

THE EASTFORD Communicator



JUNE 2026

EASTFORD.NEWS

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

VOL. 34, No. 11

NEVER FORGOTTEN



EASTFORD — Despite inclement weather that canceled cemetery military salutes and the annual parade, Eastford honored its veterans on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, with a ceremony in the Eastford Elementary School gymnasium. Pictured above, from left, are Corinne Ellsworth, Scarlett Haynes, Payton Delay, and Harper St. Lawrence, who participated in the wreath-laying ceremony. At left, the town honored Army National Guard veteran Jennifer L. Willich in its annual recognition ceremony. For more photos, turn to page 20!
Adam Minor photos



The Congregational Church of Eastford's praise and worship team, "The B-Sides," are set to return to play live music at Experience Eastford, which is slated for Saturday, June 6. File photo

'Experience Eastford' set to return June 6

**BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR**

EASTFORD — Get ready once again to experience Eastford.

On Saturday, June 6, the Eastford Recreation Commission will present "Experience Eastford" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Eastford Elementary School — an event that aims to showcase what the town has to offer and provide a fun time for the entire family.

"Experience Eastford is such a precious gift — it's a real sense of small-town community," said Mike Moran, a member of the Recreation Commission. This is what Experience Eastford is. You go there, and it's

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Voters approve school, town budgets at Town Meeting

**BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR**

EASTFORD — On Thursday, May 14, Eastford voters gave a collective thumbs up to the town's fiscal 2026-27 budget plan.

The general town government budget proposal was set

unanimously at \$2,204,416, which represents an increase of \$118,847 (5.7 percent) over fiscal 2025-26. The Board of Education budget proposal was approved by majority vote at \$4,937,953, an increase of \$143,774 (3 percent). Combined, both budget proposals total \$7,142,369, an increase of \$262,621 (3.8 percent) over fiscal 2025-26. The new spending plan results in a property tax rate of 22.2 mils, a 1-mil increase over fiscal 2025-26 (21.2 mils). The new mil rate was made official at a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Monday, May 18.

One key piece of information noted at the Town Meeting was

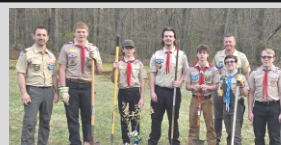
the appropriation of recently announced state supplemental funding (*see related story on page 2*). Under the legislation, Eastford was allotted \$37,888 in supplemental education aid and \$14,635 in town aid for a total of \$52,523. During the budget process, it was noted that the

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THIS
ISSUE**



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THE
EASTFORD
Communicator
LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

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MANAGING EDITOR: Adam Minor
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Arthur Brodeur
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Town to see \$52K in state supplemental aid

BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — Gov. Ned Lamont released a document on Sunday, May 3, containing a town-by-town breakdown of the increase in state funding that every school district and municipality in Connecticut will receive from the fiscal year 2027 budget adjustment legislation that received bipartisan approval on Saturday, May 2, in the Connecticut General Assembly.

According to Lamont, the increased support for school districts and municipalities is intended to close funding gaps in school budgets and town finances, providing some breathing room for local towns.

“By closing funding gaps for our schools and municipalities, we can help communities avoid raising property taxes while keeping classrooms running and local services strong,” Lamont said in the May 3 statement. “Affordability is a top priority for this administration, and this investment delivers real relief where people feel it most.”

Eastford will receive \$37,888 in supplemental education aid and \$14,635 in supplemental town aid, for a total of \$52,523 in fiscal 2027.

Sen. Jeff Gordon (R-Woodstock) reacted to the funding announcement, stating that while the initial funding is a good start, much more can be done.

“This budget moves us in the right direction by increasing funding for our communities,” Gordon said. “While it is not as much as I believe is needed, it is still a positive step forward and builds on the work I have been doing to improve how we fund education in Connecticut.”

Eastford Elementary School Superintendent Donna Leake expressed her gratitude for the extra funding.

“Money coming to the town that helps us maintain a great school district and relieves some of the burden on the taxpayers is always a wonderful event, especially for small rural districts like ours that are often overlooked,” Leake said.

First Selectman Deb Richards also added that the town will receive \$14,635 from a Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund Grant, which will be deposited into the General Fund, and that while she appreciates the funding, it is not enough to make a significant impact in the

short-term.

“I appreciate that legislators advocated for returning some funding to municipalities,” Richards said. “The total amount allocated to small towns is modest and unlikely to have a meaningful impact on local budgets or tax rates. In my view, this approach primarily benefits larger municipalities, while providing only limited support to smaller communities — not enough to make a significant difference.”

Comparing Eastford’s allotment of \$52,523 to other towns in Windham County, Eastford will receive the lowest amount in the county, even lower than Union’s allotment of \$75,790 (\$38,171 Education; \$37,619 Town) in nearby Tolland County.

- Ashford: \$163,220 (\$138,362 Education; \$24,858 Town)
- Brooklyn: \$384,874 (\$278,788 Education; \$106,086 Town)
- Canterbury: \$196,597 (\$160,194 Education; \$36,403 Town)
- Chaplin: \$221,891 (\$66,086 Education; \$155,805 Town)
- Hampton: \$57,112 (\$42,336 Education; \$14,776 Town)
- Killingly: \$956,879 (\$622,976 Education; \$333,903 Town)
- Plainfield: \$898,227 (\$614,578 Education; \$283,649 Town)
- Pomfret: \$139,264 (\$106,840 Education; \$32,424 Town)
- Putnam: \$498,554 (\$333,612 Education; \$164,942 Town)
- Scotland: \$70,293 (\$50,986 Education; \$19,307 Town)
- Sterling: \$183,335 (\$126,984 Education; \$56,351 Town)
- Thompson: \$372,746 (\$301,388 Education; \$71,358 Town)
- Windham: \$5,578,743 (\$3,759,271 Education; \$1,819,472 Town)
- Woodstock: \$232,170 (\$199,622 Education; \$32,548 Town)

Statewide, the top five towns receiving the most aid will be Hartford (\$33,637,998); Bridgeport (\$25,388,685); New Haven (\$20,072,740); Waterbury (\$19,889,913); and New Britain (\$17,963,809). Eastford is 149th out of 169 towns. For the complete list, visit https://portal.ct.gov/governor/news/press-releases/2026/05-2026/governor-lamont-announces-town-by-town-increase-in-state-funding?language=en_US.

