

THE EASTFORD Communicator



NOVEMBER 2025 EASTFORD.NEWS "Eastford: One of Connecticut's best small towns." - Carol Davidge VOL. 34, No. 4



MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 4

6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Town Office Building
Lower Level, 16 Westford Rd.**

COMMUNICATOR ELECTION COVERAGE IN THIS ISSUE!

Check out this month's *Communicator* for our in-depth election coverage! We asked every candidate on the ballot to participate in an election questionnaire to get their thoughts on their campaigns. See their answers, along with a sample ballot, on pages 12-16 — and don't forget to go out and vote on Nov. 4!

TAKING A RIDE



EASTFORD — Young Dalton and Laurel Patenaude, of Eastford, enjoy a pretend ride on a tractor at the Buell's Orchard Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11. The annual event attracted thousands to the orchard to enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities. For more photos, visit our Facebook page and eastford.news! Adam Minor photo

Man sentenced in CCE arson case

BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — The sentencing process has begun for two charged in connection to the destruction of the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) more than two-and-a-half years ago.

On Friday, Sept. 5, a male suspect, who was a minor at the time of the incident but has since turned 19 and was tried as an adult, was sentenced to 20 years of jailtime (with execution to be suspended after three years, and probation after five years). In addition, a female minor (who was also underage at the time of the

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Woodstock man arrested in connection with County Road shooting

BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — A Woodstock man was arrested last month for a reported shooting that left a man injured on County Road.

According to information published by the Connecticut State Police Troop D, on Saturday, Sept. 27, at

approximately 8:50 p.m., police received a 911 call reporting a male who had been shot and robbed in Eastford. Troopers responded to the Eastford Independent Fire Co., where they located the victim on County Road, suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg, according to police reports. Emergency medical personnel provided

aid before transporting him to the hospital.

According to police, during the initial investigation, the victim reported that he arranged to meet an individual known to him only as "Adoty" through Snapchat for a transaction. Police added that according to the victim,

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THE EASTFORD Communicator

LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

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MANAGING EDITOR: Adam Minor

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Articles, calendar or event information, press releases, photos or questions may be sent to eastfordnews@gmail.com.

Please send text in Microsoft Word format (not PDF), and high-resolution photos in JPG format. Send mail to Editor, Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242, by the 15th of the month preceding the next issue. All submissions to the *Communicator* are subject to editing. The *Communicator* reserves the right not to accept submissions.

To contact the *Communicator* by phone, call (860) 337-2481, and leave a message, and someone will get back to you as soon as we can.

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CIRCULATION

The Eastford Communicator is available online at <https://eastford.news/>, and in print, free of charge, to every home in Eastford. Out-of-town subscriptions are available by request, for an annual fee of \$50 (although additional donations are appreciated).

Historic Eastford farm preserved by ECHPC

EASTFORD — It's hard to top Paul Blair's 30-plus acre farm on Route 171 in Eastford as a picture-perfect postcard example of a New England farm. The property is one of the prettiest spots in Eastford. The farm was purchased by Paul's immigrant grandparents in 1908 and operated as a dairy farm for many years. Paul grew up there and has lived there most of his life and has a great affection for the property.

A couple of years ago, the Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission (ECHPC) mailed letters to many significant property holders in Eastford to ask if they had an interest in conserving their properties against future development by means of a conservation easement. A conservation easement is a restriction placed upon a property deed which restricts future development by any subsequent purchaser. The ECHPC offered to help any interested landowner search for funding and/or assist with a conservation effort in other ways.

Paul answered the ECHPC letter, and together with the ECHPC sought out funding for a conservation easement. Paul's property qualified for potential funding under the State of Connecticut's Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program. The ECHPC worked with Paul to submit an application and helped him through the lengthy evaluation process.

Fortunately, the property was selected by the state for farmland conservation, and



The Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation announced that the 30-plus acre farm owned by Paul Blair on Route 171 has received conservation funding from the State of Connecticut's Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation Program, which will guarantee that the property remains limited to farming-only activity in perpetuity. Courtesy photo

recently Paul was awarded some funding, in exchange for which he placed qualifications on the property deed restricting the larger share of the property to farming only activity in perpetuity. Thus, the pretty farm property we all drive by on Route 171 will remain picture postcard perfect into the long-term future and will continue to mark Eastford as a quintessential New England town.

- Submitted by Tom Hughes, ECHPC member



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, 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!

A special thank you to these generous donors who gave a gift of more than \$500 to the Communicator this month!

Pursuit
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Additionally, thank you to Ken & Peg Bernier for your generous donation!

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Eastford designated a 'HEARTSafe Community'

EASTFORD — American Heart Association Instructor (AHA) Jeannine Spink is pleased to announce that Eastford has been designated for another three years as a "HEARTSafe Community." Eastford has earned this designation since 2013 and was commended for having met the renewal requirements of a designated HEARTSafe Community.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services and the AHA encourage and promote community awareness of the potential for saving the lives of sudden cardiac arrest victims through the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), increased public access to

defibrillation and advanced care.

HEARTSafe Community is a program designed to promote survival from sudden out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. It is a general concept focused upon strengthening the "chain of survival" as described by the AHA. It recognizes and stimulates efforts by individual communities to improve their system for preventing sudden cardiac arrest from becoming irreversible death.

A HEARTSafe Community promotes and supports CPR training in the community; public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of automated external defibrillators (AED's) for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members.

The goal is simple — if someone in our community suffers a sudden cardiac arrest tomorrow, with proper training, survival may be based on rapid access to life-saving treatment. With proper training, ordinary citizens in our community can recognize the signs and symptoms of a sudden cardiac or stroke event and know how to give care and get help "on the way, right away."

So, when you enter the town boundaries of Eastford and notice the HEARTSafe Community road signs, you can be assured that quick and efficient care is as close to you as dialing "911" and be assured that your friends and family and the Eastford Independent Fire Company #1 are ready to do their part.



Eastford has recently been designated as a "HEARTSafe Community" for another three years by the American Heart Association and the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services. Courtesy photo

FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1 INC.



The EIFC responded to 22 "911" emergencies in September. We participated in Fire Prevention Week at the Eastford School.

