the state will be required to establish at least one early voting location and has the option of establishing more.

Connecticut is one of the last states in the nation to adopt a system of early voting. Now that Governor Lamont has signed this bill, the only states that do not permit early voting are Alabama, Mississippi, and New Hampshire.

All other states allow it.

The bill passed the House of Representatives on May 4, 2023, on a bipartisan vote of 107-35, with nine people absent. It passed in the Senate on May 31, 2023, on a bipartisan vote of 27-7, with two people absent.

With early voting in place, the Town Registrars, along with the moderator, needed to be present for seven days prior to the primary in August, and 14 days prior to the presidential election. Some of the mandated hours resulted in registrars working 16-hour days. Registrars Kathy Healey and Toni Doubleday organized and recruited poll workers to assist during early voting and on Election Day. Moderator Bob Williams also worked long days to ensure this election process went smoothly for Eastford voters. Constables Chris

Bowen, Randal Chinnock, and Arvind Shaw provided a reassuring presence throughout the day.

There was a small glitch with one of the tabulators resulting in late reporting of Eastford numbers, but the numbers were reported, and all your votes were counted.

Early voting comes with a cost, which will be reflected in next year's budget. There was a small supplement for salaries from the state this year, but with the increase in hours comes an increase in the salaries we need to pay registrars, moderator, and the poll workers. This increase will be reflected in next year's budget.

Kudos to our Registrars and a big thank you to everyone who helped at the polls to make early voting and Election Day a big success in Eastford!

If you would like to get involved

in helping your town, join a committee or commission and make a difference!

- Senior Citizens Committee — Michelle Palulis, michele@attorneypalulis.com
 - Inlands Wetlands Committee — landuse@eastfordct.gov
 - Planning — landuse@eatfordct.gov
 - Conservation and Historic Preservation — Roger Wolfe, emily.heyse@eastfordct.gov
 - Recreation Commission — recofeastford@gmail.com or mltmoran@gmail.com
 - Transfer Station Committee — christine.hustus@eastfordct.gov
 - Bowens Field Committee — emily.heyse@eastfordct.gov
 - Emergency Management — deborah.richards@eastfordct.gov
- Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season!

FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES



In the spirit of this Thanksgiving season, the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association extends its sincere thanks to several groups.

We want to start with comments on the beautification work of Andert Construction, Mike and Joe Andert in particular, who took the large, classic old gates at the north end of the cemetery for a thorough refinishing. With the help of Eastford town employees, Ben and James, the gates were removed and returned safely. We thank them all. Another beautification improvement has been the planting of eight spiraea bushes on the parking lot side of the property, an

effort led by David Barlow and assisted by Rick Torgeson, Beverly and Victor Salcius. Also, Eastern Construction, owned by Gary Whittenburg, corrected the erosion problem in the southwest corner of the parking lot.

Finally, a word of appreciation to the Trustees, Corporators and friends who removed the veteran and fire department flags on Nov. 13. All of this has been done to support the cemetery, which is not a town-owned property. If you would like to contribute to our beautification efforts, please use the form below.

EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE DONATION FORM

Yes, I would like to help. Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Gift in memory of _____

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

PASTOR'S UPDATE MIKE MORAN



Greetings to all from the Congregational Church of Eastford. We want to invite you to some holiday events! Check out the Calendar section in this edition of the Communicator for more!

Here are some updates about our church. We are excited about the future!

First, our rebuilding is moving forward, and we expect to break ground soon (weather permitting) on our new site on John Perry Road. Our new building (see concept photo above) will be spacious, all on one floor, and will include lots of space for kids, adults, events, meetings and worship — and spacious outdoor grounds.

Second, we are finishing up the demolition work at the 8 Church Road site. The plan is for a park-like setting suited to outdoor ministry events and to just come and be still. Oh, and winter sledding, too!

Third, we officially “installed” our new associate pastor, Evan Burgess, on Nov. 10. Please join us in welcoming him and his wife Chelsey and young son, Roman. Our vision is that Evan will work alongside Pastor Mike for what will probably be a few years, after which Evan will take on the lead role. We are excited as he brings a love of the Lord, of people, and youthful energy (he is 32 years old) to help us step into a future with the up-and-coming generations.

In closing, we would love to have you check us out at one of our events, or any Sunday morning at 10 a.m. at the Eastford School. There's childcare for littles, a program for kids 5-9 years old and a warm welcome for all. We offer a lot of programs for many sorts of needs — check us out at cceastford.org.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

ASHFORD/EASTFORD SCOUT TROOP 92 UPDATE



Scouts have been busy this fall. The Scouts and Cub Scouts joined together to decorate Ashford's Babcock Library with Halloween scarecrows.

Early in November, the Troop camped out at historic Ft. Adams in Newport, R.I. Ft. Adams formerly protected Newport and Narragansett Bay from attack dating back to colonial times. This camping trip focused on navigating through the woods using a map and compass, often referred to as land navigation, or orienteering. Many skills related to being safe in the woods and what to prepare for were also taught. Substantial parts of the fort remain for examination.

In other news, scouts were a color guard in two veterans ceremonies, the multi-town Korean Veterans Ceremony,

and the Ashford School Veterans Ceremony.

• Upcoming Events: December will be a short month because of the holiday season. Scouts will enjoy a holiday party at the regular meeting. Cub Scouts are invited to attend as well. The Troop is discussing the possibility of a ski trip this winter instead of the annual Klondike Derby.

• The Cubs of Pack 92 have had a busy start to the year also. Their first pack meeting included minute-to-win-it games and getting-to-know-you activities. The Bears and Webelos learned about the necessities for outdoor cooking activities and how to set up a tent. They were excited to teach the other members of the Pack how to make Foil Packet Pizza and Banana Boats over a campfire.

• At the November pack meeting (held at Mordavsky Pavilion) we had a Red Flag Warning, which meant no campfire! The Cubs had to switch it up and use electricity instead of open flames to make walking tacos and s'mores! The Cubs also learned about the Scout Oath and Scout Law. They worked together to list the Scout Law in the correct order and created their Pack 92 Flag.

• Scout meetings are at St Philip's Recreation Hall, second and last Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome.

