

THE EASTFORD Communicator



JUNE/JULY 2025

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

VOL. 33, No. 6

EASTFORD REMEMBERS



EASTFORD — The town gathered Monday, May 26, for Eastford's annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, which paid tribute to local veterans and honored those who gave everything for our freedom. Above, local veterans pause to salute the flag during the National Anthem performed by the East Woodstock Cornet Band. At left, Levi and Emmett McGurl, with mother Chrissy, walk in the parade. At right, Recreation Committee member Paige Burgess poses with the winners of the Memorial Day bike decoration contest — from left, Hope McGurl (Most Creative); Willa King (Best Overall); and Zoe Labonte (Most Patriotic). For more, turn to page 23! Adam Minor photos

Budget vote is set for June 4

EASTFORD — Following a public hearing held on Wednesday, May 21, for the fiscal 2025-26 town and education budget proposals, the town will hold its Annual Town Budget Meeting on Wednesday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m., at Eastford Elementary School.

The general town government budget proposal is currently set at \$2,084,069, which represents an increase of \$208,571 (11.1 percent) over fiscal 2024-25. The Board of Education has presented a budget proposal of \$4,794,179, which represents an increase of \$183,936 (3.99 percent). Combined, both budget proposals total \$6,878,248, an increase of \$392,507 (6.1 percent) over fiscal 2024-25. If passed, the budget would result in a new property tax rate of 21.2 mils, a 1.5-mil increase over fiscal 2024-25 (19.7).

Capital projects planned for 2025-26 (out of the Municipal Reserve Fund) include open space acquisition (\$20,000); funding toward a future pickup truck for the Eastford Independent Fire Company (EIFC) (\$15,000); funding toward future purchases to replace EIFC's ET 171 and ET 271 trucks (\$60,000); and funding toward the future purchase of a Public Works payload loader (\$50,000); and others, including more than \$100,000 in funds obligated through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) for a digital sign for the Town Office Building (\$47,238); and solar panels for the Town Garage (\$56,810).

For more information on the budget proposals, copies are available at the Town Office Building, or online at www.eastfordct.gov.

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THE EASTFORD Communicator

LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

VOL. 33, No. 6 | JUNE/JULY 2025

MANAGING EDITOR: Adam Minor

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Arthur Brodeur

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Michele Palulis, Chairman; Randal Chinnock, Vice Chairman; Nancy Gingras, Treasurer; Julia Torcellini, Secretary; Arthur Brodeur

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.

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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

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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).

Scouts spring into packed summer schedule

EASTFORD/ASHFORD — The “Merit Badge Madness” event was held at Xavier High School and was attended by Ryker, Henry, John, Conner, and Mason.

The Cub Scouts made first aid kits for their hiking bags. They learned about what to do in the event of an emergency. Over spring break, the Scouts went to see a Yard Goats game and spent the night on the outfield.

Summer Camp fees were recently collected. Cost is \$560, which represents the “Early Bird” price. JNW has an initiative to send any Scout to Camp. If anyone would like to donate money to send a Scout to Camp, talk to Rob H. or Bob Z.

National Youth Leadership Training will be held Aug. 3-9. It was agreed that the Troop would like to send at least one senior Scout to JNW for a week at \$410, which would be paid for by the troop. The Scout must be committed to a leadership role in the Scouts and be First Class or above. Eligible: Henry, John, Ryker, Landon, Noah.

May was busy! On Saturday, May 10, we held a Mother’s Day flower sale. At our May 13 meeting, Scouts got instructions in food preparation, and a class on knife sharpening. On May 16-18, we had a campout and climb at Mt. Monadnock, in Jaffry, N.H. On May 23-24, the Troop placed flags in the cemeteries prior to Memorial Day.

Last month, the Cub Scouts took a hike at Tinkerville Brook Preserve. They learned about different plants and animals. Tinkerville Brook hiking trail in Ashford is part of Joshua’s Trust land conservancy. They also discussed and practiced leave no trace principles. The Cubs also attended a campout at JNW and participated in their Fishing Derby.



Cub Scouts recently enjoyed the waterfall and wildlife at the Tinkerville Brook Trail. Courtesy photo.

Upcoming Events:

- July 27-Aug. 1: Summer Camp at Camp JN Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford.

- Aug. 3-9: National Youth Leadership Training. Eligible: Henry, John, Ryker, Landon, Noah.

- Aug. 21-24: Brooklyn Fair Parking fundraiser.

Next year: Bike trip in the fall.

Scouts learn leadership, teamwork, and communication, as well as outdoor skills and fellowship.

New members are welcome. Meetings are on the second and last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at St Philip’s Rec Hall in Ashford.

- 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



Above, Scouts planned the menu and activities for the Mt. Monadnock campout. Scouts make decisions for the Troop as much as possible. At right, Cub Scouts had a fun time at a recent Yard Goats game in Hartford. Courtesy photos.



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

Anonymous; Lois Swenson; The Hansen & Oftedal Families; Janet Bellamy.

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

OUR READING GARDEN KATIE BALL EASTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer, we missed you! There are so many fun and exciting things that will be happening at the library this summer and we hope to see you! Children and adults alike are invited to take part in our six-week Summer Reading Program that will feature a different garden theme each week. Please inquire at our front desk if you have any questions.

- Week 1: Summer Solstice (6/21-6/26)
- Week 2: Magic in the Garden (6/28-7/3)
- Week 3: Butterflies in the Garden (7/5-7/10)
- Week 4: Art in the Garden (7/12-7/17)
- Week 5: Bees as Pollinators (7/19-7/24)
- Week 6: Farm to Table (7/26-7/31)

The finale of our Summer Reading Program will be on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 10:30 a.m. Awards and T-shirts will be handed out to participants followed by an ice cream social.

On a recent morning, children and adults enjoyed painting rocks for our Eastford Public Library Rock Garden. Please come in and paint one of your own! Pictured with this article are Liv Moore and Mikenna Arsenault.