We now move on to the commemoration of Veterans Day. VA Day, originally known as Armistice Day, is a federal holiday in the U.S. observed annually on November 11 to honor our military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued a message to his countrymen on the first Armistice Day to reflect the heroism of those who died in the country's service. In 1954, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day. Cemeteries around

the country display the U.S. flag and service markers as a symbol of this recognition. Grove Cemetery proudly honors these heroes. So, when you pass the cemetery, take a second or two to reflect on what Veterans Day means in securing our freedom.

The major drill in September was Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) training. UTVs are off-road, 4-wheel-drive vehicles used for heavily wooded and diverse terrains. Initial comprehensive training is to ensure firefighters are well-prepared to operate a UTV under various conditions. Initial training includes basic UTV operations, starting/stopping, maneuvering through difficult terrain, emergency braking and carrying water. UTVs need to be outfitted properly considering the special needs of individual departments. Specialized UTVs can transport water tanks and pumps crucial for firefighting in remote areas where fire engines can't access, or for search and rescues where someone could be lost or injured



in the woods. Each UTV (one of which is pictured with this article) is outfitted with medical kits to provide immediate assistance to victims, reliable two-way radios for communication, tools and equipment easily accessible during emergencies. Members are mandated to wear safety gear including helmets, goggles, boots, long pants, long sleeved shirts or turnout gear and gloves. A scenario-based drill was held in a heavily wooded area in Eastford, simulating real-life emergency

trails. Regular training and maintenance of the UTV is as critical as it is for the engine tankers, rescue and equipment.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner! As you plan your Thanksgiving menu, don't forget about fire safety. Thanksgiving is a peak day for home cooking fires. The number of home fires double. By following safety rules, you will have a delicious and fire safe holiday.

-Submitted by Jeannine Spink



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

eastford.news

Bulldogs tough 2025 soccer season comes to an end

EASTFORD — It was a difficult season for the Eastford Bulldogs soccer squad, as their 2025 soccer season concluded on Thursday, Oct. 16, without a victory.

This year's season consisted of 10 games (five at home, and five away — see schedule below) played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, against Ashford Middle School, Wheeler Middle School (North Stonington), St. James Middle School (Killingly), Parish Hill Middle School (Chaplin), and Pomfret Community School.

The Bulldogs were outscored 73-13 during the season. Sylas Platt finished the year as the Bulldogs' leading scorer with four goals, Kameron Pacheco and Charlie Ellsworth each had three, Callum St. John had two, and Blake Gilbert had one to round out the scoring.

Head Coach Kullen Pacheco spoke to the *Communicator* about the season, expressing his pride for the effort his team displayed this year.

"I'm proud of the effort and commitment the players showed each week," Pacheco said. "They grew as athletes and as teammates, and I hope they carry those lessons forward both on and off the field."

Adam Minor photos

BULLDOGS GOAL SCORING LEADERS

Sylas Platt: 4

Kameron Pacheco: 3

Charlie Ellsworth: 3

Callum St. John: 2

Blake Gilbert: 1

THE SEASON AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, Sept. 16

@ Ashford Middle School, 0-6, L

Thursday, Sept. 18

vs. Wheeler Middle School, 1-6, L

Tuesday, Sept. 23

vs. St. James Middle School, 5-9, L

Thursday, Sept. 25

@ Parish Hill Middle School, 0-6, L

Tuesday, Sept. 30

@ Pomfret Community School, 2-9, L

Thursday, Oct. 2

vs. Ashford Middle School, 1-7, L

Tuesday, Oct. 7

@ Wheeler Middle School, 0-6, L

Thursday, Oct. 9

@ St. James Middle School, 1-7, L

Tuesday, Oct. 14

vs. Parish Hill Middle School, 3-9, L

Thursday, Oct. 16

vs. Pomfret Community School, 0-8, L



The 2025 Eastford Bulldogs: Back row, from left, Elizabeth McAllister, Olivia DePercio, Georgia Barlow, Callum St. John, Sylas Platt, Jericho Hillman, Logan Gillett, Aiyana Reed, Leilani Socy-Brodeur, Lily-Rose Priest, and Head Coach Kullen Pacheco. Front row, from left, Alina Platt, Blake Gilbert, Charlie Ellsworth, Kameron Pacheco, Xander Sughrue, and Emma-Lynn Salomy. Not pictured, Christian Anderson.



Top left, Sylas Platt, the Bulldogs' starting goalie for the majority of this season, gives the ball a big boot after a save during the team's 6-1 loss against Wheeler on Sept. 18. Top right, Charlie Ellsworth makes a break for it against Ashford during the Bulldogs' 6-0 loss to Ashford on Sept. 16. At left, Olivia DePercio throws in the ball against Pomfret on Oct. 16. Lower right, Callum St. John races after the ball during the Bulldogs' 9-2 loss against Pomfret on Tuesday, Sept. 30.

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THE EASTFORD
Communicator
LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

Sentencing begins for two charged in CCE arson

ARSON

Continued from pg. 1

incident, but has since turned 19), was due to enter a plea on Oct. 28, which was after The Communicator's press deadline.

In practice, the sentencing for the male minor means that despite the 20-year sentence, the person will only serve three years in actual custody, and the remaining 17 years are suspended. That means those years will not be served unless the person violates probation or commits another crime. After being released from those three years in custody, the person must complete five years of probation, under supervision and with conditions (such as regular check-ins, no new offenses, etc.). However, if they violate probation or reoffend, the court can re-impose some or all of that suspended time.

The sentencing brings to a conclusion a case that goes back to April 23, 2023, when the Congregational Church of Eastford, then located at 8 Church Rd., burned to the ground in an overnight fire. Connecticut State Police Troop D, along with the Connecticut State Police Fire & Explosives Investigation Unit (FEIU), Eastern District Major Crimes, and federal agents from the bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, conducted the investigation that led to the arrest of the two then-minors, who were also connected to a similar incident in South Windsor and a break in and small fire at Crystal Pond Park in Woodstock, police said.

On Sept. 8, 2023, the juvenile male was charged with first-degree arson, third-degree burglary, first-degree criminal mischief and reckless endangerment. On Sept. 27,

2023, the juvenile female was charged with first-degree conspiracy to commit arson, third-degree burglary, first-degree criminal mischief, and first-degree reckless endangerment.

In the more than two-and-a-half years since the fire, CCE has since purchased land on John Perry Road, and construction continues on a new building, which is currently planned to open sometime next summer. CCE Pastor Mike Moran, in a written column exclusive to the Communicator back in June, expressed his belief that despite the tragic loss of the building, God has used this situation to bless his congregation.

