

# THE EASTFORD Communicator



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

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

VOL. 33, No. 4

## Communicator CONVERSATIONS



Eastford resident Carl Asikainen is the new Executive Director of TEEG. Adam Minor photo.

### Asikainen steps up to lead TEEG

EASTFORD RESIDENT EXCITED TO SERVE NECT

BY ADAM MINOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — If you haven't heard the acronym "TEEG" before, Eastford resident Carl Asikainen hopes to change that.

The Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG), a "small, grassroots, non-profit social service agency," may be based in nearby North Grosvenordale, but Eastford is well within the group's purview — and they're here to help.

Asikainen, who has lived in Eastford for more than 20 years, was appointed as TEEG's executive director in August 2024. With years of experience working in social service, Asikainen was uniquely qualified to lead TEEG, which started in 1985 as a group

Turn to **TEEG**, pg. 15

## BULLDOGS' TOUGH SEASON CONCLUDES



Adam Minor photo

EASTFORD — The Eastford Bulldogs concluded their basketball season on Monday, Jan. 27. Though the Bulldogs were unable to capture a win this season, the team competed all year. Pictured is the 2024-25 Varsity team: Top row, from left, Blake Gilbert, Callum St. John, Vinny Boccacio, Cam Bibeault, Aiden Mitchell, and Wes DePercio. Bottom row, from left, Charlie Ellsworth, Jackson Ritter, Leah Talaga, Aaron Minor, and Silas Platt. Not pictured, Sofia Gillett and Logan Gillett. For full recaps of every game from this past season, check out our coverage on our Facebook page!

## Scouts stay busy in winter season

EASTFORD/ASHFORD — In December, Scouts from Troop 92 of Ashford and Eastford enjoyed a holiday party after their regular meeting. The first January Scout meeting covered Troop 92 history. The Jan. 28 meeting was at Camp JN Webster at the Scout Heritage Museum.

Upcoming events include a ski trip on Feb. 2. The Troop will ski at Ski Sundown in New Hartford. Later in the month, Scouts and Webelos will go on a "Tropical Vacation" at Mansfield's Community Center,



Cub Scouts competed in the Rain Gutter Regatta in January. Courtesy photo.

where they will use their pool and game room.

In January Cub Scouts competed in a "Rain Gutter Regatta." This is a lung-powered

boat race, and a joint event with Cub Scouts from Willington Pack 82. The Cubs plan to have their Pinewood Derby competition in March.

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE



ECHPC  
HONORS  
FOUR  
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UPDATE  
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CALENDAR  
PGS. 8-9

# THE EASTFORD Communicator

LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

VOL. 33, No. 4 | FEBRUARY/MARCH 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](mailto: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

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## 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).

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### DEB RICHARDS

In 2017, the towns of Eastford, Brooklyn, and Pomfret, and The American Red Cross and the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security entered into an agreement to provide an efficient and effective way to provide sheltering to residents in their communities.

This shelter was one of the first multijurisdictional shelters in Connecticut. This shelter will be located at the Strong Field House at Pomfret School in Pomfret. The shelter is non-discriminatory and will strive to meet the needs of all residents.

The shelter will provide sheltering, including three meals a day. Health professionals will be on site; however, each individual will be responsible for bringing their own medications and necessary equipment. Cots will be provided but each resident is responsible for bringing personal care items, baby supplies, including formula, food and diapers, and sleeping accessories (pillows, blankets, sleeping bags).

At the consensus of Emergency Management directors in each participating town, the shelter will be opened

in the event of widespread emergency. Information regarding shelter opening will be on the Town of Eastford's website, the Town of Eastford Facebook page, and WINY Radio (1350 AM and 97.1 FM) and WILI radio (1400 AM and 95.3 FM).

This shelter will be staffed by Red Cross volunteers, but we need volunteers to support the American Red Cross at the shelter and if there is a widespread emergency in Eastford. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to [emd@townofeastfordct.com](mailto:emd@townofeastfordct.com).

## FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association greatly appreciates the following donors who have contributed to the beautification of the grounds: Linda Torgeson, Mary Bloom, Juli Shamback, in memory of Lewis "Chuck" Shamback. Donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to: EGCA, Inc. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242.

The Trustees will conduct a general clean-up of the cemetery grounds after March 15, on a date to be determined. Seasonal flowers, wreaths,

logs and other objects will be removed at the time of the clean-up. If you wish to recycle your own decorations, you should do so at your earliest convenience, but prior to the 15th of March.

After March 15, live flowers may be planted or placed in plastic pots within 12" of the base of the monument; artificial flowers, ornaments, and other objects are not allowed and will be removed because the objects are a risk to the groundskeepers and their machines.

A Trustees meeting will be held Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m., at the Ivy Glenn.

Board of Corporators Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m., at the Town Office Building.

There is one vacancy on the Board of Corporators. If interested, call 860-974-1349. The Board of Trustees is Alex Kowalchuk, Rick Torgeson, Scott Huri, Lauren Anderson, Ken Grube, David Barlow, Carolyn Hazard, and Linda Torgeson.

## 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

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

Fidelity Charitable, Philip Finch & William Halpin, Herman & Diane Barlow, Larry Baldelli, Susanna Gaines, and Susan Burns.

