

THE EASTFORD Communicator



APRIL/MAY 2025

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

VOL. 33, No. 5

CUPCAKE WARS!



Courtesy photos

EASTFORD — The 7th Annual Cupcake Wars delighted sweet teeth of all ages on Saturday, Feb. 15. This free community outreach event was hosted by the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) and held in the Eastford Elementary School gymnasium. Cupcake awards were given for best display and best recipe in junior and senior categories. Pictured, at left, Linnea Barlow and Abigail Budd show off a sweet strawberry treat. At right, Aurora Kneeland is all smiles in her knit cupcake hat. For a recap of the event and more photos, turn to page 5!

'Experience Eastford' set to return

EASTFORD — A long-time town tradition, Experience Eastford has gathered our community together to celebrate Eastford's past, present and future. Originally conceived as "Heritage Day" at the time of America's bicentennial celebration, the event has been a staple of Eastford life for many decades.

This year's outing has officially been set for Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is centered at Eastford Elementary School, and will include exhibits and vendors, crafts and agencies like the CT Forest/Park Association and the DEEP Fisheries Division and town groups like the Republican and Democratic town committees and the Conservation Commission. There will be a book sale to benefit the Eastford Public Library, kids' games and a bounce house, a pie eating contest, food truck, and live concerts by local bands. Many other activities are in the works, so watch for updates as it gets closer.

To kick off the day, there will be 5K Run, "The Heart of Eastford," which will raise funds for a local charity. The 5K run starts at 9 a.m. (registration at 8:30 a.m.). For info and pre-registration go to <https://runscore.runsignup.com/race/ct/eastford/heartofeastford5k>.

The team organizing the event is doing so alongside the town's Recreation Commission. We need volunteers as we plan, and especially the day of the event. If you would like to help, contact Mike Moran at (860) 942-6617.

Concert to benefit CCE rebuild



Sam Rotman, an internationally renowned pianist, will perform at the First Congregational Church of Pomfret on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken toward the rebuild of the Congregational Church of Eastford.

Rotman has devoted a specific area of his musical life to the study and performance of the works of Beethoven, and has performed all over the world. *Courtesy photo*

READING BUDDIES

EASTFORD — Some of the Eastford Elementary School students celebrated Read Across America on March 4 by reading stories to READ (Reading Education Assistant Dogs). The students read to the registered therapy dogs — Millie, Willow and Cora (pictured). As a bonus for their great job, reading students received stickers and pencils, and the dogs enjoyed petting and hugs and got to listen to some wonderful reading! *Courtesy photo*



IN
THIS
ISSUE



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CHAMP
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THE EASTFORD *Communicator*

LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

VOL. 33, No. 5 | APRIL/MAY 2025

MANAGING EDITOR: Adam Minor

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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).

A WORD [OR TWO] FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ART BRODEUR

I have spent most of my professional life in communications, as a communicator. My earliest days as a cub reporter saw me writing obituaries, and covering fire, police, and the courthouse.

One day, I was covering a trial and a rodent disrupted the proceedings. I still remember my lead sentence: "Hickory, Dickory, Dock, the mouse ran up the cop." And now, some 70 years later, from the era of hot type to that of digital printing, I am honored and excited to be engaged in another endeavor that enables communication with a constituency of paramount importance. That endeavor is *The Eastford Communicator* and that constituency is the people of Eastford. I am joined by a cadre of dedicated people, unpaid volunteers, who produce the paper, maintain the mailing list, handle ad sales, correspondence, accounting, banking, and tax filing, among other things. I am particularly grateful that we have a managing editor who works more out of love for our community than for money. We look forward to ever-increasing support and more folks joining us in producing a vital and central element of life here in Eastford.

The rebirth of *The Eastford Communicator* is, in part, an attempt to diminish the deterioration of our civic infrastructure, our sense of community. The word *community* derives from

the Latin for "common understanding." It implies becoming as one, striving toward mutually desired ends (my harking back to the Latin is where my children would put their hands to their ears and leave the room). It is coverage of meetings, small town activities, local businesses, calendar items, town government proceedings, vital statistics, and the like, which are the fabric of our democracy, a fabric which should not be allowed to fray. In this way, the public is told what government is doing on its behalf. It provides a foundation for citizens to be involved in whatever way they choose. And the stronger the foundation upon which a community is built, the more robust, the more cohesive, the more enduring that community will be. So let it be with Eastford.

Sadly, nationally and regionally, "hometown" coverage has either died or is dying. Local news is in peril. What we are attempting to do with *The Eastford Communicator* is to inform and to enhance our sense of community, a sense of community which we contend is critical, particularly to Eastford, "a small town in a mass society," in these volatile times. We hope that through our efforts we will enable those of us who call Eastford home to live in the light of knowing — not in the dark of not knowing.

CCE begins divorce support group

EASTFORD — The Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) has started a DivorceCare Support Group. Divorce or separation is one of the most painful experiences you may face. So many emotions and challenges are tied up in the process. You don't have to go through it alone.

DivorceCare offers support, answers, and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of separation and divorce and lead you on the road to healing. The topics addressed in DivorceCare are dealing with emotional healing; deep hurt, anger, grief and depression; loneliness, fears and anxiety; overcoming relationship struggles; family and friends after divorce; conflict, forgiveness, and interacting with your ex; handling practical challenges; single living; financial and legal issues; and moving forward.

The 13-week support group helps you heal

through a video seminar, a focused support group, and use of a participant guide. There are important topics brought up each week in the guide that include exercises and articles for recovery and person growth as well as parenting tips. You will share this journey with others who have been or are going through divorce/separation.

DivorceCare began on Sunday, March 16, but you can join anytime! It will be held for 13 consecutive weeks from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Eastford office, located at 4 County Rd., Eastford, CT (next to the Eastford Post Office). There will not be a meeting on Easter Sunday, April 20. The church's website is: www.cceastford.org. If you are interested in learning more about this group, reach out via e-mail to: cceastford@gmail.com.

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

Mary Bloom, Rachel Budd, Mary DeGostin, Richard Bray Jr. and Susan Bray, June Staveski, Carol Molnar, Faye Logee, Arvind and Margherita Shaw, Betsy Salo, Daniel Melnick, Brian Holley and Margarita Halpine. GoFundMe donors: Anonymous, Steve Miller, Val Hickey and Jami Tyska, Pamela Kaufman, Nancy and BG Gingras, Karen Broderick, William D. Clark, Dorothy Bressette, Nancy Wartik, Paula Derrow, Jenna Moore, Michele Palulis, Randal Chinnock.