"Our time without a building has been one of great blessings," he wrote in June. "Our church family has grown substantially, and we are thriving in every way."

In a message written to his congregation on Sept. 5, and provided directly from him to the Communicator, Moran stated that he was able to make a statement in court at the sentencing earlier that day, which concluded with remarks that expressed his forgiveness that is a hallmark of the Christian faith.

"It is our heart to forgive [you] of these crimes against us just as God in Jesus has forgiven us – completely and unconditionally," Moran said directly to the suspect that day. "I want you to know that we forgive you, without conditions, and that we love you. Our deepest desire is for God's very best and greatest blessings for you. We also know that sometimes we must go through difficult passages in this life to receive God's best. We entrust those matters to the judicial system."

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: DONNA LEAKE

Since the opening of the 2025-26 school year, our Board of Education members have been busy meeting both as members of the full board and as subcommittee members.

At the October meeting, the BOE members engaged in a discussion of our latest results on the Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) facilitated by Principal Carole McCombe. Each year, the EES staff analyze our spring assessment results to look for trends, areas in need of growth, and to celebrate our overall achievement. At all grade levels, the percentage of students scoring at level 3 or 4 (at or

above goal) on SBAC in English Language Arts (ELA) increased for the same group of students from the spring 2024 assessment to the spring 2025 assessment. Our math results were not as promising. Here we saw that in all but our youngest tested students, the percentage of students scoring at level 3 or 4 (at or above goal) was smaller in 2025 than it was in 2024. Even still, it is promising to note that at each grade level for ELA and for science, our percentage of students scoring at goal or above is higher than the state average, and in math, our percentage at goal or above, is higher than the state average in all but two grade levels. More complete

comparison data of the spring assessment results can be found at [https://www.eastfordct.org/under the Curriculum/Assessment tab](https://www.eastfordct.org/under-the-Curriculum-Assessment-tab).

One of my personal highlights of the year so far has been working with our "Super" Duper Math Problem Solvers. These are students in grades 1-3 who opt to complete, with their family, a math problem of the month that I send home from October-May. I believe that interacting with our students is one of the best ways to stay current, in a very small way, with the challenges and rewards that our teachers experience each day. This month I had the chance to discuss the October problem of the month

with 24 students in grades 1-3. It was wonderful to have each of them share their work on the October problem with me.

Yes, the BOE together with the staff are busy supporting and implementing programing that provides for an engaging and enriching learning environment for all students at EES. Our efforts, however, could not be accomplished without the ongoing support of our family and community members. As always, please contact me at dleake@eastfordct.org if you would like to meet to discuss any questions, concerns, or share ideas about any aspect of the learning community of the Eastford School District.

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Our next issue will be published on:

Dec. 1

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

Nov. 15

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

Thanksgiving is more than a date on the calendar, or a table filled with food. It is a reminder of something deeply woven into the human heart, namely the need to pause, to look upward, and to say "thank You" to the One who provides every good thing.

True thanksgiving is about recognizing from whom our blessings come. From the first pilgrims who gathered to thank God for His provision, to families today who bow their heads before

a meal, Thanksgiving has always pointed us to a greater truth — God is faithful. He sustains us through hardship and fills our lives with countless daily mercies. As the Psalmist declares, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High" (Psalm 92:1). Gratitude turns our hearts from worry to worship and from busyness to blessing.

This year, Eastford Baptist Church invites you to celebrate

that spirit of gratitude with us. On Sunday, Nov. 23, we will gather for worship at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Thanksgiving Dinner where everyone is welcome. It will be a joyful time of worship, fellowship, and reflection on the goodness of God. After the service, we will share a hearty meal together and take a few moments to express what we are thankful for. We will hear stories of God's faithfulness, answered prayer, and quiet

mercies that remind us how near He truly is. Moments like these strengthen our sense of community and renew our gratitude for the Lord's work in our lives. Whether you have been part of Eastford for many years or are visiting for the first time, we would be honored to have you join us. Come enjoy a warm meal, good conversation, and the simple joy of giving thanks together.

FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

• Flags: American flags and fire department flags will be removed on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Plot owners who remove their military flag holders for the winter are reminded to reset them the week prior to Memorial Day.

• Trustees Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., Ivy Glenn

• Seasonal Decorations: Mowing and turf maintenance continues well into the month of November. If you wish to place seasonal/artificial decorations on your plot, please wait until Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. After March 15, 2026, the decorations will be removed for the start of the

mowing season.

• Perpetual Care Reminder: flowers that are planted at the base of a monument must be within 12 inches of the base. If the plants are not maintained and grow beyond that limit, they will be cut back.

• Plot/Space Purchase: Appointments can be made to view

the cemetery grounds and to select a plot for purchase. To make an appointment, call 860-428-0280.

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association greatly appreciates the following donors who have contributed to the beautification of the grounds: Jim & Marian Slye; In memory of William & Helena Nieminen; Carolyn Hazard; Lauren Anderson. Donations are tax-deductible and can be mailed to EGCA, Inc., P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242.

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

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WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP NEWS HEATHER LOGEE

December is such a busy month, we wanted to share this date with you ahead of time so you can put it on your calendars now. Join us on Dec. 7, for our annual Lunch with Santa event at the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 326 Taft Pond Rd. in Pomfret. Have lunch upstairs in the lodge or just come for a photo with Santa and avoid the lines at the mall.

Made to order pasta bar, salad, drinks and desserts (gluten free pasta available). Join us in making holiday crafts, cookies, s'mores and more and shop our selection of silent auction and raffle items. Tickets available ahead of time by calling (860) 974-3379, e-mail registrar@4hcampct.org or at the door. No reservations necessary. Cost is \$10 for children up to age 9, \$14 for adults and those 10 and older for lunch, 5x7 photo with Santa, \$8. Proceeds go to the Jim Logee Campership Fund to help a child come to camp that couldn't do so without some tuition support.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all. It's a wonderful time to catch up with friends and family and load up on those calories to keep you warm as winter approaches.

Windham Tolland 4-H Camp is located at 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret Center. Contact us at (860) 974-1122, or www.4hcampct.org.



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IN THE GARDEN: SUSAN BURNS

This is an alert to all of those concerned about their gardens, orchards, forests, vines and ornamentals like roses.

There is a pest so dangerous that we are being told to kill it upon seeing it. Actually, it is quite a beautiful insect. My husband and I saw two of them in New Haven County last week. So, it is arriving in our state now.