*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**



# ECHPC honors four with Lifetime Achievement awards

EASTFORD — Four members of the Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission (ECHPC) were presented with Lifetime Achievement awards on Dec. 3, 2024, at the group's monthly meeting. The four were honored for their more than 20 years of continuous membership on the commission, since its founding in 2001. The awardees were Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Ralph Yulo, Deb Lee, and Tom DeJohn.

The ceremony was attended by Eastford First Selectman Deb Richards, the commission's original chairman, Steve Broderick, and the awardees' friends and family. Speakers at the event noted that each of the awardees had shown themselves over many years of service to be selfless, reliable, persistent and cooperative members who wanted to make a difference for their town.

Individual remarks concerning each of the awardees were as follows:

• **Mary Ellen Ellsworth:** Mary Ellen is a person of high standards and consistent principles who passionately believes in public service. She does not easily give in to discouragement or defeat. If she thinks something needs to be done, she won't give up.

• **Ralph Yulo:** Ralph deeply loves Eastford and is always ready to do his part for the greater good no matter what the task. He likes to get things done and has enjoyed his time on the commission because, in his words, "We do things, we don't just talk about them." He also brings a great understanding of the natural world to the work of the commission as a retired professor of science education.

• **Deb Lee:** Deb has great ambitions for the commission and is always willing to undertake ambitious missions to accomplish important work. She is especially interested in combating invasive plant species. She has a deep commitment to environmental issues and brings a profound understanding of ecological systems as a result of her advanced degrees and professional work in the field.

• **Tom DeJohn:** Tom is a skilled builder who takes pride in quietly leading and attending to many of the upkeep and maintenance issues associated with the town's hiking trails, historic cemeteries and the Old Town Pound. He puts great thought into planning this work and undertaking tasks in a safe and professional manner. He is an indispensable member of the commission. He also serves as



*The Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to, from left, Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Deb Lee, Tom DeJohn, and Ralph Yulo. Courtesy photo.*

chairman of the town's Inland Wetland's Commission.

For those unfamiliar with the commission's work, please visit the Eastford Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission on the town's website. Some of the commission's ongoing tasks include maintaining and improving the town's hiking trails and historic sites, such as the Old Boston Turnpike Trail, Askew Trail, Old Connecticut Path, Old Town Pound, and some of the town's older cemeteries. It has worked to eliminate invasive water chestnuts from a local pond and

preserve open space and farmland with protective easements. Current projects include mapping Eastford's historic stone walls with assistance from UConn and working to remove invasive plants and add native plants over the old town landfill to create a healthier wildlife habitat. Anyone interested in joining the Commission or participating in a project or two (no pressure, commitment level is up to you!) should contact chairman Roger Wolfe through the Town's Office Building at 860-974-1885.



## CALLING ALL HEROES!

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's ... *The Eastford Communicator*! Like a hero flying off into the clouds, our fiscal year is sunseting too! Please donate ASAP to our 2025 Fundraising Campaign! All donations are tax deductible, and will be used to potentially publish monthly instead of every two months, and to continue building a sustainable organization. All donors (who don't request anonymity) will be acknowledged in a special section of the paper!

### 2025 Daily Planet Fundraising Campaign

Jimmy Olson Level: \$25

Lois Lane Level: \$100

Superman Level: \$1,000

Clark Kent Level: \$250

Perry White Level: \$500

Please mail checks to P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242 or donate at [www.gofundme.com/f/eastford-communicator](http://www.gofundme.com/f/eastford-communicator)

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

November: 1  
December: 0

### MARRIAGES

November: 0  
December: 1

### DEATHS

November: 2  
December: 3

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Oct. 1: 123 Ashford Rd., Unit 2, \$360,000, George Jung to Yaacov Kopeliovich; Oct. 9: 275 Old Colony Rd., \$40,000, Gregory P. Kozey to Mettle LLC; Oct. 9: 271 Old Colony Rd., \$360,000, Gregory P. Kozey to Mettle LLC; Oct. 15: 90 County Rd., \$336,100, Terence D. Whittenburg to Lora S. Hughes; Oct. 17: 48 Lakeside Drive, \$85,000, Sebastian Randazzo to Brian Racicot; Oct. 22: 11 Westford Rd., \$62,000, Green Granite Ft. to Forrest Curl; Nov. 5: 119 Ashford Rd., Unit 119, \$283,500, Christina Fitzgibbon to Donna Salmon; Nov. 6: 221 Eastford Rd., \$310,000, Sean M. Blake Jr. to Stephen J. Fornari; Nov. 20: 105 Lake Woods Lane, \$40,000, Ren Ashford LLC to Calvin J. Renaud; Nov. 20: 216 Eastford Rd., \$439,000, Lorraine P. McKay to Sarah Master; Nov. 26: 43 Lake Drive, \$161,050, Tedford Kenneth N Est. to Donna E. Tedford

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Did you know that sometime in the early 1860's, the circus came to Eastford? Posters and pictures were hung all over town in anticipation of this special event! When the Great Van Amburgh Circus marched into town, Warren Keith was one of the boys who followed the parade around the town. "I remember the lady sitting in a chair in a cage with lions and tigers," he said. The "lady" Warren saw in the cage was likely Isaac A. Van Amburgh. Van Amburgh, an animal trainer, was the first to introduce jungle acts to the circus. He is also credited with being the first man ever to put his head into the mouth of a lion earning him the title, "The Lion

King." Van Amburgh wore his hair in a longer style and often wore togas in his act. This is probably why young Warren thought he saw a "lady" in the cage. The Van Amburgh name continued to be used by circuses until 1922, long after Isaac's death in 1865 due to a heart attack. The Historical Society seeks community support in continuing its mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing documents, photos, and artifacts that help to tell the stories of Eastford's unique history. Kindly consider supporting our mission through membership or donation to the Eastford Historical Society, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.

## UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

### FEBRUARY

**Saturday, Feb. 1:** Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building; Experience Eastford Committee, 10:45 a.m., Town Office Building

**Monday, Feb. 3:** Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, Feb. 4:** Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, Feb. 11:** Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

**Wednesday, Feb. 12:** Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock

**Thursday, Feb. 13:** Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School

**Wednesday, Feb. 26:** Experience Eastford Committee, 7 p.m., Remote

**Thursday, Feb. 27:** Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Town Office Building; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

### MARCH

**Saturday, March 1:** Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building; Experience Eastford Committee, 10:45 a.m., Town Office Building

**Monday, March 3:** Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, March 4:** Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Thursday, March 6:** Transfer Station Committee, 10 a.m., Town Office Building

**Friday, March 7:** Board of Assessment Appeals, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Saturday, March 8:** Board of Assessment Appeals, 9 a.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, March 11:** Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

**Wednesday, March 12:** Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

**Thursday, March 13:** Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School

**Wednesday, March 26:** Experience Eastford Committee, 7 p.m., Remote

**Thursday, March 27:** Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LIBRARY?

### KATIE BALL

The new year has brought new faces to the library and we are so grateful. Our hope is to spread not only our love of reading, but our love for this community as well. These aspirations really coincide with all the things we will be celebrating here at the library during the next couple of months. So please, stop in. Jennifer and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you!

Library hours are Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

You may reach us at (860) 974-0125 or by e-mail at [eastfordpublib@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordpublib@gmail.com). Upcoming

events and programs can be seen on the town page, on our social media, and in the Calendar section of this edition of the Communicator. If you haven't yet, please follow Eastford Public Library on Facebook and/or Instagram @eastfordpubliclibrary.

"The Friends of the Eastford Public Library wish to thank everyone who helped make our inaugural Holiday Fair a huge success. We appreciate the volunteers who helped set up and break down the event, all those who donated the lovely silent auction baskets, handmade craft items, wreaths, and baked goods. The support from our Library Board and our wonderful patrons was truly humbling." -Nancy Conlan, President



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YOUR  
PHOTOS!**

[eastfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com)



**DEADLINE**

Our next issue will be published on:

**April 1**

Please send all submissions to [eastfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com) by:

**March 15**



## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTFORD UPDATE

MIKE MORAN &amp; EVAN BURGESS

Hello, Eastford!

In American life, different months mean different holidays — and a quick walk through the store's "seasonal" aisle gives the clear signal. February is all about love, red hearts and candy.

Back when I was a pre-teen, there was a popular song that went like this: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love..." The year 1965 was 60 years ago! Those lyrics were true then, and it is certainly true today. There is so much chaos and discord. There are wars between nations and even within our own. There are wars in families and even wars within our own hearts. We battle habits, fears, anger, sorrows and selfishness. It seems the battles will never end.

Just imagine if there were a great upwelling of love in the midst of all the troubles in today's world. I am not writing about romantic, "Hallmark Movie" love — but crazy love that even loves the unlovable, the sort of love that can love even those who would seek our harm. If you have been hurt, wounded, cheated — if you have been the victim of someone unloving — imagine if you had the sort of love in your heart that could not only forgive, but actually seek to bless your enemies. Such love might seem unreachable, yet it is very near to us all. I speak of the love of our great God who "so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son

(Jesus)." This love of God is so great that He is able to love us when we are at our worst. He is able to love us even when we are acting as His enemies. That is some kind of amazing love.

All that to say that the two churches in Eastford — Eastford Baptist and the Congregational Church of Eastford — are both here to represent Jesus to all those who do not yet know that love. Perhaps you are hurting, wounded, sorrowful, hopeless, afraid and lonely. Maybe you are fighting battles in life and cannot seem to find victory. Or maybe things are pretty good in your life, but yet there is something missing. Do you feel well loved?

I can tell you that those who know Jesus do feel well loved. And here's the amazing part. No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you have done in life (even if it is really, really awful), the love of Jesus is so big that He will forgive you and welcome you into His family.

We as a local church do what we do because we know the love He has for us, and it is breathtaking. And we just want to share that love with whoever will receive it. Maybe that is you. Join us on a Sunday when we meet to celebrate and worship Him. Check out our website ([cceastford.org](http://cceastford.org)) for ways you might be blessed. For instance, we will be offering programs for those who are

grieving in February, and starting a divorce care ministry in March. Or, check out Eastford Baptist ([eastfordbaptist.com](http://eastfordbaptist.com)). That same love, the same message, and the same Jesus is in both congregations. We just want to introduce Him to you.

"What the world needs now is love, sweet love." In Jesus that love is here, it is here now, and it is on offer for you. So, my invitation is offered on behalf of the God who loves you more than you can imagine.