Happy Holidays from Scout Troop 92 BSA, Ashford/Eastford: Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scoutmaster; Jesse Burnham, Scoutmaster; Rob Hany, Committee Chairman; Kurt van Heinigen, Cubmaster.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

September: 1
October: 0

MARRIAGES

September: 0
October: 0

DEATHS

September: 2
October: 0

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Aug. 21: 228 Eastford Rd., \$349,000, Marcus A. Guasp to Cody Randall; Aug. 28: 211 Eastford Rd., \$465,000, Jason T. Hines to David Matos; Sept. 11: Address not listed, \$50,000, Foundation Solutions of New England to William E. Rogerson Jr.; Sept. 18: 54 Lakeside Drive, \$10,000, Robert J. Zanolungo Jr. to Roland L. Severance Jr.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

DECEMBER

Monday Dec. 2: Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, Dec. 3: Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Saturday, Dec. 7: Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, Dec. 10: Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, Dec. 11: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park

Thursday, Dec. 19: Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building



85 main

American Fusion Cuisine & Casual Fine Dining
LUNCH | DINNER | LATE NIGHT | RAW BAR | SUSHI
Serving Daily from 11:30 AM-11:00 PM
85 Main Street, Putnam, CT | 860.928.1660 | 85main.com



**SEND US
YOUR
PHOTOS!**
eastfordnews@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Calendar entries must be sent to the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding publishing. Please send all calendar content to eastfordnews@gmail.com. Please limit calendar submissions to less than 100 words.

ONGOING

Adult Community Volleyball is held each Monday at 6:30 p.m., at Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. Join us for a few games of casual volleyball! No need to be a professional! Just come and have some free fun with friends and make new ones! No registration required.

DECEMBER

Tuesday, Dec. 3

December Awards Ceremony: Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Ralph Yulo Jr., Deb Lee, and Tom DeJohn at the Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission's next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., at the Eastford Town Hall (lower level). These awards will be presented in recognition of their long service to the Commission. Refreshments will be served. For more information about the Commission, please visit the Town of Eastford's website: www.eastfordct.gov/eastford-conservation-historic-preservation-commission or visit the Commission's Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/EastfordConservation/.

Thursday, Dec. 5

Eastford Public Library will host "Storytime" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

The Congregational Church of Eastford announces our annual free Senior Community

Christmas Dinner! Open to Seniors aged 55+ (Caregivers welcome!). RSVP required before Nov. 29. Online signup at www.cceastford.org/events/ (we have been having trouble with the website, so direct link is at <https://forms.gle/arnWQhME5pLgqXuj7>), or call (860) 974-0294 with the names of people in your party. Evangelical Christian Center, 574 Ashford Center Rd., Ashford, CT (follow the signs on the property), Dec. 5, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Live entertainment at noon. Full Dinner to be served at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Eastford Public Library presents our inaugural Holiday Fair hosted by the Friends of the Eastford Public Library from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Members of the Budd family will be on site making wreaths, and local Della Terra Farm will be taking orders for wreaths and other fresh Christmas greenery. Please join us for a silent auction, baked goods, holiday gifts, and so much more.

Don't miss the Recreation Commission's "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 2-4 p.m. at the Eastford School. Santa will be there, live music, crafts and cookies to decorate. Family fun and all free!

Sunday, Dec. 8

Eastford Baptist Church will host its annual Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 8, during the worship service, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Friends and family are invited to attend as the children perform Christmas favorites and tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ!

Day Kimball's Hospice Tree of Life Ceremony will be held Sunday, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. Join us in front of the Ivy Glenn

Memorial/Eastford Public Library for a time of remembrance and tree lighting followed by refreshments at the church office, 4 County Rd., next to the Post Office.

December is here already after the warmest fall ever. It is still the season, however, for our traditional Lunch with Santa fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Have lunch upstairs in the lodge or just come for a photo with Santa and avoid the lines at the mall. Made to order pasta bar, salad, drinks and desserts (gluten free pasta available). Join us in making holiday crafts, cookies, s'mores and more and shop our selection of silent auction and raffle items. Tickets available ahead of time by calling (860) 974-3379, e-mail registrar@4hcampct.org or at the door. No reservations necessary. Cost is \$10 for children up to age 8, \$14 for those 9 and older for lunch, 5 x 7 photo with Santa is \$8. Funds raised support the Jim Logee Campership Fund.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. for teens and adults. This month we will be making holiday ornaments at no cost to our patrons. In addition to crafts, we will also be hosting a Cookie Exchange. Please sign up for this event. Limit is 12.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

Saturday, Dec. 14

Eastford Public Library hosts a festive children's craft at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. In the evening, we will have a "Movie & Pizza Night" where we will showcase a family

Christmas classic at 5 p.m. complete with pizza and a hot cocoa bar. Please register for these events.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Eastford Public Library hosts "Grim Readers Book Club" at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17. We will be discussing a cozy mystery, "The Christmas Guest" by Peter Swanson. All are welcome! Copies of this book are available at the library. Please note this book club meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday, but due to Christmas Eve, the book club will meet a week earlier this month.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Congregational Church of Eastford will hold its Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10 a.m. in the Eastford School gym. The Christmas story right from the Bible – kids, shepherds, angels, wise men, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, music and a Christmas message of hope and life. The real deal. Join us!

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Eastford Baptist Church will hold its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. Celebrate the Reason for the season, and join us for a time of singing and worship during one of the most beautiful services of the year!

Congregational Church of Eastford Christmas Eve by Candlelight, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m., at Eastford School gym. Join us for this beautiful service of music and Scripture – the sort memories are made of.

MORE CALENDAR, pg. 9

CALENDAR

CONTINUED from pg. 8

Saturday, Dec. 28

On Saturday, Dec. 28, visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open House from 1-3 p.m. at 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. Meet the director and other camp staff, take a camp tour. Registration materials available. Take advantage of early bird discounts. Details available at the open house or on the website, www.4hcampct.org.

Monday, Dec. 30

On Dec. 30, Camper Game Day at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children ages 6-12. Games, food and fun for the kids during the holiday vacation week from school. Lunch and snacks included and outdoor gear required as some time will be spent outside. Admission is \$25/child, everyone welcome. Pre-registration required by Dec. 22. Call (860) 974-1122 to register or e-mail campdirector@4hcampct.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Eastford Public Library hosts a fun New Year's Eve party for kids at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31. Please join us for a countdown to 2025!

JANUARY

Thursday, Jan. 2

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8. This is an adult and teen craft program where we gather together to create and converse. Come have fun with us!