This insect is called the Spotted

Lanternfly. See the accompanying photo with this article for an image of it. It is not really a fly. They don't munch on plant parts like beetles and caterpillars do. Instead, the insects use a straw-like organ called a proboscis to pierce and then suck plants' nutrient-rich juice.

Spotted Lanternflies can weaken the portions of the plant or tree where the insects are feeding. The insects excrete honeydew that

encourages the growth of sooty mold. Sooty mold can interfere with photosynthesis for the host plant and make it more vulnerable to disease.

What should you do if you spot a lanternfly? Trample it, says the federal government and most states. If you find one, report it to the State Department of Agriculture.

Although you can't discourage Spotted Lanternflies from coming

to your yard, a healthy, robust garden that doesn't rely on chemicals to be robust should withstand feedings and attract predators that can help with some of these insects. No insecticide is exclusive to the Spotted Lanternfly and we don't want to hurt beneficial insect populations.

Please be on the lookout and help to eradicate these insects. See the picture below!



DID YOU KNOW?

EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Did you know that the sinking of the RMS Lusitania, and two days later, the USS Housatonic, causing the tragic loss of many American lives, resulted in the United States entering World War I?

Provoked by Germany's unrestricted U Boat warfare on seagoing vessels, President Wilson joined forces with the United Kingdom, and on April 6, 1917, after remaining neutral for three years, the United States officially entered the "Great War."

On May 18, 1917, President Wilson signed into law the Selective Service Act to fill the needs of the military to effectively engage the enemy. Eastford answered the call sending forth 19 men to serve our country. Most would see action overseas with only one man, Clarence Dews, returning home with injuries.

At 5:40 a.m. on Nov. 11, with flare pistols shooting red, green, blue, and white light into the sky and men cheering and yelling, the Armistice was signed. All troops were ordered to cease firing at 11 a.m.

The Eastford Historical Society wishes to thank all military personnel, past and present, for their service to our country.

Please consider supporting the Eastford Historical Society through donation, membership, or both! Membership forms may be found on the Eastford Post Office Bulletin Board or on our website eastfordct.org.

Renewals do not require a membership form: simply mail your check (individual \$20, household \$35) to P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.



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Holiday Fair

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**DID WE MAKE A
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FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN DEB RICHARDS

• **Emergency Planning:** Eastford recently took part in the annual mandatory drill organized under the Governor's Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative. This year's focus was on drought and the increased risk of wildfires. Representing Eastford were James Roy (Eastford Independent Fire Company), Ben Schmidt (Public Works), Bernard Dubb (Communications), and Deb Richards (Emergency Management Director/CEO). If you're interested in supporting Eastford Emergency Management, please reach out to emd@townofeastford.com.

In addition, Eastford successfully completed the quarterly radio communications test with CT DEMHS Region 4. Both of these activities are essential components in maintaining eligibility for Emergency Management Performance Grants.

• **Trout Dam Update:** The work on Trout Dam is now officially complete and has been approved by the engineer. A big thank you to the Crystal Pond Commission, specifically David Barlow and Chuck Lee, for their dedication and persistence in getting this important project done!

• **Blair Farm Preservation:** Congratulations to the Eastford Conservation Committee, and especially to Tom Hughes, for their efforts in preserving the historic Blair Farm. The farm, which has been in continuous production for 117 years, received a personal congratulations from Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, who expressed his appreciation that this land will remain preserved for future agricultural use.

• **Veterans Day Ceremony:** Eastford will proudly participate in the upcoming multi-town Veterans Day Ceremony, taking place on Friday, Nov. 8, at 11 a.m., at the E.O. Smith High School Auditorium. This year's event will honor all who have served, with special recognition given to our Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice. We invite the community to attend and join us in paying tribute to our veterans.



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The Congregational Church of Eastford
Announces Our
FREE Senior Community Christmas Dinner

December 4th from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Live entertainment at noon. Dinner to be served at 12:30 p.m.
To be held at the
Evangelical Christian Center, 574 Ashford Center Road, Ashford
Reservations are required, as seating is limited. (before 11/28/25)
Sign up online on our events tab
or directly at <https://cceastford.org/christmas-dinner/>
860-974-0294 *Seniors 55+ (Caregivers welcome!)



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 Nov. 15.

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 less than 100 words. All entries are subject to editing at the editor's discretion.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, Nov. 1

Eastford Public Library hosts their "Annual November Food Drive" for the Eastford Food Pantry to support neighbors in need. Please bring your non-perishable items in during library hours.

Thursday, Nov. 6

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

Saturday, Nov. 8

A Multi-Town Veterans Day Ceremony will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, at 11 a.m. Ashford, Eastford, Mansfield, Union, and Willington will celebrate together in Mansfield at E.O. Smith High School Auditorium, 1235 Storrs Rd., Storrs. We will be honoring all who served. This year we will have a special recognition for the Vietnam veterans still with us. Reception to follow with refreshments in the cafeteria from 12-1 p.m.

Eastford Public Library hosts "BBC Book Club" at 1 p.m. We will discuss "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult. The book will be on display and available to check out.

Sunday, Nov. 9

The Congregational Church of Eastford offers a seminar to help people who face sorrow and loss as they go through the holiday season. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." If you have lost a loved one and face grief and sorrow this season, I invite you to attend GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" on Sunday, Nov. 9, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This seminar is designed to bring comfort, strength and hope. This seminar will be held at our office (4 County Rd., Eastford).

Wednesday, Nov. 12

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

Thursday, Nov. 13

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

Friday, Nov. 14

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Stuffed Animal Sleepover" at 6 p.m. Please join us for a Pajama Storytime before we tuck in our bravest stuffed animals to sleepover at the library. After a good night's sleep come pick them up on Saturday morning!

Sunday, Nov. 16

The Congregational Church of Eastford offers a seminar to help people who face sorrow and loss as they go through the holiday season. Jesus quoted a prophet who said, "the LORD ... has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted." If divorce has upended your household and holiday expectations, you are invited to attend DivorceCare "Surviving the Holidays" on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Here you will find comfort and practical help for social events, family gatherings and hope for the future. This seminar will be held at our office at 4 County Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 20

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. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. we'll also be hosting a "Holiday Workshop" to create a few items for the Holiday Fair. Anyone is welcome to join!