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

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE LIBRARY?

KATIE BALL

Spring is here — and we are excited to embrace all things gardening. The library will be offering programs related to seed sowing as we prepare for warmer weather. Did you know we have a seed library? We have a collection of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds available for our patrons to choose from. Please, stop in!

A huge thank you to Jeannine Spink, a member of our Library Board and volunteer firefighter at Eastford Independent Fire Co. She graciously hosted an instructional CPR/first aid class at the library in February, and will continue to do so if there are people in the community who are interested. Just let us know!

We would also like to thank our patron Luke McGurl for coming down and setting up our brand-new 3-D printer. He has offered to host a basic tutorial for beginners. Please inquire at our front desk if this is something you are interested in attending.

Ramsey B. (pictured) was our Cutest Pet Photo Contest winner! He is a spunky Welsh Corgi with a huge personality. Thank you to all our wonderful contestants for submitting photos of your cutest pet and for all those who stopped in to cast a vote.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturdays 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 page, on social media, or 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.

FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following notice is submitted by the Eastford Grove Cemetery Association Inc. Board of Trustees:

- Board of Corporators Annual Meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

- Flags: American flags and Fire Department flags will be placed at the cemetery on Friday, May 23, at 5 p.m. for the Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, 2025.

- Flag Holder: If you are interested in ordering a flag holder for your veteran's flag, call (860) 428-0280 before May 9.

- Plot/Space Purchase: Appointments can be made to view the cemetery grounds

and to select a plot for purchase by calling (860) 428-0280.

- Plot Diagrams Available: Plot owners, or a family member, may obtain a diagram of their plot by calling (860) 428-0280.

- Mowing Season: Between March 15 and Thanksgiving, only live flowers may be planted (or placed in plastic pots) within 12 inches of the base of an upright monument. Only cut flowers may be placed on a flush marker. Artificial flowers and ornaments are prohibited during the mowing season and will be removed.

For more information, contact a member of the

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

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association greatly appreciates the following donors who have contributed to the beautification of the grounds: Carol & Bill Anderson, in memory of the Anderson Family; Faye Logee, in memory of Theresa Buell; June Staveski, in memory of Edward & Craig Staveski.

Donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to: EGCA, Inc. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242.

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

IN THE GARDEN

SUSAN BURNS

Ah, spring! To some, their most favorite time of the year. New growth is popping up everywhere. There are bright colors and pleasant scents to experience. So much work to do, but, of course, we want to be outside after being inside for months. I would like to write in this issue about how beneficial gardening is to our mental and physical well-being. Gardening is a wonderful antidote to people suffering from anxiety, depression, isolation, despair, or other health issues. So many of us today live alone. Gardening has a positive impact when experiencing challenging times. Pursuing gardening creativity offers resilience and hope.

Cultivating beauty or just capturing moments of nature can make us so happy and so calm. Remember, you are never alone in a garden. Even in moments of solitude, you are part of something greater. Pollinators, caterpillars, and birds build habitats. Share with them. To have an alive and thriving plant or garden is a thing of beauty and solace.

Knowing that gardening is a benefit to all generations and to our environment can have a positive impact on your life. A plant humbles

you while that space offers a lifeline in times of need.

Back to the work part — here is some advice from Peg Bernier, a physical therapist and Eastford resident. She is offering some body mechanics advice for avoiding back injury when gardening:

1. When reaching down to weed or pick up items, bend with your hips and knees, tighten your abdominal muscles and keep your back straight with a slight curve/hollow in lower spine.

2. When raking or performing similar activities, do not twist/rotate at your waist. Instead, let your feet do the shifting of directions and twisting.

3. When picking up heavy objects, keep the object as close to your body as possible. It's simple physics — an item's weight held at arm's length increases by about a 10-fold force to your lower spine. For example, a 5-pound bag held next to your body puts about 5 pounds of force on your lower spine. At arm's length, it translates to approximately 50 pounds of force on your lower spine. Happy gardening and happy spring!

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

January: 1
February: 0

MARRIAGES

January: 0
February: 0

DEATHS

January: 1
February: 1

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Dec. 4: 26 Pilfershire Rd., \$400,000, Paul R. Hudon to Robin Vallese
Dec. 10: 1 Nahaco Hill Lane, \$304,900, Nahaco Development LLC to Lynn Frink
Jan. 21: 258 Old Colony Rd., \$305,000, Jordon Tetreault to Ryan M. Cowles



DID YOU KNOW?

EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The train station in 1890's, there was talk of a rail link from Willimantic to Pomfret) was the closest rail station to Eastford. Farmers took their crops and milk to Abington to move them to larger markets and vehicles were delivered from the railroad to Bowen's Garage and Bowen's Trucking over the years. You could also go east to Boston or southwest to New York and beyond. In the

Southbridge, Mass., passing though Eastford, but it was never built. Abington Station was located along what is now the Air Line Rail Trail, across the street from Pomfret Town Hall, just south of the bridge overpass on Route 44.

-Photo and information courtesy of the Eastford Historical Society



Our next issue will be published on:

June 1

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

May 15

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

APRIL

Tuesday, April 1: Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, April 3: Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Saturday, April 5: Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building; Experience Eastford Committee, 10:45 a.m., Town Office Building

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

Tuesday, April 8: Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, April 9: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Woodstock Town Hall

Thursday, April 24: Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, April 30: Experience Eastford Committee, 7 p.m., Remote

MAY

Thursday, May 1: Transfer Station Committee, 10 a.m., Town Office Building

Saturday, May 3: Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building; Experience Eastford Committee, 10:45 a.m., Town Office Building

Monday, May 5: Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, May 6: Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, May 13: Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, May 14: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park

Thursday, May 22: Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, May 28: Experience Eastford Committee, 7 p.m., Remote

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Renter's Relief program will begin April 1 and will run through Oct. 1. You will need proof of rent payments and utilities paid in the 2024 calendar year.

Motor Vehicle Adjustments

In order to have a motor vehicle bill adjusted we need two forms of proof because the tax is a car tax not a road tax.

- The first is a copy of your motor vehicle plate return receipt
- The second is something proving you got rid of the vehicle. For a list of accepted proofs look on the assessor's website or call the office.
- If you traded a vehicle and kept the same plate do not bring us any documentation because DMV will automatically process the adjustments.

