

# THE EASTFORD Communicator



AUGUST 2025

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

VOL. 34, No. 1

## The Communicator announces shift to monthly publication

BY ART BRODEUR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

EASTFORD — The Board of Directors of The Eastford Communicator LLC is pleased to announce that, with this August 2025 issue, The Eastford Communicator will become a monthly publication.

The decision to increase the frequency of publication of The

Eastford Communicator from bi-monthly to monthly comes after much consideration on the part of the Board and is the result of a number of positive occurrences which have recently come to pass. These include a continuation of the town government's \$5,000 operating support funding, a significant increase in one-time monetary donations,

ever-increasing

advertiser interest, positive community feedback evidenced in surveys, conversation and communications; the dedication of many volunteers whose efforts to publish each issue range from ad sales through banking and accounting, stewardship, and maintaining a website and other social media venues and outlets;

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### BREAKING NEWS

THE COMMUNICATOR IS NOW  
PUBLISHING MONTHLY! LOOK  
FOR OUR NEXT EDITION ON  
SEPT. 1!

### CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!



EASTFORD — On Thursday, June 12, Eastford Elementary School bid farewell to the Class of 2025 in its annual Graduation Ceremony. Twenty-two eighth graders received their diplomas, and will enter high school in the fall as the Class of 2029. Twelve will attend The Woodstock Academy; six will attend E.O. Smith; three will attend Ellis Tech; and one will attend Killingly High School. Pictured, front row, from left, Connor Flores, Mia Kernan, Holly Dubina, Allie Beausoleil, and Ella Barlow. Second row, from left, Nora Miller, Jadyn Rathburn, Aaron Minor, Brooke Perry, and Abigail Haynes. Third row, from left, Piper Moore, Walker Whipple, Sofia Gillett, Mitchell Norman, Leah Talaga, and Jacob Easton. Back row, from left, Aiden Mitchell, Aris Kuljancic, Cam Bibeault, Vincent Boccacio, David Budd, and Wes DePercio. From all of us at the *Eastford Communicator*, congratulations to the Class of 2025! For more coverage from this year's graduation, turn to pages 4-5! Adam Minor photo

## Transfer station fee bumped to \$120

BY ADAM MINOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — You may have noticed a bit of déjà vu at the Transfer Station this past month, as the cost of a Transfer Station sticker has risen once again — from \$100 to \$120.

The hike, which was made effective for the 2025-26 fiscal year, was recommended by the town's Transfer Station Committee, and approved by the Board of Selectmen, at their May 5 meeting, according to minutes obtained from the town's website.

The new fee comes only one year after selectmen increased the cost of the sticker (which essentially acts as a one-year pass) from \$60 to \$100, making the new fee exactly double what it was only two years ago. Stickers expire every July 31, and are typically sold throughout the month of July at the Transfer Station during normal operating hours (Saturdays and Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesdays

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IN  
THIS  
ISSUE



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WORDS —  
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FROG JUMP  
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# THE EASTFORD Communicator

LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

VOL. 34, No. 1 | AUGUST 2025

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

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Articles, calendar or event information, press releases, photos or questions may be sent to [eastfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com). Please send text in Microsoft Word format (not PDF), and high-resolution photos in JPG format. Send mail to Editor, Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242, by the 15th 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.

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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 \$50 (although additional donations are appreciated).

# Eastford students awarded scholarships



Ten students recently earned a variety of scholarships from the Hartford Foundation and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. From left, Isaac Torcellini, Hunter Larson, Kerry Blais, Anna Kellermann, Johanna Blanchette, Linnea Barlow, and Meadow Bulan. Not pictured, Micah Torcellini, Alexis Laskoski, and Braden Ayer. Adam Minor photo

**EASTFORD** — Ten Eastford students recently received scholarships from the Hartford Foundation and the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

Scholarships awarded included:

- **The Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship:** Awarded in memory of Dennis Barlow, whose dedication, love and commitment to his family, patients and community were evident throughout his life. Dr. Barlow served on the Eastford Board of Education and chaired the Facilities Committee. Provides scholarships to Eastford students pursuing degrees in the sciences, engineering, or pre-med fields. This year's recipients are Linnea Barlow and Anna Kellermann.

- **Harold D. Carpenter Scholarship:** An avid supporter of local history, Harold Carpenter contributed a supplement to Diane Maher Cameron's book, "Eastford, The Biography of a New England Town," published in 1976 by the Eastford Historical Society. In the supplement, Mr. Carpenter shared first-hand memories of local history. The fund provides scholarships to graduating students from Eastford who demonstrate financial need, scholastic ability, and qualities of character — including integrity, industriousness, and seriousness of purpose. Special consideration is given to candidates interested in history. This year's recipient is Isaac Torcellini.

- **Esther & Lucie Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship:** Leta Sabin Trepal was a 12-year member of the Eastford Board of Education and a Woodstock Academy Trustee. Esther Harmon was a scholar in Teutonic Philology. Lucie Harmon was an expert in vertebrate biology. The fund provides scholarships to residents of Eastford who are pursuing a post-secondary education in any area of study, with special consideration for non-

traditional students returning to academia. Requirements are academic achievement and good character demonstrated via integrity, industriousness and seriousness of purpose. This year's recipients are Kerry Blais, Johanna Blanchette, and Micah Torcellini.

- **Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship:** Established by former pupils, neighbors, and friends in memory of Eleanor K. Lewis, who was a teacher and principal in Eastford for 34 years. The fund provides scholarships to Eastford students who demonstrate scholastic ability, good character, and financial need. This year's recipient is Alexis Laskoski.

- **Edith Wheaton Smith Scholarship:** Edith Wheaton Smith was a school teacher in Eastford and then secretary of the Board of Education. The fund provides scholarships to Eastford students in good academic standing who will pursue any course of study at an accredited two- or four-year institution or other accredited institution. This year's recipients are Braden Ayer, Meadow Bulan, Hunter Larson, and Isaac Torcellini.

- **Town of Eastford General Scholarship:** Provides scholarships to benefit high school seniors residing in the Town of Eastford, who are pursuing post-secondary education. This year's recipient is Alexis Laskoski.

- **Emil Vaida Scholarship:** Emil Vaida began his education in the one room Phoenixville School. He greatly valued education and earned many degrees. The fund provides scholarships for students from Eastford. This year's recipient is Alexis Laskoski.