Thursday, Jan. 9

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

Saturday, Jan. 11

Eastford Public Library hosts the "BBC Book Club" on Saturday, Jan. 11. Patrons always ask us what "BBC" stands for — it is a toss-up between "Bibliophiles and Bibliomaniacs Consortium" and "Brownies, Books and Chat." All are welcome to attend this multi-genre book club that meets every other month on the second Saturday at 1 p.m. This month the genre will be Young Adult, but the title is yet to be

determined. Copies of the book club pick will be on display at the library to check out.

Thursday, Jan. 16

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play. At 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, Friends of the Eastford Public Library will meet for their monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Eastford Public Library will host "Dinner and a Movie" for adults at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18. Movie to be determined and suggestions welcome!

Thursday, Jan. 23

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025: Sno-Ball! Join us from 5-8 p.m. for a family fun Dinner Dance. Sit down dinner served by our amazing camp cook, dancing for all ages, door prizes, raffles, family pictures and a whole lot of fun. This new event is replacing our April 5K. All proceeds benefit the Jim Logee

Campership Fund. Adults, \$20; Kids 10 and under, \$15. 326 Taft Pond Rd, Pomfret Center, (860) 974-1122, www.4hcampct.org.

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Winter Wonderland Craft & Story" in collaboration with the Eastford PTO from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. You may register through the school or here at the library.

Thursday, Jan. 30

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

Do you have:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Photos? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Information? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Story leads? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Events to promote? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Local sports results? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Press releases? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

We'll take it!

eastfordnews@gmail.com

THE
EASTFORD
Communicator
LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992



The Congregational Church of Eastford

Reminder of Our

FREE Senior Community Christmas Dinner

December 5 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Live entertainment at noon. Dinner to be served at 12:30 p.m.

To be held at the Evangelical Christian Center 574 Ashford Center Road, Ashford

Reservations are required, as seating is limited. (before 11/29/24)

Sign up online on our events tab or directly at <https://cceastford.org/christmas-dinner/>.

860-974-0294

*Seniors 55+ (Caregivers welcome)



SEASON SPOTLIGHT



THE SEASON AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, Sept. 17, @ Parish Hill — W, 8-1
 Thursday, Sept. 19, vs. Ashford — W, 5-0
 Tuesday, Sept. 24, vs. Canterbury — W, 3-2
 Tuesday, Oct. 1, @ Thompson — W, 1-0 (OT)
 Thursday, Oct. 3, vs. Pomfret — L, 1-7
 Tuesday, Oct. 8, vs. Wheeler — W, 4-1
 Thursday, Oct. 10, vs. Parish Hill — W, 3-2 (OT)
 Wednesday, Oct. 16, @ Ashford — W, 4-1
 Thursday, Oct. 17, @ Canterbury — L, 0-2
 Thursday, Oct. 24, vs. Thompson — L, 0-3
 Tuesday, Oct. 29, @ Pomfret — L, 2-8
 Thursday, Oct. 31, @ Wheeler — W, 2-1 (OT)
 *Monday, Nov. 4, vs. Canterbury — L, 1-2 (OT, 2-3 PK)
 *Playoff Semifinal)



The 2024 Eastford Bulldogs soccer team. Top row, from left, Walker Whipple, Syllas Platt, Wes DePercio, Aaron Minor, Callum St. John, Cam Bibeault, Leah Talaga, Piper Moore, Thomas Blais, Aiden Mitchell, Head Coach Jennifer Barlow. Bottom row, from left, Logan Gillett, Charlie Ellsworth, Blake Gilbert, Ryan Collard, Georgia Barlow, Olivia DePercio, Ayiana Reed, Mackenzie Lathrop. Not pictured, Abby Haynes, Lily-Rose Priest and Sofia Gillett. Photo courtesy Nick DePercio.

Communicator END OF SEASON AWARDS

MVP Award: Awarded to the most valuable player, the player that exhibited the best overall performance throughout the regular season and playoffs.

Winner: Wes DePercio

Offensive Player of the Year: Awarded to the player who scored the most goals on the team during the regular season and playoffs combined.

Winner: Wes DePercio (20 goals scored)

Defensive Player of the Year: Awarded to the player who best defended against opposing goal scoring threats.

Winner: Cam Bibeault

The Leadership Award: Awarded to the player who displayed the most leadership qualities on the field during the season.

Winner: Leah Talaga

The Facilitator Award: Awarded to the player who best exemplified unselfish play to set their teammates up for success.

Winner: Callum St. John

The Sportsmanship Award: Awarded to the player who best displayed a spirit of sportsmanship and character on the field.

Winner: Aaron Minor

The Coach's Award: Awarded to the player who best exemplified a teachable attitude and coachability.

Winner: Blake Gilbert

The 110% Award: Awarded to the player who most consistently put forward their best effort on the field.

Winner: Abby Haynes

Most Improved Player: Awarded to the player who displayed the most growth throughout the season.

Winner: Walker Whipple

EASTFORD — The Eastford Bulldogs' 2024 soccer season — much like a game — was a tale of two halves.

The Bulldogs started the season on Sept. 17 like they had something to prove, scoring eight goals in an 8-1 win over Parish Hill in Chaplin. Forward Wes DePercio scored four goals (the first of what would become a 20-goal season), while Charlie Ellsworth netted three of his own to lead the Bulldogs. This was followed by another dominating win over Ashford on Thursday, Sept. 19, in which DePercio scored another hat trick. A much closer 3-2 win over Canterbury at home saw DePercio score another hat trick in a comeback victory, which gave him 10 goals in his first three games.

The hot start continued on Oct. 1, in a 1-0, extra time nailbiter win at Thompson, in which DePercio continued his hot streak, scoring the game's only goal in the extra time period to put the Bulldogs on top, and leading Eastford to a perfect 4-0 start to begin the season.

The Bulldogs' first defeat would come at the hands of powerhouse Pomfret (the eventual division champions), who defeated Eastford 7-1 in an overwhelming display of offense that would become their signature of their undefeated championship season.

The Bulldogs would eventually run off three consecutive wins — a 4-1 win over Wheeler at home, a 3-2 extra time victory over Parish Hill at home, and a 4-1 win over Ashford on the road, to run their record to an impressive 7-1.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, wins

would be a rarity for the rest of the season. Back-to-back shutouts to Canterbury (Oct. 17) and Thompson (Oct. 24) would send the Bulldogs reeling, leading to another blowout loss at Pomfret on Oct. 29. Despite losing three of four games, Eastford would go on to clinch the second seed in the playoffs, behind #1 Pomfret, and ahead of #3 Canterbury and #4 Thompson.