Saturday, Nov. 22

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Thanksgiving Craft" for children at 10:30 a.m. Please register for this event.

Sunday, Nov. 23

You are invited to Eastford Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 23, for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner, which will include all the traditional Thanksgiving menu items, will be held directly after the Sunday Worship Service, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a time of fellowship and fun, as well as a time of sharing what you are thankful for.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

Eastford Public Library will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please come in and grab your holiday reads! We will resume normal hours on Saturday.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

September: 1

MARRIAGES

September: 0

DEATHS

September: 3

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Aug. 12: Ashford Road, \$125,000, Robert J. Zanolungo Jr. to Skye Gruszczynski

Aug. 20: 4 Nahaco Hill Lane, Unit 4, Nahaco Development LLC to David Dube

Aug. 26: Ashford Road, \$125,000, Robert J. Zanolungo Jr. to Skye Gruszczynski

POLICE REPORT - TROOP D

During the month of August 2025, Troop D Troopers responded to 23 calls for service in the Town of Eastford. Of these calls for service, the most notable are:

Accidents: 3

Investigations: 2

Burglaries: 0

Larcenies: 0

Non-Reportable Matters: 18

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

DUI: 0

Traffic Citations: 1

Written Warnings: 0

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Sunday, Nov. 2: Recreation Commission/Experience Eastford Special Meeting, 4 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, Nov. 4: Election Day, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Town Office Building; Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, Nov. 6: Transfer Station Committee, 10 a.m., Town Office Building

Saturday, Nov. 8: Multi-Town Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 a.m., E.O. Smith High School Auditorium, 1235 Storrs Rd., Storrs

Monday, Nov. 10: Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, Nov. 12: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, Nov. 13: Bowen's Field Committee, 6 p.m., Town Office Building; Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School Library

Tuesday, Nov. 18: Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, Nov. 20: Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building



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LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EASTFORD

November 4, 2025, Municipal Election

All persons qualified to vote in the Town of Eastford are hereby warned to meet at the Eastford Town Office Building, Lower Level, 16 Westford Road in said town on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, for the purpose of casting their ballot in the Municipal Election for the following offices:

First Selectman (2-year term); Selectmen (2-year term); Town Clerk (4-year term); Town Treasurer (2-year term); Tax Collector (2-year term); Board of Education members (4-year term); Board of Assessment Appeals member (4-year term); Constables (2-year term); Library Directors (6-year term).

Election Day Polling Place: EASTFORD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, LOWER LEVEL, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.

Polling Hours: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Election Day – Same Day Registration Place: EASTFORD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, LOWER LEVEL, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.

Election Day – Same Day Registration Hours: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

Early Voting Days/Hours:

October 20–27, 29, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

October 28 & 30, 2025: 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.

October 31 & November 1-2, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Early Voting Location: EASTFORD TOWN OFFICE BUILDING, LOWER LEVEL, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.

Absentee, Early Voting and Same Day Registration Ballots will be counted at the Eastford Town Office Building, Lower Level, on Election Day, November 4, 2025.

Voting tabulators will be used.

Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law for persons qualified to vote in the Town of Eastford through the office of the Eastford Town Clerk at 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT.

Dated at Eastford, Connecticut, this 1st day of October, 2025.

Johanna H. Wolfe
Eastford Town Clerk

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is located at the Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd. This month's hours are Monday, Nov. 3, 8-11 a.m.; and Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2-4 p.m.

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

Thank you to all who donated food, money and home goods so that we can provide for our pantry families. The Eastford Food Pantry relies on donations from the community. All donations to the pantry can be dropped off at Bowens Garage or at the Town Office Building during regular business hours. Check donations can be mailed to Eastford Food Pantry, 16 Westford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242.

Donation suggestions include peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, pasta sauce, tuna, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soup, healthy snacks. Thank you for your support!

We're excited that Stop & Shop has selected the Eastford Food Pantry to benefit from the Bloomin' 4 Good Program! Throughout the month of November, we will receive a \$1 donation for every specially marked \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet purchased at the Stop & Shop located at 1094 Killingly Commons Drive, Dayville.

TIPS FOR TODAY: LIZ ELLSWORTH

Happy Autumn!

Does anyone know what the state flower of Connecticut is? Or what is the Connecticut state bird? State tree? State fish? State insect? State mammal? This November, when you're sitting around the Thanksgiving table with family and friends, you can quiz each other about the state's cool wildlife facts.

State Flower: Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*); State Bird: American robin (*Turdus migratorius*); State Tree: Charter Oak/White Oak (*Quercus alba*); State Fish: American shad (*Alosa sapidissima*); State Insect: European mantis (*Mantis religiosa*); State Mammal: Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

Dig more into the Quiet Corner's history. The Last Green Valley has the Notable and Notorious Guide, and you can find at <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/09/NandN.pdf>.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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MUNICIPAL ELECTION PREVIEW

Editor's Note: In advance of this year's Municipal Election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, the Eastford Communicator requested that all candidates on the ballot complete a questionnaire to better inform the voters of Eastford before they head out to the polls. To ensure fairness of coverage, each candidate was asked the same three questions with the same 75-word limit per question, and given the same deadline for submission. For those races that are contested, the order and placement of each candidate's profile was chosen at random. Constable candidate Nathaniel Fabian declined to participate in this questionnaire. Some answers were edited due to space limitations.

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Eastford, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 4, 2025



SAMPLE BALLOT

Office	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	First Selectman Vote For One	Selectman Vote For One	Town Clerk Vote For One	Town Treasurer Vote For One	Tax Collector Vote For One	Board of Education Vote For Up to Four				Board of Assessment Appeals Vote For One	Constables Vote For Up to Two		Library Directors Vote For Up to Three		
Party															
Democratic Party	☐ 1A Deborah A. Richards	☐ 2A Ashlyn Ellsworth	☐ 3A Johanna H. Wolfe	☐ 4A	☐ 5A Christine E. Hustus	☐ 6A Nancy L. Neff	☐ 7A Michael Bilica	☐ 8A	☐ 9A	☐ 10A Robert Johnson	☐ 11A Arvind Shaw	☐ 12A Randal Chinnock	☐ 13A Meghan Martinez	☐ 14A	☐ 15A
Republican Party	☐ 1B Deborah A. Richards	☐ 2B Paul A. Torcellini	☐ 3B Johanna H. Wolfe	☐ 4B Martha L. Burgess	☐ 5B Christine E. Hustus	☐ 6B Lauren J. Barlow	☐ 7B Stephen W. Bowen	☐ 8B	☐ 9B	☐ 10B	☐ 11B Nathaniel F. Fabian	☐ 12B Christopher D. Bowen	☐ 13B Armen A. Beermann	☐ 14B Seth H. Budd	☐ 15B Mary K. Degostin
Petitioning Candidate	☐ 1C Michael D. Schultz	☐ 2C	☐ 3C	☐ 4C	☐ 5C	☐ 6C	☐ 7C	☐ 8C	☐ 9C	☐ 10C	☐ 11C	☐ 12C	☐ 13C	☐ 14C	☐ 15C
Write-in Votes	☐ 1D	☐ 2D	☐ 3D	☐ 4D	☐ 5D	☐ 6D	☐ 7D	☐ 8D	☐ 9D	☐ 10D	☐ 11D	☐ 12D	☐ 13D	☐ 14D	☐ 15D