- **Ethel Cushing Gardner Scholarship:** The Ethel Cushing Gardner Scholarship is awarded to students who reside in the Town of Eastford and have a serious interest in the study of music. This year's recipients are Isaac Torcellini and Micah Torcellini.



**SHOUT OUT**  
to these generous  
donors who gave a  
gift of \$500 or more!

**Anonymous**  
**Arthur Brodeur**  
*(In Memory of Lennox Brodeur)*

# CCE breaks ground on new site, year-long project eyed

PAYER: PROGRESS ON NEW BUILDING ‘A TESTAMENT TO THE TOWN’S RESILIENCE’

BY ERIC PAYER  
SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNICATOR

*Editor's Note: Eric Payer works for Church Development Services and is the Construction Project Manager of the Congregational Church of Eastford rebuilding project. The following article is written from his point of view.*

EASTFORD — Several months ago, I had never heard of Eastford, Connecticut. My career in construction has taken me to many places — some bustling cities, others quiet suburbs — but none quite like this small, close-knit town nestled in the rolling hills of Windham County. Yet, as I now stand at the site of what will soon be a new church building, I can honestly say that Eastford has already made a lasting impression on me.

The Congregational Church of Eastford, as many of you know, was destroyed by arson on April 23, 2023 — a tragic event that left a void in the hearts of the congregation and the town. But, in true Eastford fashion, the resilience and strength of the community have been nothing short of inspiring as the town comes together to restore what was lost.

Since arriving here earlier this year, I've had the privilege of working closely with Pastor Mike Moran, and lay leaders like Bob Vincent, Bruce Barlow, Mike Jenkins, and John Buell. I'm continuously impressed by how

welcoming everyone has been, from local residents, town officials, and governing bodies have been, such as the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and Planning Commission.

The warmth of Eastford's people isn't just in their hospitality, but also in their passion to rebuild something that represents more than just bricks and mortar. This church is home to many in the community.

The land, though beautiful, required significant preparation before the CDS-led team could break ground. Since the foundation of a project begins long before the first hammer swings, Earth Dynamics construction team and the site engineering team of Dave Smith and Paul Archer started with erosion controls to ensure that the surrounding environment remained undisturbed during construction. It's an important part of the process — protecting the water flow, preserving local vegetation, and making sure that the land remains as unspoiled as possible.

After several weeks of preparatory work, including the installation of erosion control barriers, grading, and tree removal, the site is now ready for the next phase. In late July, or early August, the team will begin construction on the new building, and that's when the real transformation will start to take shape. Watching the foundation



From left, Congregational Church of Eastford Pastor Mike Moran, Eric Payer of Church Development Services, who is the Construction Project Manager of the rebuilding project, and CCE Associate Pastor Evan Burgess, at the groundbreaking on June 1.

*Courtesy photo*

being laid and the frame of the church rise from the ground will be a moment we all are eagerly anticipating.

The job of a project manager is to oversee the technical details of the build, ensuring that everything is done according to plan and on schedule. But, in a project like this, the personal connection to the community and its people is just as important. It's not just about the physical structure we're building — it's about restoring a symbol of hope and faith for the people of Eastford.

Out on John Perry Road, I feel like we're doing just that. With every nail hammered, every board cut, and every piece of the project coming together, we're not just building a church. We're building a symbol of recovery, a new beginning, and most importantly, a home for the people who have supported each other through some dark times.

The new church has been designed to honor the original structure while incorporating

modern, sustainable features. The Congregational Church of Eastford has been working with architects to create a building that is both functional and beautiful, one that serves the needs of the congregation for generations to come.

In addition to the sanctuary, the church will feature community spaces, classrooms for youth programs, and a fellowship hall — truly a place for members to gather, share meals, and continue the work of the church in their daily lives.

Over the coming months, the construction site will begin to resemble a church. The foundation will be poured, the framing will rise, and slowly but surely, the new building will take shape. And while the church won't be ready for the congregation to return until next year, the progress we're making today is a testament to the town's resilience.

God has a plan for the Congregational Church of Eastford.



A rendering of what the completed Congregational Church of Eastford building will look like when construction is complete. *Courtesy photo.*

# EES bids farewell to 22 students in the Class of 2025

EASTFORD — On Thursday, June 12, Eastford Elementary School said goodbye to 22 graduating eighth-grade students in its annual Graduation Ceremony. Students looked back on their near decade together, with a speech by Class President Wes DePercio, and a slideshow of memories prepared by Class Historian Holly Dubina. Superintendent Donna Leake and Principal Carole McCombe each wished the students well as they moved on to high school in the fall. *Adam Minor photos*



Ella Barlow poses for a photo after receiving her diploma and awards.



Class President Wes DePercio enters the Graduation Ceremony as his classmates watch on.



From left, Nora Miller, Sofia Gillett, and Allie Beausoleil make their entrances for graduation.



Jadyn Rathburn (front), Brooke Perry (middle), and Mitchell Norman (behind) make their exits.



The Class of 2025 takes a few moments to watch a slideshow of memories.

## WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

### The Woodstock Academy

Cam Bibeault, Vincent Boccacio, David Budd, Holly Dubina, Jacob Easton, Abigail Haynes, Mia Kernan, Aiden Mitchell, Piper Moore, Brooke Perry, Jadyn Rathburn, Leah Talaga

### E.O. Smith High School

Ella Barlow, Allie Beausoleil, Wes DePercio, Sofia Gillett, Aaron Minor, Mitchell Norman

### Harvard H. Ellis Technical School

Connor Flores, Nora Miller, Walker Whipple

### Killingly High School (Agricultural Education Program)

A-ris Kuljancic

## CLASS OF 2025 AWARDS

- **Ella Sibley Barlow:** The Otto F. King Award; The Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation; The William S. Warren Academic Award
- **Allie Marie Beausoleil:** The Citizenship Award (Sponsored by the Eastford Independent Fire Company); The Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation
- **Cam Bibeault:** The Marilyn Krom Award
- **David Joshua Budd:** American Legion Award
- **Wesley DePercio:** Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Award; The ETA Local Hero Scholarship; The Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation
- **Holly Belle Dubina:** Allen James Day Memorial Awards; The Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation
- **Sofia Grace Gillett:** Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Scholar Leader Award; The Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation

- **Abigail Pearl Haynes:** The Olivette Kozey Art Award
- **Mia Jean Kernan:** Eastford Teachers Memorial Awards
- **A-ris Kuljancic:** American Legion Award
- **Nora Dalena Miller:** The William Shand Memorial Award
- **Aaron Keith Minor:** Roger Mason Day Memorial Award
- **Piper Moore:** The Humanities Award; The William Shand Memorial Award
- **Mitchell Conrad Norman:** Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Scholar Leader Award; The Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation; The William S. Warren Academic Award
- **Brooke Perry:** Allen James Day Memorial Awards
- **Jadyn Rathburn:** Presidential Award for Educational Achievement
- **Leah Violet Talaga:** Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Award

# EES

## Class of 2025




**ELLA BARLOW**



**ALLIE BEAUSOLEIL**



**CAM BIBEAULT**



**VINCENT BOCCACIO**



**DAVID BUDD**



**WES DEPERCIO**



**HOLLY DUBINA**



**JACOB EASTON**



**CONNOR FLORES**



**SOFIA GILLETT**



**ABBY HAYNES**



**MIA KERNAN**



**A-RIS KULJANCIC**



**NORA MILLER**



**AARON MINOR**



**AIDEN MITCHELL**



**PIPER MOORE**



**MITCHELL NORMAN**



**BROOKE PERRY**



**JADYN RATHBURN**



**LEAH TALAGA**



**WALKER WHIPPLE**

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## EES STUDENTS REACT TO THE FIELD TRIP OF A LIFETIME

BY ADAM MINOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — Over the span of four days in early June, Eastford Elementary School eighth graders experienced a field trip that will leave lasting memories, and they are ready to tell you all about it.

From Tuesday, June 3, to Friday, June 6, 21 EES students and six chaperones embarked on the school's annual field trip to Washington, D.C., a trip chock full of history and educational moments. The field trip was years in the making, as the Eastford School Auction Committee collects money via the EES Annual Goods and Services Auction each fall to fund the trip over several years leading up to it. This past trip was the culmination of those years of fundraising for the Class of 2025, and The Eastford Communicator was along for the ride.

Thanks to teachers and field trip organizers Jennifer Barlow and Catherine DePercio, the Communicator collected quotes and memories from several students about their experiences on the trip.

After an all-day bus ride from Eastford to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, June 3, the group enjoyed dinner before resting up for the first sightseeing day on Wednesday, June 4 — which began with a morning excursion at Arlington National Cemetery. There, the group learned about the history of the property, while also learning about the more notable figures from history buried there, including President John F. Kennedy. The cemetery also has a local connection, as Eastford resident Joseph E. Phaneuf II is buried there. Phaneuf was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army when he was killed in Afghanistan in 2006. Students gathered at his grave in Arlington to pay their respects to a local hero.

The group also visited the Arlington House and witnessed a guard changeover ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Eighth grader Wes DePercio reflected on his time spent at Arlington National Cemetery, calling the experience an “eye opener.”

“We had an amazing tour guide, who had quite the character,” DePercio said about their guide throughout the trip, Michelle Heller. “We visited [John F. Kennedy’s] grave and learned the qualifications of burial at Arlington. Although the cemetery was quite massive, it was cool and interesting to see all our fallen comrades and stop to see important graves. ... Walking around the cemetery was an eye opener to our class on how we were walking amongst fallen heroes.”

After quick stops at the United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial) and a photo op behind The White House, the group enjoyed lunch at Chik-fil-A. The group then spent their Wednesday afternoon at the International Spy Museum, which documents the history of the intelligence field and espionage and provided an interactive experience for the students.

Ella Barlow said the Spy Museum was her favorite stop on the entire trip and detailed the process of exploring the museum.

“There were many different fun parts of the Washington D.C. trip, but my favorite place that we went to was the Spy Museum,” Ella said. “When you first arrive, you are handed a card that contains all your information. Then, you travel to the third floor via elevator. Next, there are computer screens that you tap your card on. The screen will show you pictures that you will select your favorites from. This will determine your name and your identity, which are fake. Then you will receive a mission and a secret codeword. You will be asked what your codeword is many times throughout the exhibit. This will make sure that the correct person is reading your mission details and information. There are also many stations that describe different tactics used by many spies.”



*Above, the class paid their respects to Joseph E. Phaneuf II, a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army from Eastford who was killed in Afghanistan in 2006 and buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Below, the Lincoln Memorial was an educational and scenic spot on the tour. Adam Minor photos*



“My favorite spot was where you got to take a picture of yourself and put on different clothing options to conceal your identity,” Ella continued. “There was also a spot where you are given the opportunity to view a real-life situation and decide whether you would take action or wait based on the given information. There was another floor where you could hold on to a bar and see how long you could hang. Finally, you could try to solve a passcode and open an air vent that you could climb through.”

After dinner, the group joined up with Heller once again to tour several of Washington D.C.’s most famous monuments, including the World War II Memorial; The Washington Monument (from a distance); The

Vietnam Veterans Memorial; The Lincoln Memorial; the Korean War Veterans Memorial; and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Piper Moore described being affected particularly by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, both by its design and the adjacent Vietnam Women’s Memorial.

“I remember a few weeks before D.C., we had to look up information and facts about the different memorials,” Moore said. “I got assigned the Vietnam Memorial. It was cool reading about Maya [Lin], the girl who designed the memorial. When we got to the memorial, I was mesmerized by the detail in the [Vietnam Women’s Memorial] statue, hearing our tour guide explain how the designer used

**Turn to WASHINGTON, pg. 7**

# *Eighth graders look back on Washington D.C. field trip*

## WASHINGTON

*Continued from pg. 6*

artistic liberty and added a bun for one of the women.”

“Looking at the wall [of the memorial] hurt,” Moore concluded. “It was sad to see all the names, all the people and soldiers who sacrificed their lives. I was glad that at least those names will be remembered forever.”

Allie Beausoleil commented that the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial was her favorite.

“Out of all the memorials we saw, the one that caught my attention the most [was the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial],” Beausoleil said. “We went at around 9 p.m., which in my opinion, was the best time to visit. There weren’t any other classes from other schools, which allowed us to see much better. Additionally, there were lights all around to illuminate the space to allow people to clearly see the memorial.”

