

PRESERVING EASTFORD'S 'OLD CEMETERY'

by the Eastford Cemetery Committee



The historic cemeteries of Eastford are vital elements of our town's cultural heritage. Eastford's 'Old Cemetery' located near the intersection of Westford and Church Roads was established as a town owned "burying place" in 1720. This cemetery contains the oldest surviving remnants from the early years of our community. Its grave markers are important social, historic, architectural and archeological artifacts. This cemetery is an important public space that provides us a vital link to the past. Its varied markers tell a story of evolving burial and mourning practices.

While little else remains intact from the beginnings of our town this early burial ground with its stone walls and mature trees evokes the early history of our community. Visitors are provided a place for solitude, contemplation and reflection. Functioning as an outdoor museum, this site presents an enduring collection of rare three dimensional artifacts, some of which have remained in place for nearly 300 years.

These historic artifacts are a finite and deteriorating resource that need preservation and protection from damage by weathering, vegetation and vandalism, as well as deferred and inappropriate maintenance practices. The Board of Selectmen recently established a Cemetery Committee to advise and assist them in the preservation of this cemetery and other smaller neglected cemeteries they are allowed by law to maintain. With enough financial and volunteer support these valuable cultural and historical resources can be preserved for future generations. Success will be achieved when all of their grave markers, trees, and landscape features are in good condition and well maintained.

Eastford's 'Old Cemetery' was chosen as the early focus of the Cemetery Committee. Documentation is the first phase of cemetery preservation. For that the Town is relying on the Eastford Historical Society whose members have devoted many hours developing an online database for this cemetery. You can view this work in progress on the Town of Eastford website under the Cemeteries tab. It includes grave marker

inscriptions, marker photos, and an aerial image numbered with the location of each marker.

Cemetery Committee members and volunteers are actively engaged in clearing unwanted overgrowth in this cemetery. We have located a number of buried markers in the process. Public Works does a good job of maintaining the lawn. An arborist has identified some trees around the perimeter for removal and Rob Davis has volunteered a full day of his services to handle that work.

Many of the grave markers are unstable, fallen, broken, and/or leaning dangerously. We are hoping to have many of them conserved over the next few years by MCC, a nationally recognized firm in this field. The first phase of their work is scheduled for 2020 and will address those markers most at risk of falling.

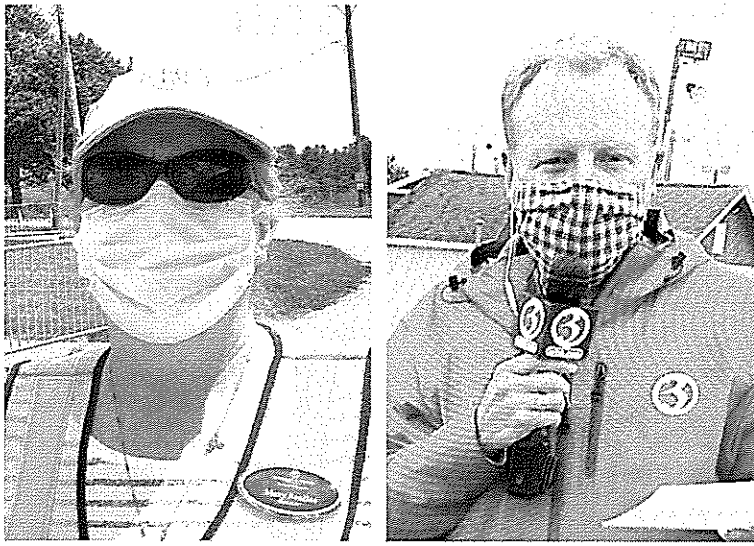
Tom Latham has expressed great interest in the preservation of this our oldest cemetery. He values the window it provides us into the history of our town from the time it was settled through the early twentieth century. He treasures the folk art stone carvings of the colonial era craftsmen on display here. Tom has generously donated \$10,000 which will fully fund the conservation work planned for this year.

To complete this conservation work the Town seeks to raise another \$30,000 over the next few years through a combination of grants and donations. Tom Latham has pledged to match all grants secured and donations received between now and the end of this year up to a total of \$10,000.

Should you desire to contribute to this important project please make your check payable to the Town of Eastford, note 'Old Cemetery' on the memo line, and mail it to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford, CT 06242. The Town is a qualified organization for purposes of tax deductible charitable contributions.

If you have an interest in volunteering on this or future cemetery projects please contact the Eastford Cemetery Committee at 860-974-1610 (Tom Latham).

GREAT NEIGHBORS! Eastford's Mary Scalise joined WFSB TV3's Scot Haney and others, while wearing their own masks & maintaining social distancing, to hand out masks at Woodstock Fairgrounds. (*Great News? eastford.communicator@gmail.com*)



DID YOU KNOW? by Eastford Historical Society

Did you know that Andrew Judson, the first pastor of the Congregational Church, is buried in Eastford's 'Old Cemetery'? Pastor Judson's table tomb can be seen to the left side of the photo on the cover of this month's Eastford Communicator and is scheduled for conservation later this year.

