

THE EASTFORD Communicator



NOVEMBER 2026  **EASTFORD.NEWS** "Eastford: One of Connecticut's best small towns." - Carol Davidge VOL. 35, No. 4

FALL IN FULL



EASTFORD — Buell's Orchard's annual Harvest Festival was enjoyed by thousands over the course of Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 10-12, and featured food, face painting, live music, wagon rides, apple and pumpkin picking, and more. Pictured above, Hailey, of Plainfield, and Lilli, of Woodstock, show off their pumpkins. At left, Liam, of Danielson, gets into character as a farmer. For more photos, turn to page 20!
Adam Minor photos



MIDTERM ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

6 A.M. - 8 P.M.

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING (LOWER LEVEL)

Several contested races are on the ballot this year, including Governor, U.S. Congressman, State Senator, State Representative, and more. Let your voice be heard! Get out and vote! For more information on the State Senate (35th District) race between incumbent Jeff Gordon (R) and challenger Ethan Werstler (D), as well as the State Representative (50th District) race between incumbent Pat Boyd (D) and challenger Tony Emilio (R), check out last month's edition at eastford.news for exclusive election profiles. For more information on Election Day, including an Eastford sample ballot, turn to page 7! Additionally, stay tuned for up-to-minute results as they happen on the Eastford Communicator Facebook page on Election Night, and a full report in the December edition of the Communicator!

Kernan retires from Air National Guard after 24 years

'I HOPE I'VE HELPED PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION'

**BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR**

EASTFORD — After 24 years of honorable service in the Rhode Island Air National Guard, Senior Master Sgt. Charles H. Kernan, of Eastford, celebrated his retirement on Saturday, Oct. 3, in a ceremony at the 143rd Airlift Wing, Quonset Air National Guard Base, in Rhode Island. The ceremony took place within the Logistics Readiness Squadron.

According to an official announcement posted by the 143rd Airlift Wing on social media, "Kernan demonstrated outstanding leadership and operational expertise in the Fuels Management Flight [throughout his career], helping keep the wing's C-130 aircraft ready to fly. His dedication extended to supporting state emergency operations and mentoring fellow Airmen as a Unit Career Advisor."

Kernan spent his entire 24-year

Turn to **RETIREMENT**, pg. 23



Senior Master Sgt. Charles H. Kernan, of Eastford, 143rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Rhode Island Air National Guard, retired on Saturday, Oct. 3, after 24 years of honorable military service. Photo courtesy United States Air National Guard Tech Sgt. Kristi Burmeister

**IN
THIS
ISSUE**



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SEASON
UPDATE
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THE
EASTFORD
Communicator
LOCAL NEWS SINCE 1992

VOL. 35, No. 4 | NOVEMBER 2026

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

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.

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. We do not publish Letters to the Editor.

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.

ADVERTISING

E-mail ads.eastfordnews@gmail.com for advertising information and questions, or to be sent a copy of our rate sheet. Payments should be by check only, and should be sent to *The Eastford Communicator*, P.O. Box 253, Eastford, CT 06242, by the 15th of the month preceding the next issue.

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).

DID YOU KNOW? EASTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

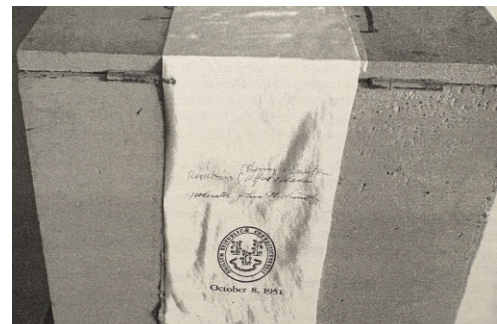
Did you know that in 1951, a runoff election was needed to determine Eastford's third selectman?

In the election held on Oct. 1, 1951, Harold Carpenter (D) and Robert MacFarlane (D) each received 13 votes. The run-off was held on Oct. 8, and Carpenter won by a vote of 110-6.

This election marked the last time the voting box (pictured with this article) was used in Eastford elections. It still contains the paper ballots cast that day and is sealed with a white strip of paper signed by Registrars Henry A. Lawton and Alfred E. Warren, and Moderator John H. Smith. The box was donated to the Historical Society by Kris Karlson. He purchased it at auction when the town moved its office from the Ivy Glenn basement to the then-

new Town Office Building in 1971.

Donations in support of the efforts of the Eastford Historical Society are greatly appreciated. Please send donations to Eastford Historical Society, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242.



SUPPORT THE COMMUNICATOR VIA VENMO!

The *Eastford Communicator* is proud to serve our community by providing local news, event coverage, and stories that matter to Eastford. If you enjoy reading the paper and would like to help support our mission, you can now make a donation quickly and securely through Venmo! Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, or search for us on Venmo (@EastfordCommunicator), to make a contribution of any amount. Every donation helps us continue bringing quality content to our community. Thank you for your generous support!



venmo



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 with the label: "Shout Out." 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 Jack E. Larson Jr. for your generous donation!

DONATIONS MAKE THE COMMUNICATOR POSSIBLE!

Please consider a donation to the Communicator!

Send checks to:

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

Bulldogs boys, girls down to the wire of regular season

BY ADAM MINOR
MANAGING EDITOR

Editor's Note: This edition was sent to press on Monday, Oct. 26, which was before the Eastford Bulldogs' final regular season game against Ashford on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Therefore, we could not include results from that game or any potential playoff reporting. A complete season recap is planned for the December edition of the Communicator.

EASTFORD — For both the boys' and girls' Bulldogs soccer teams, the 2026 season has been a series of ups and downs, with 11 of 12 regular-season games played as of press time Monday, Oct. 26.

The boys' team, led by Head Coach Kullen Pacheco, started out on a high note, starting the season 2-0 with wins over St. James (2-1) on Sept. 15 and Parish Hill (2-0) on Sept. 17. Kameron Pacheco jumped out early as the team's scoring leader, netting three goals in the first two games.

The Bulldogs faltered in the next four games, however, as they lost

at home to Canterbury, 4-1, on Tuesday, Sept. 22, and were then shut out, 8-0, on the road at Thompson on Thursday, Sept. 24. These losses were followed by a loss to Pomfret, 4-2, at home on Sept. 29, and an overtime loss at Ashford, 4-3, on Oct. 1 — leaving the Bulldogs holding on for playoff positioning at 2-4 at the midway point of the season.

