

# THE EASTFORD Communicator



APRIL 2026

[EASTFORD.NEWS](http://EASTFORD.NEWS)

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

VOL. 34, No. 9

## CALVIN'S TEMPEST



EASTFORD — In the second part of a vicious one-two punch, Blizzard Calvin blitzed through the area on Sunday, Feb. 22 and Monday, Feb. 23, leaving more than a foot of wet, heavy snow in its wake, and leading to three consecutive snow days at Eastford Elementary School. It was a massive clean-up effort after Winter Storm Benjamin had already dumped 18 inches on Eastford less than a month before. Pictured above, Liv, Anna, and Grace Moore spend some quality time outside during their snow day. At left, young Charli enjoys her first snowfall. Her mother Christa wrote: "Such a beautiful sight." *Courtesy photos*



Eastford resident Allison Glasser will be running in the 130th Boston Marathon on April 20, and will be raising money for Mass General Hospital. *Courtesy photo*

## Running down a dream

### EASTFORD RESIDENT TAKES AIM AT BOSTON MARATHON

BY RANDAL CHINNOCK  
SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNICATOR

EASTFORD — Allison Glasser had no idea what life was going to bring her when she moved to Eastford six months ago. She works as a private aviation flight attendant travelling all over the world, and she's also employed as a Certified Recovery Coach at Dartmouth Health in New

Hampshire, helping pregnant and postpartum women who are suffering from Substance and Alcohol Use Disorder.

Recently, this new Eastford resident has been given multiple opportunities to push herself farther and continue to give back. In fact, she will be running for charity in the 130th Boston

Turn to **MARATHON**, pg. 23

## Planning Commission releases results from POCD survey

BY ADAM MINOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

EASTFORD — Over the past few months, the Planning Commission has been hard at work collecting input from town residents about what they want to see in the town in the years to

come.

The town's "Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD)" sets the vision for how the town moves forward over the next 10 years, and the Planning Commission has been responsible for updating the POCD at a minimum of once

every 10 years, as required by state statutes. Eastford's POCD was last updated in 2016 (<https://www.eastfordct.gov/media/151>).

The updated survey provided an opportunity for the town to consider whether to make changes in the goals and objectives for the community.

The survey expired on Feb. 28, and since then, the Planning Commission has released the results

In total, 176 people participated in the survey, marking just over 10-percent

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ISSUE



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

VOL. 34, No. 9 | APRIL 2026

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*The Eastford Communicator is published monthly, and as a non-profit 501(c)(3) venture, it is registered with the State of Connecticut and IRS, and is supported by advertising revenues and donations. All contributions are tax deductible.*

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**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).

## Enrollment openings available at ACT

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN's Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) magnet high school has a limited number of seats available for Fall 2026 enrollment. Academically motivated students in grades 9-12 from across eastern Connecticut are encouraged to apply for this distinctive opportunity to pursue intensive study in the performing arts. The school's recent string of achievements in film, creative writing, and other artistic disciplines demonstrates its commitment to nurturing exceptional young talent.

Located in the historic Capitol Theater in downtown Willimantic, ACT offers a NEASC-accredited program that weaves rigorous academics together with immersive, professional-level arts education. Students learn from both certified academic teachers and working professional artists in an intimate, collaborative setting — with an average of just 35 students per grade.

"ACT students don't just study the arts — they practice them at a professional level while they're still in high school," said ACT Principal Sarah Mallory. "When a student wins a film festival award, publishes a university literary journal, or steps onto a real stage in a 1920s-era theater, that's not a simulation of real life. That's the real thing. We're proud to offer that kind of experience to students from across eastern Connecticut."

ACT students choose from seven specialized arts pathways: Acting, Creative Writing, Dance, Integrated Arts & Management, Media Arts, Music, and Technical Theater (sets, lighting and

costuming). The school's distinctive facility provides daily access to professional-grade resources, including a fully equipped theater, scene shop, modern audio/video editing suites, spacious dance studios, and a comprehensive costume shop — enabling students to produce work of genuine professional quality.

That quality shows in results. ACT students regularly earn recognition in prestigious competitions and venues, including Young Writers publications, Scholastic's Art & Writing Awards, DMV-Travelers' Teen Safe Driving Video Contest, and the Quiet Corner Film Festival. Student work has appeared in university publications and public performances, giving ACT graduates a portfolio of real-world experience before they leave high school.

Through an ongoing partnership with Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), eligible upperclassmen can earn free credits by taking university courses while completing their ACT education. The partnership also connects students to ECSU's literary festivals and cultural events, deepening their engagement with the broader arts community.

Prospective students can still apply at [www.eastconn.org/act](http://www.eastconn.org/act). Limited seats are still available; the application process should be completed as soon as possible.

EASTCONN, ACT's administering organization, is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has served northeastern Connecticut's educational needs since 1980. Learn more at [www.eastconn.org](http://www.eastconn.org).



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.

From Art Brodeur:

Shout out to First Selectman Deb Richards and State Sen. Jeff Gordon for their work in getting Eversource to make Eastford a power restoration priority in the recent winter storm. Also, "shout out" to the Public Works folks for their ongoing and effective efforts to keep town roads open and travelable during numerous storms this winter season.

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!*

Thank you to Eastford Grove Cemetery Association and David & Frances Buchholz for your donations to the Eastford Communicator!

**DONATIONS MAKE THE COMMUNICATOR POSSIBLE!**

Please consider a donation to the Communicator!

Send checks to:

Eastford Communicator, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242

# Just desserts: ‘Cupcake Wars’ brings confectionary competition

EASTFORD — The 8th Annual Cupcake Wars celebrated sweet success on Saturday, Feb. 28.

This free community outreach event was hosted by the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) and held in the Eastford Elementary School gymnasium. This year’s competition was comprised of 14 contestants along with attendees from the local communities.

Showcasing their baking skills (recipe contest), and decorating talents (display contest), each contestant’s cupcake was judged by our respected local representatives — Holly Singleton, Woodstock Academy; Sheryl Spink, Eastford Independent Fire Co.; Lynn Fontaine, Ashford

School, and Steve Bowen, Bowen’s Garage. Attendees of Cupcake Wars sampled and voted for their favorites in the People’s Choice Awards.

Confections of the day ranged from simple vanilla, chocolate peanut butter, pistachio, lemon, chocolate mint, rainbow cookie and a variety of others. There was something to tempt every palate.

The event’s fun included cupcake tasting, Pin the Cherry on the Cupcake, and receiving a crocheted cupcake hat or keychain donated by the CCE’s Women’s ministry as a door prize.

Thank you to all who participated and to all who attended! See you next year!