The town of Ashford was settled in 1710. In 1777 society privileges were granted to the eastern part of town establishing the Eastford Society. As a society it was responsible for collecting its own taxes to provide for services such as roads and education. On September 23, 1778, Andrew Judson and five other men entered into a church covenant dedicating themselves to the formation of Ashford's second Congregational Church to be located in the Eastford Society. At the time (until 1818) a requirement for becoming a town in Connecticut was the establishment of a Congregational Church, which also served as the town government. The graves of covenant members Benjamin Sumner and Jonathan Chapman are also in 'Old Cemetery'.

Thank you to all who offered answers to last month's Do You Know?

Here is what Charlie Buell told us. "Your picture is a mold-board for a sickle bar mower. It pushes the cut grass away from the end of the bar to leave a clean strip for the drive end of the bar to run in on the next pass. What you call a handle is an extension to tip over taller grass. Sickle bars still have them today, but most farmers use Haybine or Discbine mowers instead." Thanks, Charlie!

The EHS has rescheduled its annual June meeting to September 22nd and until further notice, the History Museum will be open to private tours only. To schedule a tour call Tom (860-974-1610) or Linda (860-933-0468). Donations to our organization are greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible. EHS, P.O. Box 350, Eastford, CT 06242

Editor's Note: **US CENSUS 2020. Much depends on every resident being counted (from Federal grants to roads to school programs). Folks can respond online and find information at: <https://portal.ct.gov/census2020>**

Tips for Today by Liz Ellsworth Happy Summer!

It's definitely an uncertain time. Some days you can feel kind of helpless. Since it's summertime, there are a few more simple, eco-friendly "can dos". Hang your laundry on a clothesline; turn up your air conditioner 1 or 2 degrees to save energy; walk or bike places; choose to re-fashion take-out containers into art/engineering project supplies for your kids; purchase fruits and veggies from the local farmers' market; pick-your-own strawberries, blueberries, or apples at your local farm. For more info on local farmers' markets and farms, look on The Last Green Valley's webpage:

<https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/farms/>

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Please consider donating to local organizations, including: Eastford Independent Fire Co. (POB 333, p5) Donations are needed. *Volunteers are also urgently needed to sustain service; who are you going to call?*

- Town of Food Pantry (POB 98)
- Eastford Historical Society (POB 350)
- Crystal Pond Park Commission (POB 98)
- Town of Eastford: Union Society (POB 98)
- Grove Cemetery Assn. (POB 284)
- Eastford Communicator (POB 254)



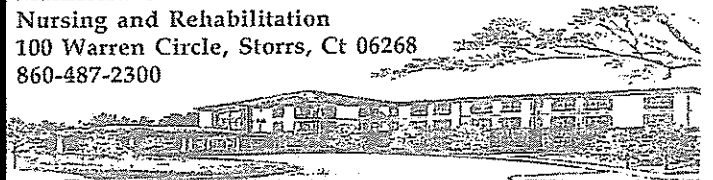
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Of Special Note: ABOVE ARE VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS VOLUNTEER! DONATE! THANK THEM! (See EIFC Report, p5) CONGRATULATIONS EASTFORD GRADUATES!
PARENTS - If you email us your graduate's photo by July 15, we will carry it in the August Communicator (please head and shoulder photos of EES 8th grade grads, WA grads, college grads who reside in Eastford; email to: eastford.communicator@gmail.org) **ATTN SPONSORS:**
 The Eastford Communicator seeks sponsors for its special AUGUST EASTFORD GRAD ISSUE. If you would like to help honor our graduates, please email eastford.communicator@gmail.org
TAXES DUE AUG 3 (p6); EASTFORD HISTORY (front cover & p2)
JUNE 1: FREE MASKS at Town Hall, 10-11am (see Selectman, p3)
EASTFORD LIBRARY NOW HAS CURBSIDE SERVICE (p3)
PLAN NOW: EASTFORD SCARECROWS IN OCTOBER (Rec Com, p8)
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (p8); EMERGENCY INFO (p6)
FOOD PANTRY (p8); SAVE BOBOLINKS (p10)
MEMORIAL FOR SGT JOE PHAENUF, KIA 2006 (p4)
OLDE BOSTON TRAIL- MAP, PHOTO, REPORT (p7)
UNION SOCIETY BUILDING REPORT (p9); SENIORS (p4)
GREAT NEIGHBORS (p2); ONLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (p11)

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EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Message From the Board of Trustees

The Eastford Grove Cemetery Association is committed to helping families with their decisions regarding plot purchase and size of plot as it pertains to burial wishes. It is with this in mind that the Association is offering its assistance to you whether you are making plans for yourself or for a loved one. The decisions you may face are more complex than most people realize and are usually not done easily when people are grieving. Our board can confidentially aid you in considering various plot options for full and cremation burials, memorial (flush) markers and monuments. Feel free to call for an appointment with Lauren Anderson, President of the Grove Cemetery Association, at 860-974-1349. The E.G.C.A. is a non-profit organization.