After defeating St. James at home, 3-2, on Oct. 8, to move to 3-4, the Bulldogs would go on to lose three straight — a 1-0 loss at Parish Hill on Oct. 13, a 5-2 loss at Canterbury on Oct. 14, and a 7-2 loss against Thompson at home on Oct. 20 — to move to 3-7. On Oct. 21, the Bulldogs traveled to Pomfret, a perennial QVJC power, and shocked the Eagles with a 5-4 come-from-behind win (after being down 4-1 at halftime), moving the Bulldogs to 4-7 (2-3 home, 2-4 away) as of press time. Over the middle and latter portion of the season, Syllas Platt emerged as the team's scoring leader, with 9 goals as of Oct. 26. Besides Platt and Pacheco, Charlie Ellsworth (3), Jack Kernan (2), and Logan

Gillett (2) have also contributed scores to the Bulldogs' team total.

On the girls' side, the Bulldogs, led by Head Coach Jen Barlow, struggled at the start, losing their first five games of the season — a 6-0 home loss to St. James on Sept. 15; a close, 2-1 loss at Parish Hill on Sept. 17; a 9-0 loss at Canterbury on Sept. 22; a 4-1 loss at Pomfret on Sept. 29, and a 5-0 loss at home to Ashford on Oct. 1. However, the girls would finally break through against Thompson on Oct. 7, shutting out the Tigers 3-0 to notch their first win of the season. They would follow up that win with another victory, a 1-0 win at St. James to move to 2-5.

Back-to-back 3-0 losses versus Parish Hill (Oct. 13) and Canterbury (Oct. 14) would drop the Bulldogs to 2-7, but in a rematch with Thompson, the Bulldogs fought to a 2-2 draw, moving their record to 2-7-1. On Oct. 21, the girls dropped their home finale to Pomfret, 6-1.

Hayleigh Wooding has emerged as the team's scoring leader with three goals. Scarlett Haynes also scored two goals, while Olivia

DePercio, Chloe Minor, Aiyana Reed, and Emma-Lynn Salony each scored one.

See below for a complete breakdown of the season's results, remaining schedule, and season scoring leaders. For more detailed game-by-game coverage, including photos, visit the *Eastford Communicator* Facebook page!



RESULTS AND UPCOMING SCHEDULE

(Please note that the schedule and goal totals are accurate as of press time the morning of Monday, Oct. 26)

GIRLS (2-8-1)

- Tuesday, Sept. 15, vs. St. James, L, 0-6
- Thursday, Sept. 17, at Parish Hill, L, 1-2
- Tuesday, Sept. 22, at Canterbury, L, 0-9
- Tuesday, Sept. 29, at Pomfret, L, 1-4
- Thursday, Oct. 1, vs. Ashford, L, 0-5
- Wednesday, Oct. 7, vs. Thompson, W, 3-0
- Thursday, Oct. 8, at St. James, W, 1-0
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, vs. Parish Hill, L, 0-3
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, vs. Canterbury, L, 0-3
- Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Thompson, T, 2-2
- Wednesday, Oct. 21, vs. Pomfret, L, 1-6
- Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Ashford, 3:30 p.m., Ashford Elementary School, 440 Westford Rd., Ashford

SEASON SCORING TOTALS

Hayleigh Wooding: 3
Scarlett Haynes: 2
Olivia DePercio: 1
Chloe Minor: 1
Aiyana Reed: 1
Emma-Lynn Salony: 1

BOYS (4-7)

- Tuesday, Sept. 15, at St. James, W, 2-1
- Thursday, Sept. 17, vs. Parish Hill, W, 2-0
- Tuesday, Sept. 22, vs. Canterbury, L, 1-4
- Thursday, Sept. 24, at Thompson, L, 0-8
- Tuesday, Sept. 29, vs. Pomfret, L, 2-4
- Thursday, Oct. 1, at Ashford, L (OT), 3-4
- Thursday, Oct. 8, vs. St. James, W, 3-2
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Parish Hill, L, 0-1
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Canterbury, L, 2-5
- Tuesday, Oct. 20, vs. Thompson, L, 2-7
- Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Pomfret, W, 5-4
- Tuesday, Oct. 27, vs. Ashford, 3:30 p.m., Eastford Elementary School

SEASON SCORING TOTALS

Syllas Platt: 9
Kameron Pacheco: 5
Jack Kernan: 2
Charlie Ellsworth: 3
Logan Gillett: 2
Xander Sughrue: 1



Library hosts popular horror author for discussion event

EASTFORD — On Saturday, Sept. 19, the Eastford Public Library hosted well-known psychological horror author Paul Tremblay to the library for a discussion. Jody Blanchette interviewed Tremblay, who was a former math teacher before venturing into writing in his late 20s. Tremblay talked about his writing process, the making of one of his books, “Cabin at the End of the World,” into a 2023 M. Night Shyamalan-directed movie called “Knock at the Cabin,” starring Dave Bautista and Jonathan Groff, and how artificial intelligence has negatively impacted his craft. He then answered Jody’s rapid-fire, fun questions to finish off their time together. Attendees enjoyed a “Weekend at Bernie’s”-themed reception, which was loosely based on Paul’s latest novel, “Dead But Dreaming of Electric Sheep,” while Paul graciously signed books and spoke to guests. Julia from Book Club On the Go was the bookseller for the afternoon.

Courtesy photos



Painting class gives community a brush with creativity at EBC

EASTFORD — On Friday, Sept. 25, Eastford Baptist Church hosted a Community Painting Class. More than 25 community members attended the class, led by EBC Pastor Timothy Howard Jr., who has been painting for years. Attendees painted a scenic lake in acrylics using rich blues, purples, and pinks, and also enjoyed refreshments throughout the two-hour class. The church hosts Community Painting Classes regularly, so visit www.eastfordbaptist.com for more information.

Courtesy photos



FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTFORD: EVAN BURGESS

Our experience of time is a funny thing sometimes. For instance, the things in life we want to go fastest are often the times we experience as the slowest. Painful seasons of life, dentist appointments, waiting for things we want to happen (like Christmas for kids), we typically experience as excruciatingly slow. The reverse is also true. The most meaningful and enjoyable moments in life seem to always zip by — vacations, kids growing up, visits with friends and family. It's almost as if the harder we try to slow down the clock, the faster it ticks, and the harder we try to speed it up, the slower its hands move.

