

# THE EASTFORD Communicator



SEPTEMBER 2025

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

VOL. 34, No. 2

## SUMMER FUN



EASTFORD — With school back in session, the summer season may be unofficially over — but there was plenty for kids to do in town this summer! At the end of July, both Eastford Baptist Church and the Congregational Church of Eastford offered weeklong events for children, aimed at both fun and spiritual growth. At left, Eastford Baptist Church held its annual Vacation Bible School event July 28-Aug. 1. The theme was "Christmas Chronicles," which aimed to teach kids about the Nativity story. Pictured, "The Grump" was a constant figure throughout VBS week, and Indiana, Elijah, Tony, and Frankie let him know how they feel. At right, During the week of July 21-25, the Congregational Church of Eastford and Living Proof Church in Ashford hosted its annual Sports Camp at Eastford Elementary School. The week provided practice and several sports, along with Bible lessons. For more photos from Sports Camp, turn to page 4. For more photos from Eastford Baptist Church's VBS, turn to page 5! *Courtesy photos*

## Candidates announced for municipal election

BY ADAM MINOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — Both the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) and the Republican Town Committee (RTC) have announced their upcoming slates for the upcoming Municipal Election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

According to a press release sent to the *Communicator* last month, the DTC held a caucus on July 15 at Midway Restaurant & Pizza in Ashford, where they formally endorsed its slate of candidates, several of which are cross-endorsed Republicans.

"In a continued spirit of community-focused governance, the Eastford Democrats ... voted to cross-

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## Bowen Memorial Field rededicated



EASTFORD — On Saturday, July 26, Bowen Memorial Field was rededicated in a special ceremony. Originally dedicated in 1974, the field has recently undergone a significant revitalization thanks to the efforts of the Bowen Field Committee, Pomfret Eastford Little League (PELL), and the Town of Eastford.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Bowen Field Committee members — Liz Scranton, Kate Moore, Ashlyn Ellsworth, Doug Woodward, Josh St. Lawrence, and Brendan Walsh — for their

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THE  
**EASTFORD**  
*Communicator*  
LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

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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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## LYON RESTORATION WORK COMPLETED



**EASTFORD** — Using a grant obtained from the State of Connecticut Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program, the conservation and restoration to the General Nathaniel Lyon obelisk and four grave markers has been recently completed at General Lyon Cemetery on General Lyon Road. All work followed the standards for the treatment of historic properties. This monument is significant historically because it commemorates Eastford's most famous native son. Born in 1818, Lyon graduated from West Point, served with distinction in the Mexican War, and was the first Union general killed in the Civil War. *Courtesy photo*



Sometimes, the little things make the biggest difference. "Shout Outs" is your place to celebrate kindness, gratitude, and everyday heroes. Did someone brighten your day? Help without asking? Go the extra mile when no one was watching? Let's tell their story. Share your "shout out" and together, we'll spread some joy — one good deed at a time.

Send your "shout outs" to Managing Editor Adam Minor at [eastfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com), or send a message to us on our Facebook page. Please keep your messages to 75 words or less. The editor has the right to accept, reject, or edit any submission. Deadline to receive "shout outs" is the 15th of every month before the next publication.

*Thank You!*

**To these generous donors  
who gave a gift to the  
Communicator this month!**

**Carl and Lydia Reed  
Michele Palulis**



# PELL wraps up successful spring Little League season

BY JILL MANGUS  
SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNICATOR

POMFRET/EASTFORD — The Spring 2025 Pomfret Eastford Little League (PELL) season was a huge success. From chilly practices in early April, to rainy, wet games — every single player showed up with enthusiasm to learn and participate. We started our season in March, offering winter workouts and evaluations at the Pomfret School Field House, courtesy of our sponsor, Pomfret School.

Registration for the spring league had record numbers, with 141 kids registering for tee ball, baseball, and softball. This represents a more than 45-percent increase in registrations year over year. Softball more than doubled the number of registrations last year, which allowed us to create two minors teams and two coach-pitch teams. Coach-pitch baseball and tee ball also saw big increases in registration. In total for the league, we were able to create 15 teams.

We had an exciting all-star season, with PELL collaborating with neighboring towns Thompson and Putnam to create a Majors All-Star Baseball team, a AAA Minors All-Star Baseball team, and a Minors Softball team.

This year's Mid-Season Classic was a huge success. We had baseball and softball games being played morning to

night, and featured face-painting, T-shirt giveaways, raffles, and food all day long courtesy of our amazing partners — Pizza 101, Bakers Dozen, We-li-kit Ice Cream, and Yummy Wagon Food Truck. We also had amazing PELL representation from players and parents that walked in this year's Memorial Day parades in Pomfret and Eastford.