Mowing Season is between March 15 and Thanksgiving; only live flowers may be planted, or placed in plastic pots, within 12" of the base of the monument; all artificial flowers and ornaments are prohibited during the mowing season and will be removed.

Donations Appreciated: If you would like to contribute in any amount to the beautification of the cemetery and future projects, please use the form below for your tax deductible donation. (Note: **Grove Cemetery does not receive funding from the town.**) For more information, contact a member of the Board of Corporators: Joe Andert, Audrey Carabeau, Carol Day, Jim Ellis, Tom Fabian, Ken Grube, Bev Lindemann, Faye Logee
Board of Trustees: Lauren Anderson, Herman Barlow, David Barlow, Carolyn Hazard, Scott Huri, Alex Kowalchuk, Linda Torgeson, Rick Torgeson

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Send to: Eastford Grove Cemetery Assoc., Inc.
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You can visit online at
<https://sites.google.com/site/eastfordgrovecemetery/>.

Dear Readers:
We hope you contribute to The Eastford Communicator. Ads do not cover printing & postage costs. The Communicator is Eastford's main source of news about events, town government, and local organizations. We need donors to support this effort if we are to continue. If you can, please send a donation. Thank you!

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THANK YOU! The Volunteer Staff of The Communicator

ATTENTION: All articles & news for The Communicator must be submitted to E-mail: eastford.communicator@gmail.com
All items for The Eastford Communicator must include submitter's name, address & telephone, for verification. All items submitted are subject to editing. Articles are those of the submitters and not necessarily those of The Communicator. The Communicator does not print letters to editor or items it regards as offensive or slanderous. Advertisements are paid by the advertiser, who is responsible for the advertisement's content. The Communicator reserves the right to reject any submissions. Thank you for your support. Carol Davidge, Editor

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Connecticut Magazine's cover story in March 1993 showed Eastford with Bowens Garage, the Ivy Glenn, Dave Olsen's carpentry shop, cows, trees, farms, and people walking around the village. Rankings were based on quality of life, affordability, good schools, low crime rate, leisure and other measures. Those qualities remain today.
Information:
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Return of the Bobolinks *By Joanne M. Warren*

Master Naturalist, James L. Goodwin Conservation Center

Every year I look forward to the beginning of May when the Bobolinks return from their wintering home 5-6,000 miles away in South America. It makes me smile to hear their amazing song in the fields surrounding our home. Search this bird out. It will not fail in lifting your spirits. Listen for a bubbly and mechanical sounding concoction of notes and you may be lucky enough to see this marvelous bird. The male Bobolink is velvety black with white on his back, a "backwards tuxedo", and a buff-colored nape. The female is less conspicuous with her buffy yellow color. The male Bobolink puts on a fantastic display by singing his song while flying. The longer his song and flight, the better his chances to win over a female. Together, they will find their perfect spot to build a nest where it will be hidden among the grasses. Bobolinks live and raise their offspring in hayfields, meadows, or pastures. Their population is half of what it was in 1970 and continues to decline. Without significant conservation action, Bobolinks are at risk of extinction. The primary reason for their decline is loss of habitat. If you see these birds in your fields, please delay mowing until August 1st so that the babies will survive to fly to South America this fall, and so that we can welcome them again next May.

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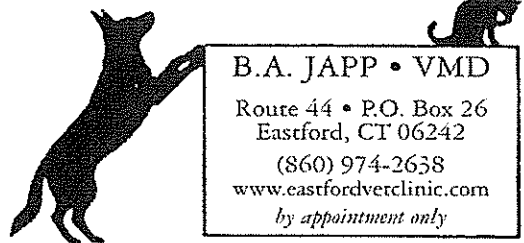
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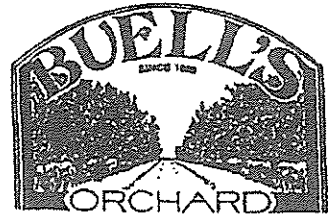
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A remarkable legacy.

The 1806 Union Society Building, located at Routes 198 / 44, is owned by the Town of Eastford. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, one of only two Union Society Buildings still standing in Connecticut. In the early 1800s in Connecticut, union societies formed as tax protestors by Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Quakers and others because the only people who could vote were men who were members of the Congregational Church, which was the town government. The U.S. Constitution does not include the phrase "separation of church and state," but in a speech to Danbury, CT Baptists in 1790, Thomas Jefferson used the phrase and it became a widespread rallying cry against church control of government. A Connecticut Constitutional Amendment for "Disestablishment" was passed in 1818, guaranteeing that Connecticut men of other faiths could vote; it separated church from government. (Note: at that time only men who owned property could vote; women gained the right to vote in 1920, with its 100th anniversary being celebrated this year). Photo is from 1922.

Child labor was common into the 20th century.

Although attending school was the law in Connecticut, children were needed to support their families. School attendance was not enforced, and those who came to school, did so mainly in the winter, after crops had been grown and harvested. Many children worked long days and long weeks, sometimes 6 and 7 days a week, for more than 12 hours a day. Many children worked in factories six days a week.