FROM ASSOCIATE  
PASTOR EVAN BURGESS

Hello, Eastford!

My name is Evan Burgess, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new associate pastor at the Congregational Church of Eastford! Though my family and I have only been out here since October, we're already starting to feel at home in this wonderful community! My wife and I were born and raised in Manchester, Conn., so we're grateful to get to raise our 4-year-old son back in New England, especially here in the beautiful quiet corner.

We moved back to Connecticut from Wisconsin, having lived in the Midwest for the last several years working with a mission's organization called Ethnos360. My wife and I were trained to plant churches in very remote, tribal locations, and funnily

enough the Lord brought us to a different kind of remote spot — Eastford. With our travels and experiences bringing us all over the country and world, we're excited to put roots down here, and to start serving and showing love to this wonderful community.

Since arriving, I've been so impressed by the warmth and spirit of the people here. From hearing how the town cared for our church after our building burnt down, to the everyday interactions that make this town special, it's clear that this is a place where neighbors look after each other.

As I get settled in, I'm excited to learn more about our town's history, and how our church can better love and serve this community. I'm eager to contribute in any way I can, whether it's to provide a listening ear, counsel, prayer, or just being a friendly face.

If you see me around town, please don't hesitate to say hello — I'd love to meet you! I look forward to what's ahead and getting to know more of you in the months and years to come. And as always, we'd love to have you join us on a Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the Eastford Elementary School gym. Our church offers programs and support groups for all ages, so check us out at [cceastford.org](http://cceastford.org)!

SEVEN TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR HOUSEPLANTS HEALTHY IN THE WINTER  
IN THE GARDEN — SUSAN BURNS

From Garden Design Magazine: "Houseplants are often appreciated the most during the dead of winter, when we are indoors and long to be surrounded by lush greenery. It can be especially challenging to keep houseplants healthy during the colder months because of less-than-favorable conditions, like drying indoor heat and dwindling daylight. Below are a few tips for modifying your plant care routine to get your houseplants through the winter and ready to welcome spring:

1) Although you may be tempted to water your houseplants more frequently in winter because of the dry indoor

air, most of them actually do better with longer times between watering because they are growing more slowly. Use less water and water less often. Always use room temperature water.

2) Take a break from fertilizing plants because most are semi-dormant during the winter months. Using fertilizer to stimulate growth will prevent your plants from getting the rest they need. As soon as you see signs of new growth in spring, you may fertilize.

3) Put your plants in the best light you can to compensate from the lower angle of the sun and fewer daylight hours. If your

plants aren't getting enough sunlight, you will notice them begin to stretch toward the light source. Rotate your pots a quarter turn every time you water.

4) Keep houseplants away from heating vents, radiators, fireplaces and cold drafts entering through doorways and windows. Make sure the foliage doesn't touch the glass. Sudden blasts of hot or cold air can cause foliage damage, leaf drop and even death upon prolonged exposure.

5) Although houseplant pests can be a problem any time of the year, their populations tend to explode during the fall and winter. Spider mites, in particular, thrive in the warm, dry

conditions of a heated home. Spot pests early because they can multiply rapidly and be hard to get rid of.

6) Because there's less sunlight during the winter, it's particularly important to keep your plant's leaves free of dust so they can take in as much light as possible.

7) If you need to re-pot a plant, choose a new container that is no more than two inches in diameter larger than the current pot.

I hope these tips will help you to take care of your plants during the winter months. In May, you may bring them outside where they will thrive as long as you adhere to their light requirements.

## FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN DEB RICHARDS

We once again have an official United States flag disposal box on the steps outside the Eastford Post Office. Flags will be picked up and receive proper disposal courtesy of American Legion Post 111.

In November, the first selectman, along with State Sen. Jeff Gordon and State Rep. Pat Boyd, attended a ceremony honoring Korean War veterans.

Among the Eastford veterans honored and still living were Randolph W. Whaples Jr. and Anthony S. Tiemann.

The Bowen's Field Committee has met twice and continues to make plans to open the Little League field for spring play. If interested in helping, contact Liz Scranton through the Board of Selectmen's Office at [emily.john@eastfordct.gov](mailto:emily.john@eastfordct.gov).

The annual EMD meeting was held with the Eastford EMD taking the annual loyalty oath given by Director Bill Turner, CT DEMHS. This meeting and oath are just one requirement that allows Eastford to receive grant money from CT DEMHS and FEMA.

Volunteers make up all the town's committees and commissions — Planning

Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Transfer Station Committee, and the Crystal Pond Park Commission. If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact the Selectmen's Office at [emily.john@eatfordct.gov](mailto:emily.john@eatfordct.gov). Thank you, volunteers!

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT DONNA LEAKE

It may still be winter, but the number of hours of sunlight is increasing, and retail stores are stocking up on gardening supplies and other outdoor living items in anticipation of the arrival of spring. As we move into the second month of 2025, the school and district staff have been busy the past six months providing for the learning needs of all Eastford students.

At Eastford Elementary School, planning for our future students is also very important. As with all our educational endeavors, we are most successful with support from families. The Eastford School Readiness Program will be sending its annual Needs Assessment to families we know of that have children ages birth to 4 years old. We strongly encourage all families with young children in town to complete the survey and send in their results. This information helps us to plan for future space and staffing needs. If a survey isn't mailed to you, it can be accessed on our school website, [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org). Navigate to the 'For Families' tab, then 'School Readiness' to find the Needs Assessment Survey and Preschool Registration Forms.