“Mrs. Heller explained to us that [King’s body on the memorial] wasn’t finished because his job wasn’t finished,” she continues. “One of his famous quotes was: ‘We will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.’ This is why he is coming out of the mountain behind him — he is coming out of that mountain of despair. Our tour guide also explained that he is facing the Jefferson Memorial because Jefferson owned slaves, and he is looking towards [the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial] because they both had aspiring goals for the country and its civil rights. This memorial, as well as everything else we experienced on this trip, was memorable.”

Thursday, June 5 began with a quick trip to the Jefferson Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. The group then planned an afternoon at three Smithsonian museums — the National Air and Space Museum; the National Museum of Natural History; and the National Museum of American History. The main group split into subgroups to explore the museums they most

wanted to see

Brooke Perry explained that her favorite experience was the National Museum of American History.

“Washington D.C. was a great trip,” Perry said. “My personal favorite part was going to the American History Museum. This museum displayed different parts of American culture, events, and more. The first section we saw was about entertainment and was also my favorite. It had many items from movies and music, such as the red slippers Dorothy wore in ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ and an outfit Selena [Quintanilla-Pérez] wore at a concert. There was a film about racial stereotypes that I and some other students on the trip enjoyed watching because of the humor that was in it. Another part that was interesting was the First Ladies part, where it displayed many of the dresses first ladies had worn [throughout the years].”

Mitchell Norman explained that his favorite experience came at the National Air and Space Museum.

“A large portion of the D.C. trip was spent in the Smithsonian museums on Thursday,” Norman said. “This was my favorite portion of the trip, as it not only was my biggest interest, but was also put together very well. The museum had a ton of attractions. We didn’t even get to see some, as part of the museum was closed off. It was all good though, as the exhibits we did see were downright amazing! I remember vividly one exhibit that took amazing detail to describe the solar system. There were models and description pieces that did an amazing job describing everything. We even got to see very neat models of rovers and landers that actually went into space. In the center of the room was a large screen that cycled between different planets and moon surface. This had even more explanations of temperature, gravity levels, and so many more cool things about space locations.”

Nora Miller described her time at the Museum of Natural History was enjoyable and educational.

“The first museum that my group visited was the Museum of Natural History,” Miller said. “The first



*Students pose for a photo at the World War II Memorial with the Washington Monument acting as a picturesque backdrop. Adam Minor photo.*

place we went to was the dinosaur area. We saw multiple ginormous fossils looking back at us and learned many interesting facts about that time period. Next, we went upstairs to see the gemstones and minerals. We got to see the Hope Diamond, which was beautiful. In the next connected room, it was extremely crowded with everyone trying to look at the gems, jewelry and crystals. After that, we went to the ocean section and learned about somewhat modern and prehistoric ocean animals.”

After reconvening in the late afternoon, the group made their way to Nationals Park, where they attended a Major League Baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the visiting Chicago Cubs. The Cubs defeated the Nationals, 7-1, bringing the day to a close.

Sofia Gillett said she enjoyed the game being a part of the group’s itinerary.

“We did many things on our Washington D.C. trip,” Gillett said. “One of the things we did during our time there was attending a Washington Nationals game Thursday evening. After going to the Smithsonian. We were given our tickets, which doubled as our [voucher] for dinner. The game was very enjoyable and I’m glad it was a part of the Washington D.C. trip.”

Friday, June 6 was the final day of the trip, but before leaving, the group spent the morning at the Smithsonian National Zoo. Though hot and sunny, the morning was

enjoyed by the students, including Mia Kernan, who explained her joy in seeing the pandas.

“I loved the zoo,” Kernan said. “I got to see a panda eat and wrestle a tree branch. I also saw blue jays and many other kinds of birds.”

After lunch, it was time to head back to Eastford, bringing the field trip to a close. After a day of travel, the bus arrived back at Eastford Elementary School at around 10 p.m. on Friday, June 6.

It was the perfect exclamation point to not only the end of the school year, but to the end of the road at Eastford Elementary School for the Class of 2025, a trip that created memories that will last a lifetime.

“The school’s preparation was key to a great trip,” said Allie Beausoleil. “Their contributions were crucial to make our successful trip. Thanks to that and the contributors to the auction, this trip was made possible. I want to thank any and everyone involved, regardless of how small, for making this happen for us.”

*The EES Annual Goods and Services Auction is the key fundraiser in making the annual Washington D.C. trip possible for EES students. To get involved, or for more information, call (860) 971-1130, or e-mail [auction@eastfordct.org](mailto:auction@eastfordct.org). For more photos from the Washington D.C. trip that did not fit in this article, visit the Eastford Communicator's Facebook page!*

# Eastford students honored in WA Class of 2025

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy's 135th Commencement Exercises took place on Saturday, June 14 on the Woodstock Town Common. The Woodstock Academy celebrated the graduation of 264 students, including 13 students from Eastford.

Senior class president Kira Greene, of Woodstock, welcomed classmates and guests.

Xandar Miller and Kira Greene were honored as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2025, respectively.

The Yale Honor Cup and the Donald and Hope Williams Scholarships, The Woodstock Academy's most prestigious awards, were presented. Katherine Ritzau and Evelyn Young received the Donald and Hope Williams Scholarship Yale Honor Cup. Xandar Miller and Kira Greene received the Donald and Hope Williams Scholarship.

Margaret McHugh addressed her fellow graduates with an adaptation of her first-place essay, "Lighter and Brighter: The Power of Education," from the Kathryn Robertson Essay Contest. The award is one of the highest academic honors a writer can achieve at The Academy and was established in memory of Kathryn Robertson, English Department Chair at The Woodstock Academy from 1956 to 1963.

Emily Smock ('25), The Woodstock Academy's fourth Poet Laureate, and Avery Nielsen

('26), the 2025-26 Poet Laureate, presented their original poem, "Something Big," together.

In addition to meeting the requirements necessary to receive a Woodstock Academy diploma, graduates were recognized for grade point averages deserving of summa cum laude, magna cum laude, cum laude, as well as membership in 12 distinct honor societies.

Eastford Graduates from The Woodstock Academy Class of 2025 include: David Abbamonte; Linnea Barlow (Art National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society); Addison Beausoleil (Summa cum laude, Art National Honor Society); Kaitlyn Becker (Summa cum laude, Math National Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society); Nathan Billings (Cum laude); Allie Boyd; Abigail Budd (Art National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society); Alyssa Gilbert; Alexis Laskoski; Angelica Oliveira; Tristan Reynolds; Ethan Salony; Pola Wysocki.