The Union Society's Social and Spiritual Gatherings.

From early colonial settlements and onward, attending church was a social, spiritual, educational and musical activity of great importance, especially in rural areas. Sunday was the day when most families broke from their long workdays and gathered with neighbors at church. The Union Society taught children to read during Sunday activities. The building was also a gathering place where families could share holiday parties, pot luck suppers, oyster supper fundraisers for the fire company, croquette and other games. Most of the residents of Phoenixville at that time were struggling immigrants. In 1918, 87 children received gifts for Christmas from the Union Society.

Diversity Welcomed.

At the Union Society, all were welcome, regardless of race, gender, age or spiritual belief. Throughout the 19th & 20th Centuries, gatherings continued at this location. The building was sold to the Town of Eastford in 2002 after the membership dwindled and the building fell into disrepair.

Current Status.

Thanks to grants from The Last Green Valley, the Connecticut Department of Community & Economic Development's State Historic Preservation Office, the Rotary Club of Putnam and individual donors, major repairs have been completed. Urgent rehabilitation was needed for the east wall (facing Route 198). Much of the original 1806 material was saved, including short-cut clapboards, which were made to remove imperfections such as knot holes before being installed. Such care demonstrates that gifted craftspersons built this house in 1806 (before painting is completed, notice the white and gray clapboards; the white ones are the original 1806 short-cut clapboards).

Donations and Legacy Memorials are needed to move the project forward. Much remains to be done before the building can serve the town as a critically-needed public meeting place. We need your help. For donations of \$100 or more, a plaque acknowledges the donor and individuals being honored. All proceeds from fundraisers go to the Town of Eastford for rehabilitation of the building. To make a donation in any amount, please make checks payable to: Town of Eastford (write Union Society in the memo line), and mail to Union Society Fund, Town of Eastford, P.O. Box 98, Eastford, CT 06242. Email: carol.davidge@gmail.com and put Union Society in the subject line.

Eastford Recreation Commission


The Rec Commission is excited to announce an activity for the fall that we hope the town would participate in while still being socially distant. In October we would like to have a Scarecrow-fest. Residents can decorate their own scarecrow and place it on their lawn. Have a long driveway? We will also have room on the lawn of the town hall or in the center of town for you to display your scarecrow. We will also be holding a competition for "People's Choice" for those who have a more competitive side. There will be an on-line registration form to fill out to be included in the competition (no need to register if not entering the competition). If entering the competition you are also committing to having your address posted (no names included) on a map that we will have available on the town REC site. People can tour the scarecrows and fill out an online survey to determine a winner. There will be a prize! The deadline for having the scarecrows up will be October 9th, but we are hoping that people will keep their scarecrows up for the month of October! We can't wait to see your ideas.


Food Pantry

Someone once said that whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others. The difference your support has made to our Food Pantry is extraordinary, and we have much to be thankful for. If you are in need and would like assistance from the Eastford food pantry, call Steve or Karen at 860-974-1618 or contact the Selectmen's office. We are pleased to report that with our Eastford residents pitching in just a bit more, keeping our shelves stocked is a bit easier. We continue to be humbled by the generosity of so many. We want to thank the following for their cash donations - Robert & Lorraine McKay, Loring & Jane White; Roger & Judith Boisvert; Joan & Mallory Selfridge; Laura Andert; David & Christine Hustus; Russell & Nancy Mayhew; Dr. Heather Sullivan; Scott & Tina Hernberg. Thanks Lynn Nelson and Ken Wysowski for donations of non-perishables. Financial donations allow us to purchase essential items that are missing from our shelves. Grocery store gift cards are always welcome. Checks can be made out to the Town of Eastford and mailed to the Selectmen's Office, PO Box 98, Eastford 06242. Just write Food Pantry on the memo line.

News You Can Use

by Deb Richards - Emergency Management Director
For the most updated information on Covid -19 go to <https://portal.ct.gov>. There are links for the latest guidance including Phase 3 targeted for mid-July. There is also a link to click for Covid testing in our area. Most test sites are for symptomatic people however Johnson Memorial Hospital is still testing 8am-3pm daily for symptomatic and non-symptomatic adult and pediatric persons. **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol; **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home; Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home; Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people; Everyone should wear a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth when they have to go out in public, you could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick** (cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance); **Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily**, if surfaces are dirty, clean them, use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection then, use a household disinfectant; **Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19, take your temperature if symptoms develop.**
 See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community>
It is hurricane season and the National Weather Bureau is predicting a higher than normal amount of storms. Be prepared to shelter in place. Have a plan and stock up on necessary supplies. www.hurricanes.gov

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**Eastford Conservation & Historic Preservation Commission
Report by Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Co-chair**