Preschool and Kindergarten

registration is open for the 2025-2026 school year. It is helpful to register as early as possible so that we can ensure sufficient staffing. Registration forms can be picked up in the school office and they can be found on the school website, [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org). Navigate to the 'For Families' tab, then 'Forms'. The 'School Registration' form should be used for kindergarten and the 'Preschool Registration' form should be used for preschool.

Regardless of the grade/age of your child, if your family is new to town, if you intend to have your children attend school in Eastford for the remainder of the year or the beginning of the next school year, it is important that you register them as soon as possible. Working in partnership with families is important to us. Please continue to refer to the monthly Principal Newsletters located in the 'For Families' section (<https://www.eastfordct.org/for-families/newsletters/>) of our webpage for important updates.

As mentioned in an earlier article, January marked the beginning of a new budget season. At their January meeting, the Board of Education (BOE) accepted for consideration the

Superintendent's proposed 2025-26 operating budget. The Finance Committee of the BOE reviewed the budget proposal at its January workshop meetings. It is anticipated that the BOE may approve their 2025-26 operating budget at their meeting on Feb. 13. All budget documents to date are posted on our website.

At the BOE meeting on Jan. 9, in addition to taking the Superintendent's proposed budget under advisement, the BOE took the following actions:

1. Accepted the updated contract with Regional District 19 (E.O. Smith High School). Currently the Eastford BOE funds the tuition but does not provide transportation for Eastford students attending E.O. Smith High School. Students who want to attend E.O. Smith High School must complete the formal registration and commitment form by March 1 prior to their freshman year.

2. Approved the one-year extension to the existing transportation contract with EASTCONN for the 2025-26 school year.

3. Discussed the application process for the Ethel Cushing Scholarship program. The deadline for applications is Feb. 4.

The application information is posted on the Eastford School District website.

4. Continued its process of deciding to maintain or change the designated high school for the Eastford School District by gathering and assessing important financial and programmatic information, obtained from local high schools. As part of this process, survey information was obtained from the administration of several high schools. In addition, E.O. Smith made a presentation to the BOE in the fall and Woodstock Academy has been invited to make a presentation in the spring. Woodstock Academy is currently the designated high school for Eastford students. As such, the BOE pays the tuition and provides transportation for Eastford students.

As we move into 2025, we will continue to achieve success with the support of all members of the Eastford Learning Community. Therefore, it is important that if any members of the community have any ideas, questions or concerns about the programs, protocols and processes of the Eastford School District, they do not hesitate to contact me at [dleake@eastfordct.org](mailto:dleake@eastfordct.org).

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## FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY JEANNINE SPINK



Happy New Year, and welcome 2025. We hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. Here at the EIFC, we are always trying to stay up to date with technology. Our dispatch agency has made some changes and allow us to add information to help us if you have an emergency at your residence.

You will find a QR code in at the end of this update for you to scan. By filling out this form with basic information, we can pull it up while responding. All this information will be kept confidential and the only way to see it is if there is a call for service at your address by us. Thank you for your support!

The final number for responses in 2024 was 240. A detailed breakdown for the year is as follows:

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents: 134 (55.8%)
- Service Call: 38 (15.8%)
- Hazardous Condition (No Fire): 24 (10%)
- False Alarm & False Call: 27 (11.3%)
- Fire: 14 (5.8%)
- Good Intent Call: 3 (1.3%)

2024 was a good year for us within the ranks. Although

some of our calls were tough and challenging, your volunteer fire department responded with upmost professionalism, skill and support from KB Ambulance. We also managed to have a little fun in celebration of the holiday season.

Happy Halloween! We participated in "trunk or treat" at Buell's Orchard and the school parking lot for an all-time high number of ghosts and goblins making the rounds. In May, fire department flags were installed at the Grove Cemetery in recognition of our departed department comrades, i.e., firefighters, rescue, fire police, ladies' auxiliary. Flags were removed after Veteran's Day.

Education is always ongoing for members. Chief Doug Beaudoin, Lt. Gordon Spink, Lt. Dave Jakubowski and Veteran Member Jeannine Spink renewed their 40-hours EMS certifications. November and October Wednesday night drills included truck checks, situational (scenario) training, cold weather emergencies and chimney fires.

Merry December! A piece of apparatus driven by members was decorated with colored lights to participate in the 23rd Putnam "Dazzle Light Parade" sponsored by WINY. "Breakfast with Santa Claus" was a total success serving approximately 125-plus children and adults pancakes and to hear the wants of our little children and some "much older" children. There was no charge, just a donation to the Food Pantry or the EIFC. A photo from the fun is included with this update!



Rounding out 2024 was our annual Christmas party for members and their families; good food, laughs and fun had by all.

The firehouse "Renovation Project" is progressing slowly, we need your help. We value your support in what we do, and maintain our structure as best we can. Please send your tax-deductible donation to EIFC, P.O. Box 333, Eastford, CT 06242.