A 2-1 victory over Wheeler in the final regular season game sent the Bulldogs into the playoffs with a bit of momentum — but it was not enough, as Canterbury took Eastford to extra time, and eventually defeated the Bulldogs in penalty kicks to end Eastford's season in heartbreaking fashion.

Despite the tough loss, the Bulldogs lived up to their name, showing resilience and tenacity on the field. After the season, the team gathered one last time at an after-school pizza party on Tuesday, Nov. 12. *Communicator* Managing Editor Adam Minor, who covered the team all season, surprised the players at the party with the inaugural end-of-season Communicator Awards, which honored the team's top performers in several categories, the winners of which were decided by both Minor and Coach Jennifer Barlow. After the Communicator Awards were given out, Barlow surprised her team with her own set of awards. A complete list of the awards given can be seen in the column to the left.

Congratulations once again to the Bulldogs for a great season!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is seeking individuals or families who reside in Eastford and are in need of food assistance. Please call Audrey Carabeau at (860) 933-7685 to sign up. All referrals are kept confidential. Delivery is available to those who are homebound.

The Eastford Food Pantry is located at Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd., and open the first Monday of each month from 8-11 a.m. Each shopper is assigned a time slot.

The Eastford Food Pantry relies on donations from the community. Thank you to all of the generous donors who allow us to provide food to those in need. All donations to the pantry can be dropped off at the Town Office Building during regular business hours. Check donations can be mailed to Eastford Food Pantry, 16 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242.

This month we are seeking gift card donations for our pantry families. Please consider purchasing a gift card from Stop & Shop, Price Chopper, Big Y or Walmart.

Thank you for your support.

TIPS FOR TODAY

LIZ ELLSWORTH

Happy December!

Be inventive with your holiday gift wrapping. Newspapers, magazines, and colorful shopping bags all make great wrapping paper, especially if you decorate and add your own personal touch. Wrap gifts in new, festive dishtowels, or cloth napkins, and plan to deliver cookies in reusable holiday tins. Make the wrapping paper a piece of your gift.

Are you sending holiday cards this year? There are several ways to be eco-holiday festive! Make your own cards out of magazines and wrapping paper, order your photo cards from a planet-friendly company, or send an e-card. Express your wishes for good health, love, and peace in an eco-minded manner.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

SENIORS UPDATE

MICHELE PALULIS

Attention seniors! We now have an official Eastford Seniors Committee! If you would like to join and get more information, please contact Vice Chairman Michele Palulis at michele@attornypalulis.com, or (860) 928-9928. I would like to create a membership list with contact information, so going forward, I can send out e-mails of events, information, meeting dates, etc. If you'd like to be on the committee as a chairman, secretary, treasurer, or even just assisting with the month-to-month planning, please let me know. If you just want to stay up to date on events and what's happening, let me know! You do not need to be a senior to be involved and join the fun!

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING DIRECTORY

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Mon.-Wed., 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.; Thursday: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month:

9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-6:30 p.m.

First Selectman Deborah Richards

Phone: 860-974-0133

Fax: 860-974-0624

TOWN CLERK

Tuesday & Wednesday:

10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesday each month:

10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-6:30 p.m.

Town Clerk Johanna Wolfe
johanna.wolfe@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-1885

Lisa Kellermann

Accountant, Assistant Town Clerk
lisa.kellermann@eastfordct.gov
(860) 974-0133, ext. 4

TAX COLLECTOR

Tuesday & Wednesday:

10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesday each month:

10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-6:30 p.m.

Tax Collector Christine Hustus
christine.hustus@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-1885, ext. 6

ASSESSOR

Tuesday: 5-7:30 p.m.

Friday: 1-4:30 p.m.

Assessor Mary Hawley
mary.hawley@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-1291, ext. 7

BUILDING OFFICIAL

Tuesday: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Building Official Joseph Pajak
joseph.pajak@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-2068 ext. 8

LAND USE

Tuesday: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Land Use Secretary Susan Welshman
susan.welshman@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-2068, ext. 9

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

2nd and 4th Wednesday each Month:
4-6 p.m.

Registrar of Voters

Toni Doubleday
toni.doubleday@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-0133, ext. 2

Registrar of Voters Kathleen Healey
kathleen.healey@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-0133, ext. 2

ANIMAL CONTROL

NECCOG Animal Control
(860) 774-1253

PUBLIC WORKS

Benjamin Schmidt

Public Works Supervisor
benjamin.schmidt@eastfordct.gov
Phone: (860) 974-2259

James Roy

Phone: (860) 974-2259

BURN OFFICIAL

Nathaniel Fabian

Burn Official
(508) 365-7543

ATTENTION

ATTENTION OUT-OF-TOWN RESIDENTS

There is an annual \$25 subscription fee for non-Eastford residents to receive the *Communicator*, which covers production and mailing costs. For uninterrupted service, if you would like to continue receiving the *Communicator* for the next year, please mail a check for a minimum of \$25 to Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242. We must receive payment no later than Jan. 15.



**FOR UPDATES, EXTRA PHOTOS,
AND MORE INFORMATION
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY

JEANNINE SPINK

Monthly emergency responses are rising steadily (August, 18; September, 15). From Jan. 1, 2024 to Oct. 31, we have responded to 199 emergencies. In 2023, we responded 237 times. We anticipate surpassing the 237 responses by Jan. 1, 2025.

September and October were months for continued mandatory testing on all hoses and ground ladders. Testing of hoses verifies that the hose can still safely operate under pressure. Testing of ground ladders ensure that a ladder will be safe to use in compliance with NFPA standards of use, maintenance and service.

Drills are scheduled every Wednesday evening at the firehouse. During September and October, drills consisted of injuries relative to hunting accidents due to falls and improper use of hunting equipment, brush fires, EMS patient removal from vehicles, ladders and chimney fires in addition to monthly business meeting, truck checks, and Line Officers.

Fire Prevention Week was celebrated with the annual

visit to the EES, where the firemen wore their turnout gear, showed a video, talked about creating escape plans, looked through the trucks and got a "goodie bag."