## THE RESULTS



### JUNIOR DISPLAY

First Place: Alina Platt  
 Runner Up: Penny York

### SENIOR DISPLAY

First Place: Susan Webster  
 Runner Up: Tianna DeSalvo

### JUNIOR RECIPE

First Place: Alina Platt  
 Runner Up: Penny York

### SENIOR RECIPE

First Place: Tianna DeSalvo  
 Runner Up: Susan Webster

### PEOPLE’S CHOICE (DISPLAY)

Junior: Alina Platt  
 Senior: Susan Webster

### PEOPLE’S CHOICE (RECIPE)

Junior: Penny York  
 Senior: Lauren Barlow



# FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1 INC.



Winter 2025-26 has been tough and is still here! Low temperatures and record-breaking inches of snow have made times difficult for Eastford residents and the EIFC responding to emergencies. Fire prevention and safety is a must for all of us to consider. We thank those who have needed us by keeping walkways cleared and sanded.

It is no surprise there are more home fires in the winter months than any other season. People are still heating their homes. Heating is the second leading cause of home fires. Improper disposal of ashes contributes to a large

number of fires. When disposing of ashes, put them in a covered metal container and store at least three feet away from anything that could burn. Ashes can smolder for a length of time contributing to a potential fire.

Smoke alarms are a key factor when protecting your home and family. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. The "rule" has always been to change the detector batteries twice a year when the time changes. Test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pressing the test button to be sure the alarm is working. Installation of carbon monoxide detectors is also a critical addition for your safety. Carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless and tasteless, with symptoms often similar to the flu.

• Who or What is a Paramedic? Often when the EIFC responds to a medical emergency, an automobile accident or crisis, a paramedic will be dispatched at

the same time as the first responding fire department. We are asked often, "What or who is a paramedic?" A paramedic is a highly trained medical professional who provides emergency medical care, stabilizes patients and transports them to medical facilities.

What are their responsibilities?

- They assess the situation and provide immediate care to stabilize patients before transporting to a hospital.

- They conduct thorough evaluations of patients, including checking vital signs and gathering medical history to determine appropriate treatment.

- They are trained to perform advanced life support techniques such as administering medications, starting IV lines, advanced airway management.

- They provide specialized care for traumatic injuries, controlling bleeding, immobilizing fractures and managing airway, breathing.

- They work closely with EMS

personnel on scene to coordinate patient care.

- They communicate effectively with patients, bystanders, and hospital staff to relay critical information.

- They typically work in ambulances, but they may respond to homes, highways, and public events. They often work in high-stress situations that require quick decision-making and technical expertise.

The Town of Eastford is very fortunate to have a collaboration with the KB Ambulance Service, located on Route 44, in Pomfret, enabling them to quickly respond to an Eastford location, often simultaneously with your fire department.

In summary, paramedics along with Eastford EMS, play a crucial role in the healthcare system by providing life-saving care in emergencies, stabilizing patients and ensuring they receive appropriate medical attention.

-Submitted by Jeannine Spink

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: STATE SEN. JEFF GORDON

One of the major items I focus on as your State Senator is increasing state funding for public and special education. These are two big factors in Eastford's budgets every year. The costs of educating children, especially for special education students, is rising. It is through property taxes. The state should do more to help. By better funding these costs, we can decrease the pressure for your property taxes to go up. It is about making Connecticut more

affordable for you and your family.

I have two ambitious legislative bills:

• Increase the base amount per pupil in the Education Cost Sharing formula. It has not been updated since 2013. It needs a 45-percent increase just to catch up to 2026.

• Cover the full amount of the excess cost of special education, instead of just a fraction of the true cost.

For Eastford, this could bring in a lot more state dollars. The state can afford this without increasing taxes if it refocuses and repurposes the tax money it has already toward core government responsibilities, like public education, instead of spending on things it does not need.

The Education Committee has taken up my bills (and the bills of others) and is working on proposals. It may not be as much as I want to see, but it is a big

start. 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) 240-8800, e-mail me at jeffrey.gordon@cga.ct.gov, check for news and sign up for my free e-newsletter at www.senatorgordon.com, or learn about what I am doing on Facebook at "Senator Jeff Gordon."

## FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE DONATION FORM

• Mowing Season — flowers or place potted plants near flush markers. March 15 to Thanksgiving: Artificial flowers, ornaments, and other objects are not allowed during the mowing season. However, live flowers may be planted or placed in plastic pots within 12" of the base of the monument. It is not permissible to plant

Yes, I would like to help. Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Gift in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Eastford Grove Cemetery Assoc., Inc. P.O. Box 284, Eastford, CT 06242

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SCOUT TROOP 92?



Top left, Steve Supina, the Green Flag Starter: Top right, excitement at the finish line! Lower left, Logan and Evelyn with their winning cars. Lower right, Lucas' Oscar Meyer Wiener Mobile race car was not the fastest, but was still a favorite. Courtesy photos

ASHFORD/EASTFORD — Troop 92 plans for this spring include climbing Bear Mountain April 25. Bear Mountain is the highest mountain in Connecticut and is part of the Appalachian Trail. This climb will be a day trip. Preparations are underway for an end-of-the-season, white-water-rafting trip and campout May 30-31. Prerequisite for the White Water Rafting is the Kayaking merit badge.

Summer Camp schedule will be Week 6, which is Aug. 2-7.

Support Scouting: Troop 92 will hold a Mother's Day Flower Sale Saturday, May 9. Sale will take place at the old Warrenville Post Office across from the Ashford Town Hall.

The Cub Scouts' Munson's Chocolate fundraiser was a big success in raising funds to offset the cost of Scouting adventures and overnights. Thank you to all who supported! The Cub Scouts also held their annual Pinewood Derby contest. To add to the excitement, the Cubs invited

Ashford's (3rd Grade) Brownie Troop 61056 to participate. Turnout for this event was large. There was a lot of excitement in the air for this combined participation. Troop 92's fastest car was built by Logan. The Brownie's fastest car was built by Evelyn. Will we see more combined activities in the future? Wait and see!

Cub Scout meetings are held the First Friday of the month at 6 p.m. in Knowlton Hall. New Cubs are always welcome!

Watch out for April Fool's Tricks April 1!

Scout Troop 92 meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at St Philip's Rec Center. New members are welcome. Scouts are fifth grade students through age 18.

- Submitted by BSA Troop 92:  
 Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scoutmaster;  
 Jesse Burnham, Scoutmaster;  
 Gerard Taylor, Assistant Scoutmaster;  
 Rob Hany, Committee Chairman;  
 Doug Jenne, Cubmaster

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is located at the Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd. Eastford Food Pantry hours this month are Monday, April 6, 8-11 a.m.; and Wednesday, April 22, 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, home goods and money in the month of March. A special thank you to TEEG for donating more than 50 boxes of cereal. Your donations are greatly appreciated by our pantry families. The Eastford Food Pantry relies on donations from the community. All donations to the pantry can be

dropped off at 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.

We are especially grateful for the team sent from Pursuit Aerospace who thoroughly cleaned the Pantry. We appreciate your hard work.

The Eastford Food Pantry has

been selected again as a partner in the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program. The Pantry will receive \$1 for each specially marked \$11.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of April at the Putnam Stop & Shop.

Donation suggestions: Canned fruit, healthy snacks, crackers, jelly, pancake mix and syrup, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry detergent. Thank you for your support!