Thank You!

Donations make the Communicator possible! Please consider sending a donation to Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford CT 06242.

A special thank you to our generous donor, Betsy (Davis) Salo, who gave a gift in excess of \$500 to the Communicator this month!

Additionally, thank you to **Judith Converse** for your generous donation!

Little League teams show growth, strong play as playoffs approach

POMFRET/EASTFORD — The season is rolling right along for Pomfret Eastford Little League, with teams across all divisions showing strong growth, exciting play, and plenty of enthusiasm as playoffs approach.

Majors Baseball had a standout day on May 16, earning two big wins. The team defeated Mansfield before capping off the day with an impressive 2-0 shutout victory over Plainfield. Strong pitching and sharp defensive play highlighted a memorable day for the program.

In Softball Minors, both teams are putting together impressive seasons. The Blue Storm currently holds a strong 6-2-1 record as of press time, while the Navy Knockouts are 5-4. Both teams have continued to improve each week with solid defense, timely hitting, and great teamwork on the field.

The AAA and AA minors Baseball teams are also having a very successful season, featuring a great deal of young talent and strong all-around play. Players continue to develop their skills while competing hard in each game.

At the younger levels, the focus remains on learning and fun, and players are making tremendous progress. Coaches and families have enjoyed watching the league's youngest athletes build confidence, learn the fundamentals of the game, and develop a love for baseball and softball.

Playoffs begin in early June, and excitement is building throughout the league as teams prepare for the postseason.

- Submitted by the Pomfret Eastford Little League, photo at top right courtesy of Stacey Trottier



Locals gather to commemorate National Day of Prayer

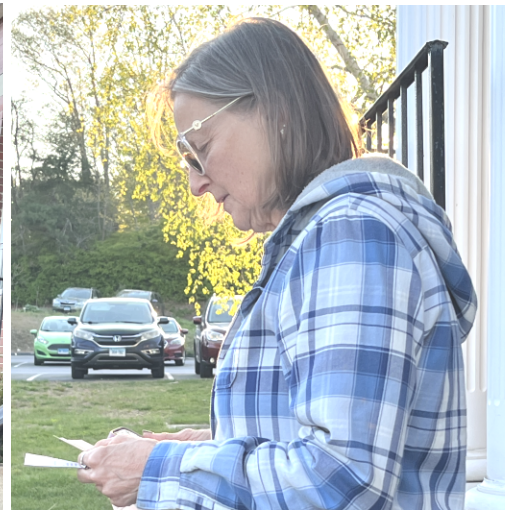
EASTFORD — Nearly 30 Eastford residents gathered at the flagpole at Eastford Elementary School on Thursday, May 7, to commemorate the National Day of Prayer — offering up a series of prayers for our nation. The program was bookended by the singing of “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” and “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” and featured a series of seven prayers for the church, family, education, business/workplace, the military, government, and arts, entertainment, and media.

Nationally, the theme of the 2026 National Day of Prayer was “Glorify God Among the Nations – Seeking Him in all Generations.”

The origins of the National Day of Prayer date back to Feb. 3, 1952, when, as part of his Washington, D.C. crusade, Rev. Billy Graham stood on the U.S. Capitol steps and challenged Congress to pass legislation establishing a National Day of Prayer in America. A bill was passed on April 17 of that year establishing the day. A National Prayer Committee was officially formed in 1979, and the first National Day of Prayer observance organized by the NPC took place at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., in 1983. The National Day of Prayer was officially established as the first Thursday of May in 1988, passed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

National Day of Prayer events were held across the Quiet Corner this year on May 7, including in Ashford, Woodstock, Thompson, Putnam, Pomfret, Killingly, Brooklyn, Plainfield, and Canterbury. Next year’s event is slated for Thursday, May 6, 2027. For more information on the National Day of Prayer, visit <https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>.

Adam Minor photos



Birdhouse building project a fun (and educational) assignment for students

EASTFORD — It seems the third-grade class at Eastford Elementary School is full of ornithologists, engineers, scientists, and naturalists. On Tuesday, April 21, and Wednesday, April 22, Mrs. Bisson's third-grade class, along with help from Mrs. Meade's eighth-grade class, hosted Roger Wolfe from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) — along with volunteers from the Congregational Church of Eastford, to construct birdhouses for the Eastern Bluebird. Students learned about the Eastern Bluebird, how to identify the male and female species, how to clean and maintain the birdhouse, and how to swing a hammer. Third graders were able to take their birdhouses home to provide a safe, comfortable space for the birds in their own backyard.

Wolfe said he started this event years ago as an educational outreach for students while he was employed by CT DEEP. Raw wood is retrieved from a DEEP sawmill, and David Barlow cuts it into premade kits based on plans found at <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/fact-sheets/eastern-bluebird>.

“Although they are pretty simple to put together, there are tips that need to be followed so that the box is put together securely, is functional, and ready for birds to start using,” Wolfe said. “Some of the kids have never handled a hammer before, so they learn some basic carpentry skills and have a nice box at the end to show for it.”

Courtesy photos



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

eastford.news

D.C. DAYS



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Eastford Elementary School took its annual field trip to Washington, D.C., from Tuesday, May 19, to Friday, May 22, visiting several museums, monuments, and locations of interest. Thanks to last-minute fundraisers and donations, this year's trip (Grades 7 and 8) was able to take place without any additional payment from parents. Pictured, students gather for group photos at the Washington Monument and Nationals Park, home to the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team. For more photos, check out next month's *Communicator*! *Courtesy photos*

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: DONNA LEAKE

June is a month of transitions. At the beginning of the month, the staff is busy preparing for the end of the 2025-26 school year. After June 19, the last day of school for our students and teaching staff, the administration and custodial staff begin the preparations for the 2026-27 school year. Students will be transitioning from the elementary grades to the middle grades and from the middle grades to high school.