## EASTFORD STUDENTS HONORED AT WA CLASS NIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Members of the Class of 2025, families, faculty, and the greater Woodstock Academy community gathered in the Loos Center for the Arts on Friday, June 13, for the annual Class Night and Baccalaureate program.



*Thirteen Eastford residents were among the 264 students that graduated from The Woodstock Academy on June 14. Courtesy photo.*

Throughout the evening, soon-to-be graduates were honored with 290 awards and scholarships. Generous donors and community partners contributed to the more than \$119,395 awarded to 89 Woodstock Academy students during the event.

By a vote of the senior class, Science Teacher Christina Jolliff was chosen as the inspirational speaker for the Baccalaureate portion of the evening.

Senior Class President Kira Greene, of Woodstock, welcomed the families, guests, and classmates. Senior class treasurer, Kaelyn Tremblay, of Woodstock, presented the senior class gift.

Sixty seniors received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Eastford students who

received 2025 Awards and Scholarships include David Abbamonte (High Achievement in Family Foods & Nutrition; Outstanding Achievement in Latin 1 Honors); Linnea Barlow (Town of Eastford Scholarship; Shirley Bradway Serafin Scholarship, CNA Program Pinning); Addison Beausoleil (High Achievement in Forensics Honors; Outstanding Achievement in Photography 2; Natalie & Robert W. Randall Memorial Award; The Woodstock Academy Art Competition Finalist); Kaitlyn Becker (Outstanding Achievement in Early Childhood Education; CNA Program Pinning); Abigail Budd (Outstanding Achievement in Contemporary Literature; WAEA Scholarship); Alexis Laskoski (Town of Eastford Scholarship).

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: AUDREY CARABEAU

We are here to help! The Eastford Food Pantry is located at Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. August pantry hours are Monday, Aug. 4, 8-11 a.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2-4 p.m. We are serving Eastford residents in need of supplemental food assistance. Please bring reusable bags if possible. All Eastford Food Pantry guests will be treated with confidentiality.

We welcome donations of non-expired, non-perishable food, toiletries, new home goods

and monetary gifts to help us continue serving our neighbors. Every can and dollar makes a difference! Drop off locations are Bowen's Garage and the Eastford Town Office Building.

For questions or to arrange donations, call (860) 933-7685, or e-mail Food Pantry Coordinator Audrey Carabeau at acarabeau@yahoo.com.

Monetary donations may be sent to: Eastford Food Pantry, 16 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. Together, we can ensure that no one goes hungry in Eastford!

## LEGAL NOTICE EASTFORD BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

In accordance with Section 12-110 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Eastford Board of Assessment Appeals will hold a public meeting on Friday, September 5, 2025 starting at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 6 starting at 9 a.m. (if necessary). The sole purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 and the Supplemental Grand List of October 1, 2023 in the Town of Eastford.

The meeting agenda will be posted to the Town website prior to the meeting.

Applications are available in or outside the Assessor's Office. Completed applications must be received by Tuesday, September 02, 2025. Please contact the Assessor at 860-974-1291 with any documentation questions.

*Guy Grube, Chairman*

# 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](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com). Please limit calendar submissions to less than 100 words.

## AUGUST

*Saturday, Aug. 2*

Eastford Public Library will host "The Finale of Our Summer Reading Garden" at 10:30 a.m. in the park (next to the library). Awards and T-shirts will be handed out to our participants followed by an ice cream social and face painting! In the event of rain, we will move the celebration indoors.

*Thursday, Aug. 7*

Eastford Public Library will not host "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Sorry for the inconvenience. We hope to see you next week!

*Saturday, Aug. 9*

Eastford Public Library hosts an author talk with former sports reporter turned thriller writer Elise Hart Kipness at 1 p.m. We are thrilled to be chosen as the site for Elise's Book Launch as she promotes her new novel, "Close Call." This is the third book in her series and will be available for pre-order by our book seller. Please register for this event.

*Wednesday, Aug. 13*

Eastford Baptist Church will host its annual Teen VBS nightly from Wednesday, Aug. 13, to Friday, Aug. 15, starting at 6:30 p.m. For teens going into grades 7-12. Bible study, games, food, and much more! Come enjoy three nights of fun, food, and faith!

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Matinée Movie" at 2 p.m. This will be a family-friendly showing, but please register. In the evening, join us for "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Come create with us! Please note this program takes place on the second Wednesday of every month.

*Thursday, Aug. 14*

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

*Friday, Aug. 15*

Windham-Tolland 4-H Family Camp starts with check in on Friday, Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. and ends with a closing circle at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. This is a chance to experience a weekend of overnight camping with the whole family. Note: All children must be accompanied by an adult. Enjoy an evening campfire, swimming, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, sports, low ropes, art, fishing and more. Fee is \$55 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, lodging and all activities. Register online at [www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org).

*Saturday, Aug. 16*

Eastford Public Library hosts an "End of Summer Craft" at 10:30 a.m. Please register for this event.

*Tuesday, Aug. 19*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Grim Readers Book Club" at 6 p.m. We will be discussing the thriller, "The Good Daughter," by Karin Slaughter. The book is on display and available for check out. Please come in and join this fun group!

*Wednesday, Aug. 20*

If you are going into grades 1 through 6, join us at Eastford Baptist Church from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20 for SPLASH! — a night of fun water games. SPLASH! is the official kickoff event for EBC Olympians, a weekly kids club that meets every Wednesday starting Sept. 3, and going through the first week of June. Come join a community of kids that want to grow in their faith, learn about the Word of God, and have fun! For more information, contact EBC Olympians at [ebcolympians@gmail.com](mailto:ebcolympians@gmail.com).