Please take note that our book drop will be under construction, but books may still be dropped in the bin. A lovely resident of Eastford has offered to paint a beautiful design for us all to enjoy.

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. - 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 or on social media. If you haven't yet, please follow Eastford Public Library on Facebook and/or Instagram @eastfordpubliclibrary.



TIPS FOR TODAY LIZ ELLSWORTH

Celebrate summer with the celebratory glitter/confetti out environment in mind! Picnic with reusable plates and utensils. Encourage friends to bring refillable water bottles to fill at the tap for playdates/parties. Skip plastic whenever and wherever you can. Make

of natural tree leaves. Recycle and properly dispose of any materials you use. Be mindful of any posted guidance when hiking or boating.

Happy summer!

FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association is committed to helping families with their decisions regarding plot purchase and size of plot as it pertains to burial wishes. It is with this in mind that the Association is offering its assistance to you whether you are making plans for yourself or for a loved one. The decisions you may face are more complex than most people realize and are usually not done easily when people are grieving. Our board can confidentially aid you in considering various plot options for full and cremation burials, memorial (flush) markers and monuments. Feel free to call for an appointment at (860) 428-0280. The EGCA is a non-profit organization.

Reminder: During mowing season, March 15 to Thanksgiving, only live

flowers may be planted, or placed in plastic pots, within 12 inches of the base of the monument. All artificial flowers and ornaments are prohibited during the mowing season and will be removed.

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association greatly appreciates the following donors who have contributed to the beautification of the grounds: Guy & Janie Grube, in memory of their parents, Lloyd C. Mitchell, Jr.

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

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

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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry, located at the Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd., is pleased to announce that we are now open twice monthly. Please see our hours of operation for the next few months at the end of this article.

We continue to seek 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.

Thank you to all who donated food and money so that we can provide for our pantry families.

The Eastford Food Pantry relies

on donations from the community. All donations to the pantry can be dropped off at our new drop off location, Bowen's Garage, or at the Town Office Building during regular business hours. Check donations can be mailed to Eastford Food Pantry, 16 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242.

Donation suggestions include peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, pasta sauce, and tuna.

Thank you for your support!

Eastford Food Pantry Hours:

- Monday, June 9: 8-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 18: 2-4 p.m.
- Monday, July 7: 8-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 23: 2-4 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 4: 8-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 20: 2-4 p.m.



**FOR UPDATES, EXTRA PHOTOS,
AND MORE INFORMATION**

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

March: 0
April: 1

MARRIAGES

March: 0
April: 0

DEATHS

March: 2
April: 1

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

March 25: 187 Old Colony Rd., \$340,000, Amy L. Greika to Steven Rose

DID YOU KNOW?

EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Did you know that in 1872, the farm at the top of Sumner Hill Road was owned by a man named A.B. Yetter? Mr. Yetter was a New York City truckman who owned many horse-drawn vehicles. When his horses became lame or footsore from navigating the cobblestone streets of the city, they were shipped to the Abington Rail Station. They were then brought to Eastford, where they were allowed to rest and recuperate on Yetter's farm. After a restorative stay on Yetter Hill the horses were shipped back to the city and returned to service. The farm also provided baled hay for the horses that Yetter shipped to New York from the Abington Station.

Join us on June 19 for a brief business meeting followed by a slide show presentation on the Air Line Trail by Phil Finch. Refreshments will be served.

The Florence Warren Museum of Eastford History opened on May 18 and will be open every second and fourth Sunday through the month of October. Please pay us a visit!

Donations to the Historical Society are greatly appreciated. Donations may be sent to Eastford Historical Society, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

JUNE

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

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

Saturday, June 7: Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building; Experience Eastford Committee, 10:45 a.m., Town Office Building

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

Wednesday, June 11: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281

Thursday, June 12: Bowen's Field Committee, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, June 25: Experience Eastford Committee, 7 p.m., Remote

Thursday, June 26: Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

JULY

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

Thursday, July 3: Transfer Station Committee, 10 a.m., Town Office Building

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

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

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

Wednesday, July 9: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281

Thursday, July 10: Bowen's Field Committee, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, July 24: Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

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

IN THE GARDEN: SUSAN BURNS

You are what you eat!

It is time to start planning what we want to grow and to eat this summer and fall. Nothing beats the taste of home-grown produce. Growing our own food helps us gain control of what and how we eat. When we determine what to grow, we decide if we will use pesticides, insecticides, fertilizer, compost, manure, or mulch. We know that exposure to chemicals causes skin and respiratory issues, nervous system and hormone problems, and can be carcinogenic.

There are significant health benefits when you grow your own food picked at its peak ripeness and eaten quickly. Home-grown produce, packaging free, in a garden that's alive with wildlife and biodiversity provides a household with a healthier diet and lifestyle. Not only will we improve our own good health, but at the same time, we rescue the health of our planet.

Now, you might be thinking: "I have no land for growing my own food." Fortunately, you can grow fruits, vegetables and herbs in containers on your steps, on your porch, or even along your driveway. I first started growing potatoes in containers one year when I dug my potatoes out of my kitchen garden only to find that critters had taken a bite out of each of the biggest potatoes. What a disappointment.

For apartment dwellers or anyone short

on space, containers can't be beat. Container growing has really taken off recently. Let's talk about important considerations if you grow your food in containers.

First, choose the right soil. All soil isn't equal. Potting soil (not garden soil or just plain old dirt) is the key to container gardening success. Potting soil is a blend of materials like sphagnum moss, bark, perlite, vermiculite, compost or coir that intended for growing plants in containers. Other soils can carry fungus and other plant pathogens that can infect your plants. Potting mix is sterile, so it's fungus-free and safer. The organic material (compost or moss) feeds the plants and the perlite and vermiculite keep the mix loose and well-drained so it doesn't compact around plant roots or hold too much water which keeps roots from breathing, and can kill plants.

Compact, aesthetically pleasing edible plants are more popular than ever. You can get bonsai basil, or basil 'Everleaf lemon.' You can buy compact tomato plants like Wonderstar Red or Unicorn Pink. Blueberries do very well in containers.