Income and Expense Forms

Connecticut General Statute 12-63c requires all owners of rental real property to annually file an Income and Expense form with the Assessor's Office by June 1st. The information filed and furnished with this report will remain confidential and is not open to public inspection. Any information related to the actual rental and operating expenses shall not be a public record and is not subject to the provisions of Section 1-19 (Freedom of Information) of the Connecticut General Statutes. All properties that are rented or leased, including commercial, retail, industrial, land and residential properties, except "such property used for residential purposes, containing not more than six dwelling units and in which the owner resides" must file and in the case of a non-residential property that is partially rented and partially owner-occupied.

In accordance with Section 12-63c(d), of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, any owner of rental real property who fails to file this form or files an incomplete or false form with intent to defraud, shall be subject to a penalty assessment equal to a Ten Percent (10%) increase in the assessed value of such property.

Quadrennial Filing

CGS 12-81, (7), (10), (11), (16) and 12-87 require the filing of a tax exempt return for seeking property tax status either new or any additional property. Due no later than Nov. 1, 2025. The Assessor's Office is open Tuesday 4:30-7:30 p.m. and Friday. The telephone number is (860) 974-1291.

CCE Cupcake Wars event delights the taste buds

EASTFORD — The 7th Annual Cupcake Wars celebrated sweet success on Saturday, Feb. 15.

This free community outreach event was hosted by the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) and held in the Eastford Elementary School gymnasium. This year's competition was comprised of 16 contestants along with many attendees from local communities. Showcasing their baking skills (recipe contest), and decorating talents (display contest), each contestant's cupcake was judged by our respected local representatives: Holly Singleton (Woodstock Academy); Sheryl Spink (Eastford Independent Fire Co.); Lynn Fontaine (Ashford School); and Susan Welshman

(Eastford Town Hall). Attendees of Cupcake Wars sampled and voted for their favorites in the People's Choice Awards.

Confections of the day ranged from chocolate, apple filling, black cherry vanilla, peanut butter, strawberry, lemon, mint, banana, toffee, caramel, crème brûlée and so much more. There was something to tempt every palate. The event's fun included cupcake tasting, playing Cupcake Wars Bingo, Pin the Cherry on the Cupcake and receiving a crocheted cupcake hat or keychain donated by the CCE Women's Ministry as a door prize.

Our 2025 Cupcake Wars winners were divided into two categories, Juniors (13 years and under) and Seniors (14 years and up). See the winners below!



The winners of Cupcake Wars: From left, Alina Platt (Junior First Place, Display; Junior People's Choice; Junior First Place, Recipe; Junior People's Choice); Zoe Labonte (Junior Runner Up, Display); Linnea Barlow (Senior People's Choice, Recipe); Georgia Barlow (Junior Runner Up, Recipe); Abigail Barlow (Senior People's Choice, Recipe); Grace Thompson (Senior First Place, Display; Senior People's Choice, Display; Senior First Place, Recipe); Kirstin Budd (Senior Runner Up, Recipe). Courtesy photo.

THE WINNERS

DISPLAY

Junior 1st Place: Alina Platt
Junior Runner Up: Zoe Labonte
Senior 1st Place: Grace Thompson
Senior Runner Up: Susan Webster
People's Choice (Junior): Alina Platt
People's Choice (Senior): Grace Thompson

RECIPE

Junior 1st Place: Alina Platt
Junior Runner Up: Georgia Barlow
Senior 1st Place: Grace Thompson
Senior Runner Up: Kirstin Budd
People's Choice (Junior): Alina Platt
People's Choice (Senior): Team Abigail Budd & Linnea Barlow



From left, Rory Barlow, of Eastford, and Mia Ciovacco, of Woodstock, model their new knit cupcake hats, which were given as door prizes at the event. Courtesy photos.

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

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT DONNA LEAKE

It's spring! The spring equinox, or the first day of spring, was March 20 at 5:01 a.m., the moment the sun crossed the celestial equator. Although robins may be around all winter, my first sighting of a robin and the tiny yellow and purple crocuses pushing their way up through the dark winter landscape signal that spring, the season of rebirth and renewal, is near.

In schools, spring is the time not only for planning a positive ending for the current school year, but for beginning to plan for the next school year.

At Eastford Elementary:

- Students in grades 3-8 will begin SBAC testing toward the end of April and through the month of May. Students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the NGSS assessment during this testing window.

- With the support of our school counselor Stephanie Schleicher, students in grade 8 have selected the high school they will attend: Woodstock Academy (12); E.O. Smith (6); Ellis Tech (3); and Killingly Agricultural Program (1).

- Grade 8 students are preparing for

their trip to Washington D.C. on June 3-6 with Jennifer Barlow, Catherine DePercio and four parent volunteers.

- We are accepting both kindergarten and preschool registrations. Please check our school website, www.eastfordct.org, for the proper registration forms. All registrations should be submitted to the school office by the end of April.

At its February meeting our BOE approved:

- The 2025-26 school calendar
- The 2025-26 school budget of \$4,932,677, a 6.99-percent increase over the 2024-25 school budget.

- The updated 2025-26 Capital Plan
- The submission of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grant

At its March meeting, the BOE reviewed the request from the Board of Selectmen to reduce the BOE budget in response to the town starting the 2025-26 budget process by almost 8 percent in the red due to state cuts in funding and mandates for motor vehicle and veteran abetments. Being a BOE member carries with it the dual responsibility of supporting the best educational programming for the students of Eastford while

maintaining a trusted collaborative relationship with the Board of Selectmen and the taxpayers of Eastford. Our town has always responded positively to the requests of the BOE, and it is in that spirit of collaboration that our BOE voted to submit a revised 2025-2026 Board of Education budget of \$4,794,179, an increase of 3.99 percent over the 2024-2025 budget, to the Board of Selectmen.

Our BOE takes their responsibilities to the community of Eastford and the education of our students seriously. Given March is the month officially set aside to recognize the volunteer spirit and dedicated efforts of BOE members, I would like to recognize our BOE members and the 47 years of collected service that our current BOE members have dedicated to supporting the Eastford Community of Learners — Robert Ellsworth (13), Steve Bowen (11), Terry Cote (7), Adam Minor (5), Jessica Perry (5), Lauren Barlow (3), and Michael Bilica (3).

All notices of scholarships we receive, including those for high school students, are posted on our

website. We recently posted the New England Service Scholarships, offered by the Red Sox Foundation. This program recognizes 100 high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and academic excellence. Here is the link for more details: <https://www.redsoxfoundation.org/servicescholarships/>.

Since 1983, the Community Foundation has awarded over \$11.9 million in scholarships from 136 funds established by generous individuals, families, businesses and nonprofit to help area students pursue an education and rewarding careers. Here is the link for more details. <https://cfect.org/>.