*Thursday, Aug. 21*

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

*Thursday, Aug. 28*

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

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

May: 2  
June: 1

### MARRIAGES

May: 0  
June: 1

### DEATHS

May: 0  
June: 1

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

April 22: 155 Boston Turnpike, \$360,000, Mary A. Lally (Est.) to Amanda Adair  
April 22: 32 Pilfershire Rd., \$96,000, Brad J. Herman to Brian W. Sennett  
April 22: 54 Westford Rd., \$310,000, Arvard D. Mcneal (Est.) to Paul Torcellini  
April 30: 41 Weeks Rd., \$55,000, Venard Chanski to Philip K. Hernandez  
May 6: 2 Westford Rd., \$48,000, David C. Olsen to Nelson Dugger  
May 14: \$6,000, Ashford Rd., Robert J. Zanolungo Jr. to Nancy M. Conlan  
May 14: 48 Lakeside Drive, Robert J. Zanolungo Jr. to Brian Racicot  
May 20: Weeks Rd., \$75,000, Claudia J. Hixson to Carl Panciera  
May 27: 3 Nahaco Hill Lane, \$328,900, Nahaco Development LLC to Kenneth C. Dionne

## PUBLIC MEETINGS: AUGUST

**Saturday, Aug. 2:** Recreation Commission, 9:30 a.m., Town Office Building; Experience Eastford Committee, 10:45 a.m., Town Office Building

**Monday, Aug. 4:** Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, Aug. 12:** Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

**Wednesday, Aug. 13:** Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281

**Thursday, Aug. 14:** Bowen's Field Committee, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

**Thursday, Aug. 21:** Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School Library

**Wednesday, Aug. 27:** Experience Eastford Committee, 7 p.m., Remote

**Thursday, Aug. 28:** Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building



Our next issue will be published on:

**Sept. 1**

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

**Aug. 15**

## FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1 INC.



It all began in December 1917 with a major fire on Sumner Hill Road, followed shortly by more major fires in January 1918. These events caused a great deal of concern about protecting our town. On May 22, 1939, a committee of the town's concerned citizens decided that Eastford needed some fire protection.

On April 7, 1942, it was determined there was enough interest to form a fire department. At the May 5, 1942 meeting, the records showed that 41 men were designated Charter Members. Fast forward to June 3, 2025 — and 83 years later, the EIFC may be small in membership numbers, but we are "EIFC STRONG" in dedication, commitment and training. Happy Birthday, EIFC!

Tuesday, June 3 was our annual dinner/business meeting celebrating our 83rd birthday, followed by election of officers to serve from 2025-2027. They are as follows:

Chief: Doug Beaudoin  
Deputy Chief: James Roy

Captain: Gordon Spink  
Captain: Dave Jakubowski  
EMS Lieutenant: Steve Kitson  
President: James Roy  
Vice President: Jeannine Spink  
Board of Directors, Members-at-Large: Zac Bertram, Dennis Desaulnier, Lincoln Budd

A service pin was presented to Jeannine Spink marking 40 years of active service to the EIFC.

The department responded 27 times in March, 13 times in April, and 21 times in May. Recordkeeping, started in 1975, showed 43 responses to fires. In 2024, the department responded to 240 fires and medical emergencies.

Seventy fire department flags were installed at the Grove Cemetery, plus three in Ashford, and four in Southbridge (MA) honoring firemen, fire police, EMS, and Ladies Auxiliary who have passed.

On May 10, the EIFC held an Open House in conjunction with Experience Eastford. Members marched or drove trucks in the Memorial Day Parade on May 26.

On June 12, the Eastford School Citizenship Award, sponsored by the department in its 65th year was presented to Allie Beausoleil. The criteria for this recognition are for a graduate who demonstrates leadership, respect for school and community rules, involvement in school and community affairs. Congratulations, Allie!

Be prepared for heat



Front row: Alex Kowalchuk, Rick Torgeson, Jennifer Willich, Jeannine Spink, John Paquin, and Lincoln Budd. Back row, from left, Dennis Desaulnier, John Lynch, Marvin Neely, Doug Beaudoin, James Roy, Gordon Spink, Steve Kitson, Dave Jakubowski, Zac Bertram, and Wil Spink. Courtesy photo

emergencies — hydrate, hydrate, fluids and encourage drinking hydrate! Excessive heat often to maintain hydration.

Heat emergencies have three categories: Heat waves are a prolonged period of excessive heat, combined with high humidity. Generally, temperatures are 10 degrees or more above the average high. What happens to the body as a result of exposure to extreme heat? The body's temperature control system is overloaded. The body cools itself by sweating, then stops. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain and/or other organs. What is dehydration? Heavy sweating with extreme thirst, dry cracked lips, gray, pale, cool skin, anxious, irritable, restless. Treatment is very simple — provide plenty of

Heat emergencies have three categories:

- Heat Cramps – Painful muscular cramps produced by heavy sweating and loss of body salts.

- Heat Exhaustion: Mild shock caused by excess high body temperature from exertion or hot environment — weakness, dizziness, heavy sweating.

- Heat Stroke – A potentially fatal rise in body temperature due to internal heat regulation failure. A person is not sweating. The common denominator of the three heat emergencies is to hydrate and evacuate to cooler areas. Call 911!

-Submitted by Jeannine Spink

## IN THE GARDEN: SUSAN BURNS

Here's what to do in the high summer in the garden:

No drastic pruning. Spring-flowering shrubs should have been pruned within four weeks post-bloom.

Wait until after mid-August to divide and transplant fall and spring flowering plants.

Avoid planting anything in hot sun. Wait for a cooler, overcast day or do it later in the day.

Bearded Iris should be divided and transplanted in July, every three to four years.

Deadhead spent blooms throughout the summer — both annuals and perennials. In July,

encourage late summer/fall rebloom by cutting back perennials. Salvias, Heucheras, and Columbine love this. Cut right back to the ground.

It's best and easiest to weed when the soil is damp. Try not to step on the soil while it's damp as it can compact the ground around the plants. Try to reach into your beds to weed. Most plants can be added to your compost bin. However, don't compost seedheads of weeds. Throw weeds in the trash.

If it hasn't rained, water deeply. Soak established plants once a week to reach deep into

the root zone. About 1-2 inches of water a week is best. Try to water the soil and not the leaves of the plants. Don't let container plants sit in water. Underwatered plants are better than overwatered plants.

Generally, don't fertilize in summer. Exceptions are roses, butterfly bush, and repeat-blooming plants and vegetables. You do need to fertilize containers because you must supply all of their needs.

Handpick Japanese Beetles in early morning. Put them in a jar of water. If you stop feeding the birds from March to November,

they will eat many of your insects and worms.