A reminder that it is time to test the operation and change batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If you have a working fireplace, woodstove or pellet stove, have it checked and cleaned by a professional.

With carbon monoxide poisoning in mind, everyone should be aware that carbon monoxide is invisible. The colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas is a byproduct of burning organic fuels. Sources of carbon monoxide include household appliances and equipment fueled with gas, oils, coal, kerosene or wood. Examples of sources include furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, cars, charcoal grills, clothes dryers, ovens, fireplaces, lawn mowers, snow blowers and motor-powered recreational vehicles. Causes of carbon monoxide include malfunctioning appliances or equipment, worn or faulty parts, and improper venting.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning often mimic the flu, i.e., headache, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness and loss of muscle control.

Severe symptoms can be convulsions, unconsciousness and possible death. Animals can simultaneously exhibit flu-like symptoms. Carbon monoxide replaces the oxygen in blood causing the body to poison itself by cutting off the oxygen that is needed by organs and cells. To prevent CO poisoning, install carbon monoxide detectors, clean and inspect

fuel-burning appliances. Check for proper ventilation. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and use in your home. If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning, leave your home right away, do not open windows or doors and call 911. The EIFIC will test the house to determine the source of the carbon monoxide.

The holidays and cooking are right around the corner. Share these fire safety resources to help families enjoy safe holidays. One-

quarter of home decoration fires happen in December. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant. Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. If entertaining, test your smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and establish the best escape routes. Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop. Put a lid on grease fires to smother the flames. If a fire starts in the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to deprive the fire of oxygen. If your clothes catch on fire, stop, drop, roll on the ground, and cover your face. Never burn charcoal indoors. It can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide. If you are using synthetic logs, always follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. Research other on-line suggestions to make your home fire safe so you can have a warm, worry-free winter.

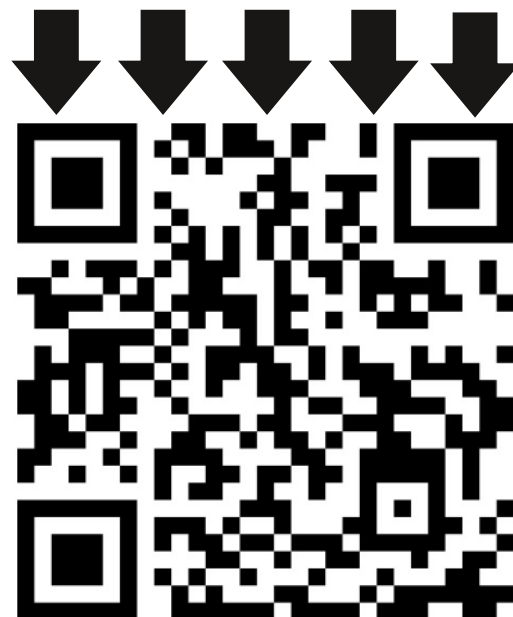
Guess who's coming to dinner? Don't let it be the fire department! Happy Holidays!



450 DEERFIELD ROAD POMFRET, CT
860.928.1562
thevanillabeancafe.com
Connecticut's Best Country Café
Yankee Magazine

Lunch & Dinner
Weekend Breakfast
Daily Specials
Beer & Wine
Outdoor Patio

**SCAN THE QR CODE
 BELOW TO CHECK OUT
 OUR WEBSITE!**



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DONNA LEAKE

It is hard to believe we are already beginning the fourth month of the "new" school year. Together, our learning community has already celebrated several successes and overcome many challenges. As we approach the beginning of a new calendar year, it is important to commend the staff of Eastford Elementary School for their incredible commitment to providing the best possible learning environment for all our students.

December will be a busy month at Eastford Elementary School. Activities include opportunities for parent teacher conferences, the Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the PTO, and the Winter Concert. Please refer to the monthly Principal Newsletters located in the For Families section (<https://www.eastfordct.org/for-families/newsletters/>) of our webpage.

At the November Board of

Education (BOE) meeting, the administration presented the District Annual Report, the 2024-25 Leadership Goals and the updated Eastford Strategic Plan to the BOE. The BOE accepted the Annual Report, approved the Leadership Goals and plans to review the Strategic Plan at its December meeting. Copies of these documents can be found on the About Us section (<https://www.eastfordct.org/about-us-contact/mission-goals/>) of our website. The BOE approved several policy revisions and approved the transfers of funds recommended by the administration. Details as to the policies and transfers are included in the minutes of the BOE located in the Board of Education section (<https://www.eastfordct.org/board/agendas-and-minutes/>) of our website.

In addition to their work as a full BOE, our members serve on several

subcommittees. In November the Policy Committee resumed the process of reviewing new legislation to make informed policy changes, and the Transportation Committee met to discuss and eventually act upon a new busing contract. Our current transportation contract with EASTCONN ends this school year. In December, our Facilities Committee will begin reviewing and updating the long-term facilities plan as well as responding to some of the challenges an aging and much-used building presents. The Committee will also review the new annual Facility Checklists that the state requires to be completed and posted on the website.

January marks the beginning of a new budget season. At their November meeting, the BOE approved the dates for their budget meetings. At the Dec. 12 BOE meeting, the BOE invites all

community members to provide suggestions and/or comments regarding the 2025-26 school operating budget. Budget workshops will be held at 6 p.m. on Jan. 21 and Jan. 30. Although not open for comments, community members are invited to attend these meetings. If needed, the BOE will hold another budget workshop on Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the BOE regularly scheduled meeting at 6 p.m., during which the BOE may approve their 2025-26 operating budget for submission to the town.

As we are preparing to say goodbye to 2024, I wish you all the best for a rewarding and safe 2025. As always, you are invited to contact me at dleake@eastfordct.org to ask a question, share a concern or to schedule an appointment. I hope to see you at the December BOE meeting to share your thoughts regarding the 2025-26 school budget.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SEN. JEFF GORDON

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me to be your State Senator for another term. It is a responsibility I take seriously every day (and many nights). I will continue my ethic of working for you and working with you, always using common sense.

I am known to be often out and about all 13 towns of the Senate district, including Eastford. I continue to do it. I am working on a new schedule of in-person and virtual office hours, so stay tuned for news about those. By meeting with you, listening to you, and learning from you, I can do all that I can do represent you.