As I write this, I'm feeling both sides of this tension. On the one hand, it's peak fall in New England. The colors on the trees are incredible. I want fall to pump the brakes, for the season to linger on before the cold and snow of winter begins. But inevitably, by the time you read this, most of the leaves will have fallen already. At the same time, there's a growing ache and eagerness in our church to move into our new building, for it to be finished, and for the opportunity to share it with our town, friends and family. It is very possible that by the time you read this, we may

still be waiting to move in. Time is a funny thing...

As I've been reflecting on this, I can't help but be reminded of how little control we have in the ticking of time. Just this week, I heard myself telling my 6-year-old first grader these exact words, as he asked me for the seventh time when his Scholastic book order would be delivered. It doesn't take much reflection to see that I am not much better at accepting the passage of time than my son. He and I both know what we want and when we want it. However, if I may, I'd like to take this one level deeper. Once my son gets his book order, and once our church moves into our new building, realistically, how long will it be before we are impatiently waiting for the next thing? I can't help but admit that, at the root of our impatience, we often desire control. And our desire for control often comes from our belief that we know best — that whatever it is we want right now that we don't have will satisfy us. But do we really know what's best?

Take our church for example. We want to move into our new building, and we wanted to move into it yesterday. We have good intentions. We want to bless you all with Christmas time

celebrations, a senior dinner, candlelit carol singing, and ultimately a welcome place to seek after Jesus. At our core, we are a community all about Him.

And yet, when Jesus was born, His parents had no place to stay. There were no rooms in the inns. He was born in a stable in a small town. There was nothing impressive about His birthplace. In fact, it was one of the most impractical and lowly places in which He could have been born.

Did God mistime His birth? Should He have maybe chosen a time when the inns in Bethlehem had some vacancies? I don't think so. I think God knew exactly what He was doing.

And I think He does in our case too. In light of that, it is our task to gratefully and humbly accept where He has us at now, and to do our best to faithfully live out the legacy of Jesus amongst you all either way. As I reflect on the two years I've been pastoring at our church, God has helped us live out His legacy even without a building, in some of the most unideal and humble ways!

Here's the thing — I don't think any of us would've willingly chosen this journey our church has been on. And yet, through these three-plus years of waiting

with no building, we've experienced so many unexpected blessings. First and foremost, we've experienced the love and generosity of so many in our town — from the school staff and town office staff to numerous Eastford citizens like you. New people have found hope in Jesus. New friendships and partnerships have been formed. There is no shortage of stories about the unexpected blessings that came during the waiting. Maybe we don't know what's best after all.

Perhaps you can relate. Perhaps you're in a season of life when you are longing to move faster (or slower), and you're wrestling with accepting the circumstances you find yourself in. If that's you, come join us on a Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the Eastford Elementary School gym. You'll be in good company! We are a people seeking the One who does know best, and a people who are getting pretty good at praying for patience.

And stay tuned. Our new building is almost here, and we're especially excited to share it with you! We'll be sure to get the word out when we're ready to welcome you in. In the meantime, don't be a stranger. We'd love to meet you in the waiting!

IN THE GARDEN: SUSAN BURNS

Those of us who plant spring-flowering bulbs in the fall use tulips and daffodils mostly. In this article, I will give you some other ideas to add to your spring display.

When winter is finally over, and you are longing for a glimpse of color, early spring crocuses are a great choice. If you plant these bulbs this fall, your garden will bring joy as dots of yellow, orange, white, purple, or blue emerge through the winter snow.

You can plant crocuses in your perennial beds, around the base of deciduous trees, in rock gardens, or even scatter them across your lawn and let them naturalize.

As with crocuses, grape hyacinths (Muscari) are stunning in mass plantings. These flowers, with their faint, almost grape-like fragrance, look like grapes when you hold them upside down. These bloom a little later than crocuses. You can also plant

these in containers with pansies for a gorgeous early spring show.

Fritillaria (Checkered Lily) are gorgeous April bloomers. These bulbs are like no others. They have highly patterned, bell-shaped blooms which hang like nodding tulips. These are deer- and squirrel-resistant. They attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Fritillaria are great naturalizers. Planning ahead can make your spring garden sing with color.



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

eastford.news

LEGAL WARNING

November 3, 2026 State Election

The Electors of the Town of Eastford are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling place in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purpose:
To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place on Election Day is as follows: Lower Level of the Eastford Town Office Building, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT 06242
Absentee Ballots are available as provided by law in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).
Early voting will take place from Monday, October 19, 2026, to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day, except that the hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. The early voting location will offer Same-Day Election Registration (SDR).

During the early voting period, the early voting and SDR location is: Lower Level of the Eastford Town Office Building, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT 06242
On Election Day, SDR is available at the following location: Upper Level of the Eastford Town Office Building, Copier Alcove, 16 Westford Road, Eastford, CT 06242, open between the hours of six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

Dated at Eastford, Connecticut, this 2nd day of October, 2026.

Johanna H. Wolfe

Town Clerk, Town of Eastford

**State of Connecticut
Official Ballot**

Eastford, Connecticut	State Election	November 3, 2026
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Congressional District :
Senatorial District 35
Assembly District 50

SAMPLE BALLOT

Office → Party ↓	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote For One	2 Representative in Congress Vote For One	3 State Senator Vote For One	4 State Representative Vote For One	5 Secretary of the State Vote For One	6 Treasurer Vote For One	7 Comptroller Vote For One	8 Attorney General Vote For One	9 Judge of Probate Vote For One	10 Registrar of Voters Vote For One
Democratic Party	☐ 1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	☐ 2A Joe Courtney	☐ 3A Ethan Werstler	☐ 4A Pat Boyd	☐ 5A Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6A Erick Russell	☐ 7A Sean Scanlon	☐ 8A William Tong	☐ 9A Kate Cerrone	☐ 10A Kathleen Healey
Republican Party	☐ 1B Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	☐ 2B George Patrick Austin	☐ 3B Jeffrey Gordon	☐ 4B Anthony J. Emilio	☐ 5B Peter Lumaj	☐ 6B Fred Wilms	☐ 7B Jennifer S. Tooker	☐ 8B John Bolton	☐ 9B Gabrielle Labonte	☐ 10B Toni Doubleday
Working Families Party	☐ 1C Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz		☐ 3C Ethan Werstler		☐ 5C Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6C Erick Russell	☐ 7C Sean Scanlon	☐ 8C William Tong		
Independent Party	☐ 1D Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	☐ 2D George Patrick Austin	☐ 3D Jeffrey Gordon		☐ 5D Stephanie Thomas	☐ 6D Fred Wilms	☐ 7D Sean Scanlon			
Write-in Votes	☐ 1E	☐ 2E	☐ 3E	☐ 4E	☐ 5E	☐ 6E	☐ 7E	☐ 8E	☐ 9E	☐ 10E



DID YOU KNOW?