Our Grade 8 students have already made the choice of the high school they will attend after their graduation from EES on June 18. As they prepare for their transition from the walls of Eastford Elementary School, where some have been since preschool, to their chosen high school, their feelings shift from concerns about the unknown to anticipation and excitement. Mr. Kernan, our middle grades social studies teacher and our director of

Pupil Services, shares the following thoughts from his conversations with our Grade 8 students:

“Highlights from this year for Grade 8 students included a wide range of memorable experiences that helped build both community and connection. One standout was the Principal of the Day auction item, which gave a student in 8/7A the opportunity to design a fun and engaging day for the school. Events like Field Day and Global Play Day provided opportunities to step outside the classroom, enjoy friendly competition, and strengthen relationships.

“In the classroom, reading ‘The Outsiders’ was especially impactful, as they connected deeply with characters close to their own age. Extracurricular activities such as soccer and basketball seasons also played a big role, bringing students

together, creating fun shared experiences, and strengthening friendships. Some of the most meaningful moments, however, came from everyday classroom interactions, spontaneous, funny moments that turned into lasting inside jokes and helped make their final year at EES truly special. A memorable example was when a student confidently entered the classroom, unaware of the adults present, and announced that the ‘alpha’ had arrived; only to notice the teacher, quickly apologize, and quietly take his seat.”

To support the closing of the school year and the work that must take place in the summer, at their May 14 meeting, the Board of Education made the following actions:

- Reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Policy Committee.
- Reviewed and authorized the recommended transfers.

- Accepted the bid from Northeast Builders in the amount of \$45,750 to replace the middle school roof.

- Accepted the bid from LaFramboise Water Service in the amount of \$27,100 to improve the water filtration system for the school and town buildings.

- Approved the Fiscal Year 2027 IDEA Grants.

- Voted to appoint Michele Palulis to the Board of Education to replace Nancy Neff, who resigned from the board effective May 1.

In the next few editions of the Communicator, as we move through this period of transitions, you will read about our Eastford students who graduate from EES and from our local high schools, as well as the many awards they have received.

As always, never hesitate to contact me at dleake@eastfordct.org.

DID YOU KNOW? EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By 1833, the industrial landscape of Eastford — then still part of Ashford — was being reshaped by the steady hum of the Phoenix Manufacturing Company. Operating at the heart of what would become Phoenixville, the company managed two primary facilities — the Red Mill, established in 1813, and the Stone Mill, added a decade later in 1823.

The scale of production for the

era was formidable, fueled by the labor of a small but dedicated mill village.

Production and Infrastructure — The two mills functioned as a cohesive unit of early American textile manufacturing, churning out a massive volume of goods — 1,700 spindles; 36 looms; producing 275,000 yards of cotton cloth annually, from 66,000 pounds of raw cotton.

The Workforce: A Hard-

Earned Living — Life in the mills was a family affair, though the payroll reflected the stark social hierarchies of the 19th century. The company supported a total of 200 people, with the daily operations handled by 85 workers.

- 25 men: Earned \$1 per day (roughly equivalent to \$40 in modern purchasing power).

- 50 women: Earned 50 cents per day, providing the bulk of the

manual dexterity required for the looms.

- 10 children (under 12): Earned just 21 cents per day, often performing the grueling task of cleaning machinery or piecing together broken threads.

The Phoenix Manufacturing Company wasn't just a business — it was the lifeblood of the community, turning raw southern cotton into the fabric of New England life.

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN: DEB RICHARDS

Eastford has begun commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States with several meaningful community projects and events honoring the nation's Revolutionary War history and local patriots.

On Sept. 13, 2025, Mark Sheldon, president of the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution, donated and planted a Princeton Elm behind Eastford Elementary School. A commemorative plaque was placed alongside the tree to mark the occasion.

The Quiet Corner Garden Club also contributed to the celebration by purchasing and planting a white oak tree in the park near the General Lyon Homestead. Assisting with the event were the Natchaug Park Ranger, the Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission, the Quiet Corner Garden Club, Noreene Stehlik, and Boy Scout Troop 11.

A descendant of Efraim Lyon and Esther Bennett Lyon, who is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, will place Revolutionary War markers at their gravesites in the Old

Cemetery to honor Efraim Lyon's civil service during the American Revolution. The date for this ceremony is still to be determined.

As part of the annual Memorial Day observance, Mark Sheldon Sr. delivered a special speech honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War. The ceremony took place on May 25 at Eastford Elementary School.

New flags commemorating the 250th anniversary now line the center of town, and patriotic bunting will soon decorate the Town Office Building.

Following the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, copies were distributed throughout the colonies and publicly read to citizens on July 8. As part of Connecticut's statewide commemoration, all 169 towns in Connecticut will hold a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 at 6 p.m. Eastford's reading will take place on the steps of the Ivy Glenn Memorial at that time. Residents and local organizations interested in participating in this memorable 250th anniversary celebration are encouraged to contact the

Selectmen's Office at emily.john@eastfordct.gov, or call (860) 974-0133, ext. 3.

For more information on these events, meetings, and other town activities, please visit the town's website.

Transfer Station permits will go on sale in July! To purchase your permit, please bring a completed application form (available for download on the town website), your vehicle registration, and payment.

Permits may be purchased at the Town Office Building during regular business hours or at the Transfer Station on select days in July (please visit the town website for the schedule). With the purchase of a permit, residents may also obtain a tire punch card for the disposal of up to four tires.

The annual fee for a Transfer Station permit is \$140, payable by cash or check made out to the Town of Eastford. There is a limit of two permits per household. One permit may be issued at the Transfer Station. To obtain a second permit, please bring the second vehicle's registration to the Town Office Building during normal business hours.

If you have questions regarding

the permit process, please contact or visit the Town Office Building. We also ask residents to be courteous to the staff assisting with permit sales at the Town Garage, as they are working to make the process more convenient for everyone. Due to issues with permits being shared or resold, all permits must be permanently affixed to the lower-left corner of the vehicle's windshield.

More information is available at the Town Office Building and on the town's website: www.eastfordct.gov

Seniors: There is interest in starting a hiking and walking group for Eastford seniors. If you would like to participate, please contact emily.john@eastfordct.gov.