The EIFC regrets to inform you that former Life Member Dwain McNeal passed away on Jan. 6, 2025. Dwain joined in 1973, served as a lieutenant and captain, and retired as a member of the Fire Police. Dwain was always a visible participant at department fundraisers.

Fortunately, falls can be prevented. You owe it to yourself and your family to find out how. Risks include difficulty walking, getting up or sitting down, losing balance, taking four or more medications on a regular basis, drops in blood pressure, dizziness, problems with vision, hearing, numbness in feet, memory, confusion, foot pain, inaccessible telephones.

Hazards at home can include stairways, furniture, clutter, worn carpets, sliding throw rugs, waxed/wet floors, inaccessible tub/shower stall, and pets underfoot. Have a safety plan – think ahead, look around to remove or replace hazards, consider medical alerts, plan what you will do if you fall. Call 911!

### TIPS FOR YOUR SAFETY

"I just went out to check my mail. How did I end up like this?" Falls happen to everyone, but if you're over 65, a fall can change your life. Falls are the leading cause of injury for ages 70 and over and considered more common than strokes, and as serious as in their consequences.



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

**[www.eastfordcommunicator.com](http://www.eastfordcommunicator.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.

## FEBRUARY

*Saturday, Feb. 1*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Take Your Child to the Library Day" at 10:30 a.m. We will be open special hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we honor this extraordinary day with a puppy love theme. We will have a story, craft, snack and a snuggle session with some puppies from our local shelter PawSafe! Eastford resident and author Julia Kneeland will share one of her beloved children's books with us at noon. Come in and cast your vote on our "Cutest Pet Photo Contest." The winner will be announced on Feb. 20!

*Wednesday, Feb. 5*

Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Science Programs at Windham Tolland 4-H Camp, 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. For Pre-K to Grade 8 students. Feb. 5: "How Trees Grow"; Feb. 12: "Catapults"; Feb. 19: "Fur, Feathers, Scales & Skin: How It Keeps Animals In!" At 4:30 p.m., \$20 per session. E-mail [raggedhillwoods@gmail.com](mailto:raggedhillwoods@gmail.com) to register.

*Thursday, Feb. 6*

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

*Saturday, Feb. 8*

Join Pastor Timothy Howard Jr. at Eastford Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 8, at 6 p.m., for a Community Painting Class. Paint brushes, paint, and canvasses will be provided for free, but you are more than welcome to bring your own supplies. Pastor Howard is a longtime artist, and will guide you through a colorful, creative scene. Register for free online at [www.eastfordbaptist.com](http://www.eastfordbaptist.com), under Events. Eastford Baptist Church is located at 133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. Contact the church at (860) 974-1414, or e-mail [eastfordbaptistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordbaptistoffice@gmail.com) for more information.

*Wednesday, Feb. 12*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This is an adult and teen craft program where we gather together to create and converse. Come have fun with us! Please note this program takes place on the second Wednesday of every month.

*Thursday, Feb. 13*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a Valentine's Day story, craft, snack and time of free play. Please note that we will have drop-in crafts available all week to celebrate this sweet holiday.

*Saturday, Feb. 15*

Join us at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, 326 Taft Pond Rd, Pomfret Center, for our Camper Game Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for boys and girls ages 6-12. Beat the winter blues! Lunch and snack provided with games, crafts and lots of fun. Bring appropriate clothes to be

outdoors for part of the day. Admission is \$25/child. Call 860-974-3379 to register by Feb. 10, or e-mail [registrar@4hcampct.org](mailto:registrar@4hcampct.org).

The Congregational Church of Eastford presents "Cupcake Wars" on Feb. 15, from 2-4 p.m. at Eastford Elementary School. Free! Registration at <https://cceastford.org/cupcake-wars/> to enter the competition. All are invited to attend, taste cupcakes, and vote for the best recipe and best display in the People's Choice Awards!

*Sunday, Feb. 16*

Visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open House from 1-3 p.m. 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](http://www.4hcampct.org).

*Thursday, Feb. 20*

Loss of a Spouse Seminar on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Eastford Office, 4 County Road, Eastford. Register at <https://cceastford.org/griefshare/> to find help and encouragement through this special 2-hour seminar.

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. the Friends of the Eastford Public Library will have their monthly meeting. All are welcome to attend.

*Saturday, Feb. 22*

In honor of Heart Month, Eastford Public Library will be offering an instructional CPR course at 1 p.m. Limit of 10 participants. Certification is available upon request. Please reach out if interested.

*Wednesday, Feb. 25*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Grim Readers Book Club" at 6 p.m. "Look Closer," by David Ellis is on display and available for check out. Come in and join this thrilling and fun group that meets every other month on the fourth Tuesday.

*Thursday, Feb. 27*

GriefShare 13-week program on Thursdays, Feb. 27 through May 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Eastford Office, 4 County Road, Eastford. Register at <https://cceastford.org/griefshare/> to find help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

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

## MARCH

*Saturday, March 1*

Eastford Public Library will be celebrating Dr. Suess's birthday at 10:30 a.m. with a story and craft. Please register.

*Sunday, March 2*

Eastford Baptist Church will host its annual Chili Cook-off Sunday, March 2, after the A.M. Worship Service. Join us for Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., then stay after for fellowship in the Family Activity Center, and enjoy a variety of chili recipes. Chilis will be judged and prizes will be awarded for the top recipes. Eastford Baptist Church is located at 133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. Contact the church at (860) 974-1414, or e-mail [eastfordbaptistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordbaptistoffice@gmail.com) for more information.