THE BOSTON TURNPIKE TRAIL

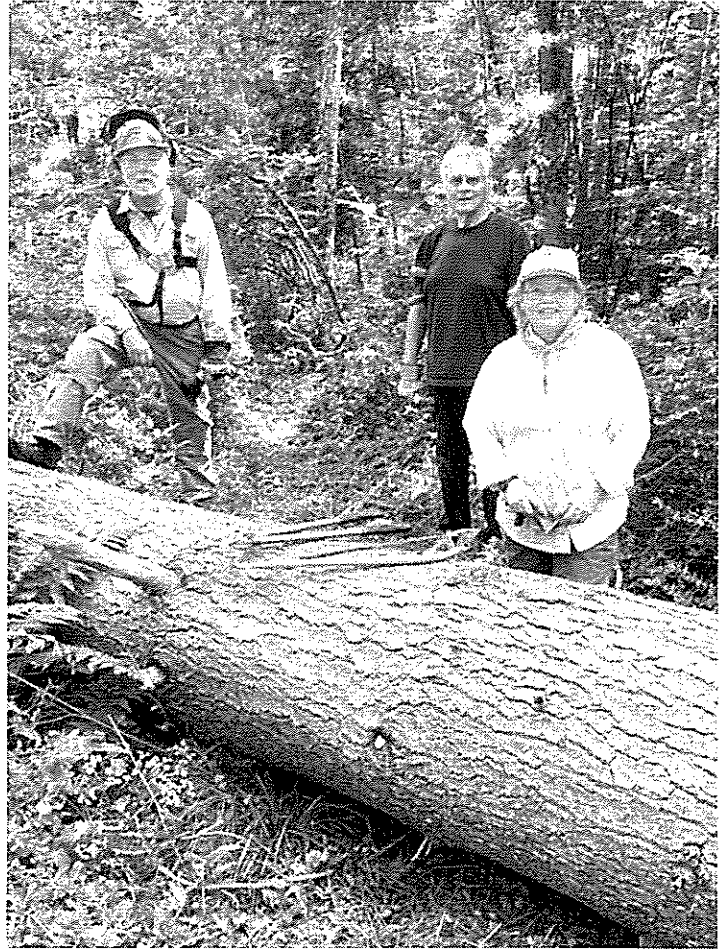
The Boston Turnpike Trail in Eastford is maintained by the Eastford Conservation and Historical Preservation Commission. The Trail is part of an early road system stemming from colonial times. Called "The Boston Post Road," it was part of a series of roads connecting colonial cities, including Boston, Hartford, Providence, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Williamsburg, and Charleston. It was first established under King Charles II of Britain in 1673; it followed trails laid out in much earlier times by Native Americans.

This relatively unaltered portion of the Turnpike was part of the Boston to Hartford route. You will notice that the roadway still has its crown at the center. This allowed the rainwater to run off to the edges. The cattle drivers had to keep their cattle off to the side; the cattle walked outside the parallel stone walls that still remain in some places. Routes like this one gave farmers a way to get their stock and produce to market. Troops also moved along roads like this-- during both the colonial and Revolutionary periods. The trip from Boston to New York via this route was about 225 miles, a lot shorter than the similar trip if one took the route along the coast.

One important function of these roads was to carry the mail. In the early days—around 1673, it took about a month for a letter to go from Boston to New York. A letter went first by horseback, and later by stage coach. Towns were allowed to charge tolls on their portions of the Trail to help with upkeep—hence, "turnpike."

The Boston Turnpike Trail stretches from Route 198 near the Route #244/John Perry Road intersection to the Crams Road crossing, out to the Old Colony Road "corner." There is a small pond, boardwalk, and bench on the portion of the Trail east of Crams Road. ECHPC members maintain a return loop trail here. The Trail passes through part of the Natchaug State Forest as well as over privately owned land. We thank the land owners who have given their permission for the public to use this trail.