It is my hope that all members of the Eastford community take advantage of the opportunity to embrace the spring spirit of rebirth and renewal. As always please do not hesitate to contact me to share 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.

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN DEB RICHARDS

The Bowen's Field Committee is hard at work making plans to have the Little League field ready to 'play ball' this April. If you are interested in helping, or being a sponsor please contact us at selectmen@townofeastford.com. Thank you to this committee for moving this project forward!

It is budget season, and many towns are facing a budget shortfall due to unfunded mandates from the state. These mandates include 14 days of early voting, a change to motor vehicle taxes, tax abatements for veterans, along with reduced funding for the PILOT program and Education Cost Sharing. The revenue we receive from the state

has decreased by 2.6 percent and the Grand List is reduced by 2.5 percent. There are across-board increases in energy and fuel costs, public safety, waste disposal (tipping and hauling), insurance, and workmen's comp. Looking at these reductions from the state, we are starting the next budget year with 7 percent less revenue. We are asking everyone to be fiscally conscious and fiscally conservative with their budget requests.

The DOT is planning on installing Center Line rumble strips on Route 198 from Eastford to Chaplin in the spring.

Get ready for May 26, Eastford's Annual Memorial Day

event! The Memorial Day Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. at Eastford Elementary School. The Eastford Color Guard and Veterans will lead the parade. The East Woodstock Cornet Band will provide the music. Community members are invited to participate in the parade. Create a float, decorate your bicycle or wagon, march with your family, your pet, your friends, your church, or your community organization. The Eastford Independent Fire Company and Fire Trucks will be polished up and ready to shine!

Immediately following the parade, a Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at Eastford's Veteran's Memorial.

The ceremony includes an invocation, the recognition of an Eastford Veteran, the laying of a memorial wreath, a Military Salute, and musical presentations by the Eastford Singers, the East Woodstock Coronet Band, and Eastford Elementary School Students.

Preceding the parade, Memorial Day services will take place at 8:30 a.m. at the General Lyon Cemetery and at 9 a.m. at the Grove Cemetery. In the event of rain, the parade will be canceled, and the Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the school. All are welcome to attend!



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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: SEN. JEFF GORDON

I enjoyed the Cupcake Wars event hosted by the Congregational Church of Eastford. Great community spirit, which Eastford is well known for. My baking skills are far eclipsed by what I saw the kids make for wonderful and delicious cupcakes.

In February, I joined First Selectman Deb Richards and met with Tony Tiemann and his wife, Laura. Tony is 92 years "young" and a Korean War veteran. Thank you to Tony and our veterans for your service. It is appreciated and remembered.

The legislative session is in full swing. Lots of committee meetings and public hearings. There are many big issues, especially creating a new, two-year state budget while keeping the state on an even keel with its spending, not increasing taxes, and paying down the billions of dollars in state debt. The Appropriations Committee, on which I serve, is holding many public hearings. I have been hearing from many people

throughout the 35th State Senate District. Let me know your thoughts, comments, concerns, and ideas.

Recently, the Legislature voted to provide an extra \$40 million to municipalities to cover for this current fiscal year some of the escalating costs of special education. The state does not cover 100 percent of the costs. I am working in a bipartisan way to get the state to do more, including a better and more fair formula for education costs sharing grants for public schools, otherwise towns must pay (via property taxes).

We also must do more to make Connecticut more affordable for more people. A major bill I co-introduced is aimed at reducing in the short-term our sky-high electric bills and in the long-term create affordable and sustainable energy policies. The Energy & Technology Committee took up the bill and there was a long public hearing on it.

As the Ranking Senator on the Planning & Development

Committee, I continue to fight for protecting your right to local decision-making about what happens in Eastford. I am happy that my bill to get more state funding for municipal and regional infrastructure projects is moving forward. Two other bills of mine have generated growing support: 1) A child tax credit, and 2) a family caregiver tax credit. I am optimistic that the Legislature will pass both in some forms.

I serve as the Ranking Senator on both the Planning & Development Committee and on the Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. I serve on the Appropriations, Public Health, and Public Safety & Security Committees. I am a co-chair of the Rural Caucus and the Sportsmen Caucus.

As always, please reach out to me if I can help you with a constituent matter, 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.

TIEMANN HONORED



EASTFORD — On Saturday, Feb. 15, Sen. Jeff Gordon, along with First Selectman Deb Richards, presented an Official Citation to Eastford resident Anthony S. Tiemann in honor of his service during the Korean War. The citation signed by the President Pro Tempore, Speaker of the House and the Secretary of the State was presented to Tiemann one day after his 92th birthday. Courtesy photo

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Laundry Word Scramble

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2. Hwnaigs hNECIMA _____
3. TECAIDLE LCYCE _____
4. POAS BLBEBUS _____
5. ASTNI VOEERM _____
6. IRNGNOI ORBDA _____
7. RHGEAN _____
8. UEBLTM RDY _____
9. FSNORETE _____
10. UESRP ECLNA _____

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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.

APRIL

Thursday, April 3

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

Saturday, April 5

Pomfret Eastford Little League (PELL) will host its Field Clean Up Days on Saturday, April 5, and Saturday, April 12. The Pomfret Field cleanup will be held Saturday, April 5, starting at 10 a.m. The field is located at 63 Hampton Rd., Pomfret. The Eastford Field cleanup will be held Saturday, April 12, starting at 10 a.m. The field is located at 163 Eastford Rd., Eastford. All ages are welcome! Questions can be e-mailed to pellbaseball@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Sunday, April 6

Eastford Baptist Church and the Congregational Church of Eastford will host a Town Wide Cleanup on Sunday, April 6. Meet at the Town Office Building for a free hot dog lunch. Clean-up will be conducted from 1-3 p.m. Meet back at the Town Office Building at 3 p.m. for ice cream. Register online to help at eastfordbaptist.churchcenter.com/registrations.

Tuesday, April 8

Eastford Public Library hosts a book discussion about The Sunflower Sisters for Quiet Corner Reads author Martha Hall Kelly at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for her author talk at the Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock. Limited number of tickets are available to purchase at the library's front desk.

Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Science Programs begin on Tuesday, April 8, at Windham Tolland 4-H Camp, 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. For Pre-K to Grade 8 students. April 8: Bubbles; April 16: Fishing; April 23: Forest Growth; April 30: Rotting Logs; May 7: Bird Habitats; May 14: Streams. All at 4:30 p.m. \$20 per session, or sign up for all for \$100 per child. Call (860) 974-1122 to register.