We received so much support in 2025 from local volunteers that signed-up to help coach, work the concession stand, and help with field maintenance. We secured 25 new and returning sponsors, which aided the league in being able to purchase much-needed new equipment for our players. It really takes a village to run Pomfret Eastford Little League, and it couldn't be done without the dedication from our board, volunteers, and the support of local small businesses.

Looking ahead, registration is currently open for our Fall Ball 2025 season. The PELL board is working closely with the Town of Eastford and their field maintenance committee on future improvements to Bowen Memorial Field. We're also in the beginning stages of planning for our haunted house fundraiser, Nick's Nightmare, which takes place in October at Pomfret Little League Fields. This event is executed in collaboration with our amazing partners, New England Laborers Training Academy, and all proceeds benefit Pomfret Eastford Little League.



*The Navy Knockouts 8-10 Softball team had a season full of fun and growth, going 5-8 in the regular season and advancing to the second round of the playoffs before falling to Putnam.*

*Courtesy photo*

## Scout Troop 92 announces two candidates for Eagle Scout

EASTFORD/ASHFORD — Scout Troop 92 has two candidates for advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout. The candidates are John Zulick and Joe Peppin. Both candidates have completed their Eagle Scout project, but still have other requirements to fulfill. John used resources to build a Gaga pit, a game structure, on the Ashford School grounds. Joe did a complete rehabilitation of the Victorian era Gazebo next to the Ashford Academy. We are proud that the results of these efforts yielded such excellent results.

Eight Scouts from the Troop went to Summer Camp in August. It was hot and the camp was at full capacity, more than 400 campers. Merit badges at camp include Fishing,

Engineering, Game Design, Plumbing, Automotive Maintenance, Metal Work, Golf, Personal Fitness, Citizenship in the Nation, Communication, Movie Making, Robotics, Space Exploration, Swimming, Camping, Motor Boating, Leatherwork, Kayaking, Rifle Shooting, Architecture, Radio, and Wilderness Survival. The campers were visited by a Blackhawk helicopter that landed on the parade field for their inspection.

The Troop sent Scout Henry Burnham to National Youth Leadership Training in August. This is a weeklong training session.

Scout volunteers parked cars at the Brooklyn Fair. This was a fundraiser for the Troop.

Upcoming: This fall, the Troop is planning a campout at Goodwin State Forest in Hampton, near the Rail Trail. A bicycle ride is planned for a day activity.

We welcome Doug Jenne as the new Cubmaster. This summer, Pack 92 raised money to attend an overnight this winter. The cubs will vote on where to go, but are hoping for the Mystic Aquarium, Science Center, or the CT Air and Space Museum. Thank you to everyone who supported them at the summer concert.

A few of our Cub Scouts attended Cub Country summer camp at the JNW Scout camp in town. The theme for the summer was 'Cubstruction,' focusing on city building and engineering

themes. Here they learned about teamwork and shaping the future through science and service. The scouts also learned swimming, fishing, archery and lessons on rifle safety with BB guns.

The first Cub Scout meeting will be Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., at Knowlton Memorial Hall. Scout meetings are the second and last Tuesday of the month and will meet at St Philip's Rec Center at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome.

- Submitted by BSA Troop 92 Eastford/Ashford: Nord Yakovlevff, Assistant Scoutmaster; Jesse Burnham, Scoutmaster; Doug Jenne, Cubmaster; Rob Hany, Committee Chairman; Den Leader Amanda Holden



# Sports camp provides week of fun and learning at EES

EASTFORD — The Congregational Church of Eastford, in partnership with Living Proof Church of Ashford and UW Sports Ministry, held its annual Sports Camp on the grounds of Eastford Elementary School, Monday to Friday, July 21-25. The camp was held for children ages 4-12 and offered flag football, soccer, basketball, cheerleading (girls only) for kids ages 6-12, and skills development for 4- to 5-year-olds. Sports instruction was led by college age athletes, and each day included a Bible lesson and snack. Nearly 150 children registered for the event. The theme was “Go the Distance,” based on 2 Timothy 4:7-8. During the week, the camp hosted a boys-versus-girls competition to see who could raise the most money, which was collected to help communities and kids who otherwise would not be able to afford sports camp. With a goal of raising \$1,300, the kids raised \$1,360.79, which earned them the opportunity to pie their leaders and pastors in the face.

*Courtesy photos*



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: SEN. JEFF GORDON

I continue working on issues to make Connecticut more affordable for more people. Our state continues to rank poorly when it comes to affordability. We all feel it every day when we buy groceries, fill our cars up with gas, and pay electricity bills. Me too. There is more that needs to be done. I endeavor to work in a bipartisan way to get things done.

This legislative session, I worked on and voted for several major efforts — common sense, sustainable solutions that improve access to affordable, high-quality child care and early childhood services. This is not just about helping people now, but also about investing wisely in families and the future of our state.