Now that you have chosen which plants you want to grow, the next step is choosing the right container for your plants. Pots can be made out of wood, plastic, clay, stone, concrete — whichever you prefer. Each type holds moisture differently. Don't forget to water frequently.

THE
EASTFORD
Communicator
LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

**All Eastford.
All the time.**



Our next issue will be published on:

Aug. 1

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

July 15

Easter egg hunt delights kids of all ages at EES

EASTFORD — The Recreation Commission continued an Easter tradition at Eastford Elementary School on Saturday, April 19, as kids gathered for the annual Eastford Egg Hunt. Organized by ages, kids were set loose behind the school to search for eggs that were hidden throughout the property. *Adam Minor photos*



Addie Labonte is all smiles after discovering a special silver egg.



Eliana Kneeland is excited after discovering a golden egg.



Bekah and Bina Barlow take a break to check out their eggs.



At left, Sonny Garry shows off his egg treasures. At right, eggs were hidden in the preschool area for the younger children.



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

Clark Kent Level: \$250

Perry White Level: \$500

Superman Level: \$1,000



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

Chili Cookoff event brings the heat at EBC

EASTFORD — Eastford Baptist Church hosted its annual Chili Cookoff Sunday, March 23, after the morning's worship service. Ten chili recipes were sampled by three non-partial judges to determine the winners in three categories — Spiciest Chili, Most Creative Chili, and Best Overall Chili. The winners were — Spiciest Chili: Sally Rempel; Most Creative: Dave Hustus; Best Overall: Herm Barlow. property. *Courtesy photos*



The judges of the Chili Cookoff, from left, Josh Hagstrom, Ryan Galasso, and Colin Garry. They each sampled all 10 chili recipes to determine the winners.



Above, the winners, from left — Spiciest Chili: Sally Rempel; Most Creative: Dave Hustus; Best Overall: Herm Barlow. Below, the line was full as people helped themselves to chili.



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT DONNA LEAKE

June, a time of endings and beginnings. For eighth-grade students, their graduation on June 12 marks the end of their years at Eastford Elementary School. For everyone, June 21 signals the first day of summer. In celebration of the ending of another great school year and the beginning of summer, I share this thought: "And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees ... I had the familiar conviction that life was beginning all over again with the summer." (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

As with leaves bursting on trees, the ending of the school year is filled with its own bursts of renewed activity. Grade 8 students are preparing for their trip to Washington D.C. on June 3-6. Teachers are planning their final lessons and students are enjoying outside activities and end-of-year field trips with their friends. The Board of Education (BOE) is busy assessing, approving and overseeing facility

needs that must be addressed in preparation for a new school year. In addition, at their April and May meetings, the BOE:

- Voted to comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

- Set the date for the end of the school year as June 13 for students and June 16 for staff.

- Set the graduation date for June 12.

- Accepted several new policies to be consistent with recent legislative changes.

- Allowed the administration to move forward in utilizing the Putnam YMCA as our before-and-after-school provider.

- Supported the Scholarship Committee's recommendations regarding the Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarships as well as the scholarships provided through the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

The state is also launching new

initiatives. One initiative that is important that all community members become familiar with is Early Start CT, a new, state-funded early care and education program that's targeted to start on July 1, 2025. Early Start combines 3 existing programs: Child Day Care Contracts, School Readiness Grants, and State Head Start Supplement Grants, into 1 new program. Early Start CT requires the formation of local governance partnerships (LGP). Districts are encouraged to form LGPs that include membership from more than one town. LGPs bring community stakeholders together to:

- Assess the early childhood needs of families;

- Implement strategies, share resources, and engage the community in improving the well-being and development of children;

- Improve access to high-quality early childcare and education programming;

- Increase family engagement by connecting families with early childhood services and programming.

For additional information please visit <https://www.ctoec.org/early-start-ct>. Updates regarding this initiative will be provided in in upcoming issues of the Communicator and in administrative reports to the BOE.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." As we transition from the ending of one school year to the beginning of another, I once again thank the Eastford community for providing our students with high-quality access to the power of education. 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, at dleake@eastfordct.org. Enjoy the summer!

A WORD FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: MIKE MORAN

Greetings Eastford!

Happy start of summer! As you may know, we at the Congregational Church of Eastford lost our building to a fire back in April 2023. We are rebuilding on a new site on John Perry Road, and are just about to break ground. It looks to be a bit more than a year to go before occupancy — a three-year process. I am a “git ‘er done” kind of guy, so the process has felt interminable to me. That said, our time without a building has been one of great blessings. Our church family has grown substantially, and we are thriving in every way.

We are so very grateful to all of you — our Eastford community — for your kindness and generosity. We have been able to hold our Sunday worship service in the Eastford School gym, some of our meetings in the Ivy Glenn, and our brothers and sisters at Eastford Baptist have made their building available for group studies and especially for our

children and youth groups. Thank you all! What a wonderful place we are privileged to call “home.” As we step into summer, we look forward to two events that may interest you.

1. Our annual Frog Jump and Band Concert will be held at Crystal Pond Park from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 12. This event has been running for perhaps a century — and it is great fun for the whole family. We will have a frog-jumping contest — longest jumper wins. The best bet is for you to catch and bring your own. For the health of the amphibians, please make sure you keep your hands wet and your frogs, too. We will have some loaners for city folk. There will be swimming in the lake, a free cookout for all, premium ice cream, a bounce house and other fun. We will be treated to a concert by the East Woodstock Cornet Band. The entire event is free, our gift to you. Why? Jesus loves you — and so do we!

2. Our annual Sports Camp will be held on the grounds of the Eastford School, Monday to Friday, July 21-25, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The camp is for children ages 4-12 and offers flag football, soccer, basketball, cheerleading (girls only) for kids ages 6-12 and skills development for 4- to 5-year-olds. Sports instruction is led by college age athletes. The day also includes a Bible lesson and snack. There is a fee of \$60 per camper. If you need a “camper-ship,” just ask. For more information and to register, visit <https://cceastford.org/sports-camp/>.