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: DONNA LEAKE

We are very fortunate to be the recipient of a competitive grant-funded program that supports providing after-school enrichment programs for students in grades K-8. The success of this program, officially called Eastford CARES, is due in large part to the commitment of time and creative thought of the Program Coordinator, Candice Mead.

The following was written by Ms. Mead:

The Eastford CARES (Caring Adults Reaching Every Student) Program at Eastford Elementary School is in its third year of operation. With ongoing evolution, the program is now a partnership between the school, the Eastford Congregational Church, the Mystic Seaport Museum, and the Hale YMCA. Funded by a grant from the State Department of Education, the Eastford CARES program provides healthy opportunities for children to connect with adults in academic, social, athletic, and recreational ways.

Volunteers from the Eastford Congregational Church provide

monthly opportunities for children in kindergarten through third grade to stay after school to play board games with church members and with each other. The children are developing their social skills and communication skills while learning sportsmanship and patience with adults whom they might otherwise never have met.

The teaching staff at EES is sharing their own outside interests and passions with students, too. For example, academic support is offered once weekly for all students in Grade 2 and up with Mrs. Mead. Children can join the ongoing Art Club with Mrs. Weinland. There is a Creative Movement and Dance Club for the youngest students offered by Ms. Garvie, and a Volleyball Club for the oldest offered by Mr. Cody. New additions that started in March include a Crochet Club offered by Ms. Ferrell-Denke, and a Friday Feature Movie Club hosted by Mrs. Mead, Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Hull.

By subscribing to learning opportunities provided by well-

established public educational organizations, the Eastford Explorers Club, made up of students in Grade 2 through Grade 6, interacts weekly with staff from Ragged Hill Woods, the Roger Williams Park Zoo, the Connecticut River Museum, and the Mystic Seaport Museum.

The partnership with the Hale YMCA in Putnam provides the Wellness component of the CARES Program daily after school until 5:30 p.m. with themed lessons and activities each week. Families are eligible for reduced rates thanks to the grant partnership. Families are invited to reach out to the YMCA office at (860) 315-9622 for more information about participating in the Wellness After School Program.

Students are not the only audience for the Eastford CARES Program, as it also provides opportunities for entire families to grow and learn together. So far this year, family engagement programs have been presented by Mystic Seaport and Roots to Fly Wellness.



*Meeting a python up close and personal in the Explorer's Club at the Eastford CARES Program. Courtesy photo*

A Penguin Encounter presented by Mystic Aquarium happened on March 26, and a Family Fun and Feud Game Night is scheduled for May 20. In addition, there will be a Parent Workshop focusing on fostering resilience in our children on April 23. It's never too late to join any of the ongoing clubs or activities.



**Brooklyn Veterinary Hospital**  
**150 Hartford Rd, PO Box 285,**  
**Brooklyn, CT 06234**  
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**[info@BrooklynVetHospital.com](mailto:info@BrooklynVetHospital.com)**

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**CYBER SPOTLIGHT: MEGHAN MARTINEZ**

Recently, I upgraded several lines with our cell phone provider, which resulted in my dad and I getting new phones. The account is under my name, but a few days later he received a text message purporting to be from our cell carrier stating that he owed [insert high but realistic dollar figure here] as a result of getting a new phone. Conveniently, the message included a link to click to get more information.

Dad: "Hey, Meghan, take a look at this. Do you think I should click it?"

Meghan: "Noooooooooooo! Don't take the bait!"

Get it? Phishing, whether via e-mail, text message, or now even with AI-enhanced phone calls, are the most common way for scammers and cyber threat actors to get your information. For them, information is money in their

pockets! A lot of these phishing attempts are sneaky ways to get you to type in your username and password to something, but even just a click can result in a lot of time and headache.

Here's some tips to try and protect you and your devices from these phishing scams:

- Go slow! Scammers rely on us responding to their sense of urgency, which can override our own common sense. Take your time to read the message and think, Did I really order something from FedEx? Was I on the highway recently where I would have used my EZ Pass? Or in my dad's case, the AT&T bill isn't even in my name so how would they know if I owe anything or not?

- Take a look at the sender. This is a bit easier when you're looking at an email, but either way. Do

you know this person or organization? A lot of phishing e-mails look like they are coming from a legitimate company, but really they have made up an e-mail address that looks very similar. If you are on a desktop computer, you can use your mouse to hover over the sender (without clicking!) to see if what they have typed as the e-mail address is really the actual sending address (For example, the message says it's from Bank of America but the e-mail address is actually "bankof.ameriica.com"). If you're on your phone, it is a little trickier, which means don't click on any links in the message itself. If you think it's from a legitimate sender, say an online shop you frequent often, log into your account to check the message that way instead of clicking on the link.

- Remember you are (sort of) invisible to these big companies! There's a lot more to be said here, but what I mean is: Microsoft/Apple/your favorite three-letter federal agency do not have the time or inclination to notify everyone individually about a bill owed or software that is out of service. No one will ever call, text, or e-mail and let you know that they found something on your machine and for \$19.99 will clean it up for you. In that regard, you are not on anyone's radar. So, if you get a call like that, hang up, or if it's an e-mail or text, just ignore it.

In the wise words of Gandalf — keep it secret, keep it safe.

*Have a cybersecurity related question? Send your question(s) to the Communicator and see if it makes the next issue!*

**FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN: DEB RICHARDS**

Every day, municipal employees work quietly behind the scenes to keep communities functioning. They repair roads, answer questions at town halls, operate the Transfer Station, maintain our buildings, assess your property, inspect buildings, collect taxes, process permits, and respond to emergencies. Yet despite the essential nature of their work, they often face frustration, impatience, and hostility from the very residents they serve.

Municipal employees operate within systems that are governed by laws, regulations, budgets, and procedures. The person behind the

counter at the Town Office building or on the phone with the public usually does not create these rules. Their role is to apply them fairly and consistently. A respectful conversation is far more productive than directing anger at the employee responsible for enforcing it.

Municipal workers are neighbors, parents, volunteers, and taxpayers themselves. They choose public service careers because they care about their communities. However, dealing with a constant stream of complaints, demands, and the use of profane language takes a toll. A

simple "thank you," patience during a busy moment, or acknowledgment of their effort can go a long way in boosting morale and reinforcing the shared purpose between residents and public servants.

Civility does not require grand gestures. It begins with small choices — listening before responding, speaking respectfully, and remembering that the person across the desk is doing their job under the same constraints that shape any public system.

It is budget season and the Board of Selectmen has invited department heads and board and

commission chairpersons to provide input for both the Ten-Year Plan and the annual budget. These meetings are all posted on the town's website and referenced in the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meetings.

Save these dates! The Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at Eastford Elementary School. The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 14, at 7 p.m., also at Eastford Elementary School. Budget packets will be available beginning April 16 at the Town Office Building and the Eastford Public Library.

**WE WANT YOU!**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

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

**ALL EASTFORD. ALL THE TIME.**





### DID YOU KNOW?

Dalmatians are born spotless! Dalmatians are famous for their black and white spots, but they're actually born with a coat that's entirely white. They begin developing their spots about 2-4 weeks after birth — though their skin already carries the pigment from day one.