*Thursday, March 6*

Eastford Public Library hosts

**MORE CALENDAR, pg. 9**



# CALENDAR

## CONTINUED from pg. 8

“Storytime” at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

*Saturday, March 8*

Eastford Public Library hosts the “BBC Book Club”. 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 non-fiction but has yet to be determined. Copies of the book club pick will be on display at the library to check out.

*Wednesday, March 12*

Eastford Public Library hosts “Maker’s Night” from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Join us!

*Thursday, March 13*

Eastford Public Library hosts “Storytime” at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

*Saturday, March 15*

Eastford Public Library hosts a St. Patrick’s Day story time and craft. Please register for this event.

*Sunday, March 16*

DivorceCare

13-week

program on Sundays, March 16 to June 15 (no meeting on Easter Sunday) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Eastford Office, 4 County Road, Eastford. This is a new program being offered to the community by our church! We look forward to providing help, healing, and a fresh start to those who are separated or divorced. Register at <https://cceastford.org/divorcecare/>.

*Thursday, March 20*

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. the Friends of the Eastford Public Library will have their monthly meeting.

All are welcome to attend.

*Saturday, March 22*

Eastford Public Library hosts “Family Game Night with Pizza,” at 5 p.m. Please register.

*Thursday, March 27*

Eastford Public Library hosts “Storytime” at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play.

*Saturday, March 29*

Eastford Public Library hosts an educational family program at 10:30 a.m. where we will be making worm composters. Space is limited, please register.

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry continues to seek 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 the 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.

Thank you to all who donated food, money, and gift cards to our families this Christmas season.

Thanks also to Eastford’s Secret Santa who made the holidays extra special. The Eastford Food Pantry relies on donations from the community. 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 would like to restock our toiletry shelves. Please consider donating shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. Thank you for your support!

## TIPS FOR TODAY LIZ ELLSWORTH

Happy New Year! line with World Water What kind of Day (March 22), chose new(er) or rejuvenated to conserve even more eco-choices can you water at work and at make in 2025? Here home.

are a few eco-actions For April, joining in to get you back in the on the energy of Earth groove of living a Day (April 22), plan to more planet-friendly add more pollinator-friendly plants to your lifestyle. spring garden(s).

For February, and in the fun of Valentine’s Day, bring back the World Water Day: trend of making your work/world-water-day own greeting cards out Earth Day: of art supplies around www.unwater.org/ your home. earth-day-2025/

For March, and in



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in the next issue!



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*The Eastford Historical Society would like to thank Eastford resident Bill Skiff, of Old Colony Millwork LLC, for the generous donation of his labor to build, deliver, and install two beautiful display cases in the Museum of Eastford History. Courtesy photo.*



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www.cceastford.org

Pastor Mike Moran  
Associate Pastor, Evan Burgess

*The following events held in  
Eastford Elementary School Gym  
12 Westford Road, Eastford*



Sunday Worship Services at 10 AM

Cupcake Wars Feb. 15 from 2 - 4 PM



Pinecar Prix Mar. 16 at 12:30 PM

Visit our website calendar and  
event pages for more!

We'd love to have you join us!



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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](mailto:EDTC.CT@gmail.com), or call (860) 341-2006.

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## CUPCAKE WARS!

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<https://cceastford.org/cupcake-wars/>

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## EASTFORD ROADSIDE CLEANUP

**APRIL 6**

RAINDATE APRIL 13

1:00-3:00

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SEN. JEFF GORDON

The Legislative Session in Hartford has started, and it is already busy. 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 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.

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.

Some items are 1.) Providing tax credits for working families; 2.) Updating last year's law about property tax exemptions for 100-percent disabled veterans; 3.) Fixing Connecticut's energy policy and high electricity/energy costs; 4.) Working on housing affordability; 5.) Work force development and training; and 6.) Protecting and improving health care. I have a number of serious proposals on these issue that if passed can help people

in the district and throughout the state.

Three exciting initiatives I am working on are to create 1.) A \$500 tax credit for each child 17 years or younger, and for household dependents (for example, an adult disabled child declared as a dependent on a parent's income tax form); 2.) A \$500 tax credit for family caregivers of seniors to help cover their costs; and 3.) An up to \$675 tax credit for family caregivers of disabled veterans. Other states are doing these. I believe the time is now for Connecticut to do the same.

I am serving as the Ranking Senator on both the Planning & Development Committee and on the Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. I am also continuing to serve on the Appropriations, Public Health, and Public Safety & Security

Committees. I look forward to remaining Co-Chair of the Rural Caucus and being Co-Chair of the Sportsmen Caucus.