DKH Healthcare has also offered to host a fall prevention clinic in Eastford. The date is still to be determined.

If you are interested in joining the Senior Committee or have ideas for presentations, programs, or activities for our senior community, please contact the Selectmen's Office at emily.john@eastfordct.gov or call (860) 974-0133 ext. 3.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is located at the Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd. Please see our hours of operation below.

If you reside in Eastford and need food assistance, 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 homebound individuals.

Thank you to all who donated food, home goods, and money in May. Your donations are greatly appreciated by our pantry families.

The Eastford Food Pantry relies on donations from the community. All donations to the pantry can be dropped off at

Bowen's Garage or at the Town Office Building during regular business hours. Donations may be mailed to Eastford Food Pantry, 16 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. Donation suggestions: Tuna, canned fruit, healthy snacks, crackers, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry detergent.

We will have an information table at Experience Eastford on Saturday, June 6, 12 Westford Rd. Stop by for a free snack and see what we have to offer. Thank you for your support!

Eastford Food Pantry June hours: Monday, June 1, 8-11 a.m.; Wednesday, June 17, 2-4 p.m.

WE WANT YOU!

BREAKING NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Ask us how YOU can get involved with the *Communicator* today!



DID YOU KNOW?

Dogs sweat through their toes! Dogs don't just pant to cool off. Dogs have sweat glands between their toes called merocrine glands, which, in addition to panting, is how they cool themselves down.



DOG OF THE MONTH

Meet Trevor — a 2-year-old, 45-pound Aussie-mix with movie-star looks and a personality to match. He's energetic, sweet, friendly, and loves both people and other dogs. Playful, fun-loving, and ready for his forever home! PawSafe is located at 348 Old Colony Rd., Eastford. Learn more at www.pawsafe.org.

IN THE GARDEN SUSAN BURNS

"Nature needs our help. Habitat loss is why more than one quarter of all birds have disappeared in the past 50 years, and the reason one third of all plant and animal species could go extinct in the next 50." This is a quote from the book, "This is How a Robin Drinks," by Joanna Brichetto.

Our yards and neighborhoods are now critical habitat. If more people believe this, maybe we can become more sustainable. We need fewer pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; fewer all-night security lights and automatic sprinklers; less concrete; more green spaces; and many more native plants to

keep us all alive. Rather than Bradford Pear, plant Hawthorn or Dogwood. Rather than Japanese Barberry, plant Ninebark, Sumac, Chokeberry, and Red Osier Dogwood. Rather than Oriental Bittersweet, plant Virginia Creeper. Rather than Winged Euonymus, plant blueberry or chokeberry. Rather than Boxwood, plant Inkberry Holly. Rather than Privet, plant Bayberry, Juneberry, and Elderberry. Rather than Forsythia, plant Witch Hazel or Spicebush.

Removing invasive plants isn't easy, but it's so satisfying and so good for us — and nature.

TIP FOR TODAY LIZ ELLSWORTH

Do you know how many kinds of salamanders there are in the state of Connecticut?

There are 12! These clawless amphibians love cool, moist areas and are found underneath logs, rocks, leaf litter, or in burrows. In early spring, vernal pools and wetlands provide the opportune space for most salamanders to lay their shell-less eggs. Once hatched, these cold-blooded creatures begin their adult life on land.

Salamanders are carnivores and use their keen sense of smell and average eyesight to find and feast on worms, small animals, and insects. Salamanders' vivid colors cue their predators that they can be poisonous. Salamanders provide food for vertebrates, like birds, snakes, and little mammals, and are an important indicator species of a healthy forest's food system(s). The most common salamander found in Connecticut is the Eastern Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*). To support these amazing creatures, learn about them, advocate for them, reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides, drive carefully during warm, rainy, spring nights when salamanders migrate across roadways, and protect vernal pools/wetland habitats in your community. The State of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's website has some great info on the salamanders of Connecticut, which you can visit at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Learn-About-Wildlife/Salamanders-of-Connecticut#HowMany>.



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YOUR
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CALENDAR

Calendar entries must be submitted before the 15th of the month preceding publishing. Please send all calendar content to eastfordnews@gmail.com, and limit submissions to fewer than 100 words. All entries are subject to editing at the editor's discretion.

JUNE

Tuesday, June 2

Eastford Public Library will host a "Homeschool Science Fair" for registered families. 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 community by dropping in to check out their displays!

Thursday, June 4

Eastford Public Library will host "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack, and time of free play. In the afternoon, we will host a Dungeons & Dragons club from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (ages 11-13). This group will continue to meet every Thursday. Please register.

Ceramics, photography, abstract expression, and portraiture — all rooted in the natural world — will fill the EASTCONN Conference Center on Thursday, June 4, when students from five of EASTCONN's school programs open their "Inspired by Nature"

Art Gala to the public. The free exhibition runs from 4 to 6 p.m. at 376 Hartford Turnpike, in Hampton, and is open to families, educators, and community members. What makes this gala distinctive is the range of voices behind the work. Student artists represent five programs serving very different populations across northeastern Connecticut: Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) in Willimantic; Quinebaug Middle College (QMC) in Danielson; Bridges Community School in Columbia; and the Clinical, Developmental, & Therapeutic (CDT) Program and EASTCONN Transition Academy (ETA) in Willimantic. Together, they bring perspectives from more than 30 towns — including Windham, Killingly, Norwich, Putnam, and communities throughout the region. The "Inspired by Nature" theme invited students to look outward - at the landscapes, textures, and living things around them - and respond in their own visual language. The results span a wide range of media and styles, each piece reflecting something distinct about its maker. In addition to the artwork, the

evening will include refreshments, a raffle, and a silent auction. Proceeds support the expansion of art programming for students.

Wednesday, June 10

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for teens and adults. Please note this program takes place on the second Wednesday of every month.