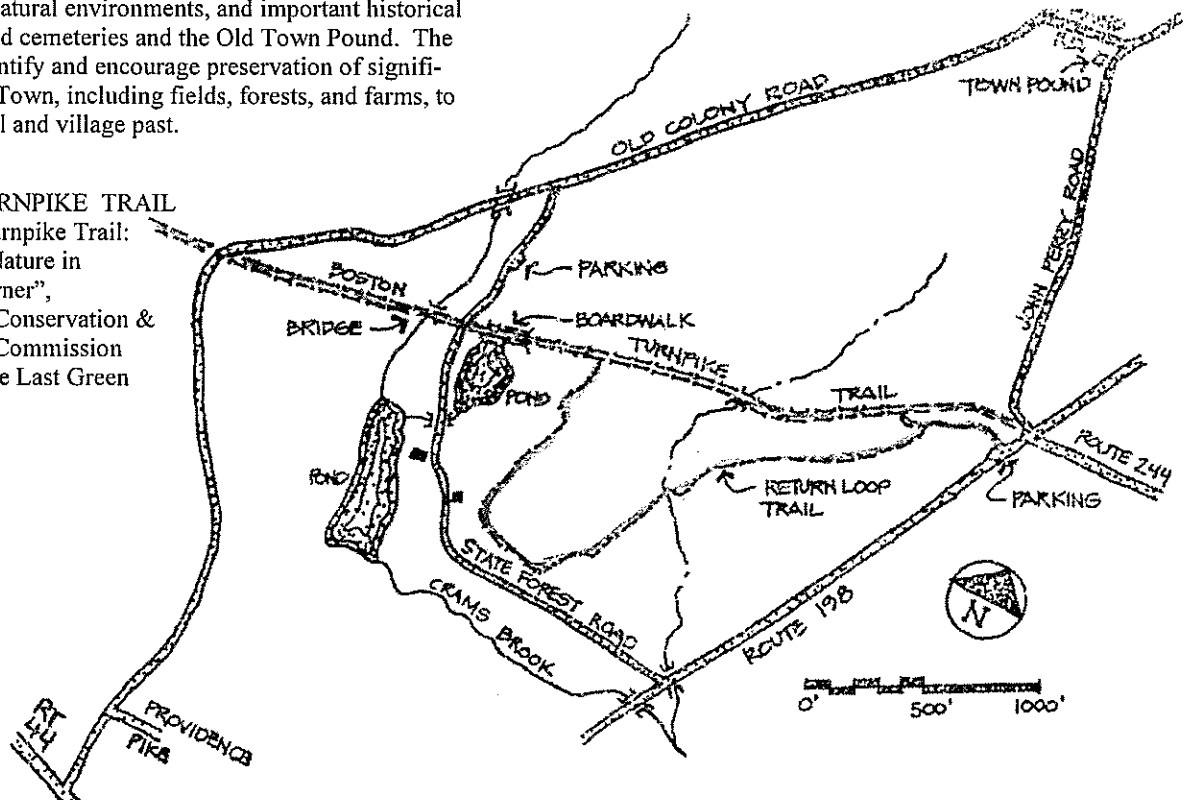
The ECHPC maintains the Boston Turnpike Trail and the Askew Trail behind Eastford Elementary School; we will also maintain the Old Connecticut Path at Crystal Pond Park. The ECHPC has worked to conserve Eastford's natural environments, and important historical environments like the old cemeteries and the Old Town Pound. The ECHPC also tries to identify and encourage preservation of significant Open Space in the Town, including fields, forests, and farms, to maintain our agricultural and village past.



ECHPC members (l-r) Steve Broderick, Frank Castagna and Co-chair Deb Lee on Eastford's Boston Turnpike Trail. Ralph Yulo and Tom DeJohn also helped with Trail cleanup, which included removal of this large downed tree.

MAP OF BOSTON TURNPIKE TRAIL

Source: "The Boston Turnpike Trail: Conserving History & Nature in Connecticut's Quiet Corner", printed by the Eastford Conservation & Historical Preservation Commission through a grant from The Last Green Valley



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Grocery items for curbside pickup! Please
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 Fresh chicken wings (7-9 count)- \$2.99/lb (2lb
 min)

Fresh chicken tenders - \$2.99/lb (2lb min)

Shredded mozzarella - \$4.99/lb

Margarine- \$1.99 lb (one pound sticks)

Sliced ham - \$5.99/lb

Sliced turkey - \$5.99/lb

Sliced Provolone - \$5.99/lb

Iceberg lettuce - \$2.99/head

Cucumber - \$.99 each

Large green pepper - \$.99 each

Tomatoes - \$1.99/lb

Pint grape tomatoes - \$2.49

Jumbo onions - \$1.89/lb

Carrots - \$1.99/lb (2lb min)

5 pounds potatoes - \$3.99

16" Italian bread - \$1.49

6 pack jumbo hamburger rolls - \$2.99

LEGAL NOTICE
 TOWN OF EASTFORD

The Town of Eastford having legally voted to lay a tax rate of 25.61 mills on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 hereby warns those persons liable for taxes to said town that said taxes become due and payable on July 1, 2020. Payments must be postmarked, paid online, or brought to our office by August 3, 2020 to avoid an interest charge if your account is escrowed or you are a Landlord without an approved Deferral Application. All other payments must be postmarked, paid online, or brought to our office by October 1, 2020.

OFFICE HOURS: Please note the office is currently closed to the public but the Tax Collector is available to answer phone calls and emails at the following times:

Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to Noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month until 6:30 p.m.

Interest will be charged on all delinquent bills at a rate of 1.5% per month from the due date of July 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill per state statute 12-145. All Motor Vehicle taxes not paid by October 1, 2020 will be reported as delinquent to the Department of Motor Vehicles and registrations will be denied.