Despite the many national news stories of political division and partisan wrangling, along with much drama and grandstanding, I see

every day that the people of Eastford and the Senate district know that by working together in a non-political way as a community, we can get good things done via a common purpose and our shared values. This is how I get things done in a bipartisan way in the Legislature. I continue to work in this regard in a positive way in Hartford.

The election in the Senate district sent a clear message that people like you want elected leaders to do solid work for them, not spread campaign smears. We must do more to make Connecticut more affordable for more people, reduce our sky-high electric bills, further cut taxes, make our communities safer, protect local decision-making of land use zoning in our towns, defend all our rights and medical freedoms for everyone,

and do what we can do realistically to make a better future for all in Connecticut. The election is over, and I am excited to continue my work as your State Senator.

The upcoming legislative session will be action packed. There are many pressing and big issues for us to attend to, such as crafting a new, two-year state budget; keeping the state on an even keel with its spending and financial status; not increasing taxes; paying down the billions in debt; supporting our towns such as Eastford; stopping the state from taking control from you about zoning decisions in Eastford; smartly investing in expanding housing affordability; promoting work force development; increasing support for public education; creating wise and affordable energy

and climate policies; supporting local health care services; helping law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical services; and much more. There is a lot of work ahead.

I maintain an open-door policy. As always, please reach out to me if I can help you with a constituent service, answer a question, or take up a concern. You can call my office at (860) 240-800, e-mail me at jeffrey.gordon@cga.ct.gov, check for news and updates at www.senatorgordon.com, or learn about what I am doing on Facebook at "Senator Jeff Gordon."

Thank you again for the opportunity to be your State Senator. I look forward to all we can do together to help Eastford, the Senate district, and our state.

ADVERTISE WITH US!



Contact us at
ads.eastfordnews@gmail.com to receive
an advertising rate sheet, or get more
information on advertising with the
Communicator!



GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

PARRIS ISLAND, SC — Pvt. Hunter Haynes graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Training on Oct. 4 as a member of the 3rd Battalion November Company Platoon 3078. He was an Eastford Elementary School graduate of the Class of 2020. His proud parents are Chris and Kristin Haynes, and proud grandparents are Dennis and Pam Desaulnier.



Did we get something wrong?
Let us know! E-mail us at:
eastfordnews@gmail.com
and we will run a correction
in the next issue!

COOKIES & COCOA WITH Santa

Saturday, December 7th
Eastford Elementary Gymnasium
2:00PM-4:00PM
 Santa arrives by 2:30PM
 Crafts, Treats, Cocoa, & Family-Fun!

FREE EVENT!

EASTFORD HOLIDAY Light Fest

All Eastford residents are invited to participate in the **Holiday Light Fest** by decorating your home/property with lights for the month of December!

If you would like to join in the optional competition, please register your address online at
<https://www.eastfordct.gov/recreation-commission>
 Judging will take place after dark between December 14th-15th.

NOTARY



PUBLIC

Rusty Lanzit

Call or text 860 213-1777

\$20 flat fee

"YOUR PLACE OR MINE"



WE ARE BACK!

Tracey's Corner Shoppe

5 Eastford Road, Eastford, CT 06242
 Winter Hours Thursday-Saturday 10-6
Traceyscornershoppe.com 203-814-1355

Gifts, Candles, Crystals, Honey, Jams, Dips, Clothes, Natural Products, Goat milk soaps, Mens skin care, Something for everyone!
 Offering: Holistic Modalities, Access Consciousness "The Bars", Bemer Therapy, Infrared Sauna, Opus Vibrational Sound Bed

Our Pomfret location:
 28 Mashamoquet Rd, Pomfret, CT
 will be holding classes and workshop, Energy Healing, Bemer Therapy
 By appointment 203-814-1355
Soulsynergy.org for events and appointments

Hull
forest products



Forest Management
Timber Harvesting
T&G Wood Flooring
Tree Length Firewood
Kiln Dried Firewood

(load your own pickup for \$50 - great for firepits!)

101 Hampton Road (Route 97)
Pomfret Center, CT
www.hullforest.com
(860) 974-0127



Eastford Farm LLC

Est. 2013

Chicken, Lamb, Pork, & Eggs

Pasture Raised with
Organic, Soy-Free Feed

Farm Stand at
76 Weeks Road, Eastford

Paul and Julia Torcellini
eastfordfarm.com

Capital Bankcard

A Premiere Provider of Merchant Services



Visit our website

Skye Gruszczynski - Director of Sales

(860) 774-8210, option 1

Skye@capitalbankcardne.com

capitalbankcardne.com

Call Today for a FREE Cost Analysis!

Mention this ad to get our exclusive
Friends & Family Discount



Lena Fontaine
president

PO Box 467
2 Birch Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

tel 860.456.1151
fax 860.450.1600
gulemo06226@gmail.com

Call us to find out what's new in energy efficiency!

Quality
Since 1917



Ductless
Mini Splits

Ives Brothers Inc.



Keeping our customers
comfortable at home

SERVICE REPAIR AND INSTALLATION
AIR CONDITIONING BOILERS & FURNACES
HEAT PUMPS SOLAR WATER HEATERS
OIL BURNERS WATER HEATERS

FUEL OIL & KEROSENE

CALL OR CLICK TODAY

860.423.6381

www.ivesbrosoil.com



G.M. Thompson & Sons, Inc.

54 Middle Turnpike
Mansfield Depot, CT 06251
www.gmthompson.net

Nutrena

SafeChoice



Full line of pet and farm supplies for all your animal needs.

Coal, Biobricks & Wood Pellets *Delivery Available*

Phone: (860) 429-9377 • Fax: (860) 429-9378

BEYOND THE EARS TRAVEL
Your Adventure Awaits

Steve Fortier

Steve@beyondtheearstravel.com

706-599-6843



EBC
eastford baptist church

God's Word. God's Gospel. God's Glory.

133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242

(860) 974-1414

www.eastfordbaptist.com

Attorney Michele Ann Palulis, LLC

Friendly, compassionate legal services



158 Main Street, Suite 2
Putnam, CT 06260

(860) 928-9928

michele@attorneypalulis.com



GRINNING IGUANA LANDSCAPING

KEVIN TEDFORD

Mowing, light machine work, clean ups and more | Call or text for a free estimate

(860) 208-6440



Nature-based Education

NURTURING CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY & JOY IN CHILDREN 2.9 TO 6 YEARS OLD

Woodstock Valley

617-875-8323 • maplemoonmontessori.com



Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

EASTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
 133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242
 Visit www.eastfordbaptist.com for more info!