Thursday, June 11

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

Thursday, June 18

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack, and time of free play. In the evening, the Friends of the Eastford Public Library will have their monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Saturday, June 20

Eastford Public Library hosts a

"Father's Day Craft" at 10:30 a.m. Please register. At 1 p.m., historical fiction writer Martha Hall Kelly will be in cozy conversation with Jody Blanchette as they discuss her latest book, "The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club." Registration is a must.

Tuesday, June 23

Eastford Public Library hosts "Grim Readers" at 6 p.m. This book club will be discussing the latest novel by best-selling author Anthony Horowitz — "A Deadly Episode." Copies will be on display and available for check out.

Thursday, June 25

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

Saturday, June 27

Eastford Public Library hosts our annual "Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk," at 10:30 a.m. to kick off the summer! Please register for this event.

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS: JUNE IS LICENSING MONTH!



Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 22-338, all dogs six months or older must be licensed.

Dogs are licensed at your Town Clerk's office. The Town Clerk's webpage lists current procedures for licensing. Please contact the Town Clerk with any questions at (860) 974-1885, ext. 5.

Fees are as follows: \$8 for a neutered or spayed dog and \$19 for an unaltered dog. Valid rabies certificate required. New dog registrations require proof from your vet if your dog has been spayed/neutered.

All current dog licenses expire on June 30, 2026. There is a \$1 per month late fee after July 1.

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

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

April: 0

MARRIAGES

April: 1

DEATHS

April: 0

POLICE REPORT - TROOP D

During the month of March, Troop D Troopers responded to 14 calls for service in the Town of Eastford. Of these calls for service, the most notable are:

Accidents: 0

Investigations: 2

Burglaries: 0

Larcenies: 0

Non-Reportable Matters: 11

In addition to the above investigations, Troopers conducted the following motor vehicle enforcement:

DUIs: 0

Traffic Citations: 0

Written Warnings: 0

PUBLIC MEETINGS

JUNE

Monday, June 1: Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, June 2: Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, June 9: Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, June 10: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park

Thursday, June 11: Bowen's Field Committee, 6 p.m., Town Office Building; Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School Library

Sunday, June 14: Recreation Commission, 4 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, June 16: Transfer Station Committee, 9 a.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, June 25: Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

WHERE IS IT?

MYSTERY PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Where was this photo taken? See the answer on page 23!

FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association is committed to helping various plot options for full and cremation burials, memorial (flush) plot purchase and plot size as they relate 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 your loved one. The decisions you may face are more complex than most people realize and are usually not easy to make 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 (860) 428-0280 to schedule an appointment.

The EGCA is a non-profit organization. Trustees: Alex Kowalchuk, Carolyn Hazard, David Barlow, Holly Singleton, Ken Grube, Lauren Anderson, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson

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<https://neccoanimalservices.org/>

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Mary Hawley
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Fax: (860) 974-0624
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5-7:30 p.m.; Fridays, 1-4:30 p.m.
E-mail: assessor@townofeastford.com

BUILDING OFFICIAL

Joseph Pajak
(860) 974-2068, ext. 8
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
E-mail: joseph.pajak@eastfordct.gov

BURN OFFICIAL

Gordon Spink
(860) 234-2012 (available by phone 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

EASTFORD FOOD PANTRY

Audrey Carabeau – Coordinator
(860) 933-7685
Location: Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd.

EASTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Katie Ball – Librarian
Jennifer John – Assistant Librarian
(860) 974-0125

Hours: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
E-mail: eastfordpublib@gmail.com

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Deborah Richards – Director
(860) 974-0133, ext. 10
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State Police: Troop D – Danielson: (860) 779-4900

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Martha Burgess: Treasurer
Kimberly Cyr: Deputy Treasurer
Lisa Kellermann: Accountant
(860) 974-0133

LAND USE OFFICE

Jim Larkin: Land Use Agent
(860) 774-1253
Susan Welshman – Land Use Secretary
(860) 974-2068, ext. 9
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

VETERANS SERVICES

Garry Brown – Municipal Veteran Representative
(860) 928-2309
Office Hours: First Tuesday of the month, 3:30-5 p.m.
Appointments preferred, but walk-ins welcomed
E-mail: garry.brown71@aim.com

PUBLIC WORKS

Ben Schmidt – Public Works Supervisor
(860) 974-2259
Address: 264 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242
Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Toni Doubleday: Republican Registrar
(860) 974-0133, ext. 2
E-mail: toni.doubleday@eastfordct.gov
Kathleen Healey: Democratic Registrar
(860) 974-0133, ext. 2
E-mail: kathleen.healey@eastfordct.gov
Office Hours: Second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 4-6 p.m.

SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

Deborah Richards
First Selectman
E-mail: firstselectman@townofeastford.com
Ashlyn Ellsworth
Selectman
E-mail: ashlyn.ellsworth@eastfordct.gov
Paul Torcellini
Selectman
E-mail: selectmantorcellini@eastfordct.gov
Emily John
Administrative Assistant
E-Mail: selectmen@townofeastford.com

(860) 974-0133, ext. 3
Fax: (860) 974-0624

Office Hours: Mondays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.; first and third Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.; second and fourth Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
First Selectman available by appointment.

TAX COLLECTOR

Christine Hustus, CCMC
(860) 974-1885, ext. 6
E-Mail: christine.hustus@eastfordct.gov
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.; second and fourth Tuesdays, 1-6:30 p.m.

TOWN CLERK

Johanna Wolfe
(860) 974-1885
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.; second and fourth Tuesday each month, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1-6:30 p.m.
E-mail: johanna.wolfe@eastfordct.gov

TRANSFER STATION

Address: 264 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242
Hours: Sundays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP NEWS

June is the month we work for — and wait for — all year, because it is when camp begins!

We do want to take a minute, though, to thank our auctioneer, Ernie Eldridge, all our hard-working and dedicated volunteers, business donors, and those who donated gently used and new items to our Auction and Tag Sale in May. It was a great success, and the money raised goes into the operating fund to keep camp

tuition as low as possible.

Camp starts on June 21 this year and ends on Aug. 14. If you are looking for an unplugged, fun, and life-skill-building experience for your child this summer, please check our website soon. We offer both day and overnight camps, and each week has a different theme. You can find details and registration forms on our website, www.4hcampct.org. Registration is open throughout the summer,

but slots are filling up quickly, especially for day camp, so don't wait too long to sign up.