Wednesday, April 9

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This is an adult and teen craft program where we will be making embroidered felt Easter egg decorations. Come have fun with us!

Thursday, April 10

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

Sam Rotman, an internationally renowned pianist, will perform at the First Congregational Church of Pomfret on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken toward the rebuild of the Congregational Church of Eastford.

Saturday, April 12

Eastford Public Library will host a family zinnia seed starting workshop led by Jean Pillo at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 12. She is a member of the Woodstock Conservation Commission and Quiet Corner Garden Club. Space is limited, please register.

Wednesday, April 16

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Matinée Movie" at 2 p.m. for children on their school break.

From April 16 through April 30, we will be accepting donations for our 71st Annual Windham County 4-H Foundation Auction and Tag Sale at the lower level back entrance of the lodge, 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Antiques and gently used household goods, furniture, toys, electronics, tools, books, lunch decorative items, etc. will be welcomed. We do not accept donations of clothing, textbooks, magazines or encyclopedias. For further donation assistance, call the office at (860) 974-3379.

Thursday, April 17

Eastford Public Library hosts "Story Time" 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.

Friday, April 18

Eastford Baptist Church and the Congregational Church of Eastford will hold its annual Good Friday Service on Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m., at Eastford Baptist Church. Join us for a meditation and commemoration of Jesus' death on the cross that will prepare your heart for the joy of Easter Sunday!

Saturday, April 19

Saturday, April 19, from 1-4 p.m., visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open House, 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. Meet the director and other camp staff, take a camp tour, registration materials available. Call (860) 974-3379 for questions.

Sunday, April 20

The Congregational Church of Eastford will hold its Easter Services on Sunday, April 20, starting at 6 a.m. for a Sunrise Service at the hilltop at 8 Church Rd. At 10 a.m., CCE will hold its annual Easter Service at the Eastford Elementary School gym.

Join Eastford Baptist Church for its annual Resurrection Sunday services! Join us at 6 a.m. at Buell's Orchard for our annual Sunrise Service, immediately followed by breakfast at EBC's Family Activity Center. At 10:30 a.m., join us for our Easter service as we celebrate our risen Savior!

Tuesday, April 22

Eastford Public Library hosts "Grim Readers Book Club" at 6 p.m. This will be a double feature as we discuss "Mary: An Awakening of Terror," by Nat Cassidy, and "Kill Your Darlings" by Peter Swanson. Both books are 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, April 24

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

Saturday, April 26

Eastford Public Library and Eastford Elementary PTO present a "Spring Craft" at 10:30 a.m. Please register for this event.

MAY

Thursday, May 1

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

Saturday, May 3

Eastford Public Library hosts

MORE CALENDAR, pg. 9

CALENDAR

CONTINUED from pg. 8

"Storytime" "BBC Book Club" at 1 p.m. This month the group will be discussing a classic young adult novel, "Hattie Big Sky," by Kirby Larson. This book will be on display and available to check out for any patrons interested.

71st Annual Windham County 4-H Auction and Tag Sale: Friday, May 2. Tag Sale 9 to 10:30 a.m., \$5 Early Bird Buy-In; 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. is free. Auction preview at 5 p.m., Auction at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 3: Tag Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Auction preview at 4:30 p.m. Auction starts at 5:30 p.m. outside. Check our website, www.4hcampct.org, for more information closer to the auction date about what special items will be on the block this year.

Thursday, May 8

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

Saturday, May 10

Eastford Public Library hosts a

"Mother's Day Craft" at 10:30 a.m. Please register for this event.

Experience Eastford is back on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors, exhibitors, crafters, games, a 5K run, and much more!

Wednesday, May 14

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Come create with us! Please note this program takes place on the second Wednesday of every month.

Thursday, May 15

Eastford Public Library hosts "Story Time" 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, May 17

Eastford Public Library hosts an author talk with award-winning novelist, playwright, director, and musician Nat Cassidy at 1 p.m. His acclaimed horror novels include "Mary: An Awakening of Terror

and Nestlings." Please register for this event.

Thursday, May 22

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

Monday, May 26

Eastford Memorial Day Celebration, Monday, May 26. Memorial Services and Military Salutes: 8:30 a.m., General Lyon Cemetery; 9 a.m., Grove Cemetery. Memorial Day Parade at 9:30 a.m. Parade begins at Eastford Elementary School. Eastford Color Guard and Veterans lead the parade. The East Woodstock Cornet Band provides the music. Community members are invited to participate. Create a float, decorate your bicycle or wagon, march with your family, your pet, your friends, your church, or your community organization. The Eastford Independent Fire Co. and fire trucks will be polished up and ready to shine! Memorial Day Ceremony immediately follows the parade. A Memorial Day

ceremony will be held at the Ivy Glenn and Veteran's Memorial. The ceremony includes an invocation, recognition of an Eastford veteran, laying of a memorial wreath by the scouts, a military salute, and musical presentations by the Eastford Singers, Woodstock Coronet Band, and Eastford Elementary School students. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the Eastford Elementary School and will begin at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend!

Thursday, May 29

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

Saturday, May 31

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Cookbook Recipe Night" for adults from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please stop in prior to this date and choose a recipe from a cookbook we have set aside at the front desk. Then, we can all get together and share our love of food and great company.

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, or (860) 928-9928. I would like to create a membership list with information, so going forward, I can send out e-mails of 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!



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FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE CO.: JEANNINE SPINK



In addition to responding for emergency 911 calls and weekly drills, we are always in a state of learning. Below are mandatory drills and classes attended. The EIFC responded to 20 emergencies in January.

- **CLASS** — Ten participated in a mandatory Food Awareness and Safety Training provided by the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH). Food preparation and what we need to know about food safety, which allows us to better serve our department and personal activities safely.

- **CLASS** — Members participated in, and certified, in Adult Mental Health First Aid USA, sponsored by the National Council for Behavioral Health. The 8-hour course taught participants the skills for providing initial help to someone experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge and follow-up skills for traumatic events.