A dog's nose stays wet because it secretes a special mucus that traps scent chemicals. They then lick their nose to sample the scent and figure out what it is.



DOG OF THE MONTH

Hey, I'm CT Basil — a 10-month-old blue heeler mix with stunning blue eyes who's ready to bring adventure and joy to your home! I'm energetic, playful, and smart, with a mischievous streak that keeps life interesting. I get along great with other dogs, cats, and kids, so I'm perfect for an active family looking for a spirited companion. I am spayed and about 31 pounds, making me the ideal size for all your adventures. PawSafe is located at 348 Old Colony Rd., Eastford. Learn more at www.pawsafe.org.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: AUDREY CARABEAU

The Eastford Food Pantry is located at the Eastford Baptist Church, 133 Union Rd. Please see our hours of operation below. If you reside in Eastford and are in need of food assistance, call Audrey Carabeau at (860) 933-7685 to sign up. We have the resources to help you! All referrals are kept confidential. Delivery is available to those who are homebound.

Thank you to everyone who donated food, home goods, and money in October. Your donations are greatly appreciated by our pantry families. The Eastford Food Pantry relies on community

donations. All donations to the pantry can be dropped off at Bowen's 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 hearty soups, rice mixes, healthy snacks, deodorant, and laundry detergent. Thank you for your support!

Eastford Food Pantry hours for November are Monday, Nov. 2, 8-10:30 a.m., and Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2-4 p.m. Thanksgiving turkey distribution date to be announced.

FROM THE GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the Board of Trustees:

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

- **Trustees' Meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 17, 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 (i.e., wreaths, logs, or baskets) on your plot, please wait until Thanksgiving, Nov. 26. After March 15, 2027, 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" of the base. If 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.

Board of Trustees: Alex Kowalchuk, Carolyn Hazard, David Barlow, Holly Singleton, Ken Grube, Lauren Anderson, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift in memory of _____

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



Our next issue will be published on:

Dec. 1

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

Nov. 15

CALENDAR

Calendar entries must be sent to the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please send all calendar content to eastfordnews@gmail.com. Please try to limit calendar submissions to 100 words or fewer.

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 3

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

The Midterm Election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the lower level of the Town Office Building.

Thursday, Nov. 5

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

Please join us for a free presentation — "Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner!" Learn how to identify your personal risk factors for a fall. Learn self-help strategies to reduce your risk of falling. Learn how to get the help you need to stay Independent! Thursday, Nov. 5, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Eastford Town Office Building (Lower Level). Please sign up soon, as space is limited! E-mail or call to register at emily.john@eastfordct.gov or (860) 974-0133, ext. 3. This informative program will help you stay safe and independent! Support provided by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act.

Saturday, Nov. 7

Eastford Public Library hosts "The Page Turners" at 1 p.m. This book club will be inviting local author Sharon Healy-Yang to discuss her mystery novel, "Surprise!"

Tuesday, Nov. 10

Eastford Public Library hosts a special "Grim Readers Book Club" at 6 p.m. Guest horror author Andrew Clark will be joining the group to discuss his novels, "Where Dark Things Grow," "Where Dark Things Rise," and "Hollow Folk." Please join us!

Wednesday, Nov. 11

Eastford Public Library will be closed for Veterans Day. Thank you for your service.

Thursday, Nov. 12

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

Saturday, Nov. 14

Eastford Public Library hosts an "Author Talk" at 1 p.m. with Bram Stoker and British Fantasy Award-nominated author Philip Fracassi. Most known for his horror novels, "Boys in the Valley," "A Child Alone with Strangers," and "Gothic." Please register!

The 19th Annual Goods & Services Auction will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, at Eastford Elementary School. Doors open at 5 p.m. All proceeds support the middle school trip to Washington, D.C. Live and silent auctions, bake sale, food by Pizza 101, raffles, and more! For donations or questions, e-mail auction@eastfordct.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Eastford Public Library hosts "Maker's Night" from 6-7:30 p.m. Please register.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Eastford Public Library hosts "Storytime" at 11 a.m. Join us for a story, craft, snack, and time of free play. In the evening, the Friends of the Eastford Public Library will meet at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Congregational Church of Eastford presents GriefShare — Find comfort, strength, and hope at Surviving the Holidays Seminar, Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visit www.cceastford.org/griefshare/ for more information. Congregational Church of Eastford, 54 John Perry Rd., Eastford.

Saturday, Nov. 21

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

Sunday, Nov. 22

You are invited to Eastford Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 22, 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!

Congregational Church of Eastford — DivorceCare presents "Surviving the Holidays," Sunday, Nov. 22, from 4-6 p.m. Divorced? Separated? Know someone who is? When a marriage ends, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants face challenges and discover how to deal with emotions; helpful tips to surviving social events; ways to help children through the holidays; and hope for the future. Visit cceastford.org/divorcecare/ to sign up!

Thursday, Nov. 26

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

WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP NEWS

Our Ragged Hill Woods environmental science winter program schedule is off and running. We offer homeschool programs on Mondays for children in grades 6 to 8 from 8 to 11 a.m., and for grades 2 to 5 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., as follows:

Nov. 2 — Spooky Forest Survival; Nov. 9 — Mystery Animal Cases; Nov. 16 — Hidden Homes and Secret Spaces; Nov. 23 — Shelter Builder Challenge; Nov. 30 — Cold Weather Survival Lab; Dec. 7 — First Signs of Winter. Cost is \$45 per child per class or \$250 for all six classes.

On Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for Pre-K to grade 8 students, we have the following programs scheduled:

Oct. 28 — Predator vs. Prey; Nov. 4 — Density; Nov. 11 — Animal Eyes; Nov. 18 — Peppermint Beetles; Dec. 2 — Winter Ponds; Dec. 9 — Create your own cookies. Cost is \$20 per child per class or \$110 for all six weeks. All programs are held rain or shine. You can e-mail raggedhillwoods@gmail.com or call (860) 974-1122 to register for any of these programs.