Campers self-select the activities they want to include in their schedule each week from a list of 13 offerings. Each year, we recruit counselors from other countries to enrich the camp experience. This year, we have recruited counselors from Wales, Spain, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Turkey, Australia, New

Zealand, and Uganda. Week 6 is International Week, and these counselors get to share information and cuisine from their countries at an International Fair with campers.

Our motto is "A summer of fun, a lifetime of memories!" We'd love to have you come and make some memories with us this summer. Our camp registrar is available by phone to answer any questions at (860) 974-1122.

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Pastor Mike Moran
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We'd love to have you join us!

July 11 from 5 - 8 pm (Family-friendly event!)
FREE Frog Jump, Band Concert & Cookout
 Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Rd, Woodstock



July 27 - 31 from 8:30am - 12:15pm
Sports Camp (Ages 4 - 12)
 Register by July 5th for free T-Shirt!
 Online registration cceastford.org/sports-camp/



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATES

- Woodstock Academy: Saturday, June 13, 10-11:30 a.m., Woodstock Commons
- Edwin O. Smith High School: Wednesday, June 10, 6-8 p.m., Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts
- Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School: Monday, June 22, 5 p.m.
- Quinebaug Middle College (QMC): Wednesday, June 17, 4:30 p.m., QMC Amphitheater, CTSC-QV Campus, 742 Upper Maple Street, Danielson
- EASTCONN Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT): Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., Shaboo Stage, Main St., Willimantic (or Arts at the Capitol Theater [ACT], Main Street, Willimantic, if bad weather)

Our next issue will be published on:

July 1

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

June 15




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FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1 INC.



Welcome to new Probation Member George Kerr. The fire department reported 18 emergency calls in March. Hopefully, winter is long gone, and we can look forward to spring and sunshine. A reminder to clean your driveways and get your free reflective house number signs.

The Pomfret and Eastford fire departments participated in a “live fire burn” drill at the Eastern Connecticut Fire School in Willimantic on Saturday, April 18. See the photos accompanying this article! “Live fire burn” training demands more than a box with flames. Fully engineered tower systems deliver realistic durability for today’s training requirements. Built with longevity and low maintenance, these systems support both new recruits and seasoned companies. “Live fire burn” drills are essential for enhancing the skills and preparedness of firefighters. Drills simulate real-world fire scenarios, allowing firefighters to practice extinguishing active fires in a controlled environment and

providing hands-on experience. The importance of “live fire burns” is training in realistic conditions, reducing injuries, ensuring safety, improving decision-making, confidence building, and compliance with standards in accordance with NFPA 1403, a volunteer’s guide to safe and effective “live fire burns” training to provide hands-on experience to prepare firefighters for the dangerous and unpredictable conditions they may encounter.

Following “live fire burn” drills and actual fire-related emergencies, firefighters go through rehabilitation monitoring in accordance with NFPA 1580. Rehabilitation after fire suppression is crucial for the firefighter’s health and safety. It helps prevent immediate health crises such as heat exhaustion, dehydration, or cardiac events and injuries. Extensive rehabilitation also reduces the risk of long-term health issues and enhances performance.

Rehabilitation must be provided at all fire emergencies and training exercises when members are exposed to strenuous work or hazardous conditions. Medical evaluation includes pulse rate, blood pressure, SPO2 (oxygen in blood), and assessment for heat illnesses. Minimum rest periods of 20 minutes are mandatory, especially after changing two SCBA (oxygen tanks).



Members who fail the EMS evaluation must not return to operations. Areas of particular importance include core body temperature, which can reach 100-104 degrees when wearing a single SCBA in full gear during active suppression. Dehydration begins shortly within a single working period. Heart rates of 160-190 bpm can increase rapidly during an intracardiac attack when the cardiac muscle is under stress.

Blood pressure increases cardiac demand before physical work even begins. After exiting the fire scene, the core body temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure can continue to rise for several minutes before decreasing.

Experience is the best teacher. “Live Fire Burn” training provides opportunities to turn book knowledge into personal experience.

-Submitted by Jeannine Spink

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTFORD: MIKE MORAN

Hello Eastford! If you have been reading my pieces in the Communicator, you might have guessed that I am an optimist. It’s true — I am. And, it is true even when bad things happen.

I know a lot of people in our community who have experienced losses, illnesses, and disappointments. Families struggle as finances are tight,

parenting is challenging, and relationships buckle. Aging is no picnic. Life can be hard ... and seem terribly unfair. Jesus never promised his followers a life of ease. Indeed, He said, “In this life you will have troubles.” Yup.

When I was a young man,

about 18, I remember a friend’s mom, widowed at a young age, who stood in her kitchen and told us, “Boys, life stinks, then you die.” Thanks for your encouragement, Mrs. W (she’s not from around here, so you don’t know her). But, is she right? My answer is, “It depends ... on whom you know.”

I recently sat at a bedside in a hospital and shared these words from the Bible: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.”

Are you in a dark passage? Is there trouble in your life? There is One who offers you refuge, strength, and a “very present help.” Do you know Him? If you do, you need never face trials alone. In the worst of things, there is hope. There is light that can pierce the darkness, hope that can quench despair, mercy that can erase guilt, and joy that can flood

the valleys of sorrow. All the goodness we need to overcome every trial is found in a person.

Jesus said, “In this life you will have troubles, but take heart. I have overcome the world.” Want to know more? Check us out at the Congregational Church of Eastford. Come meet fellow sufferers who have found relief. Come and meet Jesus, the lover of your soul.

P.S. The new building will be complete at some point this summer. It has been a long three years, but the wait has been sweet thanks to the generosity of so many and especially the goodness of God.

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'Someone Special' dance creates lasting memories for EES students



EASTFORD — It was a “special” afternoon at Eastford Elementary School on Saturday, May 9, as the school hosted a “Someone Special Dance.” The dance was organized as a fundraiser for the annual Washington, D.C. field trip, this year to be taken by Grades 7 and 8. The event offered paid tickets for EES students to bring “someone special” to the dance, raising well over \$1,000 for the trip. The dance also offered drinks and treats for sale, a paid digital photo booth, and music to dance to throughout the event.