A final note: In my early life, I pursued all the things that the world offers that promise to fulfill — family, friends, education, career, good food, hobbies, sports and possessions. All these can bring portions of happiness and satisfaction, but they never truly fulfill us. By the time I was in my late 30’s I had checked the blocks, and I learned this truth — the

world can never satisfy. But then I was introduced to Jesus, and everything changed. It was like that scene in “The Wizard of Oz” when the house has landed on the Wicked Witch of the East and Dorothy opens the door. The movie flips from black and white to Technicolor and she says, “Toto, I don’t think we are in Kansas anymore.” I had a new life and “Wow!” Life in Jesus is, in His words, “abundant” and “eternal.” There is peace and there is joy, and there is genuine love to be had.

At the Congregational Church of Eastford, we are all about Jesus and all about people. We want you to be richly blessed. It our deepest desire that we might share the abundant and eternal life that is the free gift of our great God in Heaven in Christ Jesus.

Want to know more? Just ask. Or join us at the Eastford School on any Sunday at 10 a.m. (or Eastford Baptist at 10:30 a.m.). No pressure. Just come and see.

THE PASTOR'S PEN: TIMOTHY HOWARD JR.

There is something special about Sunday mornings in a small town. The roads are calm, the pace is slower, and neighbors begin to gather for worship across the community.

But let’s be honest ... it is easy to drift spiritually. Life picks up speed, responsibilities pile on, weekends fill up, and so, for many, church gradually slips out of the routine. Maybe you still believe, maybe you still pray, maybe you still think about God from time to time, but it has been a while since you have walked through the doors of a local church.

If that describes you, maybe it is time to reconnect with God and, indeed, with the church. Church is where we are reminded of what truly matters. It is a place to refocus our hearts, find

encouragement, hear the truth of God’s Word, and be surrounded by people who care. We don’t gather because we have it all together, but because we know we need grace, truth, and direction to navigate life. You don’t need to have your life all together. You don’t need to dress a certain way or know all the right words. You just need a willing heart and maybe a little courage to take that first step.

The Bible says in Isaiah 55:6, “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.” This verse reminds us that God is not far off, but very near. It is a reminder that now is the time to turn toward Him, not someday or when life settles down, but today. Maybe it has been a long time since you have been to church. Maybe you have

been meaning to come back, but one week turned into another, and now it just feels like it has been too long. Let me tell you, it hasn’t. You are not too far gone, and it is not too late. The Lord is near, and the doors of the church are open — you just have to walk through them.

At Eastford Baptist Church, we would love to welcome you back. We offer Sunday School for children of all ages and an Adult Bible Class at 9:15 a.m. Then, at 10:30 a.m., we gather for our worship service, where we sing, pray, and open the Bible to hear what God has to say.

Also, if you have children or teens, we would love to invite them to our Wednesday night youth ministries at 6:30 p.m., our “Olympians” kid’s club is for grades 1-6, and runs until June 4,

and will start up again on Sept. 3. Our Teen Club is for grades 7-12, and runs until June 11, also starting up again on Sept. 3. Also, mark your calendars for our all-original, Christmas-themed Vacation Bible School, titled “Christmas Chronicles,” for kids in grades Pre-K-6, happening July 28 through Aug. 1 from 6-8:15 p.m. For more summer events and updates, be sure to check out our website and follow us on social media!

So, whether you are new to church, or it has simply been a while, we would love to see you this Sunday. No pressure, no expectations, just an open invitation to reconnect, be encouraged, and experience the grace and peace that only God can give.



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

eastford.news

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.

JUNE

Tuesday, June 3

Eastford Public Library will host a Homeschool Science Fair for families who are registered. Set-up is at 10:30 a.m. The fair will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to noon. Please support our homeschooling families by dropping in to check out their displays!

Thursday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 7

Eastford Public Library will host "Planting Our Reading Garden," at 10:30 a.m. This will include planting vegetables and herbs in our raised beds here at the library! In addition, we will also be planting Spaghetti Garden Grow Bags to take home. Please register for this event.

Wednesday, June 11

Eastford Public Library will host "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. We will be painting flowerpots as part of our Garden Series. Please note this program takes place on the second Wednesday of every month.

Thursday, June 12

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

Thursday, June 19

Eastford Public Library is CLOSED for the holiday.

Friday, June 20

Eastford Public Library will host "Yoga in the Park with Sarah Boyd" to kick off our Summer Reading Program. Please join us at 6 p.m. with a mat or towel in the park (next to the library) as we welcome in the Summer Solstice. We will have sign-ups for our Children and Adult Summer Reading Programs as well as a sun craft and snack. The library is also excited to unveil our Story Walk! In the event of rain, we will move this event indoors.

Saturday, June 21

Eastford Public Library will continue to have sign-ups for our Children and Adult Summer Reading Program along with a sun craft. Join us in our Race to Read books all summer long while also enjoying all things gardening.

Tuesday, June 24

Eastford Public Library will host "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play. "Grim Readers Book Club" meets at 6 p.m. The featured author is Lisa Gardner and her advanced copy of "Kiss Her Goodbye," due to be released in August 2025. This will be her fourth book in the "Frankie Elkin" series. The library will also have copies of "Before She Disappeared," "One Step Too Far," and "Still See You Everywhere" 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.

Wednesday, June 25

Eastford Public Library will host "Making Sundials" at 3 p.m. This will be a STEAM project. Please register for this event.

Thursday, June 26

Eastford Public Library will host "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, June 28

Eastford Public Library will host a "Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk" at 10:30 a.m. Please register for this event.

JULY

Wednesday, July 2

Eastford Public Library will host "Making Fairy Gardens" at 3 p.m. Please register for this event.

Saturday, July 5

Eastford Public Library will host a "Butterfly Craft" at 10:30 a.m. as we begin our Butterflies in the Garden week. Please register.