FIRST SELECTMAN

Deborah A. Richards

Republican (Cross-Endorsed)

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"Having served four years as Eastford's first selectman, I've demonstrated steady, effective leadership. Each year, we passed the budget on the first vote and secured \$4.8 million for bridge projects, plus \$346,000 in STEAP and other state funding. I remain committed to practical, community-focused solutions and will continue working closely with residents to address Eastford's challenges. With experience, dedication, and a clear vision, I'm focused on building a strong future for our town."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Unfunded mandates and inadequate state support place a heavy burden on the financial health of small towns. The state applies the same requirements to small municipalities as it does to large cities — without accounting for the vast differences in resources. These mandates, along with required tax abatements, shift the financial burden onto local taxpayers. Eastford is facing critical infrastructure needs that, without reliable state support, could create a greater tax strain on our residents."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"The Eastford Town Office Building is open four days a week, and I'm always available by appointment outside of regular hours. I take my responsibility to the residents of Eastford seriously and, together with the Board of Selectmen, remain committed to thoughtful, accountable local governance. Our focus is always on how we can best serve the needs of our community."



FIRST SELECTMAN

Michael D. Schultz

Petitioning Candidate

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I am running for this office because of my strong legal and engineering background. I am a fiscal conservative, having successfully run a \$6 million business. I have lived in town for more than 50 years and I love it."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"I believe the town needs effective and stable growth."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I intend to campaign at many individual households to get people's opinions as to what they want the town to provide."

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION PREVIEW



SELECTMAN
Ashlyn Ellsworth
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I am seeking re-election for the Board of Selectmen because I believe in Eastford's potential and the work and efforts of our highly dedicated board and commission members. As a Licensed Master Social Worker, I have spent my career assessing community needs and understanding the human impact of policies. I have the skills to collaborate effectively, advocate for constituents, and understand different perspectives. These are the qualities needed for an effective selectman."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Eastford is a small town with unique needs. Elected officials face the critical challenge of balancing the preservation of our town's unique characteristics while also progressing us forward to address local trends and state mandates and initiatives. Officials need to think critically and collaborate locally and regionally to maximize our resources and address the improvements our town needs. I believe that if elected I can help Eastford evolve and thrive without sacrificing its community identity."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I encourage residents to get involved, attend board and commission meetings, and communicate with elected officials. All meetings are open to the public and offer a channel for information and feedback while also increasing transparency and trust. I welcome constructive dialogue from constituents as it provides me with a deeper insight into the needs of our town and the impact of policy. Communication between residents and elected officials is essential for better, informed decision making."



CONSTABLE
Arvind Shaw
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I am a resident and small farmer from Eastford since 2002. I am a retired community health executive, and served as the town representative to Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) from 2010-2018. I also served the Board of Finance Exploratory Committee in 2021-2022. I am currently serving on the Agricultural Committee. I am an advocate and like helping community efforts."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Healthcare and transportation are issues for the community and improvements in access would significantly improve the quality of life."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"These are my contact details — arvindshaw@hotmail.com, and (860) 974-2636."



SELECTMAN
Paul Torcellini
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I enjoy using my talents and skills to help the town's people and keep the town running smoothly. With an engineering and project management background, I have been able to help the town by prioritizing budget needs, saving money with thoughtful repairs, maintaining infrastructure that keeps buildings running efficiently, and meeting the needs of staff and citizens."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"One of the most important issues facing small towns is balancing budgets with decreasing state and federal funding. This is happening while 'unfunded' mandates grow. I plan on continuing to assist saving the town money with minimizing borrowing and continuing to evaluate expenditures while meeting the needs of the residents. Long-range planning is key to minimize town debt. Be informed about the decisions that impact the budget by coming to Board of Selectmen meetings."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I encourage everyone to come to Board of Selectman meetings (typically the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m.) and provide comments. In addition, you can reach me through the town website (eastfordct.gov) or selectmantorcellini@townofeastford.gov. I look forward to hearing your concerns and ideas about making Eastford a better place."



CONSTABLE
Randal Chinnock
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"The term 'constable' has a long history. In the 17th century in England, it came to mean 'an officer chosen to serve minor legal process.' It later came to mean 'police officer' (in England). It is an honorable profession. In Eastford, the role relates to 'minor legal processes,' but not policing. No particular training is required, which is a good thing, since we don't get any. My qualifications? Common sense and keeping calm in emergencies."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"In my mind, the most important issue in our community is, like everywhere else, civility. Harsh words are sometimes exchanged but, in general things are pretty civil around here. But I fear for the future. The amplifying of ugliness on social media, overheated politics, the normalization of behaviors that we used to consider unthinkable. We all need to do our part to keep the peace. I try to do my part."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I am generally available when the first selectman calls me. As for accountability, I expect she'll tell me if I screw up, and I'll do what it takes to make it right. Being a constable in Eastford is a bit like being Barney Fife from 'The Andy Griffith Show' — there's not a lot to do, but do your best."

MUNICIPAL ELECTION PREVIEW



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lauren Barlow
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I'm running because I want to give back to my community. I care deeply about public education. As both a teacher and a parent, I have unique and helpful perspectives to offer."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"I seek to provide support to our community by being part of making decisions that best support our community and our school."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I'm available through e-mail and am involved in local church and school groups. I strive to respond to e-mails promptly."



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stephen Bowen
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I have worked with youth my entire adult life and consider the Board of Education an extension of that. Children are the future. They are one of the most important things we can use our time and resources on."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Getting a quality education for the best value."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I have served on the Board of Education for more than 20 years, and have always been available to anyone looking to discuss any area of the Board of Education."