### DOG OF THE MONTH

**Meet Winston!** Winston is a large-breed puppy who got an unexpected start in life after being found by a community member and safely brought to Animal Control. He's believed to be a Shepherd mix with long, shaggy hair and all the charm that comes with a growing pup. Curious, sweet, and full of potential, Winston is ready to learn what it means to be part of a family. With a little guidance, love, and patience, this fluffy boy is sure to grow into a loyal, devoted companion. PawSafe is located at 348 Old Colony Rd., Eastford. Learn more at [www.pawsafe.org](http://www.pawsafe.org).

### TIPS FOR TODAY

LIZ ELLSWORTH

Happy Spring!

The birds are singing loudly and happily that spring is here. After the snow-filled winter we have had, aren't we all excited for spring?

I have been outside utilizing the Merlin Bird ID app on my smartphone. This free, locale-specific app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is full of details about our local birds. You can explore bird songs by doing a sound recording in your yard or along a nature trail. The Merlin app will note which birds are chirping in real time and offer suggestions on the identification(s). Once you have your list of birds, the app will share information on songs, habitat, migration range, coloration and size, feeding patterns, behavior,

etc. Further, you can upload bird species photos and get help with identifications. Also, you can make a "life-list" and digital scrapbook of the birds you've discovered. The birds I've heard singing most frequently in my yard are the Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) and the Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*). Which ones have you heard most often?

If you prefer a physical book, grab "The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America," written and illustrated by bird expert David Allen Sibley. In-depth facts and vivid illustrations make this a must-have birding guidebook. Add some bird watching to your spring!

### IN THE GARDEN

SUSAN BURNS

My husband, Bob, and I have just returned from the Philadelphia Flower Show. This extravaganza is one of the largest flower shows in the world. There were definite changes evident in this year's gardens. Very big changes from gardens of the past.

One big change is informal planting. This is a huge move towards more biodiverse and sustainable gardens. These new gardens are embracing an informal aesthetic, replete with drought-tolerant and resilient plants. And, of course, using natives mostly. Self-seeders, and a relaxed, wilder feel are increasingly

favored. There is a resurgence of cottage-garden style planting including self-seeding classics such as Hollyhocks and Foxgloves, with Mulleins, Nepeta (Catnip) and Fennel. This looser, more ecological take on the traditional border is grounded in climate reality, with plants chosen for toughness, wildlife value and longevity rather than the perfection of the traditional border.

Water scarcity is reshaping how we design gardens and after a long, dry 2025, it's become even more apparent how vital this is.



**WE  
WANT  
YOUR  
PHOTOS!**

*Have a great  
photo you want  
to share?*

*Send photos to [eastfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com)!*

# 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.

## APRIL

*Thursday, April 2*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack and time of free play. In the afternoon, we will host a Dungeons & Dragons club from 4:30-5:30 p.m. (ages 11-13). This group will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month. Please register. Later in the evening, we will also be hosting "Adult Trivia Night" at 6:30 p.m. Grab some friends as Jeremy Barlow tests our knowledge once again! Registration is required.

*Friday, April 3*

Eastford Baptist Church and the Congregational Church of Eastford will host their annual Good Friday Service on Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m., at Eastford Baptist, 133 Union Rd., Eastford. Join us as we reflect on the cross of Christ.

*Saturday, April 4*

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Senior Education Seminar for Seniors and Families" at 1 p.m. This will be led by Julie Cruz, a registered nurse and Certified Senior Advisor from Assisted Living Home Care Services. The discussion will focus on practical real-world guidance about assessing the cost and need for home care services for yourself or a loved one. Please register.

*Sunday, April 5*

It's Resurrection Sunday! Join us at Eastford Baptist Church as we celebrate our risen Savior! The morning kicks off with our annual Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at Buell's Orchard. Breakfast will follow immediately at EBC's Family Activity Center. That morning's worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. No Sunday School.

The Congregational Church of Eastford will host its annual Resurrection Sunday services on Sunday, April 5! The morning will kick off with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at 8 Church Rd., near the cross. That Sunday's service will begin at 10 a.m. at Eastford Elementary School.

*Tuesday, April 7*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Homeschool STEAM Hour" at 10:30 a.m. Please register as space is limited.

The Eastford Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at the Ivy Glenn (Library). Representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be there to look over and discuss the prospect of putting the Ivy Glenn Memorial on the State or National Historic Register.

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

April is a beautiful time in Eastford. After the long winter, we begin to see signs of new life all around us. Longer days, warmer sunshine, and the first signs of spring. It's a reminder that growth often begins quietly and gradually, but it produces something strong and lasting.

At Eastford Baptist Church, we believe the same is true of the Christian life. Real spiritual growth does not happen through quick fixes or shallow religion. It happens when people take time to know God through His Word and allow it to shape their lives.

Each Sunday we gather for Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., with

classes available for all ages. This is a time for learning the Bible, asking questions, and growing together in faith.

Our Sunday Worship Service begins at 10:30 a.m. During the service we sing, pray, and carefully study the Bible together. Our preaching is expository, meaning we work through passages of Scripture verse by verse so that we can understand what God has actually said. We take the Bible seriously and desire a faith that has real depth rather than a shallow Christianity.

Families are encouraged to worship together, and we welcome children in the service. We believe

Much historic information has been gathered already and they will be there to look at the building itself and historic documents gathered, and to answer questions and provide information that may be useful in determining the likelihood of this prospect. The public is welcome to this and all monthly ECHPC meetings.

*Wednesday, April 8*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for teens and adults. Please register.

*Thursday, April 9*

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

*Sunday, April 12*

Eastford Baptist Church and the Congregational Church of Eastford will host its annual Eastford Roadside Clean Up on Sunday, April 12, from 1-3 p.m. Meet at the Town Office building at 12:30 p.m. for a free lunch. Cleanup supplies and maps will be provided. Ice cream to follow!

*Wednesday, April 15*

Eastford Public Library hosts a "Matinee Movie" at 2 p.m. for children on spring break. We will be showing "Wonder" – based on an inspiring New York Times bestseller. Please register.

*Thursday, April 16*

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

*Saturday, April 18*

Eastford Public Library hosts an "Earth Day Activity" at 10:30 a.m. Please register.

*Thursday, April 23*

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

*Saturday, April 25*

Eastford Public Library hosts an "Author Talk" with writer, television and film producer Owen King at 1 p.m. You won't want to miss him! Registration is required; space is limited.

*Tuesday, April 21*

Eastford Public Library hosts "Grim Readers" at 6 p.m. They will be discussing the award-winning science fiction novel "Project Hail Mary" by Andy Weir. Copies will be on display and available for check out. It's never too late to join this fun and thrilling book club!

*Thursday, April 30*

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

it is a good thing for young people to grow up hearing God's Word read, sung, and preached alongside their parents and the church family. We also meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. for midweek activities and Bible study, another opportunity for encouragement, prayer, and learning together.