Join us for our traditional Lunch

with Santa fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to start your holiday season early. Enjoy lunch upstairs in the lodge, or come for a photo with Santa and skip the lines at the mall. Enjoy our 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 are available ahead of time by calling (860) 974-3379, e-mail registrar@4hcampct.org, or at the door. No reservations necessary.

Lunch tickets are \$15 for those 10 and older, \$10 for children age 9 and under. A 5x7 photo with Santa is \$8. Funds raised support the Jim Logee Campership Fund.

It's never too early to think about booking a great summer camp experience for your kids. Registration opens Jan. 1, 2027, on our website, www.4hcampct.org. Gift certificates for any amount can be applied to camp registration fees and make great gifts for family and friends. These can be purchased by calling our registrar at (860) 974-3379 any time of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

September: 1

MARRIAGES

September: 1

DEATHS

September: 0

PUBLIC MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Conservation and Historic Preservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Monday, Nov. 9: Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Tuesday, Nov. 10: Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Crystal Pond Park Commission, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, Nov. 12: Board of Education, 6 p.m., Eastford Elementary School Library

Wednesday, Nov. 18: Recreation Commission Special Meeting, 6 p.m., Town Office Building

Thursday, Nov. 19: Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE EASTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY?

KATIE BALL

Our Annual November Food Drive to support the important work of the Eastford Food Pantry is underway. Here's a reminder of the kinds of items that would be helpful:

- Protein-rich foods, such as canned tuna, canned salmon, canned chicken, peanut butter, sun butter, canned or dried beans;
- Grains, such as rice, pasta, oats, cereals, and crackers;
- Canned goods, such as fruit in water or juice, vegetables, soups, and stews;
- Basics, such as oils, spices, low-sodium broths, flour, and sugar;
- Pasta sauce, shelf-stable milk, kid-friendly snacks like granola bars;
- Personal care items, such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and feminine hygiene products;
- Baby supplies such as baby formula and baby food...
- Household supplies, such as cleaning supplies and paper products.

We appreciate your help supporting our neighbors in need. Every donation makes a difference.

Reminder! The Friends of the Eastford Public Library will hold their annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds support the library!

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. Stop in — we'd love to see you!

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 or on social media. If you haven't yet, please follow Eastford Public Library on Facebook and/or Instagram @eastfordpubliclibrary.

WHERE IS IT?



Where in Eastford was this photo taken? See the answer on page 17!

Saturday, November 14, 2026

DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM

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EASTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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AUCTION

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"In all things give thanks" - 1 Thess. 5:18

Sunday, Nov. 22
After the Worship Service

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Dr. Bob Madenjian; Dr. Dawn-Tauro Miller;
Dr. Maura Drake and Dr. Brittany Banning

COMING SOON!

Emma's NOOK

Opening soon in the center of Eastford,
with a variety of quality baked goods like
croissants, cookies, cupcakes, and muffins.
Also serving coffee and tea!

Keep an eye out for more information
as we prepare to open!

TIPS FOR TODAY: LIZ ELLSWORTH

Happy autumn! There are a lot of mushrooms in the woods right now, with all kinds of striking colors (purple, orange, red, gold) and artistic shapes (ones that look like coral reefs or a fan). They have creative names like Chicken-of-the-Woods and Beefsteak. You'll see them on the ground, on a fallen, decomposing log, and in a tree's upper branches, especially after a good amount of rain.

There are some easy-to-use guides that fit in your pocket and have excellent illustrations. These guides are especially helpful if you're

opting out of using devices or, if we're being real, there is no cell service out on the trails. There is a colorful, waterproof fold-out from earthskywater.net called "Common Mushrooms of the Northeast," or, "The Mushroom Finder," by Jacob Kalichman and illustrated by Roo Vandegrift. There are likely some groups of mycologists in your community. Always consult an expert if you are planning to forage. As autumn progresses, mushroom variety and abundance begin to dwindle due to temperature changes and early-season snow cover. Happy exploring!

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN DEB RICHARDS

Help shape the future of Eastford! Eastford is fortunate to have dedicated, knowledgeable residents who volunteer their time to serve on our commissions and committees. These volunteers play an important role in helping our town thrive. Over the past 10 years, fewer residents have been willing to serve, as longtime volunteers have retired or moved away. We need new volunteers, fresh ideas, and new perspectives to keep Eastford moving forward. There are many ways you can get involved and make a difference:

- **Planning Commission:** Help guide Eastford's long-term growth, land use, and development.

- **Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission:** This non-regulatory town board works to protect Eastford's natural, agricultural, historic, and archaeological resources through education, information, and conservation projects.

- **Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission:** Helps review and regulate activities in or near wetlands and watercourses, address land-use matters as required by Connecticut General Statutes §22a-45, and protect these important natural resources.

- **Recreation Commission:** Do you enjoy the wonderful programs and activities offered by the Recreation Commission? Consider joining the commission or volunteering to help with recreation events and programs.

Other opportunities to serve include:

- **Municipal Agent for the Elderly:** Every town and city in Connecticut is required to have a Municipal Agent for Aging. This person helps residents age 60 and older by providing information about local services, programs, and benefits.

- **Emergency Management Director:** The Emergency Management Director plays a vital role in preparing Eastford for emergencies and disasters. Responsibilities include planning for emergencies, coordinating response and recovery efforts, working with other agencies, supporting Emergency Operations Center activities, and ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements. If you are interested in learning more about this important opportunity, please contact the Selectmen's Office.

If you are interested in helping in any of these roles, contact the Selectmen's Office at emily.john@eastfordct.gov.