Keep your vegetable garden free of weeds or diseased foliage.

Stake and tie up tall plants. Keep tomato vines off the ground. Mulch them at the base to prevent splash onto the foliage. Even moisture on tomatoes prevents cracking and splitting as they ripen.

Keep bird baths clean. You can use a mosquito dunk to prevent mosquito breeding.

Keep your compost pile moist. Take some time to sit and enjoy your garden.



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**SALE**



**SALE**

**August 23rd-24th, 2025**

**Eastford**

**Town-Wide**

**Tag Sale**



Register your address online to be available for the map by 8/19/2025

<https://forms.gle/yuekcQcPy73vL9ed6>

Please be aware your home-owners insurance covers all liability.

# CCE frog jump event offers food, fun, and fellowship

EASTFORD — An annual tradition continued Saturday, July 12, as the Congregational Church of Eastford hosted its annual Frog Jump and Band Concert at Crystal Pond Park. Activities included swimming, a bounce house, a cookout, musical performance by the East Woodstock Cornet Band, a cake walk, and of course, a frog jump competition. The winners of the Frog Jump were as follows: Large Frog Group (Larger than 2") — Second Place (Tie): Ainsley Morse (Big John), Addison Butler (Toadzilla): 85"; First Place: Will Brian (Hoppy): 91"; Small Frog Group (Smaller than 2") — Second Place: Sebastian Blank (Blaze): 38"; First Place (Tie): Ezra Sanderson (Choo Choo), Nora Nice (Snowflake): 40". *Adam Minor photos*



From left, Bev and Bruce Lindeman, and Josh and Jen Barlow man the ice cream table.



Lincoln displays a cake he won during the cake walk.



Congregational Church of Eastford Pastor Mike Moran addresses the crowd.



At left, Daniel Budd was a proud winner of one of the cakes from the cake walk. At right, Robert Johnson displays cupcakes won during the cake walk.



At left, Jack Mullin keeps an eye on the grill. At right, the frog jump offered a fun time for kids (and adults) of all ages.



## RECREATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Eastford Recreation is excited to announce our Town Wide Tag Sale Aug 23-24. Please register ASAP. A map of all locations and times will be public on Aug. 20 on the town's website. Register online at <https://forms.gle/DpinDRh5pj67oaMj7> or click the link under the Recreation Committee to register.

A planning meeting for

Experience Eastford will be held Aug. 3 at 4 p.m. on the lower level at the Town Office Building. The date for 2026 Experience Eastford/5K is June 6, 2026.

We are planning to add more adult sports here in town, including pickleball starting this fall/winter. Please e-mail us with interests and if you have any other suggestions for sports/events let us know.



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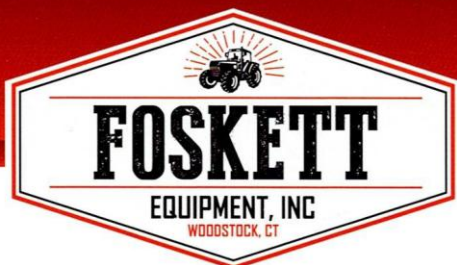
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## FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association greatly appreciates the following donors who have contributed to the beautification of the grounds: Mary K. Lopiano; Cecelia & Paul Vaida; Jacquelyn Charest in memory of Leonard & Dorothy Whitman, Raymond & Ruth Lawton

Joanne & Angelo Decarli. 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

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## WHAT'S GOING ON @ THE LIBRARY? KATIE BALL

As our Summer Reading Program comes to an end, I would like to say thank you so much to everyone who participated in our love of reading, learning and gardening. Please stop in as we unwind and enjoy the final weeks before school begins.

Pictured with this update is Louisa Barry, who made a Spaghetti Garden Grow Bag sponsored by The Friends of the Eastford Public Library.

The Friends of the Eastford Public Library is an independent, non-profit, volunteer organization working to further the educational and informational needs of the community through their support of our library. Please consider becoming a Friend!

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

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



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We field candidates for town boards & committees and elected town offices, support candidates for the Connecticut General Assembly, and organize political action to support Democratic priorities nation-wide.

**5 things that YOU can do:**

- Come meet our team at a monthly meeting (2nd Tue, 7pm, Zoom & in-person).
- Help us with social media.
- Volunteer for a campaign in a tightly contested race in the 2026 midterms.
- 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.

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**Laundry Word Scramble**

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2. Hwnaigs hNECIMA \_\_\_\_\_
3. TECAIDLE LCYCE \_\_\_\_\_
4. POAS BLBEBUS \_\_\_\_\_
5. ASTNI VOEERRM \_\_\_\_\_
6. IRNGNOI ORBDA \_\_\_\_\_
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## FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN: DEB RICHARDS

As we close out the fiscal year, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the employees and volunteers who serve the Town of Eastford. Your dedication and hard work throughout the year are what keep our community running smoothly and effectively for all residents. Thank you for your continued commitment.

We are pleased to announce that Eastford has a new Municipal Veteran Representative. After many years of dedicated service,

Jennifer Willich has stepped down from her role as Municipal Veteran Agent. We are grateful for her time, effort, and devotion to supporting the veterans of Eastford.

Please join us in welcoming Garry Brown as our new Municipal Veteran Representative. Garry will be available at the Town Office Building (lower level) on the first Tuesday of each month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. He can assist veterans and their families with questions about VA benefits, healthcare, military records or medals, disability

compensation, and the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. These services are provided at no cost, and all conversations are strictly confidential. Garry can be reached at 860-928-2309 or [garry.brown71@aim.com](mailto:garry.brown71@aim.com).

Looking ahead, on Sept. 13, Eastford will host a Liberty Tree Dedication in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This event is being held in collaboration

with Mark Sheldon, CT President of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Eastford Elementary School. A full uniformed color guard will be present for the dedication of a Liberty Tree and granite plaque, which will be installed behind the school. For event updates and additional details, please visit the Town's website, [www.eastfordct.gov](http://www.eastfordct.gov), and our official Facebook page - Town of Eastford, CT.

## Communicator to make move to monthly effective immediately

### COMMUNICATOR

Continued from pg. 1

and the critical, and satisfying, ability to provide those of us who live in Eastford with more frequent and more timely local news coverage.

We urge you to join us in our efforts to assure the sustainability of The Eastford Communicator into the future. There is the obvious need for

donations and advertising and we would welcome more volunteer help in areas such as grant writing.