- **DRILL** — Man vs. Machine: Snow Blowers/Lawn Mowers — A snow shovel or lawn rake are

reliable methods for taking care of snow and/or grass removal. Often, people turn to snow blowers and power-generated lawn mowers to get the job done with minimal effort. However, these pieces of equipment are heavy machines that need to be handled properly to make removal efforts effective, efficient, and safe. Through the generosity of member Marvin Neely, owner of Yankee Sales and Service, members practiced on actual machines on how to disengage a person's limb entangled in the machine as safely as possible to save the limb. High on the list of safety tips is to read and understand the operation manual, and regularly maintain the equipment. Approximately 80,000 serious injuries each year between lawn mower and snow blower use/misuse are reported. Safety tips include aiming the blower chute in a safe direction, avoid carbon monoxide build-up in enclosed spaces, clear blower after cooling the equipment thoroughly of any debris to reduce the risk of fire, look for small objects and rocks prior to use, keep children and pets away from area, and wearing appropriate protective clothing and eyewear. A photo of the training is included with this article.

- **DRILL**: Airborne/Bloodborne Pathogens, Harassment/Bullying, HIPAA

- **DRILL**: Hypothermia – How to recognize and treat cold water/



cold temperature exposure due to hypothermia.

It is budgetary preparation time for the EIFC. All organizations are experiencing challenging financial constraints with anticipated budget cuts. The EIFC is your driving force in dedication and commitment to the safety of the residents of Eastford. We thank you for your generous donations. As a 100-percent volunteer organization since 1942, we rely heavily on the support of the town's residents and especially the Board of Selectmen in understanding, asking questions, clarifying the regulations and standards of OSHA and NFPA. Donations can be sent to: EIFC, P.O. Box 333, Eastford, CT 06242,

Memo Line: General Donation or Renovation Project.

Spring is right around the corner. An annual town-wide cleaning of the town's road is usually scheduled. You can help us by clearing entrances and walkways to your home. Please replace or get free green reflective house numbers and signs that can easily be seen from the road. This is especially critical if you have multi-house entryways. Each residence should have its own sign. Signs and numbers can be obtained any Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Cleaning around the signs and entries will aid us tremendously in providing quick and efficient response for your emergency needs.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is looking for individuals or families who reside in Eastford and are in need of food assistance. If you need help with acquiring food call Audrey Carabeau at (860) 933-7685 to sign up. We have the resources to help you. 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. We will also be open on April 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. to distribute hams for Easter dinner.

Thank you to all who donated

food, money, and gift cards for our families. We recently received a large donation of home goods, as well as dog food, which is greatly appreciated.

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 are asking for donations of crackers, nuts, granola bars and breakfast bars to replenish our shelves.

Thank you for your support!

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TIPS FOR TODAY LIZ ELLSWORTH

It's spring! Planting some flowers and veggies this year? Be sure to check out the Louise Latham Seed Library at our very own Eastford Public Library. Wanting to learn some strategic gardening tips? Go to the Quiet Corner Garden Club (QCGC)'s spring gardening event on April 5 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson. The QCGC holds many events throughout the year. Check them out at quietcornergardenclub.com. There are tons of farmers' markets to explore as well. Learn

about local farms and their events through Grown Connected at grownconnected.org. Maybe you want to challenge yourself, and expand your plant knowledge? Look to the Master Gardener Program(s) at the University of Connecticut at mastergardener.uconn.edu.

There are all kinds of ways to learn more about plants and trees this spring with The Last Green Valley (TLGV)'s Spring Outdoors events. Learn more at thelastgreenvalley.org/spring-outdoors-events.

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Legal Notice- Town of Eastford Republican Caucus

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled members of the Republican party in Eastford on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7:30pm in the Town Office Building to select delegates for the Republican State Central Committee Convention.

Attest: Russell H. Mayhew Jr., Chairman

EBC Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday Service

(w/Congregational Church of Eastford)

@ Eastford Baptist Church
Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.

Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20, 6 a.m. @ Buell's Orchard
Breakfast to follow immediately afterward
@ EBC Family Activity Center

Resurrection Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.
No Sunday School

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Associate Pastor Evan Burgess

10 AM Weekly Sunday Service at Eastford School
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We'd love to have you join us!

April 10 at 7 PM Sam Rotman Concert
First Congregational Church Pomfret, 13 Church Rd

April 18 at 7 PM Good Friday Service
Combined service - Eastford Baptist, 133 Union Rd

April 20 at 6 AM Easter Sunrise Service
By the cross at 8 Church Rd

April 20 at 10 AM Easter Sunday Service
Eastford Elementary School, 12 Westford Rd

July 21 - 25 Sports Camp Online Registration!
cceastford.org/sports-camp/

Visit website event page for more!



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Registration opens at 8:30 AM

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EASTFORD ATTORNEY MEGAN WADE RE-ELECTED TO BOARD LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ACTION AS IT CELEBRATES 150TH YEAR

Community Partners in Action (CPA), a leader in advancing justice reform and supporting individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, is proud to announce that Megan Wade, Esq., an Eastford resident and attorney, was recently re-elected to the 2025 Board of Directors leadership team as Vice Chair, reflecting a new generation of leaders dedicated to carrying forward CPA's 150-year legacy of fostering rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and empowering individuals to rebuild their lives.

"I am delighted that Megan is Vice Chair as she reflects CPA's vision and commitment to advancing equity and justice," said Beth Hines, Executive Director of Community Partners in Action. "As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, we honor our rich history of advocacy while looking to the future with exceptional leaders such as Megan, who are dedicated to carrying our mission forward."

CPA's storied history is filled with remarkable advocates who helped shape the organization into the beacon of justice it is today. Early leaders like Yale Law School Dean Francis Wayland, Chief Justice William Maltbie, and Rev. Joseph Gates championed prison reform and the creation of a centralized Department of Correction. Their advocacy was bolstered by prominent figures such as Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) and Charles Dudley Warner, who used their powerful voices to call for an end to inhumane prison conditions. This foundation laid the groundwork for CPA's ongoing commitment to justice reform.

"As Vice Chair, I am proud to support CPA's transformative work," said Wade. "The dedication of CPA's staff to breaking cycles of incarceration is unparalleled, and I am excited to contribute to this shared commitment to justice reform and

community support."

Wade is the founder of Connecticut Appellate Law Firm, and has argued numerous successful appeals before Connecticut's highest courts, and her work in criminal and civil appeals reflects her deep commitment to the legal system and justice reform. A graduate of the Connecticut Supreme Court clerkship program under Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson, she joined CPA's Board in 2019, where she quickly became an active volunteer in initiatives that promote the rule of law and provide educational opportunities.

Community Partners in Action is one of the nation's oldest criminal justice organizations, formerly known as the Connecticut Prison Association, and provides restorative justice services to young people and adults, so they can reenter the community and thrive. CPA delivers impactful services that unite people, programs and partnerships to



Megan Wade

empower individuals to change their lives for the better, make communities safer and stronger, and enhance the quality of life across Connecticut. For more information about Community Partners in Action, its history, and upcoming 150th anniversary events, please visit www.cpa-ct.org.