Wednesday, July 9

Eastford Public Library will host "Raising Butterflies from Caterpillars" at 3 p.m. During this activity each family will have the opportunity to create their very own butterfly sanctuary. Please note this involves taking home live caterpillars to raise and involves a time commitment. Please register. Maker's Night that evening will feature Part 1 of Basket Making with Claire Williams from 6-8 p.m. Space is limited to the first six participants. Part 2 will be the following week.

Thursday, July 10

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

Saturday, July 12

Fun for the whole family! The Congregational Church of Eastford will host its annual Frog Jump and Band Concert at Crystal Pond Park from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 12. The event will feature a frog-jumping contest — longest jumper wins. You are encouraged to bring your own

frogs, but we will have some loaners on hand too. There will be swimming in the lake, a free cookout for all, premium ice cream, a bounce house and other fun. We will be treated to a concert by the East Woodstock Cornet Band. The entire event is free, our gift to you.

Eastford Public Library will host "Art in the Garden" at 10:30 a.m. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, July 16

Eastford Public Library will host "Garden Stepping Stones" at 3 p.m. This activity will involve making and decorating concrete stepping stones! Please register for this event. In the evening, we will host Part 2 of Basket Making with Claire Williams from 6-8 p.m. for those previously registered.

Thursday, July 17

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

Saturday, July 19

Eastford Public Library will host "The Humble Bee Honey Company" at 10:30 a.m. This educational children's program will take us inside the hive as presenter Catherine Wolko tells us all about the biology of the honey bee. Please register for this event.

Monday, July 21

The Congregational Church of Eastford, in partnership with Living Proof Church of Ashford, will hold its annual Sports Camp on the grounds of Eastford Elementary School, Monday to Friday, July 21-25, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The camp is for children ages 4-12 and offers flag football, soccer, basketball, cheerleading (girls only) for kids ages 6-12 and skills development for 4- to 5-year-olds. Sports

MORE CALENDAR, pg. 9

CALENDAR

CONTINUED from pg. 8

instruction is led by college age athletes. The day also includes a Bible lesson and snack. There is a fee of \$60 per camper. For more information and to register, visit <https://cceastford.org/sports-camp/>.

Wednesday, July 23

Eastford Public Library will host "Making Bee Baths" at 3 p.m. This will be a STEAM project. Please register for this event.

Thursday, July 24

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

Saturday, July 26

Eastford Public Library will host a "Farm to Table Family Potluck" from 6-8 p.m. Bring a dish featuring fresh produce from your garden or locally produced for all to share. Please register for this event as we celebrate garden abundance!

Monday, July 28

It's Christmas in July! Join us at Eastford Baptist Church Monday, July 28 through Friday, Aug. 1 (from 5:45-8:15 p.m.) for an all-new, EBC original Vacation Bible School event called "Christmas Chronicles: Celebrating the Birth of the Savior"! Throughout the week, we will be exploring the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ!

Why did God send Jesus? What was His mission? What's the big deal about it? Learn the answers, and so much more at Christmas Chronicles VBS! We will have games, snacks, crafts, contests, giveaways and so much more! We will also be hosting a Penny War to benefit a great cause! So, get in the Christmas spirit and join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior! Please note: All children signing up must be going into at least Pre-K (at least 3 years of age), and must be potty trained. If the child is not potty trained, an adult must remain with the child throughout the week. EBC volunteers are not permitted to change diapers. For more information, or to signup (for free!) visit <https://eastfordbaptist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2875213>.

Wednesday, July 30

Eastford Public Library will host "Farm to Table" at 3 p.m. We will be making refrigerator pickles from our library grown cucumbers! Please register for this event.

Thursday, July 31

Eastford Public Library will host "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play. REMINDER: The finale of our Summer Reading Program is on Saturday, Aug. 2 at 10:30 a.m.

**SEND US YOUR
PHOTOS!**
 
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Churches join forces to clean up Eastford roads

EASTFORD — Eastford Baptist Church and the Congregational Church of Eastford joined forces on Sunday, April 6, conducting a Roadside Cleanup Day from 1-3 p.m., which was a success thanks to nearly 50 volunteers. In total, 15 miles of road were cleaned up, filling three pickup trucks to capacity. Fun finds included a tire, a toilet, a bowling ball, a full loaf of bread, a bollard, some sheet metal ductwork, a wind chime, and a chair leg. Many thanks to Mansfield Supply for donations of trash bags. The Congregational Church of Eastford provided a kickoff hot dog lunch, while Eastford Baptist Church provided ice cream for volunteers after the cleanup. *Courtesy photos*



At left, Jeannine Spink shows off a filled trash bag collected during the cleanup. At right, Linnea and Ella Barlow clean up trash along Westford Road near Old Cemetery.



From left, Jennifer Barlow, Linnea Barlow, Josh Barlow, Jeremy Barlow, Ella Barlow, Bina Barlow, Abigail Budd, Seth Budd, David Budd, Benjamin Torcellini, and Laura Barlow pose for a photo before embarking on the cleanup.



Diane Barlow (left) took her Eastford Baptist Church Olympians small group out to help during the cleanup. From left, Karissa Howard, Chloe Minor, Georgia Barlow, Kaylee Fitte, and Jillian Norman.

FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1 INC.



In this article, you will find a QR code for you to scan. By filling out this form with basic information, we can pull it up while responding. All information is confidential and only seen if there is a call for service at your address by us. Thank you — from Chief Doug Beaudoin.

Members recently toured the Eastford Baptist Church to familiarize ourselves with the layout of the facility.

We responded to 19 emergencies in February and 27 emergencies in March. Members participated in the annual roadside clean-up event, and drilled pumping skills on all trucks.

• Drill: What is the purpose of conducting pumping drills annually? The purpose of frequent drills is essential for ensuring fire safety and preparedness. The drills help ensure that the fire suppression system is fully operational and ready to respond during an emergency. In addition, practicing the skills on all trucks

that provide water is an important part for the firemen to feel comfortable with the trucks' operation.

• EMS Drill: Members were FIT tested for N95 masks. This testing is critical to ensure a proper seal and effective protection with no air leaks. OSHA mandated testing is required annually following protocols, and/or changes in the user, i.e., facial surgery, weight gain/loss, dental work, etc. Records must be kept on file until the next scheduled fitting and testing.