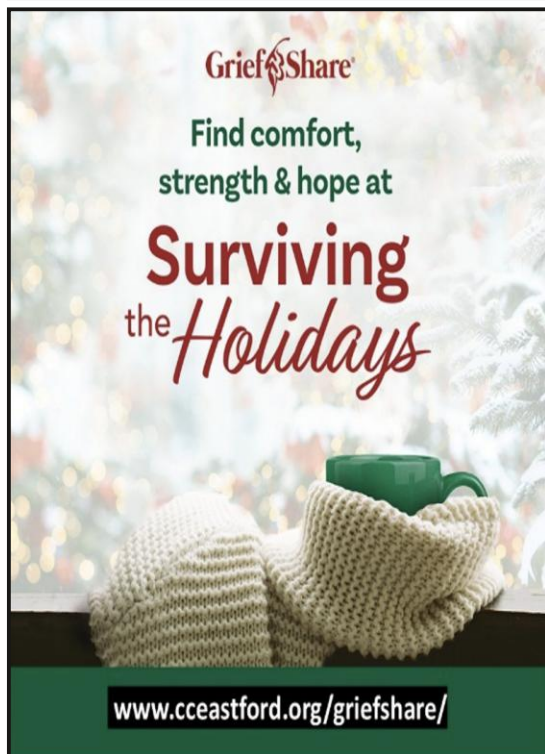
Your voice matters! Eastford needs new ideas and perspectives — including those of our younger residents and families. Whether you have lived here for generations or are newer to town, your experience, ideas, and energy can help shape the community where you live, work, and raise your family. You can make a difference in Eastford.

Help shape the future of your community. Volunteer. Join a committee. Get involved.



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Thursday
November 19, 2026
5:30 – 7:30 pm

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Congregational Church of Eastford
54 John Perry Rd, Eastford

www.cceastford.org/griefshare/

A SOLID SALUTE



EASTFORD — Special thanks to Eastford resident William Rogerson for sending us this photo of an American flag he created out of bricks. He commented: "I thought it would work well in the November issue to honor Veterans Day." Thanks, William!

Courtesy photo

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PUMPKIN PICASSO



EASTFORD — The Congregational Church of Eastford hosted a free pumpkin carving event on Sunday, Oct. 18, at Eastford Elementary School. Stations were set up for people of all ages to carve and decorate pumpkins for Halloween, along with free refreshments. Pictured, Emerson Labonte focuses hard on his pumpkin piece of art.

Courtesy photo

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: DONNA LEAKE

November is a time to celebrate accomplishments, give thanks, and reflect on the work still ahead. It is a chance to recognize what is going well, consider the challenges we have encountered, and adjust our plans as needed.

• Eastford Elementary Highlights: At Eastford Elementary School, our continued focus is on providing every student with educational opportunities that recognize their individual strengths, learning styles, and needs. Recognizing and celebrating the many talents of our students is an important priority at Eastford Elementary School. We are proud to share that six of our students have been selected to participate in the Quinebaug Valley Music Festival, held at Plainfield High School on Nov. 2 and 4. The festival brings together outstanding middle school musicians from northeastern Connecticut. Music Director Kelley Farrell-Denke selected these students for their musical skills, positive attitudes, and dedication to our school music program. Congratulations to seventh grader Owen Barlow and eighth graders Georgia Barlow, Myckenzie Coldwell, Olivia DePercio, Chloe Minor, and Grace Witter! We are proud of their accomplishments and grateful to Ms. Farrell-Denke for supporting and encouraging our students' musical growth.

As we enter this season of thanks, I would be remiss not to recognize the ongoing support of our families and our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). One way the PTO supports our school is through its annual sign contest, which gives students the chance to create the winning design for the insert on our school sign near Westford Road. This year's theme is "Kindness in Action." Students were invited to illustrate what kindness looks like at Eastford Elementary School. The theme reflects a belief that is central to our school community — everyone deserves to be treated with respect and kindness. These values are woven into our curriculum and daily interactions. We also teach them explicitly as we help students navigate

disagreements, resolve conflicts, and learn to understand one another. By reinforcing these values each day, we continue to build the positive school culture and climate that make Eastford Elementary School such a special place to learn and grow. As the quote often attributed to Aristotle reminds us, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." We look forward to unveiling the new school sign and announcing the winning artist once the new sign insert returns from the printer.

Each year, the Eastford Elementary Auction Committee generously gives its time and energy to organize and coordinate the annual Eastford Auction. The committee's dedication and the enthusiastic support of our staff, families, and community members make this event possible. The proceeds provide substantial support for our upper-level students' trip to Washington, D.C., helping make this valuable educational experience possible. This year's auction will take place on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 14. We are grateful to everyone who contributes their time, resources, and generosity to make this event a success.

• Board of Education Update: Our Board of Education continues its important work on behalf of our students, staff, and community. Although much of this work happens behind the scenes, the board's decisions play an essential role in supporting our schools, guiding district priorities, and ensuring that we have the resources and plans in place to serve our students well.

At its Oct. 8 meeting, the board approved the following:

- The 2027 Board of Education meeting dates;
- Submission of the School Safety and Security Plan;
- Ratification of the 2027–2030 ETA contract;
- Purchase of supplemental reading materials for Grade 4;
- Proposed transfers in the FY2027 budget.

The board also received updates and presentations on several important topics:

- Regional Collaboration and

Advocacy: Board member Michael Bilica shared a report from the Area Board Chair meetings held in Putnam. This regional group brings together Board of Education members from towns throughout northeastern Connecticut to advocate for greater equity in state funding for rural schools, including the calculation of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds. The group also explores opportunities for neighboring communities to collaborate and share services and programs. These conversations matter as districts work together to meet students' and communities' needs.

- Designated High School Discussion: The board received a comprehensive presentation from members of Woodstock Academy's leadership team regarding the programs and opportunities available to students. During the public comment portion of the meeting, the board also heard community members' perspectives on designating a high school for Eastford students. The leadership team from E.O. Smith High School will provide a similar presentation at the Nov. 12 Board of Education meeting.

The board also heard an overview from Terry Cote, a member of the board's Ad Hoc Committee, regarding the Community Conversation held on Sept. 24. More than 100 people attended this event, demonstrating the community's interest in this important discussion. Special thanks to Nick Caruso from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) for facilitating the conversation.

The board continues its research and discussion as it considers the designated high school for Eastford students. A designated high school is the school for which the board provides tuition and transportation costs. Woodstock Academy is Eastford's current designated high school.

We recognize the importance of this decision and the value of continued community input as the board considers the opportunities available to our students.

• Board Committee Updates: In addition to its full board meeting, two board subcommittees met

during October:

- Curriculum Committee: On Oct. 8, the committee reviewed new book selections recommended by the principal and the Grade 4 teacher. The committee brought the recommendation to the full board for further consideration on Oct. 8, and it was approved unanimously.