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Scouts continue 2025 with flurry of activity



Pinewood Derby participants with Den Leader Amanda Holden. Courtesy photo.

EASTFORD/ASHFORD — Scouts enjoyed a Ski trip to Ski Sundown on Feb. 2. Those that were novices started out with a ski lesson. Troop 92 Scouts had a great time skiing. Several Scouts had a goal of skiing every trail on the mountain. Several scouts tried skiing or snowboarding for the first time, and others saw improvement in their skills. Those that were competent at turning were able to earn the Snow Sports Merit Badge.

Scouts earned the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge. One session covered Troop 92 history highlights and badges, and another session at the Scout Museum included a presentation by John DiVenere from Troop 15 in Tolland explaining the

origin of scouting. Scouts then played traditional competitive games.

Thursday, May 15 is a deadline for Summer Camp payment of \$550. It then goes up to \$585. Summer Camp is July 27-Aug 1.

There is a big initiative this year by the Council to fundraise for Camperships. They want every Scout to have the opportunity to have the summer camp experience and not be discouraged because of the fee to attend camp. If anyone personally or their business/company wants to donate \$500/summer camp or \$250/Cub day camp, the donation will help scouts all over the Council. Donations can be made to Connecticut Rivers

Council at ctscouting.org. Click on "Support" and then "Camp4All." Help send a scout to camp!

The Cub Scouts recently sold meat sticks and fire starters at the transfer station and raised \$528.48. We want to thank the many people who supported us!

We were able to attend an overnight at the EcoTarium in Worcester. We learned about nocturnal animals, dissected owl pellets, and traveled through the universe by watching a video in the Planetarium.

The Cub Scouts held their annual Pinewood Derby competition on Saturday, March 8. This features homemade gravity powered racecars. This competition was as much fun as it always is! Here are the final results: Overall Pack Champion, Callen; Most Fuel Efficient, Joey; Original Car Design, Corbin; Judge's Choice, Victor; Alumni Race Winner, Doug.

In February the Troop did a suicide prevention and awareness class for older scouts; practiced the EDGE method with knots (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, Enable); learned, and then taught others basic knots; discussed hiking safety while in the outdoors; had an Order of the Arrow election. Ryker, Henry, and Cooper were voted in. The Order of the Arrow is a service organization

within scouting.

In March, scouts concentrated on training required for rank advancement. Topics included first aid, weather requirements for hiking, and compass work.

Planning has started for the Mother's Day Flower Sale in May. This is a major fundraiser for the Troop. On April 5, Merit Badge Madness will be held at Xavier High School. No scout meeting on April 8. On April 22, Summer Camp fees are due. Cost is \$560. Planning for campout at JNW. On April 25-27, camp out at JN Webster for Compass and GPS instructions, and cooking.

Scout meetings are second and last Tuesdays of the month at St Philip's Rec Center at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome. Scouts learn leadership, teamwork and communication, as well as outdoor skills and fellowship.

April 1 is April Fool's Day. Look out for tricks!

- Submitted by BSA Troop 92 Eastford/Ashford: Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scoutmaster; Jesse Burnham, Scoutmaster; Dave Birdsey, Assistant Scoutmaster; Kurt van Heiningen, Cubmaster; Rob Hany, Committee Chairman; Den Leaders Amanda Holden, Haley Phillips

Do you have:

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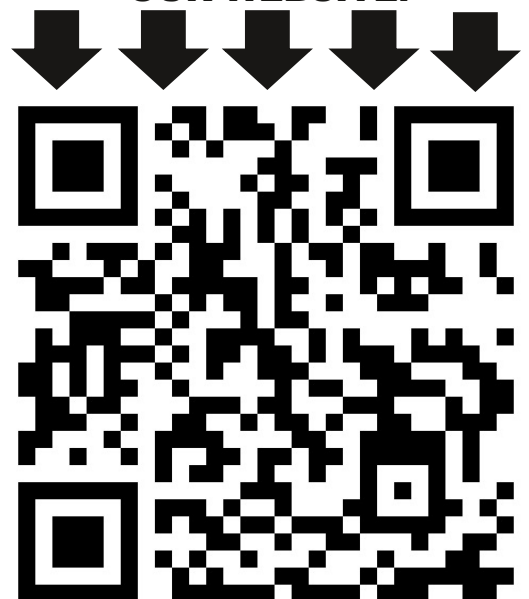
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There is an annual \$25 subscription fee for non-Eastford residents to receive the *Communicator*, which covers production and mailing costs. For uninterrupted service, if you would like to continue receiving the *Communicator* for the next year, please 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 May 15.

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Lego Derby brings building and racing action to EBC

EASTFORD — The Olympians kids club at Eastford Baptist Church held its 3rd Annual LEGO Derby on Saturday, Feb. 22, offering a fun afternoon of racing, games, snacks, and other activities for elementary-aged kids. In the championship race, Kara Norman (below) claimed first place to win her third straight LEGO Derby. Prizes were also awarded for Most Creative LEGO Car. First place went to Charlotte Briglia (lower middle); second place went to Chloe Minor (lower right); and third place went to Bowen Fitte (lower left). Courtesy photos.



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- Engage with the Quiet Corner Shouts grassroots organization for local actions.
- Help out at the polls.

Short on time? Then consider donating to the EDTC by scanning the QR code, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/ywmccntk>. 100% of donations goes to political action.

For more info email us at EDTC.CT@gmail.com, or call 860 341-2006



THE PASTOR'S PEN: TIMOTHY HOWARD JR.

As the days grow longer and the signs of spring emerge, we find ourselves approaching one of the most meaningful days of the year — Easter, also known as Resurrection Sunday. While many enjoy egg hunts, family meals, and the fresh beauty of spring, the meaning of the holiday is much deeper.

For Christians, Resurrection Sunday is the most significant celebration because it marks the day when Jesus Christ defeated sin and conquered death forever. The Bible tells us that Jesus was betrayed, falsely accused, and crucified. He was then buried in a tomb that was covered with a great stone, and for three days, His followers mourned, believing all was lost. But then, on Sunday morning, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus had risen

from the dead! His resurrection proved that He truly is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and that through faith in Him, we have the hope of eternal life.

Throughout history, Christians have celebrated Easter in many ways, but at the heart of every tradition is the hope of the resurrection. From the earliest days of the church, believers have gathered on this special day to proclaim that Jesus is alive through those wide variety of traditions.