If you receive a tax bill from a town you did not reside in on October 1, 2019, please contact the assessor. If you do not receive a tax bill for your real estate, motor vehicle or personal property please contact my office at (860) 974-1885 Ext. 6 for a duplicate bill. **Per Connecticut General Statutes, failure to receive a bill does not relieve you of obligation to pay any tax or interest that is due.**

CHRISTINE E. HUSTUS
 Tax Collector, Eastford

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**DUE TO COVID19, MANY TOWN EVENTS ARE
 CANCELLED—FOR UPDATES, GO TO:**

<https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford>

From Emergency Director Deb Richards: For up-to-date news on Covid19 pandemic, please visit the following websites:

Town of Eastford: <https://www.eastfordct.org/townofeastford>

Northeast District Department of Health: www.ndh.org

State of CT: <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Sign up for CT Alerts "WE CAN'T ALERT YOU IF YOU DON'T SIGN UP":

<https://www.ctalert.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp>



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*The **EASTFORD GROVE CEMETERY**, located on route 198, is a special place. The grounds are beautifully groomed and peaceful -- a perfect resting place for our late loved ones. If you are an Eastford resident, you may purchase a cemetery plot at Grove. We have redesigned the cemetery to provide more single and double plots, as well as a cremation section. Please contact Lauren Anderson at 860-974-1349 for a confidential conversation about ownership.*

EASTFORD INDEPENDENT FIRE COMPANY #1, INC

Although the world is in crisis due to the COVID-19 outbreak and demonstrations, we must take time to celebrate what is good in our town of Eastford and in our personal lives.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, the Company celebrated its 75th year of Incorporation and still EIFC STRONG! The first Tuesday in June marks our annual dinner and business meeting. At this time, we follow tradition and acknowledge our last years' accomplishments and what we look forward to for the coming year.

On a somber note, we recognize, through a symbolic Memorial Table those members who have passed this previous year. Gordon Spink, Sr., firefighter, and auxiliary members Geri Willich and Pat Day were honored for their service.

Chief Doug Beaudoin gave the annual Chief's address. President James Roy presented a 35 - year service pin to Jeanine Spink, former EMS Captain and Officer. Active member Zac Bertram was acknowledged for most calls responded to as a member, and President James Roy for responding as C171 (officer) to the most calls.

Prior to the closing of the dinner activities, the family of Gordon Spink, Sr., accepted, on his behalf a "no other like" wooden plaque created by member Dave Jakubowski depicting the Hose Tender 171 that Gordon always operated, along with an inscription considered an "inside" joke between Gordon and the members when he would respond to an emergency with the HT. It was very obvious, that at times like this, the small-town approach to caring and family was so evident than on that evening for the family.

Following the dinner and awards, members participated in the business meeting. During the month of May, the EIFC responded 14 times to "911" calls. Steve Kitson was nominated and unanimously voted on to attain the rank of EMS Lieutenant. Congratulations Steve!

Another cause to celebrate was to honor Hunter Larson as Eastford Elementary School's 60th Citizenship Awardee sponsored by the EIFC. The criteria for the award are a student who demonstrates leadership, respect for school and community rules and involvement in school and community affairs. Good luck Hunter on your future continuing education.

It is the mission of the EIFC to provide prompt and efficient service to the town of Eastford. If you want to make a difference in Eastford in 2020, consider joining the fire company. New members are always welcomed. Call 860-974-0630 to start the process. We look forward to protecting the town for year 76.

The COVID-19 is far from over. To keep you safe, as well as your fire department members when called, please follow the minimal restrictions: Wear a mask and gloves when away from home, practice 6 feet social distancing, and know the signs and symptoms of the virus. At the appropriate time, protect yourself by getting your annual flu shot.

BE SMART AND STAY SAFE!

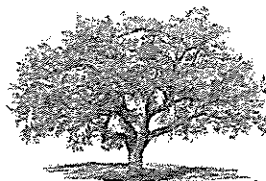
Photo on back cover: Eastford Independent Fire Co. volunteers on June 2nd. The HT171 truck was included as a memorial for firefighter Gordon Spink, Sr. who passed on April 7, 2020.

CRYSTAL POND PARK IS YOUR PARK. Website:

<http://www.crystalpondpark.com/>
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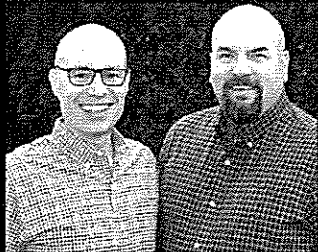
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In Memory of and to Honor Joseph Phaneuf, II.
Donations are requested for a bench in Memory of
Staff Sergeant Joseph E. Phaneuf, II, KIA,
December 15, 2006 in Afghanistan.

A stone bench with memorial plaque will be installed in Eastford's Veterans Memorial. Joe served with the Connecticut Army National Guard from 1987-1997 and 2001-2006 in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was killed in Action December 15, 2006 while serving with the 1st Battalion 102nd Infantry Unit. To make a donation to this memorial, donations may be made by sending your check payable to: American Legion Post 203, and mailed to Post Office Box 131, Eastford, CT 06242. Thank you to those who have donated.



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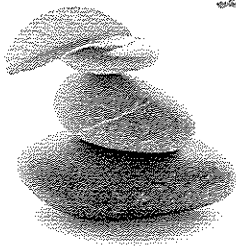


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The Eastford Communicator July 2020, Vol. 29, No. 7

Selectman's Snippets:

Budget – The Board of Selectmen worked very diligently to provide a fiscally responsible budget during this pandemic. After the Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen met many hours and multiple days for months to draft a Town Budget, it was passed on June 1st. We also set the mill rate of 25.61. Therefore, a zero percent tax increase for the fiscal year of 2020-2021 has been set.