As we approach Easter, we would also love to invite our community to several special services:

On Good Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m., we will join together with the Congregational Church of Eastford for a combined Good Friday Service as we reflect on the cross of Christ. Early on Easter morning,

April 5, at 6:30 a.m., we will gather for a Sunrise Service at Buell's Orchard. Following the service, everyone is invited to a breakfast in the Eastford Baptist Church gym at 7 a.m. Later that morning we will hold our Easter Worship Service at 10:30 a.m., where we will celebrate the resurrection of Christ together. During this service we will also have the joy of baptizing three adults, a wonderful testimony of new life in Christ.

If you are looking for a church that desires to grow deep in the Word of God and spiritual maturity, we would be glad to have you join us.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

February: 3

### MARRIAGES

February: 1

### DEATHS

February: 2

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

**Jan. 21:** Ashford Rd., \$85,000, Westford Development LLC to Essential Dev LLC

**Jan. 21:** 86A County Rd., \$580,000, Tyler M. Channey to Kristan L. Baker

**Jan. 27:** 26 Pifershire Rd., \$80,000, Edward Windecker Sr. Est. to Robin Vallese

**Jan. 28:** 101 Westford Rd., \$25,000, Joanne Ramey to Madelyn Filomeno

## POLICE REPORT - TROOP D

During the month of January, Troop D Troopers responded to 34 calls for service in the Town of Eastford.

Of these calls for service the most notable are:

Accidents: 5

Investigations: 6

Burglaries: 0

Larcenies: 0

Non-Reportable Matters: 23

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

DUI'S: 1

Traffic Citations: 5

Written Warnings: 1

## PUBLIC MEETINGS - APRIL

**Monday, April 6:** Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, April 7:** Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission (Special Meeting), 6 p.m., Eastford Public Library

**Wednesday, April 8:** Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, CT 06281

**Thursday, April 9:** Bowen's Field Committee, 6 p.m., Town Office Building; Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School Library

**Sunday, April 12:** Recreation Commission, 3:30 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, April 14:** Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

**Tuesday, April 21:** Transfer Station Committee, 9 a.m., Town Office Building

**Thursday, April 23:** Library Board of Trustees, 6:30 p.m., Eastford Public Library; Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

**Sunday, April 26:** Recreation Commission, 4 p.m., Town Office Building

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

KATIE BALL, LIBRARIAN

As you look outside your window and see the first signs of spring, just know the library is blossoming, too. The Friends of the Eastford Public Library have received several generous donations to support the library's continuous growth. A special thank you to Pat Morgan from the Beagary Charitable Trust. Her donation made it possible for us to purchase a laminator to protect the pages of our seasonal Story Walk from the elements.

The library has also received a generous donation to establish a Memorial Fund in honor of Anne P. Latham, pictured with this article. Latham was a long-term resident of Eastford who served on the Eastford Public Library Board of Trustees for many years. She was an avid reader and instilled the love of books to her children. During her beautiful life, Anne enjoyed gardening, cooking, hiking, traveling and devoting her time to her family and friends. She is deeply missed by all who knew her.

This year, as we focus on updating and expanding our Young Adult section, these funds will allow us to purchase more than 160 books. Our hearts are truly overflowing with gratitude. Stop in, we'd love to see



you!

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. Upcoming events and programs can be seen on the town page, on social media, or in the "Calendar" section of this edition of the *Communicator*. If you haven't yet, please follow Eastford Public Library on Facebook and/or Instagram @eastfordpubliclibrary.



Our next issue will be published on:

# May 1

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

# April 15

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# TOWN DIRECTORY

## ANIMAL CONTROL

NECCOG Animal Services  
(860) 774-1253  
<https://neccoanimalservices.org/>

## ASSESSOR

Mary Hawley  
(860) 974-0133, ext. 7  
Fax: (860) 974-0624  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5-7:30 p.m.; Fridays, 1-4:30 p.m.  
E-mail:  
[assessor@townofeastford.com](mailto:assessor@townofeastford.com)

## BUILDING OFFICIAL

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

## BURN OFFICIAL

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

## EASTFORD FOOD PANTRY

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

## EASTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Hours: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

E-mail:  
[eastfordpublib@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordpublib@gmail.com)

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Deborah Richards – Director  
(860) 974-0133, ext. 10  
All Emergency Calls: 911  
State Police: Troop D – Danielson: (860) 779-4900

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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

## LAND USE OFFICE

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

## VETERANS SERVICES

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

## PUBLIC WORKS

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

## REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

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

## SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

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

(860) 974-0133, ext. 3

Fax: (860) 974-0624

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

## TAX COLLECTOR

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

## TOWN CLERK

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

## TRANSFER STATION

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

## WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP NEWS

April is a very busy month for us at camp as we get ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year, our annual auction and tag sale. Save the dates:

- Friday, May 1: Tag Sale, 9 to 10:30 a.m., \$5 Early Bird Buy-In; 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., free. Auction preview at 5 p.m.; Auction at 6 p.m.

- Saturday, May 2: Tag Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Auction preview at 4:30 p.m.; Auction starts at 5:30 p.m. outside. Mary's Kitchen food available both days. Check our website at the end of April to see what special items

will be going on the block this year.

From April 15 through April 28, we will be accepting donations for this event at the lower-level back entrance of the lodge, 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Antiques and gently used household goods, furniture, toys, electronics, tools, books, lunch decorative items, etc., will be welcomed. We do not accept donations of clothing, textbooks,

magazines, or encyclopedias. For further donation assistance, call the office at (860) 974-3379.

- Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp Open House 326 Taft Pond Rd., Pomfret. Meet the director and other camp staff, take a camp tour, registration materials available. Call (860) 974-3379 for questions.

- Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Science Programs. For Grade 6-8 students on Tuesdays and Pre-K to 5th grade students on Wednesdays: March

31 and April 1, Fire Building; April 7 and 8, Cardboard Ovens; April 14 and 15, Make Pizza in your cardboard oven; April 21 and 22, All About Eggs; April 28 and 29, Intermittent Streams; May 5 and 6, Rocks, Rocks, Rocks. All at 4:30 p.m. \$20 per session, \$110 for all sessions per child. Call (860) 974-1122 or e-mail [raggedhillwodds@gmail.com](mailto:raggedhillwodds@gmail.com) to register.

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



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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 April 15.



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

# eastford.news



**EBC**  
**Easter Schedule**  
**Good Friday Service**  
 (w/Congregational Church of Eastford)  
 @ Eastford Baptist Church  
 Friday, April 3, 7 p.m.  
**Sunrise Service**  
 Sunday, April 5, 6:30 a.m. @ Buell's Orchard  
 Breakfast to follow immediately afterward  
 @ EBC Family Activity Center  
**Resurrection Sunday**  
**Worship Service**  
 Sunday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.  
 No Sunday School

**EASTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 133 Union Rd., Eastford, CT 06242  
 Visit [www.eastfordbaptist.com](http://www.eastfordbaptist.com) for more info!