Congregational Church of Eastford
 4 County Road, PO Box 177
 Eastford, CT 06242-0177
 (860) 974-0294
cceastford@gmail.com
www.cceastford.org

Pastor Mike Moran
 Associate Pastor, Evan Burgess

Sunday Worship Service at 10 AM
Eastford Elementary School Gym
 12 Westford Road, Eastford
 Childcare (Birth - Age 4) and
 Children's Program (Age 5 - 9)
 available during the service!

We'd love to have
 you join us!



Darius Baturu

**BERKSHIRE
 HATHAWAY
 HOMESERVICES**

Your Local Real Estate Advisor

Ready to sell?
Let's get the
best value for
your home



Call Today
(860) 333-4448



Willington Pizza House

25 River Rd. Willington
 860-429-7433

Willington Pizza Too

11 Phelps Way Willington
 860-429-9030

willingtonpizza.com

Order Online



amplisound 

HEARING CARE CENTERS



Ralph Campagna, BC-HIS
Connecticut License #138

Phone: 860-315-9656
Fax: 860-315-9635

PUTNAM - 19 Quinebaug Ave
VERNON - 351 Merline Road

amplisound.com
ralphc@amplisound.com

YOUR AUTHORIZED FORD DEALER SINCE 1930

BOWEN'S GARAGE

EASTFORD, CT

860-974-0363

www.bowensgarageinc.com



Lakeside Massage

43 Lake Drive
Eastford, CT 06242
(860)208-2313

Keri Tedford, LMT
lic #: 2535

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN EASTFORD – AND BEYOND?

Consider joining the Eastford Democratic Town Committee or participating in our programs. Help especially needed with our social media!

For more info, please visit our [Facebook page](#), email EDTC.CT@gmail.com, or call (860) 341-2006.

Take action. Make the world a better place.

Paid for by the Eastford Democratic Town Committee, Robert Williams, Treasurer



108 Crystal Pond Rd (860)974-1150

Offering pick your own:

Strawberries in June
Blueberries in July
Peaches in August
Apples in Sept & October
Pumpkins in October

Check Facebook or our website for opening dates & seasonal hours

www.buellsorchard.com

VIVIAN KOZEY

REALTOR



860-455-5363

CR PREMIER PROPERTIES
260 ROUTE 171
WOODSTOCK, CT 06281

VIVIAN@CRPREMIER.COM
VIVIANSELLSCT.COM



189 Eastford Road PO Box 188 Eastford CT 06242

ebs@eastfordbuildingsupply.com

860 974 1924

fax 860 974 0099

REAL PEOPLE. GREAT SERVICE. SINCE 1928



143 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260

860-928-0811

Archambaultins.com



Liz Scranton
REALTOR®

KAZANTZIS
REAL ESTATE LLC

liz.scranton.realtor@gmail.com

860-995-5770

KazantzisRealEstate.com



BETSY DIQUATTRO

THINKING ABOUT
**BUYING
OR
SELLING
A HOME?**

I CAN HELP!

Johnston & Associates



WWW.CHINESESTATE.NET

REAL ESTATE AGENT
LICENSED IN CT



(860) 455-8565

BDQUATTRO3@GMAIL.COM

Ball looking forward to tenure as library director

LIBRARY

Continued from pg. 1

First of all, thank you for taking the time to sit down with me today! Let's start with the most obvious question. How did this opportunity to become library director come about?

"I just have fallen in love with Eastford. I used to go to the West Woodstock Library a lot because my sister is from there. I was like, 'I love the library so much, I really should be at the Eastford library.' Jennifer [John] had just started, and my friend and I came down for Story Time [about five years ago]. We fell in love with Miss Jennifer. They had Story Time, but it wasn't very popular. When I came, they said, 'We do story time but nobody ever comes.' I said, 'We have to change that.' We started to come every week, and it just grew from there. It has really just skyrocketed. Miss Jennifer just does a great job. She's really gotten a lot of people to come, which has created more programs within the library."

So, your involvement started with Story Time?

"Yes! It started with Story Time. I love Miss Jennifer and [former Library Director] Mrs. [Elizabeth] Platt. My kids love the library. My oldest is an avid reader — always has a book in her hand. We live in Eastford. It takes five minutes to get to school. But she always has to have a book. She's always reading!"

That's good!

"Yes, it's great. We were always at the library. Then the Friends of the Library started [in October 2023]. I was Vice President of that. In the meantime, I was substituting at the West Woodstock Library, just on Saturdays when they needed us. I have always loved the library. Then unfortunately, Mrs. Platt resigned. I thought, 'This might be a long shot. But, let's do it.' I've been a stay-at-home mom since COVID, my kids are getting big, and it's the perfect part-time position, right next to the school. I

just love it here."

It seems like this opportunity became a natural fit for you. What was the application process like?

"I applied in August for it. The [Library Board of Trustees] has to interview you, and the Board of Selectmen make the ultimate choice. There were other candidates. I only have my associate's degree. I've substituted, but [libraries are] not my background. I'm sure there were more qualified candidates, but I think when you come from a small town like this, it's more than just a degree. I think people want someone from town. I think there's so much more to it than a degree. I think maybe they took a chance on me, but I think I can do it!"

What do you think they saw in you to do this?

"I think there may be a misconception that all librarians need to be 'older.' I think they liked that I am younger and that I plan to be here for a long time, that I have children in the school system, and that I know what the town needs. I want to lead them into the future. I'm not just here for five years and then going to retire."

So, you think the board saw you as the longer-term solution?

"Absolutely. But I think more importantly, I think they can just tell I love the library."

Where do you think that love of the library comes from?

"I always went to the library as a child. I grew up in Brooklyn, not too far from here, and I've always loved reading. I see that a lot in my oldest. She's a bookworm. I think I just love that for her, because [a love of reading and books] is just not promoted enough. There should be a love of books. People say, 'I can just get that on my Kindle.' I'm like, 'Don't you just want to hold the book in your hands?' There's just something so special about being in the library,

it's just nostalgic for me."

As a fan of print media, I can't agree more. There's something special about holding a physical book. I guess I'm kind of old school that way!