- Policy Committee: On Oct. 13, the committee reviewed several proposed policies that will be brought forward to the board for further discussion and action.

• Looking Ahead: The 2027–2028 Budget — The board is also beginning to look ahead to the budget planning process for the 2027–2028 school year. These conversations are important because the decisions we make today help shape the opportunities and experiences available to our students in the years ahead.

Community input is an important part of this process. The Dec. 10 Board of Education meeting will include a special public comment opportunity for community members to share their thoughts and priorities regarding the upcoming budget. I encourage you to attend and participate. Your perspectives matter, and we value the opportunity to hear from the people we serve.

• In Gratitude: As Coretta Scott King reminded us, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I sincerely thank our students, staff, families, and community members for all you do to help our students learn, grow, and thrive. Eastford is fortunate to be part of such a caring and giving community. We are also grateful for our town leadership's continued support and the strong partnerships that help sustain our schools. Thank you for being an important part of the Eastford Elementary School community. I wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and peaceful Thanksgiving.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at dleake@eastfordct.org. I welcome your questions, thoughts, and feedback.

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 November 15.



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Know someone who is?

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FROM THE EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1 INC.



The EIFC responded to 32 "911" emergencies in September.

In addition to the monthly business meeting, truck check, and Line Officers meeting, drills included EpiPen administration, hose and ladder advancement, and extrication at Benway's Auto in Pomfret.

An EpiPen delivers a fast intramuscular injection of epinephrine to open airways, raises blood pressure, and reduces swelling. Anaphylaxis can be caused by foods,

medications, and insect stings. Administration of the EpiPen is essential at the first signs of difficulty breathing, swelling of the face/lips, rash, hives, throat tightness, and is the primary life-saving treatment. Call 911.

Hose/Ladder Advancement is a firefighting skill where firefighters stretch and move a hose line to a fire area. Ladders are often used to assist in delivering water for attack, overhaul or ventilation.

Extrication drills are structured training exercises that practice the skills, procedures, and teamwork needed to safely remove a trapped person from a dangerous situation, most often caused by a crashed vehicle. The goal of extrication drilling is to build proficiency, coordination, and safety for the victim and responders.

The next holiday we observe is Veterans Day. Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on Nov. 11 to honor U.S. military veterans. In 1954,

Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day. A growing number of U.S. states recognize Women Veterans Recognition Day (observed on June 12) to honor women who have served in the U.S. military. Veterans Day differs from Memorial Day in May in that it celebrates the service of all U.S. veterans, while Memorial Day honors and mourns U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Cemeteries around the country display the U.S. flag and service markers as a symbol of this recognition. Grove Cemetery proudly honors these heroes. When you pass the cemetery, take a moment to reflect on what Veterans Day means for securing our freedom. The red flags honor deceased fire department members. All flags will be removed from the cemetery on Nov. 12.

The holidays and cooking are right around the corner. Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant. As you plan your Thanksgiving

menu, don't forget fire safety. Thanksgiving is a peak day for home-cooking fires. By following safety rules, you will have a delicious and fire-safe holiday.

The EIFC has four requests:

1) Mark your house number by displaying the free, green sign with the white reflective number, especially important for houses with multi-use driveways.

2) Keep the area of the entrance and signs free of debris and snow drifts.

3) When the time changes, replace all batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

4) To ensure prompt and efficient medical service and transfer, it is essential to have a document available listing health issues, medications that are taken, and for what purpose. This information will be passed on to the ambulance crew and to the receiving hospital emergency room. This simple document will assure our quick and efficient response to your needs. Ready today — preparing for tomorrow!

-Submitted by Jeannine Spink

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

November is all about gratitude. As Thanksgiving approaches, many of us look forward to sharing a meal, catching up with family and friends, and enjoying familiar traditions. It is also a good time to pause and consider the people and blessings we might otherwise take for granted.

Thankfulness does not mean that life is always easy. Every family and community faces its share of burdens. But even in difficult seasons, we have reasons to give thanks — neighbors who care,

friends who listen, and the kindness people show one another. As Christians, we are especially thankful for God's grace and for the hope we have through Jesus Christ.

We would also be very thankful to share a meal with you this month. Eastford Baptist Church will hold a Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 22, after the worship service. Everyone is welcome — whether you attend our church, live nearby, or would simply enjoy sharing a meal and

meeting others in the community. We hope you will join us.

Thanksgiving reminds us that gratitude grows when it is shared. A conversation around the table, an invitation to someone who might otherwise be alone, or a simple expression of appreciation can mean a great deal. We hope our dinner will be a warm opportunity to enjoy one another's company and give thanks together.

Our regular Sunday schedule continues throughout November. Bible studies for all ages begin at

9:15 a.m., followed by worship at 10:30 a.m., with prayer, singing, and verse-by-verse preaching from the Bible. On Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., our midweek ministries include Bible study for adults, Olympians for children in grades 1-6, and Teen Club for teens in grades 7-12.

Whether you are looking for a church home, have questions about Christianity, or simply want to meet your neighbors, you are welcome at Eastford Baptist Church.

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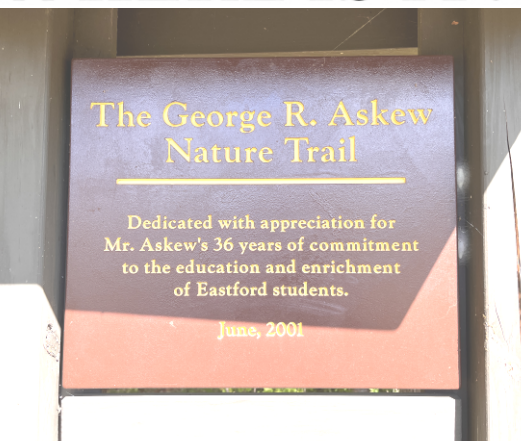


Holiday Fair

The Friends of the Eastford Public Library invite you to embrace the season's spirit and discover a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts, a silent auction, delightful treats, and festive joy while supporting our beloved library.

Saturday, December 5th
9:00 AM-1:00 PM
 Eastford Public Library
 179 Eastford Rd
 Eastford, CT
free entry

WHERE IS IT?



The George R. Askew Nature Trail

Dedicated with appreciation for Mr. Askew's 36 years of commitment to the education and enrichment of Eastford students.

June, 2001

ANSWER: The sign at the entrance to the George R. Askew Nature Trail at Eastford Elementary School.