CONSTABLE
Christopher Bowen
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"If re-elected, I would continue to help make the school safer for the children and families. This will be ongoing as I work with the current school and town administration."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Safety is of utmost concern for all residents of Eastford. If re-elected as constable, I will continue to work with our selectmen to help make Eastford feel and be safer."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I have been operating the garage between the school and the firehouse for many years, and I welcome anyone to stop by and have conversation with me and the crew to move forward in safety for our residents."



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael Bilica
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"Education has always been my top priority, and as a teacher, it is also my profession. I have been on the PTO, Recreation Commission, and a leader in Cub and Boy Scouts. I am dedicated to supporting the Town of Eastford through service, and as the father of two boys who grew up in this town, I am well qualified to serve on the Board of Education."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Deciding on which school should be our designated high school for EES graduates is the most important issue facing our committee this term. Woodstock Academy has been a great option for generations of students. However, E.O. Smith has provided a strong alternative and is more cost effective as well for our taxpayers. I will vote for the choice that best serves the people of Eastford as we enter into a new contract in 2027."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I represent the people of Eastford as a Board of Education member and it is my job to do what is best for all of us. Our committee is not divided by ideology. It is a collegial and friendly group that works well together. I will serve by continuing to work with my fellow members and will be responsive to the citizens of Eastford."



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nancy Neff
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I am a retired public school social worker and dedicated community advocate. With a career spanning decades in social work, along with experience as a substitute teacher, paraprofessional, and mental health advocate, I am uniquely equipped to serve the community and its students."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"I have been following the discussions about federal funding and I understand the community's apprehension. As a retired public school social worker, I've seen firsthand how crucial stable funding is to providing essential services. My goal is to work seamlessly with the dedicated individuals already on the board to find effective solutions, if needed."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"Serving on the Board of Education is a privilege that comes with a responsibility to be present and accessible. I believe that public service requires showing up — not just for official meetings, but for school events, games, and performances. It's at these functions that we truly connect with our students, teachers, and families and gain a deeper understanding of our community's pulse."

MUNICIPAL ELECTION PREVIEW



TOWN CLERK
Johanna Wolfe
Republican (*Cross-Endorsed*)

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I thoroughly enjoy being Town Clerk. I am motivated by the never-ending variety of tasks of the position and relish the challenge. I strive to represent Eastford well in my interactions with other town clerks and the state. I am well-acquainted with state statutes, having become Assistant Town Clerk in 2000. I worked in that role for my predecessor, Melissa Vincent, until her retirement in 2021. I was first elected as Town Clerk in 2021."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"I think the most important issue facing our community (from a town clerk's perspective) is ensuring a citizen's right to vote. In 2023, Connecticut passed the Connecticut Voting Rights Act. Each town clerk is charged with upholding this law, which includes ensuring proper chain of custody of early voting ballots at the conclusion of each day of early voting. Issuing and accounting for applications and ballots is a centerpiece of the office during election season."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"My office is open to all. If there is a question I can't answer, I will find someone who is able to provide an answer. I am present during office hours and willing to help with needs related to land records, vital records, dog licensing, trade name registration, etc. The Town Clerk's main responsibility is one of service to the citizens of Eastford — and I strive to fulfill that obligation with each personal encounter."



TOWN TREASURER
Martha Burgess
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I moved to Eastford in 1987, and was happy to raise my family in this great town. I had a 30-year career in banking, retiring as a Regional Operational Leader for Connecticut and Massachusetts. I was elected as your Town Treasurer in 2015, and have had the honor of being in the position since. I bring my experience, strong communication skills and my passion for respecting all opinions to the position."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"I am committed to Eastford's financial stability and for the community to be able to thrive now and in the future. I have worked successfully with the various town leaders throughout the years, and I truly enjoy the position."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I can be reached by leaving a message for me at the Town Hall, at (860) 974-0133, ext. 4."



TAX COLLECTOR
Christine E. Hustus
Republican (*Cross-Endorsed*)

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I am running for this office because as a lifelong resident of Eastford, I have a vested interest in seeing continued success in our community. I have a strong background in accounting and tax preparation. I am a Certified CT Municipal Collector, having served for 16 years as Eastford's Tax Collector."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"A primary concern in tax collection is ensuring payments are made accurately and on time. Understanding the payment schedule and available payment options can help taxpayers avoid penalties and administrative issues. Timely payments support effective budgeting and benefit the community as a whole. I am committed to performing my duties to the highest standard for the benefit of the citizens of Eastford."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I am available in person during regular office hours. Taxpayers can also reach me by phone, e-mail or through the official town website. Financial records and reports are public information. Collection methods and rates are transparent and accessible to the public. Have a question or concern? Give me a call!"



BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS
Robert Johnson
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I have always been a civically minded individual and interested in local governance (two of the reasons I chose to pursue a degree in political science during my undergraduate studies). The Board of Assessment Appeals was, therefore, a natural fit for me since it serves as an intermediate step between the Assessor's Office and the court system. We provide an important platform to hear tax-related problems and do our best to help solve them."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"One of the biggest problems facing our town, and our state for that matter, is affordability. While a universal solution to that problem is beyond what we are able to do on the board, we can certainly do our part to help out the taxpayers and ensure that their assessments are accurate."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"All Board of Assessment Appeals hearings are open to the public, and the handbook we adhere to is available on the Eastford town website for anyone to view. Since I first took on the role of secretary about seven years ago, I have kept meticulous records for minutes and all other relevant documentation from our meetings. These are publicly available for anyone to view via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)."



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!



MUNICIPAL ELECTION PREVIEW



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary K. DeGostin
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"As a lifelong Eastford resident, I am honored to serve as co-chair of the Library Board since 2022. In those years, we have worked to bring amazing authors, programs for kids and adults, and updating library policies. As a reading intervention teacher at Woodstock Elementary with 11 years of experience, I've seen firsthand the transformative power of literacy. I have a deep love for reading and a strong desire to empower people to discover it."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Keeping our library relevant in a time where technology seems to be ruling most of our lives is so important. The library should be a place of multi-media sources for learners of all ages to learn and grow with. I hope that with a continued tenure on the Library Board, I can help keep the library a welcoming and relevant place for our community!"