"I completely agree. I love that books can bring people together. There's something great about reading a book and sharing it with others. It's an interesting relationship you can create through books. I think it's just great."

The power of the imagination seems to be a fading thing these days.

"Absolutely. That's why when a book is made into a movie — I ask my daughter this — watching 'Harry Potter' for example, 'Did you like the book better than the movie?' Sometimes, when you read a book before a movie — which you should always do in my opinion — you create that world in your mind, so that when you watch that movie, sometimes you are disappointed. It's just different."

By the way, the 'Harry Potter' books are way better than the movies, and you can fight me on that one!

"Absolutely! I agree!"

Speaking of imagination, with books, you can picture what it looks like in your head, but that picture can be different depending on who is reading. Everyone can picture it and imagine it in a different way. They will interpret it, and be emotionally affected by it in different ways. The subjectivity of reading is a really interesting thing.

"Yes, and I feel like children who are involved so heavily with devices are losing their imaginations. It's so sad, because technology has great things, but it also makes our kids grow up way too fast. They're missing out on so much."

As we sit here, you've been the director for about two weeks.

Have you seen many people come through yet? How have you been doing in getting to know people? There must be a learning process to all of this.

"Thankfully, I've been a part of the library here for a long time. I do know a lot of the patrons already. There are definitely a lot of families, and I've been meeting more and more of the older patrons. Their first question is usually, 'Where do you live?'"

Ah, yes! It's the age-old question. Are you "one of us"?

"Exactly! I live in Eastford! All joking aside though, I do have to say, everyone has been very welcoming, very kind, and very excited. It's been very heartwarming how nice and genuine people are. It really is."

Unfortunately — and please, correct me if you see this differently — but it seems as though libraries have seemed to wane in popularity over the years. First, do you agree with this? And second, how do you keep the library relevant in 2024 and beyond?

"I think that's a huge fear for some people, right? That's the question. How do you keep the library relevant? To answer the first part of your question, I do agree, but I think it also depends on where you are. For example, here in the Quiet Corner, there has been such a huge homeschooling community. I think [homeschooling families] are keeping libraries relevant by themselves! And that's not even factoring in everyone else."

That's a great point. Could you elaborate more on that?

"There really is a huge homeschooling community, especially since COVID. A lot of families have chosen to homeschool their kids. When I grew up, you might have known

Turn to BALL, pg. 19

Ball aims to continue 'sense of community' at library

BALL

Continued from pg. 18

one family that homeschooled. We can think of many now. We can keep our library relevant because we do a lot of programs, and we work with the school. We are just a tight-knit community. I think of other towns, too — towns like Putnam, they do a great job. Pomfret, Woodstock, the list goes on. I think also, the world kind of slowed down a bit. People were looking for resources to keep their children busy. It helped in some ways. It helped us slow down.”

When you start this position, what is the learning curve like?

“I’m learning. It’s slow and steady. Miss Jennifer is teaching me a lot. I know how to do a lot, but even things like ordering

books, that’s super fun. I like that. But I’m sort of a control freak. I like order, so I’ve been cleaning a lot! I’m just doing a lot of organizing. I do have hopes for the future, but who knows what will come to fruition. I would like to maybe zone in on the homeschool community. Maybe we can do a science thing that homeschool families can come to during the day. Maybe we can do a tween book club. We also have to start thinking about our summer program next year!”

Let’s talk more about the Friends of the Library and what they do. What is their role?

“Sure. They are nonprofit. They are designed solely to support the library in anything that they

need.”

Does that mean covering events with volunteer help?

“Yes, they do a lot of volunteering. ... They are like a backup. It’s very helpful. It is perfect timing, too. They have put a lot of work into it. I think it’s amazing what they have been doing for Eastford. We would love more people to get involved. I don’t think many people know about it. You guys brought the Communicator back because it represents the town. We also want to bring that sense of community. It’s a great thing to see.”

As we close our conversation, what would you say to someone who is considering coming to the library?

“People should come to us. If you are looking for something specific, we are more than happy to try and get it. We want to be able to build communication and build relationships. Come in and talk to us. Come read a book. We are here to listen and be that community for people.”

Thank you for taking the time! I’m sure we will be hearing a lot more from you in the future!

“I’ve been welcomed with open arms, and it’s been really good. Thank you!”

Editor’s Note: This conversation has been edited for space constraints. For an extended conversation, visit our website at eastford.news.



**SUPER
CLEAN
LAUNDROMAT**

**Your time is precious!
Save it by using our
wash dry fold service!**
Call Samantha at 774-200-1872



**King-sized comforter?
Giant teddy bear?
Wash anything in our
super-sized machines!**

4 AM - 11 PM DAILY

**BIG BUNNY PLAZA
926 MAIN ST, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA**

**SOUTHBRIDGELAUNDROMAT.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/SUPERCLEANSOUTHBRIDGE**



Want to see the *Communicator* in its full-color glory? Download the latest PDF at:
www.eastfordcommunicator.com

The Eastford Communicator
P.O. Box 253
Eastford CT 06242-0253

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #450
Willimantic, CT

FAX 860-974-2582
MOBILE 860-377-5912

P.O. BOX 86
23 EASTFORD RD.
EASTFORD, CT 06242

KING
TRUCKING CO., INC

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
EXCAVATION**

SCOTT M. GAUDREAU 860-974-0790



**CALL
US!**

**(860)
337-2481**

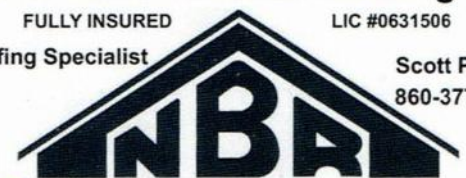
North East Builders Roofing Co.

FULLY INSURED

LIC #0631506

Roofing Specialist

Scott Perry
860-377-7656



NORTHEASTBUILDERSROOFING.COM

SERVING

EASTERN AND CENTRAL CT.



Peace & Joy

a concert of Christmas music

WINGS OF SONG

a 45-voice community chorus

Saturday, December 14, 2024 ~ 7:30 p.m.

St. Joachim Chapel

16 Church Street, Fiskdale, Mass.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Evangelical Covenant Church

24 Child Hill Road, Woodstock, Conn.



facebook.com/wingsofsong.org

No admission charged – Free-will offering taken – Refreshments served – Handicap accessible venues