- Senate Bill 1 — Increasing Resources for Students, Schools, and Special Education

- Creates and funds the Early Childhood Education Endowment

Fund to help stabilize and expand child care services, while limiting annual costs for families;

- Provides affordable health insurance options for child care providers through Access Health CT.

- House Bill 5003 — Concerning Early Childhood Care and Education

- Improves transparency and ease of access to child care options for families;

- Modernizes and strengthens the Care 4 Kids payment system;

- Expands licensing opportunities for larger in-home day cares.

- House Bill 7288 — Bond Authorizations and Budget Implementation

- Enables up to \$80 million in funding through the new Child Care Facilities Grant Program, supporting construction and renovation of licensed centers and homes.

This session, I was proud to be one of the bipartisan leaders working alongside Speaker of the House Matt Ritter on a Child Tax Credit, a meaningful way to support low- and middle-income families. I introduced Senate Bill 112, to provide \$500 per child or other dependent claimed on income tax forms. SB 112 got bipartisan support and was incorporated into an overall legislative effort. In the toss and tumble of the legislative session, a modified version was enacted for low-income families who get an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). But this additional tax credit was tagged as part of an increase in taxes, which is not a good way to do it. I agree with Governor Lamont. While we work to help families, we don't need more taxes, we need more taxpayers (including more people and businesses coming to or staying in

Connecticut).

However, my work continues. I am committed to expanding the credit to include middle-income families, because hardworking parents deserve meaningful relief and support in raising their children during these ongoing, challenging economic times.

I'm proud to represent and work for you and Eastford. As always, please reach out to me if I can help you with a constituent matter, answer a question, or take up a concern. You can call my office at 860-240-8000, e-mail me at [jeffrey.gordon@cga.ct.gov](mailto:jeffrey.gordon@cga.ct.gov), check for news and updates at [www.senatorgordon.com](http://www.senatorgordon.com), or learn about what I am doing on Facebook at “Senator Jeff Gordon.” Through my website, you can sign up for my e-newsletter (Common Sense Matters) that I send out every two weeks.



# Christmas comes early at VBS event at Eastford Baptist



Kids gather for a group picture on Thursday, July 31.



"The Grump" was booed out of the building during snack time.



At left, Freya can't contain her excitement as she plays in the "snow." At right, Sawyer enjoys some water slide fun during Water Night.

EASTFORD — Eastford Baptist Church hosted its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) event Monday, July 28 through Friday, Aug. 1. The weeklong event, called "Christmas Chronicles," had more than 80 kids registered. The week aimed to provide a five days of fun while also teaching kids about the Nativity story. During the week, a Penny War/Food Drive was held to benefit the Eastford Food Pantry. It total, the children raised \$700 for the pantry, as well as more than 400 food items. The week ended with a Family BBQ on Aug. 1 that celebrated the week that was. *Courtesy photos*



Kids show their excitement as VBS begins.



Families enjoy the end-of-week barbeque.

## Do you have:

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

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LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

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**Sept. 15**



FOR UPDATES, EXTRA  
PHOTOS, AND MORE  
INFORMATION

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## THE PASTOR'S PEN: TIMOTHY R. HOWARD JR.

As the days grow a little shorter and the crispness of fall begins to fill the air, many of us will find ourselves settling back into familiar routines. The carefree pace of summer gives way to school schedules, community events, and the quiet turning of the seasons. It is in these transitional times that we often stop and ask deeper questions — questions about life, about purpose, and about where we are headed. And sometimes, what our hearts are really longing for is a fresh connection with God.

At Eastford Baptist Church, we believe that church is not just a place you go to on Sunday. It is a family you belong to. It is a place where truth is spoken, where grace is offered, and where people walk

alongside one another through the joys and trials of life. Whether you have been following Jesus for years or are just beginning to ask spiritual questions, we want to extend to you the same simple invitation that Jesus gave to His first disciples: “Come and see.” (John 1:39)

Each Sunday morning, we gather at 9:15 a.m. for Sunday School. These small, age-appropriate classes are more than just lessons. They are a time where kids can ask questions, adults can wrestle with the truths of Scripture, and everyone can grow together in faith. It is a place for real people with real lives learning to follow a real Savior. Then at 10:30 a.m., we come together for our weekly Worship Service. In our beautiful, old sanctuary, you will

hear hymns and songs that lift up the name of Jesus, Scripture that speaks to the heart, and preaching that is grounded in the Word of God. We do not gather to put on a show. We gather to meet with the living God and to be reminded of the hope we have in Christ.

As the week moves on, we meet again each Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 3. Our “Olympians” ministry (a kids club for grades 1-6) is full of laughter, games, Bible memory, and creative ways to learn about Jesus. Teen Club (grades 7-12) offers students a place to wrestle with truth, build friendships, and discover what it means to live for Christ in today’s world. For adults, we offer both a Discipleship Class and Prayer

Meeting, which is a space for spiritual growth and intercession. Finally, our Women’s Bible Study provides a warm and encouraging environment for women to dig deeper into Scripture and support one another in life and faith.