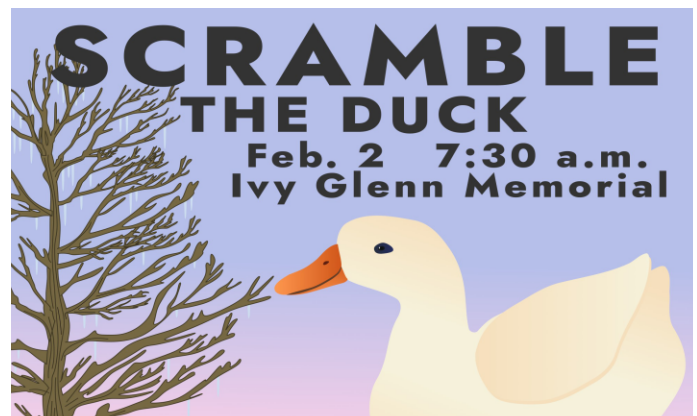
Stay tuned for information about my in-person and virtual office hours. I maintain an open-door policy. As always, please reach out to me if I can help you with a constituent service, answer a question, or take up a concern. You can call my office at (860) 240-800, e-mail me at [jeffrey.gordon@cga.ct.gov](mailto:jeffrey.gordon@cga.ct.gov), check for news and updates at [www.senatorgordon.com](http://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.

## 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@attorneypalulis.com](mailto:michele@attorneypalulis.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!



### Do you have:

- Photos? ☒
- Information? ☒
- Story leads? ☒
- Events to promote? ☒
- Local sports results? ☒
- Press releases? ☒

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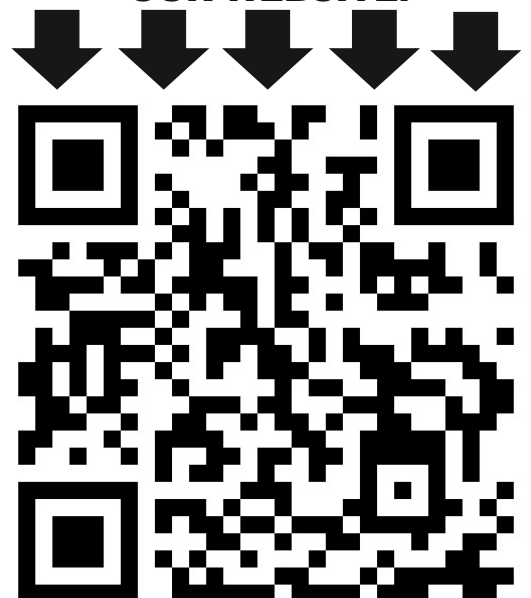
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## ATTENTION

### 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 March 15.

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





# Asikainen touts 'grassroots' culture behind TEEG services

## TEEG

Continued from pg. 1

of volunteers who united to serve the Thompson community. Since then, TEEG has blossomed to serve several towns, including Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Woodstock — and Eastford.

Particularly in Eastford, Asikainen said TEEG provides several services to Eastford, including a children's playgroup (at TEEG headquarters in North Grosvenordale); access to the Hand in Hand Program (support for new and expecting parents); emergency food and monthly opportunity to utilize the Mobile Food Bank at the Woodstock Town Hall; involvement through local school districts for support through the Juvenile Review Board and for Community Services; addiction group support, including for youth (at TEEG); GED support provided at TEEG

by EASTCONN; pet support clinics offered by the CT Humane Society; and more.

*The Communicator* recently sat down with Asikainen at his office on Thatcher Road in North Grosvenordale to gain a richer understanding of what TEEG is, what it does, and how many people, including those of us in Eastford, may not understand just how needed an organization like TEEG is in our small community.

**Thank you for taking the time to meet with us, Carl! For our readers who may not know what TEEG is, can you give us the 30,000-foot overview about what TEEG is and what TEEG does?**

"If there is really a grassroots local service organization, this is it. We started from a small group of concerned citizens here in Grosvenordale [in 1985], and they were really concerned with young people and chronic poverty in this area. It really started [asking the

question]: 'What can we do to assist young people?' ... We started making connections to families and what we can do lift them up. From those humble beginnings, we have grown to be a really big and robust feeding program. Our emergency food program is giant. We provide for probably 60 households a week here at the TEEG building. We also are the staff for the Pomfret Senior Center and we have a pantry there two days a week. We do home [food] deliveries ... We are also a mobile food pantry, once a month, at the Woodstock Town Hall, serving anyone who comes from all over, including Eastford folks — including those further away like Stafford or even in Massachusetts. We have a really big feeding program, with an emphasis on fresh food, we try to flip the script a little bit. ... We partner with the Friends of Assisi in Danielson, and Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, Daily Bread Food Pantry in Putnam,

Project PIN in Plainfield, and other food providers to try to lift up all the boats. Besides the feeding program, we are the youth service bureau for four towns, but also [work with] young people who may have gotten into some trouble with the law or school, and instead of the court system, we engage them in community activities here. ... We do parenting work, specifically a play group that is really vibrant. There are not a lot of spaces for new and expecting parents to socialize and have support for parenting. We identify new parents and we work with them until the kids are in school. It's not a two-month thing. We try to make sure kids are as ready as possible. The parenting and youth programs are really incredible."

*Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, we could only fit the beginning of this conversation in print. To read this conversation in its entirety, visit our website at [www.eastford.news](http://www.eastford.news).*

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3. TECAIDLE LCYCE \_\_\_\_\_
4. POAS BLBEBUS \_\_\_\_\_
5. ASTNI VOEERRM \_\_\_\_\_
6. IRNGNOI ORBDA \_\_\_\_\_
7. RHGEAN \_\_\_\_\_
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