Here at Eastford Baptist Church, our Easter Sunday begins before the sun even rises at our annual Sunrise Service. Gathering in the early morning hours helps us reflect on what happened on that first Easter when the women came to the tomb at dawn and discovered that Jesus

had risen. That's why we invite you to join us at Buell's Orchard at 6 a.m. for our Easter Sunrise Service, where we will worship together as the morning light breaks through the darkness, just as it did on that glorious day so long ago.

Afterward, we will continue another long-standing Easter tradition, our Easter Breakfast. We would love for you to join us immediately after the Sunrise Service at Eastford Baptist Church in our Family Activity Center for a nice warm meal and time of fellowship.

Later in the morning, we will gather once again for our 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship Service at Eastford Baptist Church. This service will be a time of joyful celebration, Scripture reading, and a message

centered on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as Christians have done for centuries, we will come together to proclaim the truth that has been spoken throughout generations: "He is risen!" And the response? "He is risen indeed!"

Easter traditions bring families and communities together, and we would love for you to make this celebration part of your tradition as well! Whether you join us for the sunrise service, breakfast, or worship, we invite you to come and experience the joy, hope, and renewal that can only be found in the risen Savior and that the Easter holiday represents.

Wishing you and your family a joyful and blessed Resurrection Sunday!

A WORD FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: MIKE MORAN

Hello Eastford!

It is springtime — that time of the year when the days lengthen, the sun strengthens, and everything awakens from a winter of slumber. We have already had some days when spring fever ignites.

It is also the time of year when Christians celebrate Easter. The holiday marks the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the event that is the centerpiece of the Christian faith. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He came to earth and lived the perfect life none of us ever could, then laid that life down on a cross to pay our penalty for our sins a penalty that includes our own death. That was on a Friday.

Then, with a profound display of God's power, Jesus came back to life

on Sunday morning. His promise to us all is that if we put our trust in Him, His death wipes our sin account clean, and we are given a new life, one that is eternal and is defined by Jesus' love and life instead of our troubled past and future failures. Jesus also promises us that one day we too will rise from death into a new, perfect and immortal body. His own resurrection is both proof and a picture of that life to come. This is the hope of the Christian — and is why we have good reason to celebrate Easter.

As I write this in mid-March, the ground is bare, last year's grass is brown and the deciduous trees appear dead and lifeless. But you and I expect — and know — that in this season life will return. I noticed crocuses in bloom in front of the

Town Office on March 11. That dead grass will turn lush green, and the leaves on the trees will come out. The new life of spring is certain. And so is new life in Jesus — for those who have turned to Him and put the faith, their trust, their very lives into His hands.

When I stand aside a grave with a family as they say goodbye to a loved one who has passed, we talk about this reality. Life in the flesh is short, but life in Jesus is forever. And I ask people — with the brown dead grass and bare trees in view, do we expect new life to come with the spring? The answer is "Of course!" And when I look at the brokenness of human life, at my own life as I get older, and think about lost loved ones (I just lost both of my older siblings in recent weeks) I ask the same question. "Do I expect

there will be new life to come?" And the answer is the same, "With Jesus, of course!"

And here is a remarkable truth about this new life in Jesus. It is free for the asking.

If your interest in new life in Jesus is piqued, or you would like to know more, I hope you might check us out any Sunday, or contact me directly and we can chat, or join us this Easter (or at Eastford Baptist). The two churches will gather to worship together on Good Friday, April 18, at 7 p.m., at Eastford Baptist. And then both churches will have celebration services Easter Sunday, April 20, both at sunrise (6 a.m.) and later in the morning (CCE at 10, EBC at 10:30 a.m.). Join us and celebrate the fact that Jesus is risen, the best news ever!

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Scramble predicts early spring

EASTFORD — It's not Groundhog Day in Eastford — it's Duck Day!

In what long ago became an annual tradition in town, Scramble the Duck announced its annual meteorological prediction on Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Ivy Glenn Memorial in a ceremony that braved single-digit temperatures.

According to Scramble, as he communicated to his handlers, Benjamin Torcellini and Aaron Minor, Eastford will see relief from these cold temperatures, as there will be an early spring!

Torcellini's opening speech gave a summary of why Scramble's work is so important.

"The weather in New England is something special, something that cannot be predicted by a furry rodent who rarely even looks at the weather," he said. "This is why a new critter came to the stage, to perhaps save the people of the New England corridor from a possible winter catastrophe."

While groundhogs may not be very accurate, Scramble can boast 100-percent accuracy. After Scramble examined the meteorological conditions, he asked his handlers to read a scroll containing his prediction. In the scroll read by Minor, Scramble forecasted early spring weather, noting the meaningful absence of a shadow that points to an early spring. The scroll read:

*Hark, good folk, both far and near,
Gather close and lend an ear.
For lo, this morn, a duck so fair,
Did quack with tidings through the air.
Scramble, the duck of feath'ry down,
At Ivy Glenn, told truth to the town:
"Mark ye well, the time draws nigh,
When winter's grasp shall fade and die.
No more the frost shall bite thine hand,
Nor icy winds o'er Eastford's land.
The snow shall melt, the buds shall bloom,
And banish forth the winter's gloom.
Six weeks less of winter's reign,
The earth shall wake, no chill remain.
The brooks shall sing, the meadows green,
And spring's fair promise shall be seen."
Eastford did cheer; their hearts took flight,
At Scramble's quack, so bold and bright.
No prophet more could they request,
Than he who predicts the weather's best.
So behold, the duck his wisdom bring,
For Scramble speaks of early spring.
Let flowers rise, let seed take wing,
And all the world with gladness sing!*

After his prediction, State Sen. Jeff Gordon and State Rep. Pat Boyd thanked Scramble for his service to the community, awarding him a citation for his efforts.



State Rep. Pat Boyd, left, and State Sen. Jeff Gordon, second from left, present a state citation to Scramble and his handlers, Benjamin Torcellini and Aaron Minor, for Scramble's service to the community. Courtesy photo.



Left, Scramble's handler; Benjamin Torcellini, moves Scramble to his table to make his official prediction. Right, the community waits with anticipation as handler Aaron Minor reads the official prediction. Courtesy photos.

Kids of all ages are welcome with supervision.

Eastford EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19, 2025
(Rain Date April 26, 2025)

10:00am sharp start
Eastford Elementary School Back Field
Sectioned into age-appropriate areas
Please Bring Your Own Basket

Please be sure to check the contents of the eggs prior to consumption due to any allergies.

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