The Board has long recognized that publishing bi-monthly meant that content had to be submitted up to 10 weeks in advance of an event. This presented a challenge for many of the organizations that submit content. Advertisers also desire more frequent publication so that they can

announce events closer to the actual dates they occur, or change their ads more frequently as their business demands.

The rebirth of The Eastford Communicator is in part an attempt to diminish the deterioration of our civic infrastructure, our sense of community. It is coverage of meetings, town activities, local businesses, calendar items, vital statistics, town

government proceedings, and the like which are a fabric of our democracy, a fabric which should not be allowed to fray.

We contend that informing the public provides a foundation for Eastford citizens to be involved in the community in whatever way they choose. The stronger the foundation upon which a community is built, the more robust, the more cohesive, the more enduring that community will be.



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

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## ATTENTION

### OUT-OF-TOWN RESIDENTS

There is an annual \$50 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 \$50 to *Eastford Communicator*, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242. We must receive payment no later than Aug. 15.

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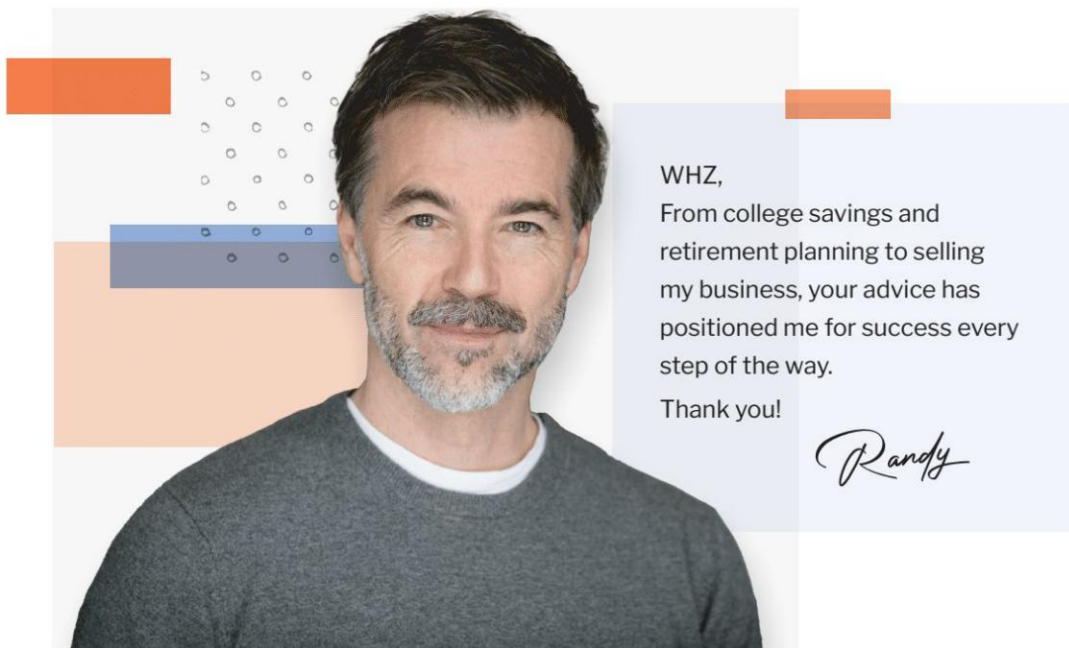
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# Most recent transfer station fee increase explained

## TRANSFER STATION

Continued from pg. 1

from 1-3 p.m.), then at the Town Office Building after that.

According to minutes from the May 5 meeting, this was not the only change made to the Transfer Station's processes. On top of the price hike, selectmen also voted to implement tire punch cards for disposal of four tires, which will be included with each transfer station sticker issued, as well as implementing the sale of additional tire punch cards for \$20 each for four tires. They also voted to implement a one-time use pass per household if necessary for residents who do not have a Transfer Station permit, for \$25 each. Additionally, selectmen voted to "stress" that Transfer Station permit stickers be affixed to the vehicle's windshield, and to implement a lost sticker fee for replacement stickers (with the

exception of replacements issued with proof of a new windshield or new vehicle).

In a conversation with the *Communicator* last year, First Selectman Deb Richards said she understood that price hikes are unpopular, but asserted that the initial hike from \$60 to \$100 was made to bring "balance" to rising costs and dwindling revenues from textiles, electronics, and appliances.

When reached for comment over this most recent hike, Richards confirmed that rising costs continued to be the issue.

"The costs for all services regarding waste disposal have increased," Richards said. "This includes increases in cost for removal of municipal waste, household trash, tire removal, hazardous waste, and bulky waste."

Other nearby towns, Richards noted, either do not have bulky waste removal, or an outside

contractor is hired for occasional removal of bulky waste. Or, they charge per item for disposal at transfer stations. Richards added that staffing hours have been increased to better monitor transfer station activity.

"Some towns hire an outside contractor for municipal solid waste (MSW) and include the fee in with taxes. The homeowner would then need to find an alternative method to dispose of bulky waste, tires, electronics, mattresses or motor oil, since they are not included with the contracted pickup of household trash," Richards said. "Eastford Transfer Station permits include all services for \$120 annually."

Even at \$120, taking a look at fees in surrounding towns, it seems Eastford is still a deal, objectively. In nearby Woodstock, for example, according to information provided on the town's website, the

Woodstock Transfer Station charges \$220 a year for a single-family household, which includes only one permit (Eastford issues two).

In Pomfret, their Transfer Station closed years ago, but offers residents permits in Woodstock and Brooklyn. The Woodstock permits are only available to 50 residents at \$270 per permit, and with only three planned bulky waste disposal events throughout the year. The Town of Brooklyn also opens their transfer station to outside residents on a "pay as you go" basis. Bags are purchased for disposal of household trash and a large number of bulky-type items are accepted at varying fees per item. Comparatively, trash pickup services by Casella Waste Systems in Willimantic can cost more than \$100 quarterly, not including bulky waste, and other services employed by a transfer station.



Well...this is awkward! It seems this issue is bursting at the seams! We didn't have room for everything to fit into this edition of *The Communicator*! For extra content, including submitted columns, pictures, and more — visit our website at [eastford.news](http://eastford.news), and check our Facebook page for more!

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