Community – Great things happen in our community!

On July 1, 2020 at 10-11am, the Board of Selectmen will be distributing “Masks Across CT” in the lower level parking lot of the Town Office Building. No appointment is necessary. Please roll down your window so we may safely

distribute the mask to you. In case you miss this date to pick up your mask, there will be a second distribution if there are remaining masks available. Please check our website www.eastfordct.org/eastford for **ALL information and updates concerning Eastford**.

Coming this October, the Recreation Committee will be inviting residents and local businesses to participate in a scarecrow display for all to enjoy.

Join us every evening to ring bells on your front porch at 8pm for two minutes. If you do not have a bell, use something similar. During these difficult times, this small gesture can be a beautiful way to bring us all closer to symbolize we are 100% together. We may be forced to be apart in a pandemic. However, we can continue to spread hope and solidarity and perhaps a little joy to all our residents. **We are all in this together!**

Volunteers – It is so clear that volunteers are the heartbeat of our small rural town. We are indeed blessed to have such dedicated volunteers. Our town would not be what it is today without them. Thank you to all Boards, Commissions and those who serve our community. Thank you, Claire Williams, for the lovely seasonal arrangements you place in front of the Ivy Glenn Memorial on the Veterans Memorial walls.

Transfer Station – Thank you for recycling. If you are not sure what can be recycled, go to williwaste.com click Recycling, scroll down to the question: Can I recycle it? After you type in an item, the instructions are provided. We have a list available on our website as well. Stickers are to be affixed to windshield's lower left-hand corner. Limit: 2 cubic yards per week – roughly one level pickup load. We will be enforcing residents to comply with rules concerning the Transfer Station. Please secure rubbish pails as you travel to Transfer Station.

Transfer Station Stickers – Again, please visit our website for how to obtain your stickers. Once again, up to 2 stickers can be given for the cost of \$50.00 per year if both vehicles are registered to the same address.

Police Services – During the month of May, Troop D responded to 39 calls. These calls of service included Accidents: 3, Criminal Invest: 5, Burglaries: 0, Larcenies: 0, DUI's: 0, Traffic Citations: 6, Written Warning: 2 and Non-Reportable Matters: 31

“Life isn't about waiting for the storms to pass - It is about learning how to dance in the rain.” Vivian Green

Respectfully yours, Jacqueline Dubois, First Selectman



ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES—Crystal Pond Park Trails (Weeks Rd); TheLastGreenValley.org. Emergency Update Info (p6); Emergency COVID (p8); Taxes Due Aug 3 (p6); Eastford's First Responders-our volunteer Fire Co. (p5); Seniors (p4); Boston Tpke Map (p7).

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS during this challenging time!

BUELL'S ORCHARD - 109 Crystal Pond Rd -pick-your-own strawberries soon, then blueberries, peaches, apples. Store with goodies. Before coming, please visit Website: <https://www.buellsorchar.com/> or FaceBook (<https://www.facebook.com/BuellSorchar/>)

MIDWAY RESTAURANT & PIZZA—Indoor/curbside pickup/takeout—Regular Menu (15 min advance order) plus groceries available (order 1 hour advance, see list p 2). Build your own Pizza. Prime Rib Fridays & Saturdays! Specials daily on facebook. Open 7 days, 174 Ashford Center Rd (Rt.44). Phone: 860-429-1932. Order online: <https://eatatmidway.com/>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwayRestaurantAndPizza/>

TRAVELER RESTAURANT—Indoor/patio or curbside delivery. 7 days full menu, family meals for 4, pizza daily (including party pizzas), puzzles, tee shirts. Phone: 860-684-4290. 1257 Buckley Hwy (at I-84), Union 06076. Info on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Traveler-Restaurant-234049429993458/>

VANILLA BEAN CAFÉ—Indoor/patio open, curbside pickup or takeout, 7 days. Order ahead: 860-928-1562 or online w pickup time: order@thevanillabeancafe.com. 450 Deerfield Rd, Pomfret CT 06258. Website: <http://www.thevanillabeancafe.com/>

THE CORNER MARKET, Jct Routes 198/44. Hours: M-Friday 7am-6pm, Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4; Groceries, snacks, animal feed, greeting cards, masks required. (860) 974-0632

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You are helping The Communicator to survive!

Please send your donations to:

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

3

LIBRARY NEWS by Susan Shead

Curbside pickup at the Eastford Public Library. Finally you can come and get a library book! Here's how we are doing this. Patrons call the library at 860-974-0125 between the hours listed below to request material. We will give you a pickup time over the phone. Items will be retrieved after the phone call is completed. Bags will be labeled with your name and placed on the front steps of the library. For your safety all items returned to the library via the book drop (**now open**) are quarantined for 3 days. There is no inter-library loan service at this time and we are not taking any reserves on material at this time. This service is being offered to Eastford residents only. **Please note: The library hours for curbside pickup are Monday 2-6pm, Tuesday 2-6pm, and Thursday 2-6pm**