In all of this, our desire is simple — that people in our town would come and see the goodness of the Lord, that they would experience the love of Christ through His Word and His people. You’re not just invited to attend — you’re invited to belong. There’s a place for you here.

So, if your soul feels dry, if your family needs encouragement, or if you’re simply curious, “come and see.” We would be honored to welcome you.

## FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTFORD: MIKE MORAN

Greetings Eastford — from the Congregational Church of Eastford!

Summer in our patch of the world can be delightful, full of family, friends, fire pits, fireflies, fun at the lake, porch swings, hiking, fishing and plenty of “forbidden” food like Bucks and hot dogs. As we find some space in the summer, we can hit “refresh” and grab some rest before fall programs and the school year get going. It is always good to get re-centered on what really matters in life. I hope you all were able to do just that. But now — as school gets started — the pattern of life shifts to getting back to it and perhaps to decide to try something new.

Along these lines, I was recently reviewing some spiritual milestones in recent years for our church. One goes back a decade — a verse from the Old Testament that tells God’s

people to make ready for growth (Isaiah 54:2 for you Bible types). Another was a sermon on our YouTube channel from back in the COVID time. In it, I spoke of the vision we believe God is giving us for our church.

Established in 1777, our church has served a bunch of generations. The building we lost served our community for nearly 200 years. The pattern of God’s people since the beginning of time has been for one generation to pass their relationship with God to another. Thousands of years of this pattern are documented in the Bible, which we hold to be God’s truth. And that brings me to now, and to our vision.

My words back in 2021 acknowledged the presence of a bunch of kids in our worship time, and I spoke of how the Lord has a future prepared for us and for our

community. Our vision is to serve and be involved in this community we share with all of you. We will actively engage younger generations, young adults, young families, children and youth as well as more mature adults and seniors. Our vision is that years from now — 25, 50, 100 years from now — there will be a vibrant and profound witness for the Good News of Jesus here in our community. To do this, our church family today is thinking in terms that include “young,” “new,” “fresh,” and “lasting.”

Back in April 2023 our historic building was destroyed by fire — and as we have developed our plans to rebuild this vision has guided us. Responding to the vision of growth, we were moved to buy new land, to think in terms of both growth and flexibility for the future. Our vision was validated as the Lord has

doubled our size since the fire. And the Lord has given us a substantial provision to build a new building. If you drive by our new site (54 John Perry Rd.), you will see a lot going on. We are excited and looking forward to moving into the new space next summer.

In the meantime, we are already experiencing “young, new, fresh and lasting” in the life of our church. We worship every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Eastford Elementary School gym. As we get into the school year, we will be offering some things that may interest you such as a parenting course called “Raising Highly Capable Kids.” All sorts of other activities are going on (check out cceastford.org). So, maybe you are looking for something new and fresh. If so — come check us out! Blessings!

## EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY: DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the first library in Eastford was established in 1887? In May of that year Frederick Sumner learned that a collection of 50 books, known as a Circulation Library, could be purchased for \$50. He raised this amount through subscription — each person who gave him a dollar would become a member of the Eastford Circulating Library Association. Bylaws were drawn up and officers elected — Stephen O. Bowen (President); Charles O. Warren (Vice President); and Mrs.

Timothy J. Walker (Librarian).

Over the years, friends and former residents gifted books to the library, and by 1896, it housed 340 volumes. That same year, Judge Jarius Carpenter, of Madison, Wisc., contacted the town with an offer. He and the brothers and sisters of Alfred P. Carpenter would give \$500 as a memorial fund if the town would establish a town library in his honor.

Alfred was born in Eastford in on Oct. 29, 1835. He moved from Eastford to St. Charles, Minn.,

with his family in 1852. He worked the family farm and taught school in Madison, Wisc. He mustered as Private, Company K, First Minnesota Infantry in 1861 at the age of 25. After being wounded in action at Antietam in September of 1862, he was promoted to Sergeant. He was wounded twice in action at Gettysburg, Penn., in July 1863. Once recovered he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd US Colored Infantry in September 1862. Stationed at Key West, Fla.,

he died of yellow fever there on Oct. 18, 1864.

It was voted to accept the Carpenters’ offer. On Dec. 3, 1896, the Library Association gifted their library to the town. The first town library was kept by Jane Walker in the spacious hall of her home on Pork Hill (current address is 269 Old Colony Rd.). It moved several times before finding its final home in today’s Ivy Glenn Memorial building, first in its basement and finally taking over the entire building.



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE EASTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY?