Adam Minor photos



Master builders unite! LEGO Derby brings racing action to EBC

EASTFORD — The sounds of cheering children echoed throughout Eastford Baptist Church's Family Activity Center on Saturday, May 16, as the church's Olympians children's ministry hosted its 4th Annual Olympians LEGO Derby. The event, similar to a Pinewood Derby, featured custom LEGO cars built by children in first through sixth grade. Four rounds of randomly selected races qualified racers for the Championship Race, which featured the top four racers. The winner, Connor Lanning, finished his day undefeated and took home the ultimate prize. Second place went to Karissa Howard, and third to Kara Norman. Prizes were also given to the most creative vehicles, with Harvey Patterson, T.J. Howard, and Octavia Carey taking home prizes. All prizes included a LEGO set. In addition to the racing action, the event also featured a remote-controlled car area, coloring activities, pizza, ice cream, and other assorted snacks, and two Mario Kart stations.

Courtesy photos



Memorial Day ceremony honors veterans with respect, gratitude

EASTFORD — Inclement weather canceled a portion of the town’s Memorial Day plans on Monday, May 25, but that didn’t stop residents from gathering in the Eastford Elementary School gymnasium to honor the town’s veterans during Eastford’s annual Memorial Day ceremony. Dozens filled the seats in the gym as town leaders expressed gratitude for the service and sacrifice of local veterans.
Adam Minor photos



Above left, the color guard at the Memorial Day ceremony. Above center, the East Woodstock Cornet Band provided live music throughout the ceremony. Above right, Mark Sheldon makes remarks on behalf of the Sons of the American Revolution regarding the commemoration of America250.



Above left, Terry Cote presents Army National Guard veteran Jennifer Willich with the town’s annual veteran recognition award, an annual tradition that expresses gratitude for the service of a local veteran. Above right, the somber sounds of “Taps” could be heard throughout the gymnasium..

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE EASTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY?

KATIE BALL, LIBRARIAN

Our much-anticipated Summer Reading Program this year will be celebrating America250. We will immerse our patrons in the lives and times of the colonists. Thomas Angels, a colonial reenactor from History Without Walls, will kick off our program on July 7 at 3 p.m. with a presentation for all ages. Children and adults alike are invited to participate in our six-week Summer Reading Program, which will feature a different theme each week. From colonial life, arts and fare, to colonial entertainment, gardening, toys and games, we will travel back in time to 1776. Please inquire at our front desk if you have any questions.



at eastfordpublib@gmail.com.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

You may reach us at (8600) 974-0125, or by e-mail

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. Stop in, we’d love to see you.

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 June 15.



Well...this is awkward! We took way too many photos for this issue, and we couldn't fit them all in! Visit eastford.news for more content that didn't fit in this edition!

Eastford resident delivers Declaration of Independence replica to Capitol

HARTFORD — State Rep. Pat Boyd (D-Pomfret) hosted Mark Sheldon Sr., of Eastford, president of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), on the floor of the historic House of Representatives for a special presentation honoring our nation's founding on Tuesday, May 12.

Accompanied by Boyd, Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Putnam), and State Rep. Kurt Vail (R-Stafford), Sheldon was welcomed to the House Floor to present a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence to the people of Connecticut. This historic replica is designated to hang prominently within the State Capitol in Hartford.

The presentation has personal significance for Sheldon, who is a direct descendant of Colonel Elisha Sheldon, a Connecticut native from Lyme who served with distinction under Gen. George Washington. Under Washington's direction, Col.

Sheldon led the Second Continental Light Dragoons, a cavalry regiment known as "Sheldon's Horse" that served throughout the Revolutionary War.

This presentation is part of an ambitious statewide initiative led by the SAR to present a framed Declaration of Independence to all 169 Connecticut towns. The organization is encouraging municipalities to hold public readings of the document on July 8.

While the Declaration was signed in July 1776, it took several days for the news to travel through the colonies. July 8 marks the historic date when the people of the original 13 colonies finally received the word and held the first public celebrations of American independence.

The framed document will be installed in the State Capitol, joining other historic artifacts that celebrate Connecticut's pivotal role as the "Constitution State." The Sons of the American



Mark Sheldon Sr., of Eastford, third from left, president of the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), visited the State House of Representatives on Tuesday, May 12, to present a framed copy of the Declaration of Independence. Also pictured are State Rep. Kurt Vail, left, State Rep. Pat Boyd, second from left, and State Rep. Chris Stewart, right. Courtesy photo

Revolution is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and educating the public on the colonial period and the American Revolution.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SCOUT TROOP 92?

ASHFORD/EASTFORD — May was a busy month for Scouts in Troop 92!

Scouts planted trees commemorating 250 years of American independence. Scouts' Mother's Day Flower sale fundraiser was a big success! Thanks to all who supported this Troop and bought flowers.

Graveside flags were replaced in time for Memorial Day. Scouts were Honor Guards at Ashford's Memorial Day ceremony.

To wrap up May, there was a white-water rafting trip!

Cub Scouts assembled and painted birdhouses for Mother's Day. They also learned the basics of knots and tying shoelaces. They topped the month off by attending

a campout at J.N. Webster Scout Camp and participating in the Barry E. Grant Memorial Fishing Derby with many other scouts.

Phew! What a month!

In June, there are plans for a double Eagle ceremony to advance John Zulick and Joe Peppin to the rank of Eagle Scout. Date TBD.

In August, Scouts will spend a week at J.N. Webster Scout Reservation for summer camp. The summer camp schedule will be week 6, which is Aug 2-7. The renovated dining hall will now seat 550 for a meal, and it will be air-conditioned as well.

No Scout newsletter in June or July. No Scout meetings when school is not in session. See you in September. Have a great summer!