**Congregational Church of Eastford**  
 Office: 4 County Rd, Eastford, CT 06242-0177  
 Website: [cceastford.org](http://cceastford.org)



Pastor Mike Moran  
 Associate Pastor Evan Burgess  
 Email: [cceastford@gmail.com](mailto:cceastford@gmail.com)



**Easter Weekend Services**

**Good Friday Service**  
 Together with Eastford Baptist Church  
 Apr. 3 at 7 pm  
 Held at Eastford Baptist Church

**Sunrise Service**  
 Apr. 5 at 6:30 am  
 Held at 8 Church Rd near the cross

**Resurrection Sunday Service**  
 Apr. 5 at 10 am  
 Held at Eastford Elementary School

**Weekly Sunday Service at 10am**  
 Held at Eastford Elementary School  
 Nursery (Birth-Pre K) Bible Explorers (Grades K-4)




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# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The Eastford Communicator is seeking news submissions from area high schools that Eastford students attend, such as honor rolls, upcoming events, and other newsworthy information. Please send all information to [eastfordnews@gmail.com](mailto:eastfordnews@gmail.com), and we will run everything as space allows.

## Woodstock Academy announces Harten as new principal

WOODSTOCK — The grounded in collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement.

Woodstock Academy is pleased to announce the appointment of Dean of Academics Dr. Michael Harten as its next principal. The appointment reflects The Academy's confidence in Dr. Harten's exceptional qualifications, strong leadership, and deep commitment to teaching and learning.

Harten's career has been firmly rooted in the classroom, an experience that continues to shape his approach as an academic leader. A twice-recognized Teacher of the Year, he has dedicated his career to supporting high-quality instruction, thoughtful curriculum development, and meaningful professional growth for faculty. Since joining The Woodstock Academy in 2015, Dr. Harten has worked closely with teachers and administrators to strengthen the school's academic program, expand opportunities for students, and cultivate a culture

"Mike's leadership is defined by respect, high expectations, and a genuine belief in the power of relationships and shared purpose," said Head of School Dr. Lawrence Filippelli. "He knows our faculty well and values the work they do every day. We are confident in his ability to lead The Woodstock Academy forward."

This leadership transition also provides an opportunity to express deep gratitude to Holly Singleton ('86) for her remarkable 26 years of service to The Woodstock Academy as both a teacher and administrator. Her dedication to students, faculty, and the broader school community has left a lasting impact.

"This moment of change marks an exciting new chapter for our school," said Filippelli. "We are deeply grateful for Holly's 26 years of outstanding service and



Dr. Michael Harten has been announced as Woodstock Academy's new principal effective July 1. Courtesy photo

leadership that have shaped generations of students, and we look forward to a bright future under Dr. Harten's leadership."

"It has been an honor to work with the students, staff, administration, and community of The Woodstock Academy," said Harten. "I am humbled by this opportunity and look forward to

servicing The Academy community in this new role."

Harten will assume the principalship effective July 1. The Woodstock Academy community looks forward to this next chapter and the continued advancement of its mission to provide a rigorous and exceptional educational experience for all students.

## EASTCONN's QMC announces Semester 1 Honor Roll

DANIELSON — EASTCONN's Quinebaug Middle College (QMC) Magnet High School has released the School Year 2025-2026 Semester 1 Honor Roll list (Fall 2025).

### High Honor Roll

Tabor Ambrose: North Windham (Windham); Samyah Azeez: Moosup (Plainfield); Alexis Barber: Moosup (Plainfield); Lily Begin: Griswold; Lillian Bertram: Pomfret; Allysen Bonafine: North Windham (Windham); Camden Chaplin: Central Village (Plainfield); Giovanni Duclos: Plainfield; Yvonne Fitzsimmons: Danielson (Killingly); Kyla Grant: Plainfield; Phineas Hagan: Putnam; August Holdridge: Taftville (Norwich); Madison Knudson: Plainfield; Darby Lalumiere: Killingly; Daniel Lobe: Danielson (Killingly); Natasha Miller: Sterling.

### Honor Roll

Yosiel Alamo Colon: Sterling; Danica Alvarado Wilcox: Dayville (Killingly); Ava Aubin: Plainfield; Dahlas Avery-Burdsal: Uncasville (Montville); Morganna Avery-Burdsal: Uncasville (Montville); Jordan Bachand: Wauregan (Plainfield); Adrianna Benson: North Windham (Windham); Ariella Bessette: Oneco (Sterling); Scott Bonafine: North Windham (Windham); Noelli Cabrera: Willimantic (Windham); Caleb Caouette: Putnam; Grace Carter: Wauregan (Plainfield); Khelvon Caudill: Putnam; Leah Chappell: Dayville (Killingly); Aidan Chelette: Plainfield; Tobias Clark: Brooklyn; Christopher Comtois: Danielson (Killingly); Mason Dansereau: Sterling; Emma Decker: North Windham (Windham); Joshua DelGaizo: Willimantic (Windham); Ren Deojay: Danielson (Killingly); Allen Dickison: Windham; Zoey Dubois: Danielson (Killingly); Julian Dunnack: Willimantic (Windham); Jason Fletcher: Moosup (Plainfield); Ella Forgues: Killingly; Madyson Gallow: Brooklyn; Molly Garland: Danielson (Killingly); Noah Glynn: Dayville (Killingly); Sarah Goss: Plainfield; Ava-Ryann Groh: Killingly; Ava Guillemette: Plainfield; Alison Gutierrez Cordero: Willimantic (Windham); Tobias Hall: Putnam; Gianna Harrison: Willimantic (Windham); Lawrence Haworth: Moosup (Plainfield); Talisha Headley: Willimantic (Windham); Michael Hoenig-Welch: Woodstock; Alexis Jones: Plainfield; Eli Kapszukiewicz: Plainfield; Ruby Kersting: Plainfield; Ammani Kuljancic: Pomfret; Gavin Lalumiere: Brooklyn; Mason LaRose: Canterbury; Julianna LeRouge: Wauregan (Plainfield); Sebastiano Manocchio: Danielson (Killingly); Hailey Marshall: Dayville (Killingly); Arlo Matteau: Putnam; Kelton McKenna: Sterling; Allison Morrarty: Danielson (Killingly); Rae Neal: Putnam; Connor Nicolas: Griswold; Bailey Nicolosi: North Grosvenordale (Thompson); Leif Oliverson: Brooklyn; Kelsey Parent: Putnam; Sophia Phillips: Danielson (Killingly); Anna Polaino: Killingly; Jazandrel Ramos: Willimantic (Windham); Jocelyn Richards: Plainfield; Haley Ross: Pomfret; Jolene Schlegel: Griswold; Jacob Schmelzer: Willimantic (Windham); Yudhvir Sidhu: Dayville (Killingly); Madison Smith: Jewett City (Griswold); Mikayla Snyder: Dayville (Killingly); Royce Toledo Rivera: North Windham (Windham); Aedyn Trigo: Hampton (Regional District 11); Tanis Trigo: Hampton (Regional District 11); Abigail Trudell: Brooklyn; Cheyann Turcott: Quinebaug (Thompson); Ariel Valdes: Canterbury; Xophi Vanner: Dayville (Killingly); Savannah Waite: Wauregan (Plainfield); Blake Ward: North Grosvenordale (Thompson); Nerissa Winters: Dayville (Killingly); Aurora Wood: Moosup (Plainfield).