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I try to be as approachable and accessible as I can! I encourage any/all community members who have concerns about our library to come to our monthly meetings! Hearing from the community on issues that may arise with the library is a critical part of keeping communication open and effective."



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Seth Budd
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I am an avid reader who is passionate about serving my town. I have six years of experience as a trustee on the Library Board."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"I will continue to advocate for Eastford Public Library and support the dedicated staff, as together, we ensure that the library remains a thriving part of the community. I am committed to hear out all board members as we collaborate to fulfill the mission of the library."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I welcome citizens' comments and suggestions, whether one-on-one or at Library Board meetings. This position is a privilege that I do not take lightly. I strive to do best by those who have entrusted this responsibility to me."

*The Eastford Republican Town Committee
would like to extend prayers and
condolences to the Charlie Kirk family for
their tragic loss.*

Paid for by the Eastford Republican Town Committee.



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meghan Martinez
Democrat

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I'm running for the Library Board of Trustees because of the important role that libraries play in the community. It's clear that the library is loved by its patrons and an equally important component is a collaborative relationship with our town officials. As a trained emergency mental health clinician, I bring a set of skills designed to foster an open and respectful dialogue. Let's work together to further our goal of a healthy, sustainable library."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"Our library is the heart of the community and it cannot survive without a healthy working relationship with our local government officials. When I decided to run, I introduced myself to our first selectman, and together, we found a shared value of dialogue rooted in mutual respect. We both love Eastford and want to see its rich history continued in our community institutions. Our common ground centers our work and the way forward."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I am blessed to be able to primarily work from home – right up the street from the library on Old Colony Road. This means that I typically have the luxury of flexibility to accommodate all sorts of schedules. Whether it is meeting in person over quiche at Always Moore, chatting on the phone, or conversing via your preferred digital platform, I pride myself on being available to the people that rely on me."



LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Armen Beermann
Republican

Why are you running for this office, and what qualifications or experiences make you the best candidate?

"I believe public service is critical, both nationally and in the local community. With a BSc in Architectural Engineering, Master's of Architecture, Excellent Graduate of the War College, and as an licensed architect, I was involved in the design, renovation, and construction administration of several libraries. With this background I have a good understanding of how libraries can run efficiently and effectively. I bring my international experience to help broaden Eastford Public Library's horizons."

What do you see as the most important issue facing our community in the area you are running? How would you address it if elected?

"We need to engage young adults by providing research tools and resources that they need at their age and time of life. I would like to ensure that library books, programs, and services serve a broad spectrum of the whole community. I'm a strong believer of books in print and I would like to challenge Eastford to continue to rediscover books and the other valuable resources available in print."

How will you make yourself accessible and accountable to the people you represent?

"I would encourage citizens to come to Library Board meetings and share their thoughts, recommendations, suggestions, and ideas. Feel free to reach out to me personally as well. Meeting dates and times, as well as agendas and minutes, can be found on the town website."

Police announce arrest of Eastford shooting suspect

SHOOTING

Continued from pg. 1

upon meeting in Woodstock, the suspect entered his vehicle, produced a handgun, and shot him before fleeing the scene with another male in a silver Volvo sedan. Due to the nature of this incident, the investigation was then assumed by Eastern District Major Crime Detectives.

Detectives secured the victim's vehicle and located a secondary crime scene on Mill Bridge Road in Woodstock, where evidence was collected, including suspected

marijuana, vape cartridges, clothing, and a high-capacity, 9 mm magazine.

Through investigative leads, detectives identified the suspect as King Michael Adoty, 19, of Woodstock, who matched the description provided by the victim and was previously observed operating a silver 2015 Volvo S80. In the early morning hours of Sept. 28, Troopers located the suspect's vehicle at his Woodstock residence. Adoty voluntarily agreed to accompany detectives to Troop D, where he admitted his involvement in the shooting during

an interview. He further stated that he discarded the firearm while fleeing the scene.

Based on the investigation and evidence gathered, detectives determined probable cause to arrest Adoty. He was charged with first-degree assault; first-degree robbery; second-degree reckless endangerment; sixth-degree larceny; carrying a pistol without a permit; and illegal possession of a large-capacity magazine.

Adoty was processed and held on a \$250,000 cash/surety bond. The investigation, as of press time, is still ongoing, police said.



King Michael Adoty, 19, of Woodstock, is the suspect in a reported shooting in Eastford last month.

Photo courtesy CT State Police.

Hello! My name is

Meghan Martinez

and it's my honor to run as the Democratic candidate for the open seat on Eastford's Library Board.



My grandmother was a school teacher and my mother was a college librarian. The possibility of serving on the Library Board not only fulfills a personal desire to help better our town but also builds upon a family tradition of safeguarding libraries as cultural pillars within a community.

My background:

- Former mental health clinician
- Current cybersecurity professional
- Within both fields, enjoyed successful collaboration with local, state, and federal government officials

Vote for me for the Eastford Public Library Board of Trustees seat on November 4th!

Paid for by the Eastford Democratic Town Committee
Robert Williams, Treasurer

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EASTFORD LIBRARY BOARD CANDIDATES



Armen Beermann has lived in Eastford for 37 years. He has designed and managed construction of \$.5 billion in library projects for CT State higher education institutions and knows how libraries are run on many different levels. Armen, a highly decorated full Colonel in the US Air Force, retired after 34 years of service to his country.



Mary Roto Degostin has lived in Eastford her entire life. She is raising her family here and hopes they will do the same. Mary works as a reading interventionist for Woodstock Schools and is passionate about bringing books to younger students as well as adults. Mary's goal is to see the library as a welcoming place that the community takes pride in.



Seth Budd has lived in Eastford his entire life. He is a legacy library board member, following his grandmother in serving on the library board. He feels that the library is a home away from home. Seth has a bachelor's degree in accounting, works for Eastford school as a paraprofessional, and is working to earn his education certificate.

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www.cceastford.org (see calendar and events)



Pastor Mike Moran
Associate Pastor Evan Burgess
cceastford@gmail.com



Learn more or sign up at cceastford.org/events/.

"Surviving the Holidays" Seminar

GriefShare Nov. 9 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm
DivorceCare Nov. 16 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

"Loss of a Spouse" Seminar

Dec. 7 from 2 - 4 pm

13-Week Support Groups

Dec. 14, 2025 - Mar. 8, 2026
GriefShare from 2 - 3:30 pm
DivorceCare from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

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