Scouts at the summit of Bear Mountain. Courtesy photo



Scouts planted trees to commemorate America250. Courtesy photo



Scouts participated in the Mother's Day flower sale. Courtesy photo

White oak planted to commemorate America250 anniversary

EASTFORD — As part of the America250 celebrations in Eastford, a white oak sapling was planted at the Nathaniel Lyon Memorial State Park, birthplace of General Lyon, located in the Natchaug State Forest on Kingsbury Road in Eastford, on Monday, April 27, by Boy Scout Troop 92 and other Eastford youth.

Noreene Stehlik, a member of the Quiet Corner Garden Club and a Woodstock resident, gave brief remarks on the historical, ecological, and symbolic significance of white oaks in Connecticut and the United States.

The white oak is the Connecticut state tree, in honor of the Charter Oak, a majestic white oak that grew in the state capital of Hartford, where American colonists hid Connecticut's Royal Charter in 1687 to prevent its confiscation by British authorities. A violent storm felled the Charter Oak in 1856, when it was estimated to be 500 to 600 years old.

Native Americans had multiple uses for the white oak. In addition to using acorns for food, Native Americans used tea made from the bark to bathe in for relief from chills and fevers; to apply to chapped skin; and to drink to relieve asthma. Oak wood was used for lumber and firewood, and oak splits for baskets and woven chair seats. Fresh oak leaves were used to wrap dough for breadmaking. Because oak saplings

are extremely pliable, Native Americans bent them to mark trails. White oak was also prized for bow-making.

The white oak is a keystone native species that hosts more insect larvae than any other tree in North America, and its acorns are a food source for birds and other wildlife. White oaks, which can grow 80 to 100 feet tall and last for centuries, support more forms of life than any other tree in North America. Native wildlife, including deer, squirrels, woodpeckers, turkey, quail, and ducks, depend on its acorns during winter, and the white oak is a prime larval food source for more than 900 caterpillar species.

The long-lived nature of these trees symbolizes the United States' continuing strength, endurance, resilience, and growth as it celebrates 250 years as a nation and looks forward to the next 250 years.

The tree was donated by the Quiet Corner Garden Club, which is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. The planting was supported in part by a Plant America grant from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. As part of this project, the Quiet Corner Garden Club is also planting white oaks in several other towns in northeastern Connecticut, as well as in the Massachusetts towns of Dudley and Webster.

Courtesy photos



Event hopes to continue tradition of showing the Eastford experience

EXPERIENCE
Continued from pg. 1

people you know. Kids are playing with kids they like to play with, and it really is a great way to capture and reinforce the special gift of community in Eastford.”

The event is actually a collection of events in town that day, Moran said. While the proper “Experience Eastford” event begins at 10 a.m. at EES, the day actually begins at 9 a.m., with two road races. The first race is the annual Heart of Eastford 5K Road

Race. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. in the Town Office Building parking lot at 16 Westford Rd. Moran said race proceeds will benefit a local family in need, as well as the Eastford Food Pantry. Registration is online at

<https://runsignup.com/race/ct/eastford/2026heartofeastford5k>.

Running alongside the Heart of Eastford 5K will be the annual Kids Fun Run, which will kick off at 8:30 a.m. Registration will open at 8:15 a.m. The Kids Fun Run route will begin at the intersection of Westford Road and John Perry Road, head up

John Perry Road to the intersection with Church Road, then return to the starting point, a distance of about 600 meters. Mothers with strollers and kids of all ages are welcome to register. The entry fee will be a donation to the Eastford Food Pantry or local animal shelter.

Moving a bit further down the road, the day will also feature a car show at Bowen’s Garage from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Steve Bowen said the show will feature all brands, classic and antique, and if you would like to enter your vehicle, call (860) 974-0363.

At EES, Experience Eastford will feature a variety of vendors and exhibitors, a book sale from the Friends of the Library, face painting, a pie-eating contest, a baked goods sale, a food truck, a bounce house and kids games, the “hula hoop lady,” and live music (Babcock Cornet Band from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and B Side [CCE Band] from 12:15-1:30 p.m.). To sign up to be a vendor or exhibitor, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfc4u9a6hr17OqTwJr4hIumyeu4pkG9O_Oog7N5gyM0DpHk0g/viewform.

Town, school budgets OK’d at Annual Town Meeting

BUDGET
Continued from pg. 1

the Board of Selectmen asked the Board of Education to reduce its funding request by \$50,000, which resulted in the final 3-percent increase up for vote on May 14. The supplemental education aid restores a significant portion (about 75 percent) of the funds that were cut. Therefore, at the Town Meeting, First Selectman Deb Richards announced that following the April 30 Budget Hearing, the

Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Finance, took action on the request from the Board of Education to revise the order of allocations within the Eastford Elementary School Ten-Year Plan, moving forward \$45,750 originally allocated for fiscal 2030 and moving it to fiscal 2026-27, making it so that the supplemental aid remain accessible to the Board of Education in addition to their submitted budget.

Additionally, according to minutes from the Board of Selectmen, the remaining \$29,250

originally designated for the elevator project — including \$27,100 for the water project and up to \$2,150 for electrical work — was reallocated to the water filtration project for both EES and the Town Office Building (TOB). In addition, the \$75,000 elevator allocation was moved to FY 2028-2029.

Superintendent Donna Leake told the Communicator she was grateful to the town for working to help the school retain the state supplemental aid in addition to budget funds, rather than asking

for further cuts.

“I feel very fortunate to share a respectful, collaborative relationship with [Richards],” Leake said. “This relationship mirrors the positive relationship between the [Board of Education] and the [Board of Selectmen]. Each group represents their constituents very well, yet work together to do what is overall beneficial to the entire Eastford community.”

Minutes from the Annual Town Meeting are available at <https://www.eastfordct.gov/media/6871>.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!



DID WE MAKE A MISTAKE?
Let us know!

eastfordnews@gmail.com

MYSTERY PHOTO OF THE MONTH



ANSWER: The cornerstone at Eastford Elementary School, 12 Westford Rd.

CEMETERY RECEIVES LANDSCAPING UPGRADE



EASTFORD — On Tuesday, May 12, volunteers spread mulch around the spirea bushes along the fence of the Grove Cemetery parking lot. From left, Carolyn Hazard, Jai Barlow, and David Barlow.

Photo courtesy Lauren Anderson

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