### KATIE BALL



Happy September! I hope our patrons had an amazing summer and are enjoying the last of these warm days before fall is upon us. I am elated to announce that over the course of our six-week Summer Reading Program, participants collectively read 1,973 books! If you are looking for a perfect read, stop in.

Library hours are Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. You may reach us at (860) 974-0125 or by e-mail at [eastfordpublib@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordpublib@gmail.com). If you haven't yet, please follow Eastford Public Library on Facebook and Instagram.

Pictured, participants from our Summer Reading Program gathered for our finale, filled with prizes, ice cream, and face painting.

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: DONNA LEAKE

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some changes to our wonderful learning community.

- New faces in some new places: We are welcoming Mrs. Boccacio, our former building substitute, as our first-year Grade 1 teacher. Mrs. Rhynhart is moving from Grade 1 to Grade 2. Mrs. Diane Barlow, who served our students well as our Interventionist for many years opted to retire — so we are pleased to have Mrs. Lincoln, our former Grade 2 teacher, take on the responsibilities of this very important position. Mrs. Lincoln will facilitate our efforts to enhance the multi-tiered system of supports we have in place at EES. This system is a critical component of our ability to meet the needs of all students. This year, information from this system will be merged into the CT-SEDS data system that also houses all our student IEPs and 504 plans. This will allow our teachers and families access to

monitor student progress.

- Before and After School Program: The Hale YMCA out of Putnam will be providing Before and After School programming for students enrolled in this program. The EES administrative team has been working closely with the YMCA team to make the transition as smooth as possible. If you have questions about this program, please contact the YMCA directly. The best contact is Veronica Larocque. She can be reached via e-mail at [veronica.larocque@ghymca.org](mailto:veronica.larocque@ghymca.org), or by phone at (860) 315-9622, ext. 4105. Please know that the administrative team at EES will continue to monitor the implementation of this program as we move forward with this new partnership.

- The Bulldog Way: Yes, our friendly and sometimes playful bulldog will be appearing in more places this year. We are proud of the EES learning community. We believe we offer high-

quality programming in a warm and caring environment for all our preschool to Grade 8 students. Over the past few years, we developed "The Portrait of an Eastford Learner" that is posted throughout the building. This statement of beliefs informs the work we do with our students. We also have a Strategic Plan that we update yearly to ensure we are making progress in our goals. These goals are based on the academic progress of our students, the climate data we receive from our staff and family surveys, and changes in state requirements and legislative demands. A critical component of this plan is the Bulldog Way, a list of commitments we expect from all staff to provide quality programming for our students and positive communication among staff, students, families and community members. Copies of the EES Strategic Plan as well as our portrait of the Eastford Learner are posted on [www.eastfordct.org](http://www.eastfordct.org).

In closing, I extend the first "thank you" of the 2025-26 school year to all our families and community members that provide us with the resources needed to provide high-quality education for all students. Although we often focus on the work done at EES, your support allows our students to continue their Grade 9-12 education at Woodstock Academy, Ellis Tech, Killingly Agricultural Center, Edwin O. Smith High School, and Quinebaug Middle College. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams (Eleanor Roosevelt). Thanks to the unwavering committed spirit of partnership that exists within the Eastford community, we can keep the dreams of all our students alive.

As always, you are invited to contact me at [dleake@eastfordct.org](mailto:dleake@eastfordct.org) if you have questions or concerns and/or would like to schedule an appointment. Of course, please feel welcome to stop by to say hello before our regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings. Our next meeting is Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. in the EES library.



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## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is looking for individuals or families who reside in Eastford and are in need of food assistance. If you need help with acquiring food, call Audrey Carabeau at (860) 933-7685 to sign up. We have the resources to help you. All referrals are kept confidential. Delivery is available to those who are homebound.

The Eastford Food Pantry is located at the Eastford Baptist Church at 133 Union Rd. September hours are Monday,

Sept. 8, 8-10:30 a.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 2-4 p.m.

Thank you to all who donated food and money for our 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 the Town Office Building during regular business hours. Check donations can be mailed to Eastford Food Pantry, 16 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242. Thank you for your support.

### EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE DONATION FORM

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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](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com), and limit submissions to less than 100 words. All entries are subject to editing at the editor's discretion.

## SEPTEMBER

*Wednesday, Sept. 3*

Wednesday night ministries return to Eastford Baptist Church on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m.! For Grades 1-6, EBC Olympians will meet in the Olympians Room below the sanctuary. For Grades 7-12, Teen Club will meet in the Family Activity Center upstairs classroom. For adults, Wednesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study will offer a video series and discussion time called "How Should We Then Live?" by Francis Schaffer. This group will meet in the downstairs Family Activity Center classroom. Lastly, in the Library, Women's Ministry will begin a new study entitled, "Forgiving What You Can't Forget," by Lysa TerKeurst.