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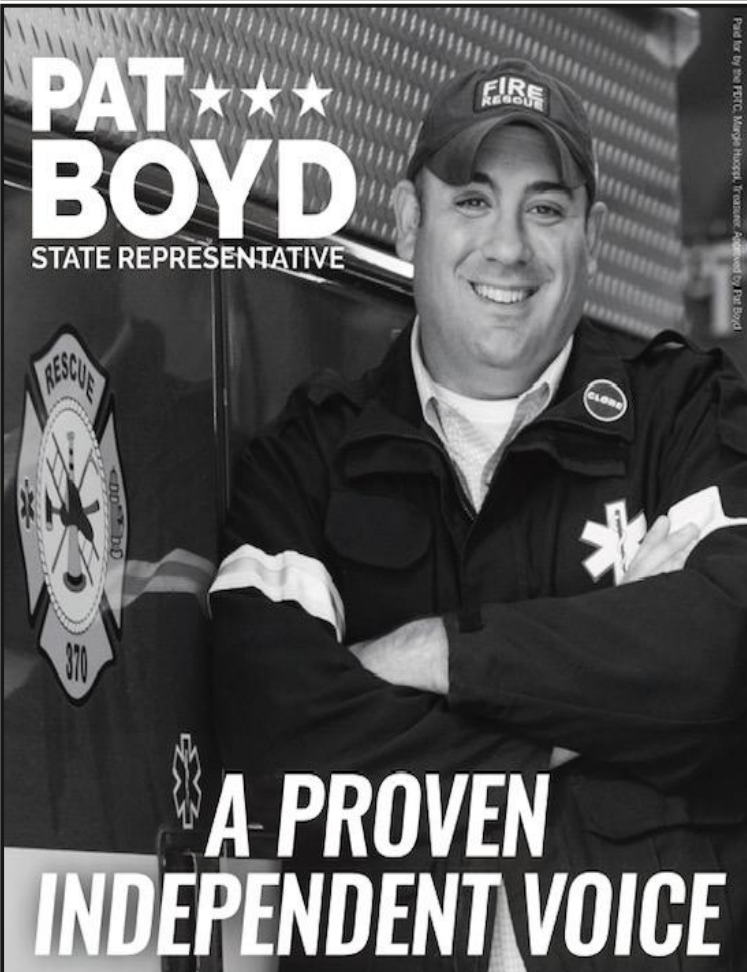


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Buell's Orchard celebrates autumn with annual Harvest Festival

EASTFORD — Buell's Orchard enjoyed picturesque, sunny weather over Columbus Day weekend, perfect for their annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10, and Monday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The multi-day event, which draws thousands of people from across New England, featured a chicken barbecue, face painting, live music by Nick Anderson and Shady Creek, wagon rides, apple and pumpkin picking, and ice cream from "Buck's on the Run." On Sunday, Oct. 11, the orchard was open from 1-5 p.m., with a food truck by Poultry in Motion.

Adam Minor photos



Pumpkins were available for purchase from the pumpkin patch, which was accessible via wagon ride.



Amelia, of Woodstock, paused for a quick photo in the pumpkin patch.



Nick Anderson and Shady Creek entertained throughout the day.



The Barlow family — John and Annie, with their children, Peter, Sadie, and Levi — enjoy a stroll through the pumpkin patch.



Mackenzie, of Vernon, is excited to get started on her ice cream from Buck's on the Run.



Lydia is happy with her completed unicorn face paint project.



The smell of chicken roasting wafted throughout the orchard on Saturday, Oct. 10.

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*Change is
a vote away...*

'Success is rarely about the individual - it's about the people around you'

RETIREMENT
Continued from pg. 1

military career with the Fuels Management Flight in the Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"While I held additional roles and responsibilities within both the squadron and the Wing throughout my career, my primary assignment and focus remained with the Fuels Flight," Kernan told the Communicator. "After 24 years of service, I felt the time was right to retire."

After nearly a quarter century in one role, Kernan said his favorite part of serving with the Air National Guard was the experiences he shared with his colleagues, memories that will last.

"It's the stories we've collected along the way," he said. "Whether during a drill weekend or somewhere else entirely, it's the experiences I shared with people at different points in my career that stay with me. And years later, when I get together with them, those are the stories we find

ourselves telling over and over again."

With Veterans Day right around the corner, our nation's veterans should see a renewed spotlight shined on their service by a grateful nation — but while serving in the military has been a rewarding experience for Kernan, he said service in the military remains a "deeply personal" decision that should not be taken lightly by anyone thinking about making that commitment.

"Over the years, I've had people ask me whether I think they should join the military, and my answer has always been the same — I don't know," Kernan said. "I say that because joining the military is a deeply personal decision. It begins with a commitment to serving your country, to being part of something bigger than yourself. And those are important ideals. They're the foundation of military service. But what I've learned over the past 24 years is that those ideals alone aren't what sustain a career or an organization. Somewhere along the way, you

realize that success is rarely about the individual. It's about the people around you."

This notion of teamwork, preparation, and intentional leadership is highlighted by mentorship, a role Kernan said cannot be overstated.

"Not everyone who joins the military is fortunate enough to have great mentors. I was," he said. "I had people who saw potential in me, who challenged me, who invested their time in my development, and who helped shape me into the leader and person I am today. I believe that's one of the real secrets to the military's enduring success. It's not simply the equipment, the technology, or even the missions we accomplish. It's the commitment, generation after generation, to preparing those who will come after us. I was fortunate to have people invest in me as my career progressed. I came to understand that I had a responsibility to do the same for others. I hope I've lived up to that responsibility. I hope I've helped

prepare the next generation of Airmen who will lead the flight, the squadron, and the Wing now that I'm gone. At the end of the day, the measure of our success isn't just what we accomplished while we were here. It's what we leave behind, and whether we've prepared the next generation to accomplish even more."

As Oct. 3 officially marked the end of Kernan's military service, he said he was looking forward to spending more time at home.

"I'm incredibly grateful for my military career," he said. "But I also wanted to achieve a better work-life balance and dedicate more time to my family and other priorities."

The 143rd Airlift Wing concluded their message to Kernan on Oct. 3 with the following note of congratulations.

"Thank you for 24 years of dedicated service and for the lasting impact you've made on your fellow Airmen," the message read. "Congratulations on your retirement, and best wishes as you begin your next chapter."

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