The season for brush fires is here in full force. A brush fire is a fire in vegetation that is less than 6-feet tall, such as grasses, brush and trees. A brush fire is difficult to control and often spreads quickly, fueled by oxygen and wind. Brush fires can start by burning leaves, garbage or brush, that if left unattended, can lead to uncontrolled wildfires. Most fires start by human activities such as unattended campfires, cigarettes and arson, along with natural causes including lightning strikes. Four out of five wildfires are started by people, but dry weather, drought and strong winds can create the perfect disaster.

Why do we train? Every fire behaves differently. Firefighters must learn a wide range of suppression tactics from basic



control line to hot spotting. Pictured, EIFC members conducted brush fire training on Church Road on April 9.

How can people avoid brush fires? Clear debris and be aware of dry vegetation, hanging branches and trash. Keep flammable items far away and have water nearby, pay attention to weather and drought conditions. Build campfires in an open location, douse the campfire and stir until cold, keep running vehicles and equipment off dry grass. Do not operate equipment or let stand running that may produce sparks near vegetation.

Remember, not all fire is bad! Fire plays a natural and necessary role in many landscapes and vital for some wildlife habitation. The

recipe for the successful end of a working campfire is 1) Douse with a large bucket of water; 2) Stir; 3) Add another bucket of water; 4) Stir again. As Smokey the Bear says: "Only you can prevent forest fires."

-Submitted by Jeannine Spink



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 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!

MUSTANG CORRAL



EASTFORD — As part of Experience Eastford on Saturday, May 10, Bowen's Garage hosted a car show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vehicles new and old were on display, giving people ample opportunity to enjoy a bit of nostalgia.
Adam Minor photo

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TIDYING UP



EASTFORD — The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association Inc. hosted a spring clean-up of the grounds at the cemetery on Wednesday, March 19, cleaning up all seasonal decorations within 20 minutes. Pictured, from left, Audrey Carabeau, Ralph Yulo, David Barlow, Lauren Anderson, Jeannine Spink, Sherry Huri, Alex Kowalchuk, Scott Huri, Lynn Ellis, and Jim Ellis. Carolyn Hazard photo

Summer camp spots filling up fast at 4-H

POMFRET — Summer is our favorite time of the year!

Camp at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp starts on June 22 this year and ends on Aug. 15. Family camp runs from Aug. 15 at 7 p.m., until Aug. 16 at 5 p.m. We offer both day and overnight camp and each week of camp has a different theme. You can find details and registration forms on our website, www.4hcampct.org.

Campers self-select the activities they want to put into their schedule each week from a list of 13 offerings. Each year we recruit counselors from other countries to enrich camper experiences. This year we have already recruited counselors from England, Scotland, Poland, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Namibia, and South Africa. Week 6 is International Week and these counselors get to share information and cuisine from their countries at an International Fair with campers that week.

Registration is open through the summer, but slots are already filling up quickly, especially for day camp, and you may find the week you want to be full if you wait too long to sign up.

For more information, contact Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp, 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret Center, at (860) 974-1122 or visit www.4hcampct.org.



Congregational Church of Eastford

www.cceastford.org

Visit calendar and event tabs for more!



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July 12 from 5 - 8 pm (Family-friendly event!)

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Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Rd, Woodstock



July 21 - 25 from 8:30am - 12:30pm

Sports Camp (Ages 4 - 12)

Register by July 1st for free T-Shirt!

Online registration cceastford.org/sports-camp/



TROTTER GOES YARD!



Jaxson Trotter celebrated his first home run on May 2 in Pomfret/Eastford Little League's AAA Minors game victory over Brooklyn. Courtesy photo



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Heart of Eastford 5K speeds to nearly \$5K in proceeds

EASTFORD — It what turned out to be somewhat of a kickoff for Experience Eastford on Saturday, May 10, the Recreation Commission hosted the annual Heart of Eastford 5K, which started (at 9 a.m.) and finished at Eastford Elementary School. According to the Recreation Commission, the event raised nearly \$5,000, which will be split between the Eastford Food Pantry and a beneficiary yet to be determined. It total, 115 runners participated in the race. For a list of selected winners, turn to page 13! For the full list of winners, as well as their times, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/160787#resultSetId-549377;perPage:100>. *Adam Minor photos*



Katie Fontaine, 40, of Manchester, is a member of the Run 169 Towns Society, whose goal is to complete a race in each of Connecticut's 169 towns. The Heart of Eastford 5K was Fontaine's 100th race in pursuit of that goal. She finished 33rd overall, with a time of 27:55. She is pictured here with her family, husband John, and daughters Teddy, Emma, and Cora.



Allison Channey, 33, of Eastford, finished 35th overall, with a time of 28:05.



The race began in the parking lot of Eastford Elementary School at 9 a.m. sharp.



At left, the first place finisher; Brayden Dunn, 17, of Coventry, who finished with a time of 17:15. At right, Stephen Kurczy, 42, of Woodstock, finished in second place overall, with a time of 17:31.



At left, John Liu, 14, of Pomfret, finished in third place overall, with a time of 19:32. At right, Tama Careathers, 48, of Stratford, finished second in the Female 40 to 49 Division, and 30th overall, with a time of 27:39. Right, Terry O'Neill, 60, of Southbury, finished second in the Male 60 to 69 Division, and 31st overall, with a time of 27:40.