*Thursday, Sept. 4*

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

The Eastford Historical Society Annual Meeting and Air Line Trail Slide Show presentation will be held Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Town Office Building at 7 p.m. Phil Finch, Vice President of the Eastford Historical Society, will present a fascinating slide show on the Air Line Trail! Refreshments will be served!

*Tuesday, Sept. 9*

On Tuesdays, Sept. 9, 16, 23, and 30, the Congregational Church of Eastford will host a free half-hour Family Music Class at 10 a.m. for children birth to 3 years with caregiver and at 10:30 a.m. for children 3+ (independent with caregivers joining for the last 5 minutes of class). The new sessions run from Sept. 9 to Nov. 18 and offer progressive skill development in singing, focused listening activities, dancing, and playing instruments. Register at <https://cceastford.org/classes/>.

*Wednesday, Sept. 10*

Eastford Public Library will host "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Board member Dan Belanger will be leading a four-part series where he will instruct patrons on how to personalize items such as T-shirts, mugs, tote bags and signs. This week will be an introductory class on the Cricut and screen printing. If interested, find a full

description of what this workshop entails at the library's front desk.

*Thursday, Sept. 11*

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

*Saturday, Sept. 13*

On Saturday, Sept. 13, at 11 a.m. behind Eastford Elementary School, the Connecticut Society of the American Revolution and the Town of Eastford announce the dedication of a Liberty Tree, which was a giant Elm tree in Boston that the rebels met under planning the American Revolution. When the British found out, they cut the tree down and burned it. Every town in the 13 colonies had either a liberty tree or a liberty pole. We hope to have a big turnout for this event!

*Thursday, Sept. 18*

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

*Saturday, Sept. 20*

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Welcoming Fall" children's craft at 10:30 a.m. Please register for this event. "BBC Book Club" will meet at 1 p.m. to discuss "I Heard the Owl Call my Name" by Margaret Craven. The book will be on display and available to check out.

*Wednesday, Sept. 24*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Utilizing the Library's Cricut" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This is the second week of our four-part series where we will create vinyl stickers and explore the use of a heat press. The remaining parts of this series will take place on Oct. 8 and 22, where we will learn more about the process of screen printing and sublimation printing. Want to learn how to create something unique? Please join us!

*Thursday, Sept. 25*

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

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

July: 0

### MARRIAGES

July: 0

### DEATHS

July: 1

## POLICE REPORT - TROOP D

During the month of July 2025, Connecticut State Police Troop D troopers responded to 19 calls for service in the Town of Eastford. Of these calls for service the most notable are:

Accidents: 2

Investigations: 2

Burglaries: 0

Larcenies: 0

Non-Reportable Matters: 15

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

DUI: 0

Traffic Citations: 0

Written Warnings: 0

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

**June 3:** 97 Lake Woods Lane, \$455,000, Katherine Mack to Spencer W. Mclean

**June 3:** 106 Kennerson Reservoir Rd., \$470,000, Christopher C. Garet to August Young

**June 4:** 17 Eastford Rd., \$325,000, Jared Tonelli to Devin Alicea-Bailey

**June 24:** 182 Chaplin Rd., \$455,000, Steven M. Fortier to Spencer D. Schmeelk

## UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

**Friday, Sept. 5:** Board of Assessment Appeals, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Saturday, Sept. 6:** Board of Assessment Appeals, 9 a.m., Town Office Building

**Sunday, Sept. 7:** Recreation Commission/Experience Eastford Special Meeting, 4 p.m., Town Office Building

**Monday, Sept. 8:** Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

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

**Wednesday, Sept. 10:** Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Rd., Woodstock, CT 06281

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

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



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



Thank you to the residents of Eastford for your continued support of our proposed budget that was passed on June 4. This budget will allow the Eastford Independent Fire Co. to continue our training and maintenance of our fire and rescue apparatus.

Ten "911" calls were responded to during the month of June. Drills included pumping techniques on all trucks, boat operations, flow testing and allergic reactions/interventions review. Due to the generosity of Benway & Son Auto Body Shop in Pomfret, the members, in full gear, practiced extrication techniques, using extrication tools for the safe and quick rescue of a



person who may be trapped in a vehicle. See the photo included with this article.

While Santa's elves were busy at the North Pole preparing for Christmas, Santa himself was escorted riding on an Engine Tanker through the Charlie Brown Campground to the delight of the children and adults.

On a more solemn note, members, along with ET171, R171 and S171, participated in the annual "Silas Run" in memory of

member EMS Lieutenant Silas Bunnell, who passed away in April 2018. Silas joined the EIFIC as a Junior Member in 2013. He took pride in his work, offering his computer expertise and only a phone call away to support his peers and fellow officers. He became proficient as a pump operator on Engine Tanker 171 (a picture of which is included with this article) and earned the rank of CAR 971 in June of 2017. There were approximately 300 people in



attendance at the J.N. Webster Scout Reservation in Ashford for a "Celebration of Life" honoring Silas. Run fees and donations were contributed to a fund in his name to help subsidize scholarships for potential Scout campers. There was a true sense of fellowship and support from friends, family, and local fire departments that was felt by all. RIP - CAR 971.