# Scholarships for Eastford Students

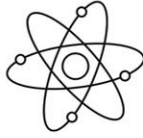
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## Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship

For students pursuing degrees in science, engineering, or pre-med who show high academic achievement and strong personal character.



## Harold D. Carpenter Scholarship

For students pursuing degrees in history who show academic achievement and good character via integrity, industriousness, and seriousness of purpose.



## Esther & Lucie Harmon and Leta Savin Trapil Scholarship

For students pursuing higher education degrees in any area with special consideration given to non-traditional students returning to academia.



## Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship

Established in memory of Eleanor K. Lewis, a former teacher and principal in Eastford for 34 years, this scholarship is for Eastford students who demonstrate scholastic ability, good character, and financial need.



## Mary King Sharpe Scholarship

Established in memory of Mary King Sharpe, who grew up in Eastford as one of seven children, this scholarship is for graduating high school seniors from Eastford pursuing a degree in business.



## Edith Wheaton Smith Scholarship

Established in memory of Edith Wheaton Smith, a former Eastford schoolteacher, this scholarship is for students in good academic standing who plan to pursue any course of study in higher education.



## Town of Eastford General Scholarship

For high school seniors living in Eastford who plan to pursue any course of study in higher education.



## Emil Vaida Scholarship

Established in memory of Emil Vaida, who began his education in the one-room Phoenixville Schoolhouse, this scholarship is for students from Eastford pursuing any course of study in higher education.



## Shirley Bradway Serafin Scholarship

This scholarship is for residents of northeastern CT with financial need who plan to pursue a degree in nursing or a nursing-related field.



## John T. Savage Memorial Scholarship

Established in memory of John T. Savage, an Eastford dairy farmer, state rep., and former First Selectman, this scholarship is for Eastford students planning to study politics or agriculture.



## Latin Network for the Visual Arts Scholarship

For graduating seniors and college undergraduates who are pursuing studies in the visual arts. Preference may be given to non-traditional students pursuing studies in the visual arts.



## ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Visit "Scholarship Opportunities By Town" on our website and scroll down to "Eastford" to view more opportunities!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 22, 2026 | [cfect.org/scholarships](https://cfect.org/scholarships)

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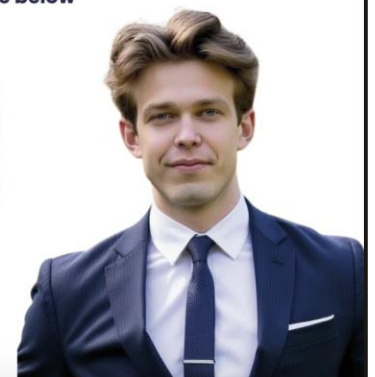
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**DID YOU KNOW?  
 EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Did you know that in 1823, the Phoenix Manufacturing Company operated two mills — the Red Mill and the Stone Mill — in what today is the Phoenixville section of Eastford?

The Stone Mill was the larger of the two mills. It operated on the east bank of the Still River where a dam provided power to the mill. It began as a cotton mill, but in the 1860s under the ownership of Simeon Wheaton, it was adapted for twine production. Boots and shoes were manufactured on the third floor. During World War I the machinery from all three floors was sold and the second floor was used as a dance

hall. The property passed to Wheaton's daughter, Edith Wheaton Smith, and in 1933, her husband, John, built a concrete dam on the site of the old timber dam to provide power to their home.

We are pleased to announce that an amazing reproduction of the Old Stone Mill complete with lights and sound has been commissioned by Tom Latham and will be on display at the Historical Society's Museum at 65 John Perry Rd. The Museum is open the months of May through October on the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

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*Answer key to the March 2026 Word Search*

**EVERYTHING EASTFORD**

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 R N N P B I M U W Y L U N C E P C G D T  
 U E B E P N T L L L L W S T L R J O U A  
 H X E F I U I P S L B L E R Y V L J S I  
 C F P W R B S O A F D M A S U L W A X B  
 L I F K R V R G R B E O T R A P L G O E  
 A Q V A P C F O N C D A G R E W P W E U  
 N E R Y H O G I E I L R G S A N E V L G  
 O Y L A G R C V R P D E O Y T N E T L A  
 I P R B O L O O O E N L S F F U P G I E  
 T D X C M P E N M E A M I I T X M Y V L  
 A H K Z G A D N R M O N E U X S O P X E  
 G H Y U P P R A N O U L D G B X A Q I L  
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 R R N R H H Q E S A P T I K E Y V M E T  
 G I K Z E A S T F U D D G C H S Z O O I  
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 C E F A S W A P E C I F F O T S O P E Y  
 E L O O H C S Y R A T N E M E L E R C S  
 V K P Y V L T B E I F C I N I L C T E V

# EBC Chili Cookoff features spicy spoons full of fellowship and fun

EASTFORD — Eastford Baptist Church hosted its annual Chili Cookoff Sunday, March 1, after the morning's worship service. Eight chili recipes were sampled by three non-partial judges (Kris Kurak, Mike Norman, and Kevin Rumrill) to determine the top three chilis. The winners were, pictured at right — Third Place: Emma & Amelia; Second Place: Kerri Garry; First Place: Steve Rempel. *Adam Minor photos*



# EES celebrates Read Across America Week with memorable moments



EASTFORD — Eastford Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Week in the first week of March. Reading took center stage during the week. Even with a weather delay and early dismissal, the week was packed with fun and memorable reading moments, from Masked Readers to therapy dog visits that delighted students.

The week kicked off with an exciting Character Parade, where students and staff dressed as their favorite book characters. Mrs. Lynch helped start the celebration by reading a story and sharing an inspiring quote, while students from her enrichment group served as poetry readers during the opening ceremony. A big thank you to Sarah Boyd, Trish Moran, and Nate Kneeland for participating in our first Masked Reader event. Students thoroughly enjoyed the stories and were especially excited for the big reveal when the readers were unmasked.



Mrs. Boyd also pulled double duty by serving as a guest reader for story time yoga in classrooms for students in Pre-K to 3. We are also grateful to our guest readers who shared their time with students throughout the week, including Mr. Hutchings, who read with students in grades 5-8, and Trooper White, who visited with students in grades 3-6.

Throughout the week, Principal McCombe's morning trivia questions added an extra layer of excitement, and the winning classes were rewarded with a new book for their classroom library.

Students also enjoyed meeting with their Book Buddies for shared reading and activities. Students in grades 3-6 had the opportunity to visit with therapy dogs, a favorite event that brought plenty of smiles while encouraging a love of reading.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this week such a wonderful celebration of reading at EES!