Kids of all ages enjoy special 'Fun Run' event

EASTFORD — As part of the Heart of Eastford 5K during Experience Eastford on Saturday, May 10, the Recreation Commission also hosted a Kids Fun Run for kids of all ages. The route started at the intersection of Westford Road and John Perry Road, then went to Church Road, and back. The entry fee was either a cash donation or a donation of food to the Eastford Food Pantry. *Adam Minor photos*



Heart of Eastford 5K THE RESULTS

OVERALL TOP 10

1. Brayden Dunn, 17, Coventry, 17:15
2. Stephen Kurczy, 42, Woodstock, 17:31
3. John Liu, 14, Pomfret, 19:32
4. Ken Fay, 38, Plainville, 19:49
5. Stephen Gode, 36, North Haven, 20:51
6. Leo Deng, 13, Pomfret, 21:06
7. Rich Federico, 47, Madison, 21:35
8. David Berthiaume, 55, Portland, 21:55
9. George Xi, 13, Pomfret, 22:54
10. Ryan Smith, 28, Pomfret, 22:55

TOP 3 BY DIVISION

19 and Under (Male)

1. Brayden Dunn, 17, Coventry, 17:15
2. John Liu, 14, Pomfret, 19:32
3. Leo Deng, 13, Pomfret, 21:06

19 and Under (Female)

1. Sylvia Nagy, 6, Manchester, 30:36
2. Linnea Barlow, 17, Eastford, 30:53
3. Georgina Barlow, 12, Eastford, 36:19

20 to 29 Division (Male)

1. Ryan Smith, 28, Pomfret, 22:55
2. James Sweeny, 29, Portland, 24:28
3. Jacob Mullin, 26, Woodstock Valley, 36:30

20 to 29 Division (Female)

1. Katherine Swierk, 28, Hartford, 24:43
2. Megan Hart, 21, Branford, 32:03
3. Elizabeth Hull, 27, Stratford, 34:37

30 to 39 Division (Male)

1. Ken Fay, 38, Plainville, 19:49
2. Stephen Gode, 36, North Haven, 20:51
3. Douglas Henry, 33, Brooklyn, 26:57

30 to 39 Division (Female)

1. Alexandra Salinsky, 30, Coventry, 23:07
2. Rebecca Byler, 34, New Haven, 23:33
3. Shelbie Greene, 33, Ashford, 25:55

40 to 49 Division (Male)

1. Stephen Kurczy, 42, Woodstock, 17:31
2. Rich Federico, 47, Madison, 21:35
3. Jeff Nagy, 47, Manchester, 23:26

40 to 49 Division (Female)

1. Jillian Cacopardo, 46, Portland, 24:56
2. Tama Careathers, 48, Stratford, 27:39
3. Katie Fontaine, 40, Manchester, 27:55

50 to 59 Division (Male)

1. David Berthiaume, 55, Portland, 21:55
2. Matt DeMaio, 53, Old Saybrook, 24:50
3. Patrick Farley, 51, Portland, 25:10

50 to 59 Division (Female)

1. Tracey Clark, 53, North Stonington, 25:54
2. Ariana Mongillo, 51, Hamden, 26:14
3. Erica Berthiaume, 56, Portland, 28:11

60 to 69 Division (Male)

1. Glenn Zinn, 62, South Windsor, 26:25
2. Terry O'Neill, 60, Southbury, 27:40
3. Craig Szymanski, 61, Ivoryton, 30:26

60 to 69 Division (Female)

1. Judy Nunes, 65, Milford, 31:06
2. Lori Lavers, 66, Woodbridge, 31:36
3. Jeanne Zulick, 60, Ellington, 35:41

70 to 79 Division (Male)

1. Kevin Ross, 72, Fairfield, 40:59

70 to 79 Division (Female)

1. Jane Doyle, 70, Woodstock Valley, 42:40
2. Ruth Barlow, 73, Eastford, 47:07

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9. FSNORETE _____
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- Volunteer for a campaign in a tightly contested race in the 2026 midterms.
- Engage with the Quiet Corner Shouts grassroots organization for local actions.
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FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN: DEB RICHARDS

This budget season was extremely hard. This was due to a number of factors, including:

- The Grand list in Eastford is down a total of 2.47 percent, or -\$5,783,878.

- Changes in motor vehicle valuation methodology resulted in lower values which can only be made up by a tax increase. The State is proposing via SB 1554, to eliminate motor vehicle taxes altogether which will then be offset by increases in your real estate and personal property taxes.

- Special Education cost is rising

without increased funding from the State.

- Unfunded mandates for early voting, which along with other election costs, is reflected in an elections budget increase of 66.7 percent. This unfunded mandate can only be funded by increasing taxes.

- The State has passed legislation regarding veteran tax abatements, which translates to over \$1,513,680 in Eastford property that cannot be taxed. The State is proposing greater tax abatements for veterans for next year. That loss in revenue can only be made

up by increasing taxes.

Included in this outlook are increases for services, supplies, insurance, and salaries that are still below the average. The State cut costs to our PILOT, Education Cost Sharing, and the LoCIP program.

The State does not vote on their budget until June. The federal government votes on their budget in July – we are estimating some expected revenue, but this is a very rocky road we are traveling.

The Board of Selectmen worked very hard to try and balance the needs

of the town, the needs of our staff, and the needs of our residents. The town can only raise funds through taxes – we have no other options. Taxes in our town need to go towards goods, services, and salaries of town employees.

This has been a challenging budget season for many municipalities across Connecticut. Despite these challenges, Eastford remains a beautiful, vibrant small town with kind, caring residents who work together for the betterment of our community.

GATE KEEPERS



EASTFORD — Grove Cemetery received work on a refurbished south gate on Monday, May 19, courtesy of Mike and Joe Andert, and Public Works staff Ben Schmidt and James Roy.