*-Submitted by Jeannine Spink*

**Do you care about our Constitution and your rights as a citizen?**  
**Do you believe in our system of government with 3 equal branches?**  
**Do you trust in the authority of our courts?**  
**Do you value free and fair elections?**  
**Do you wish you could find a community of like-minded people?**



**Then consider joining the**  
**Eastford Democratic**  
**Town Committee**  
**and GET INVOLVED!**

### **What does a Town Committee do?**

We field candidates for town 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.
- 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/ywmcntk>. 100% of donations goes to political action.

**For more info** email us at [EDTC.CT@gmail.com](mailto:EDTC.CT@gmail.com), or call 860 341-2006







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## Work continues on Bowen Field

**FIELD**

*Continued from pg. 1*

dedication and hard work.

We are also deeply thankful to the Bowen family for selling the land to the Town of Eastford for just \$1, and to our community for helping preserve the dream of providing a vibrant and lasting space for Eastford's youth to play and grow.

"Baseball teaches us what it means to work together, to rise after a fall,

and to keep swinging no matter how tough the pitch," said Bowen Memorial Field Committee Chairman Liz Scranton. "The ballpark is more than a place to play — it is a gathering spot where friendships form, families come together, and players learn lessons that last a lifetime. When we choose to give back, whether through time, talent, or resources, we are not just preserving the game — we're investing in our community's future."

- Submitted by Deb Richards

## TIPS FOR TODAY LIZ ELLSWORTH

It's apple season! Get outside, take in the fall foliage while you pick apples with friends and family, and then bake your favorite desserts!

According to Connecticut Grown, apples are the "most commonly grown fruit in Connecticut, with 280 farms tending orchards that cover more than 2,000 acres." Common kinds of apples ready-to-pick in September are Gala, Liberty, Macoun, Empire, Macintosh, Cortland, Ida Red, and Honey Crisp. Looking on to October, you'll be able to pick Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Granny Smith, Mutsu, Fuji, Jonah-Gold, Pink Lady, and Cameo.

Our very own Buell's Orchard ([www.buellsorchard.com](http://www.buellsorchard.com)) has all kinds of apples ready for picking. Support our local orchards in the Quiet Corner. For an easy-to-use guide to apple varieties in Connecticut, utilize CT Grown's guide at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/doag/marketing\\_files/2015/applevarietiesctapples2015pdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/doag/marketing_files/2015/applevarietiesctapples2015pdf.pdf). For a guide to local farmers' markets, check out Grown Connected at [www.grownconnected.org](http://www.grownconnected.org). Happy Autumn!



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# ★ **STABILIZATION** ★

**MIKE SCHULTZ**

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### **ACTION - TOO MUCH CANCER IN TOWN**

I am going to donate \$10,000 of my first year salary  
to the Womens & Mens Cancer Research at  
the University of Connecticut.

**Thank you for supporting me  
*with your Vote***



## FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN: DEB RICHARDS

• **Trout Dam Project Update:** Due to unusually wet conditions this past spring, work on the Trout Dam was delayed. According to the dam engineer and contractor, site conditions made it unsafe and impractical to proceed. As a result, an extension was requested and granted by CT DEEP. The new deadline for project completion is Nov. 27.

• **Liberty Tree Dedication** – Sept. 13: The Town of Eastford is proud to host a Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 13, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This

special event is being organized in partnership with Mark Sheldon, Connecticut State President of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Eastford Elementary School. The ceremony will feature a fully uniformed Revolutionary War color guard and the dedication of a Liberty Tree and engraved granite plaque, to be installed behind the school. For more information and event updates, please visit the town's website at [www.eastfordct.gov](http://www.eastfordct.gov) or follow us on Facebook: Town of Eastford, CT.

• **Veterans Day Ceremony** – Nov. 8: This year, the Town of

Mansfield will host the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony for the towns of Eastford, Union, Ashford, Willington, and Mansfield. The event will take place on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the E.O. Smith Auditorium in Mansfield. The ceremony will honor our Vietnam Veterans. If you are, or know of, a Vietnam Veteran, please share their name, branch of service, and years served by contacting the Selectmen's Office at (860) 974-0133, ext. 3.

• **Regional Transportation Safety Update** – NECCOG: NECCOG has received federal funding through the U.S.

Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program to update its Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan for northeastern Connecticut. This initiative aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate serious-injury and fatal crashes for all users of our roadways. Residents are encouraged to provide input on local traffic safety concerns through a public survey available on the NECCOG website. You can also access detailed data on roadway accidents and fatalities in each town. Visit: <https://neccog.org>.

## WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP NEWS: HEATHER LOGEE

Despite the heat, there was lots of fun and laughter, friendships made and new skills learned at camp this summer. We ran at close to full capacity all summer.

As our summer program ends, we move on to concentrating on our Ragged Hill Woods program offerings. We are excited to announce the appointment of Alyssa Harvey as our new full-time Senior Program Coordinator.

Alyssa will be helping with curriculum development, teaching, social media and recruitment. Alyssa worked with our Summer Camp Program for many years before taking the last two summers off to pursue other educational and career opportunities. We are thrilled that she will be bringing her expertise, love of children and the outdoors to our programs.

To help with the expansion our

Grants Committee is hard at work to raise funds. The Chelsea Groton Foundation recently awarded Ragged Hill Woods \$3,500 to help with program expansion. Program expansion includes increased staffing, supplies and providing fee support to help more students attend programs. We are very grateful for this grant support.

Our fall series of Wednesday programs (4:30-5:30 p.m.) will be

held on Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1, 15 and 22. Check out our website ([www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org), "Environmental Program" tab) for more details to sign up for one program or the series — or call the office.

Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp is located at 326 Taft Pond Rd., in Pomfret Center. Call (860) 974-1122, or visit [www.4hcampct.org](http://www.4hcampct.org) for more information.



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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 Sept. 15.



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

# eastford.news



# Municipal election takes shape as candidates revealed

## ELECTION

Continued from pg. 1

endorse several Republican candidates, underscoring their commitment to non-partisan cooperation in local government," the press release stated.

The endorsed Democratic candidates are:

- Ashlyn Ellsworth: Board of Selectmen, Full Term
- Michael Bilica: Board of Education, Full Term
- Nancy Neff: Board of Education, Full Term
- Robert Johnson: Board of Assessment Appeals, Full Term
- Randal Chinnock: Constable, Full Term
- Arvind Shaw: Constable, Full Term
- Meghan Martinez: Library Trustee, Full Term (Placeholder Appointment)

The DTC's cross-endorsed Republican candidates include:

- Deborah Richards: First Selectman, Full Term

• Johanna Wolfe: Town Clerk, Full Term

• Christine Hustus: Tax Collector, Full Term

"We're proud to put forward a slate of qualified, engaged, and civic-minded individuals," said DTC Chairman Randal Chinnock, who was elected Caucus Chairman for the July 15 meeting. "By endorsing both Democrats and Republicans, we are choosing people — not parties — to serve Eastford. Our priority is simple — good governance and community integrity."

"Our cross-endorsements reflect the Eastford way — practical, cooperative, and deeply local," said Caucus Secretary Jeannine Spink. "These individuals have demonstrated a willingness to work across differences for the good of the town."

The RTC also announced its slate of candidates in a press release to the Communicator. The candidates include:

• Deborah Richards: First Selectman

• Paul Torcellini: Board of Selectman, Full Term

• Johanna Wolfe: Town Clerk

• Martha Burgess: Town Treasurer

• Christine Hustus: Tax Collector

• Lauren J. Barlow: Board of Education, Full Term

• Stephen Bowen: Board of Education, Full Term

• Armen Beermann: Library Board of Trustees, Full Term

• Seth Budd: Library Board of Trustees, Full Term

• Mary Degostin: Library Board of Trustees, Full Term

• Christopher Bowen: Constable, Full Term

• Nathaniel Fabian, Constable, Full Term

"This outstanding slate has a proven track record of accomplishments and is ready to serve you for the ensuing two years. Vote Tuesday, Nov. 4," said RTC Chairman Russ Mayhew.

"Despite the numerous challenges facing our community, the present administration has made the necessary policy and operational improvements without sacrificing town progress," added RTC member Rick Torgeson. "They have also been able to craft budgets that reduced the negative impact on our citizens, especially in the face of drastically reduced state revenue. We are indeed fortunate to have the present leadership in charge of Eastford. Let's keep our town on the right path and re-elect the Republican candidates in November."

Lastly, on the Independent ticket, Mike Schultz also announced that he will be running for First Selectman.

When asked for a comment on his campaign, and what he aimed to do if elected as first selectman, Schultz said: "Stabilization."

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www.cceastford.org (see calendar and events)



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Associate Pastor Evan Burgess



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Nursery (Birth-4) Bible Explorers (Ages 5-9)  
*We'd love to have you join us!*

**Free Family Music Classes!**  
Tuesdays September 9 - November 18  
Family Music (Birth - 3) at 10am  
Music for 3+ (Ages 3-6) at 10:30am  
*Sign up at cceastford.org/classes/.*

**DivorceCare and GriefShare**  
**Registration open for Nov/Dec programs!**  
Surviving the Holidays, Loss of a Spouse,  
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