*Courtesy photos*

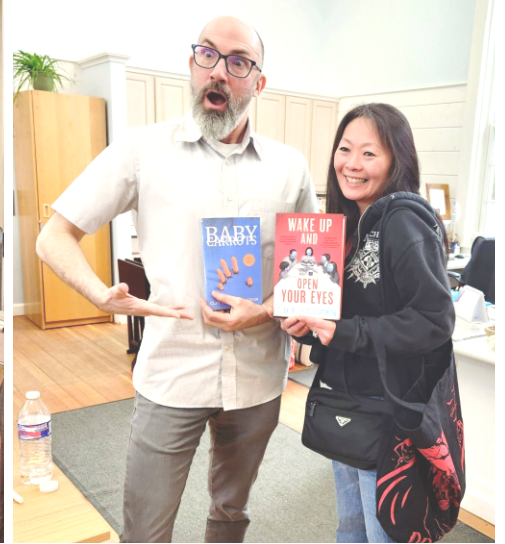


# Library hosts horror author Chapman for energetic book talk, reception

EASTFORD — On Saturday, March 7, the Eastford Public Library hosted horror author Clay McLeod Chapman. It was afternoon of spirited energy from Chapman, who shared his passion for writing, talked about his books, and performed his short story, “Baby Carrots,” live for the audience. A Chesapeake-Bay-themed reception was given, celebrating three of Clay’s books. Patrons and guests enjoyed carrot cake made by Johanna Blanchette (“Baby Carrots”), warm crab dip and smoked oyster spread (“What Kind of Mother”) and an iridescent limeade “Spore” punch (“Shiny Happy People”).

As a surprise, Jody Blanchette contacted Shortwave Publishing to run a limited reprinting of “Baby Carrots” to have available for purchase. Julia from Book Club on the Go had copies of Clay’s books available for purchase; patron Dan Belanger made stickers of Clay’s face, as well as signs and posters to promote this event; and Nancy Amols Gingras was able to share an amazing horseshoe crab for our table decor.

“To say the Eastford Public Library rolled out the red carpet ... is an understatement,” Chapman said on his Facebook page later that day. “This is going to be a tough book talk to top. ... I can’t thank you all enough for a great discussion ... to everyone who came out today, thank you so much. You’re the best.”



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# 'My only goal is to inspire others and to give back'

**MARATHON**  
Continued from pg. 1

Marathon on April 20.

How did Glasser qualify to run in one of the world's top marathons, one that people train a lifetime for? She didn't! Instead, a philanthropist friend of hers donated a significant sum to Boston Marathon sponsor Mass General Hospital. With that donation came a couple of coveted slots in the marathon. Allison was given one of those slots, and will now be running to support the hospital.

Interestingly, before this opportunity, Glasser was not a habitual runner.

"Honestly, I never considered myself a 'runner' or even enjoyed the thought of running long distances," she said. "I've never trained for a marathon or even run a 5K before starting marathon training. I have, however, been a huge activist for exercise and fitness since I got sober in 2013 — not just for the physical benefits, but also for the mental and emotional effects. I am also a firm believer that beauty and growth lie beyond your comfort zone, so when the opportunity arose to do

the Boston Marathon, I couldn't say no."

Glasser is also currently competing in a nationwide fitness competition called Miss Health and Fitness 2026, now in its 16th year. She reported that more than 45,000 women are competing and she is currently in first place in her group of 70 women. The quarterfinals against 11 other contestants is next. If she takes first place in the competition, she plans to donate all of the \$20,000 cash prize to the Mom's In Recovery program at Dartmouth Health's OB Department. This will help pregnant and postpartum women with mental health issues, and also alcohol and substance use disorders. In addition, \$1 for every vote goes to the B+ Foundation to help kids with cancer (<https://www.bepositive.org/>).

"My only goal is to inspire others and to give back," Glasser said.

Though a newcomer to Eastford, she said the town already holds a special place in her heart.

"Over the past year, I have become friends with so many amazing and kind people in this area. Real salt-of-the-earth people who have warmly welcomed my



Allison Glasser has been an Eastford resident for the past six months, and said the town already has a special place in her heart. Courtesy photo

fiancé and me, and helped us in so many ways."

She added that her desire to give back includes the Eastford community as well.

"I would also very much like to give back to Eastford and the surrounding area in some small way," she said. "I hope to do this by possibly initiating a running club, where people of all abilities can come together to socialize, have fun and be more active in our beautiful community and surroundings."

E-mail [allison3akg@gmail.com](mailto:allison3akg@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining. More information about the fitness competition can be found at <https://mshealthandfit.com/2026/allison-glasser> (you can vote online to support her in this competition. Voting ends April 2). Allison's fundraising page for the 130th Boston Marathon on April 20 can be found at

<https://www.givengain.com/project/allison-raising-funds-for-massachusetts-general-hospital-116062>.

## Survey results reveal opinions on several big picture topics

**SURVEY**  
Continued from pg. 1

participation (1,706 as of 2024).

Key questions explored within the survey include residents' overall satisfaction with the town; opinions on which community assets should be preserved; ideas on housing options; land development; zoning; infrastructure; traffic safety; lakes, rivers and watercourses; and much more. Below are just a few of the highlights:

- Question: Please rate your overall satisfaction with the quality of life in Eastford. An overwhelming majority of 91 percent were either "satisfied" (40 percent) or "very satisfied." Some highlighted notes within the survey noted residents' concerns over speeding in town, particularly on Route 244 and Old Colony Road,

as well as Kennerson Reservoir Road. Specific concerns about roads' walkability were also brought up, noting that current conditions are inadequate. Other comments noted concern over housing developments further increasing the financial burden on the community.

- Question: How important is it for Eastford to expand housing option, duplex, multi-family, senior housing, rentals, etc.? Reactions to this question were solidly in the negative, with 81 percent of responders giving a "not important at all (49 percent)" or "not very important (32 percent)" response. According to the survey, there is an "overwhelming 'no' to multi-family units, apartments, condos, and duplexes. Residents argue these are incompatible with the town's infrastructure and agricultural roots." However, it

was noted that there is "moderate support for senior housing and 'starter homes' for young people, provided they are single family dwellings with enough land to keep the town feeling rural." According to the survey, residents fear that increased density will lead to "overrun schools, crowded roads, and a strain on volunteer emergency services. Several commentators noted that Eastford lacks the hospital, grocery stores, and transportation necessary to support a larger, more urbanized population."

The consensus stated that "Eastford should stay 'as rural as possible.' Residents moved [here] for 'peace and quiet' and feel any significant expansion poses a direct 'threat to our resources.'"

- Question: Would you support more pedestrian improvements within the Village Center or other

areas of Eastford? Answers to this question generally were in the positive, with 32 percent answering "probably would," and 27 percent answering "definitely would," with 27 percent neutral. Key survey notes include ideas about traffic calming, adding painted lines to slow traffic, and re-evaluating the "five-point stop," possibly returning to a roundabout. Cyclists requested signs highlighting the Connecticut 3-foot distance law to protect riders on rural roads. Old Colony Road and Westford Road were specifically mentioned as "high risk areas."

These results are just a fraction of the data collected by the survey. To access a copy of the POCD survey results, visit the Planning Commission website at <https://www.eastfordct.gov/planning-commission>.

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