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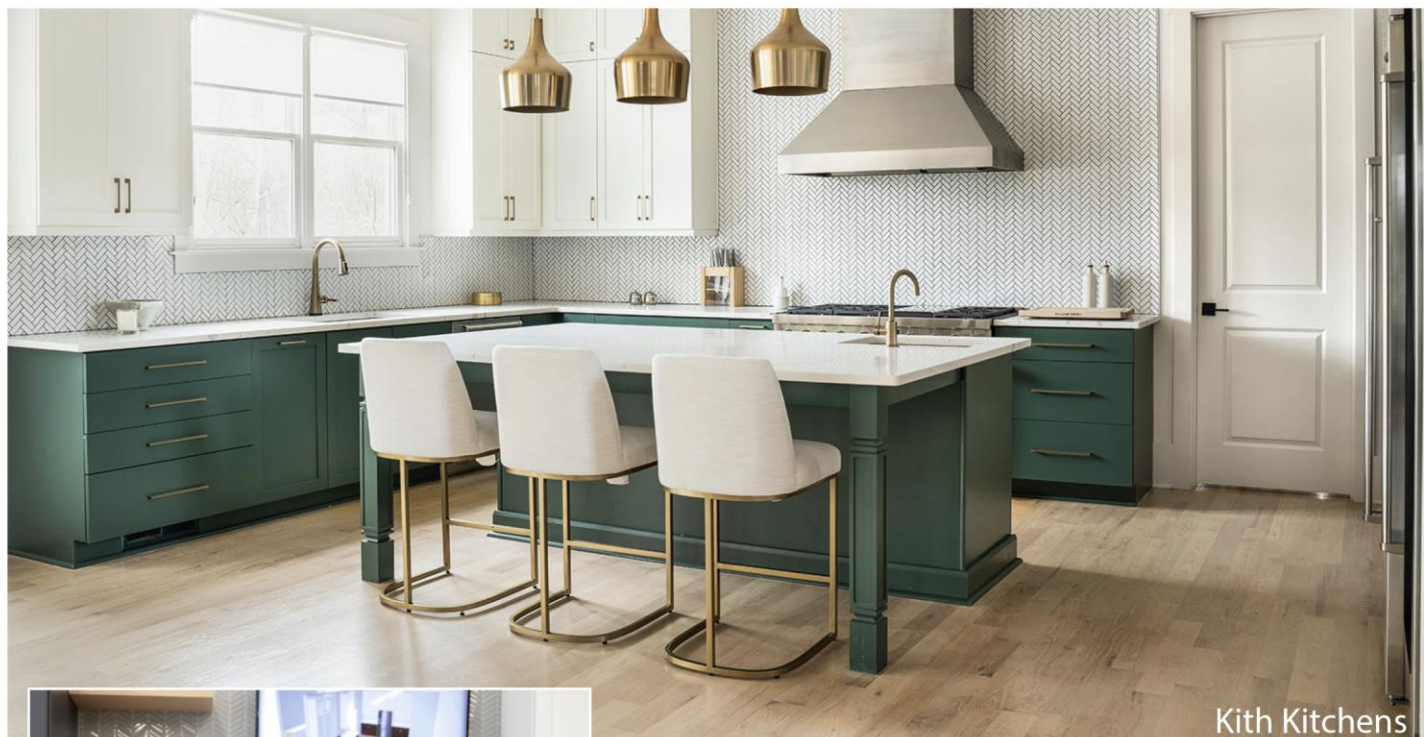
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SPRING CLEANING



EASTFORD — The Pomfret/Eastford Little League (PELL) hosted a cleanup at Bowen Memorial Field on Saturday, April 19. The field is one of two fields (the other is at 63 Hampton Rd., Pomfret Center) that PELL uses for their games. Clean-up work on April 19 included a complete tilling of the infield, as well as landscaping around the outfield fence. Pizza was provided for volunteers by State Sen. Jeff Gordon. Adam Minor photos

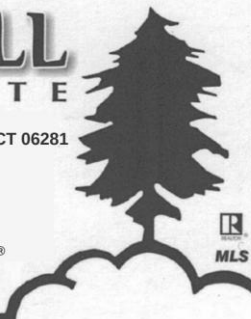
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'Experience Eastford' gives town a taste of local culture

EASTFORD — On Saturday, May 10, a flurry of activity came to Eastford Elementary School, as the Recreation Commission hosted its annual “Experience Eastford” event, a time of food, vendors, games, music, and exhibits for all ages. Food was provided by Hungry Lion, an Eastford-based company, while ice cream was provided by Megan Budd for a donation to the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) Fire Fund. Music was provided by the Babcock Cornet Band and the praise and worship team from CCE (otherwise known as the “B-Sides.”) *Adam Minor photos*



Sloane Volpe got her face painted like a “pink frog.”



Owen Barlow took home first place in the pie eating contest, and his face shows the proof of his victory!



From left, Congregational Church of Eastford Associate Pastor Evan Burgess, Sue Leavitt, and Pastor Mike Moran gather at their booth with a model of what they hope their new building will look like once constructed.



Megan Budd provides an ice cream cone to David Budd. Megan brought her coffee truck, nicknamed “Annabelle the Fleetvan,” and provided ice cream in exchange for a donation to the Congregational Church of Eastford Fire Fund.



At left, the Congregational Church of Eastford's praise and worship team, nicknamed “The B-Sides,” provided musical entertainment for a portion of the event. Above, Kristin Haynes and her daughter, Macy, enjoy the Eastford Public Library's Book Sale in the EES gym.

Memorial Day parade, ceremony pay tribute to local veterans

EASTFORD — The sun shone brightly on Monday, May 26, as Eastford gathered for its annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, which honored local veterans for their sacrifices to make our freedoms possible. The festivities began with memorial services and military salutes at General Lyon Cemetery and Grove Cemetery. Residents then gathered at the Eastford Elementary School parking lot, and commenced the short parade at 9:30 a.m., which began on John Perry Road, before turning on Old Colony Road and finishing at the Ivy Glenn Memorial, where a short ceremony followed thereafter. *Adam Minor photos*



Rick Torgeson was honored during the ceremony as part of the town's tradition of highlighting a local veteran every year on Memorial Day. Torgeson served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, serving in Germany.



Beau Dubina rides his bike in the parade proudly sporting his Pomfret Eastford Little League uniform.



Veterans Jack Mullin and Loring White take a ride in the parade in a Mustang convertible, driven by Steve Bowen.



The East Woodstock Cornet Band provided the music for the parade.



Isaac Torcellini played "Taps" during the ceremony.



The Color Guard led the way as the parade got started from Eastford Elementary School.



The Pomfret Eastford Little League (PELL) had a large presence at the parade.

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