



ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

**Volume 50**

**Issue 3**

**March 1, 2019**

*"The purpose of the Ashford Citizen is to keep Ashford citizens informed on what is going on in town." (August, 1952)*



## **Our Town-Our Future**

***Come, Join the Discussion***

***March 11, 2019 7:00 p.m.***

***Knowlton Memorial Hall***

Hopefully you have seen or heard about some of the successes that have been the result of Citizens' participation in the **Our Town-Our Future** Stakeholder meetings since 2014:

- The painting of the mural on the old gas station at the intersection of Routes 44 & 74
- The Visioning project with the UCONN School of Landscape Architecture for the Route 44 & 74 Corridor
- The Formation of the Ashford Arts Council
- The Ashford Conservation Commission's completion of a trail system on the Langhammer Property and the interconnection with Willington's Fenton-Ruby Preserve
- The Ashford Conservation Commission and Joshua Trust Partnership on linking the Tremko and Rankin Trails
- Road Safety Assessment for the Route 44 and Route 74 Corridor

We want to continue to include more new faces and talent from Ashford. Come help us develop new ideas to continue to make and keep Ashford the special place it is! Please join us for an evening of brainstorming on what we as a community can do next.

Come hear updates and provide feedback on:

- \* **Road Safety Concerns along Route 44 and Route 74**
- \* **The Ashford Sustainable CT Initiative**
- \* **What the Ashford Historical Society is doing**

Come and participate. Share your thoughts for Ashford's future. Bring a neighbor. It is Your Town – Your Future.

Sponsored by: The Core Committee of "Our Town-Our Future"

Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/AshfordOurTownOurFuture](http://www.facebook.com/AshfordOurTownOurFuture)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Who is the Mysterious Protector of the Ashford Turtles?

The Selectmen's Office has received *friendly* inquiries about the mysterious signs that have cropped up around town alerting motorists to drive cautiously at known turtle crossings. If you have info. regarding the artist, please contact the Selectmen's Office at 860-487-4401.



**The Town Clerk's Office will not have evening hours on Wednesday, April 3rd & will be closed Friday, April 5th.**

The staff will be attending the Connecticut Town Clerks Association's Annual Spring Conference.

The Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> while the Tax Collector attends the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual State Meeting for Professional Development.

*WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.*

*E-mail with any questions:*

[taxcollector@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:taxcollector@ashfordtownhall.org)

The Office will also be closed on Wednesday Evenings, 7 P.M. to 9 P.M. during the month of March: March 6<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, and March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember that you can pay your bills online at: [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org)



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## ATTENTION!!

**To accommodate the printer's schedule, the submission deadline for the May *Ashford Citizen* will be April 12th instead of April 20th!!**

**Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Sunday, March 10th!**

**Remember to set your  
clocks ahead one hour.**



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

**Ashford Board of Education**

### **Bicknell Scholarship**

This year, there will be up to four (4) \$1,000 scholarships awarded. Applications for the 2019 scholarships must be sent to Scholarship America and must be postmarked by **April 1, 2019**.

Applications are available in the Superintendent of Schools office, online at [www.ashfordct.org](http://www.ashfordct.org); & the Town Clerk's office in the Town Office Building.

## *The Ashford Citizen*

**5 Town Hall Road, Ashford, CT 06278**

- \*The *Citizen* will be delivered by the 1st of each month (monthly).
- \*The *Citizen* is made possible by town taxes & advertising, and the production efforts of the Town Clerk's Office.
- \*Residents and Ashford tax-payers will receive the *Citizen* at no charge (every mailbox and p.o. box). Non-profit groups and **tax-payers** who live out of town should contact the *Citizen* to be put on the "no charge" mailing list. All other parties may receive the *Citizen* for a \$12 per year donation.
- \*All items for the *Ashford Citizen* must include submitter's name, address, and telephone number for verification. Items written on behalf of an organization require the signature of an authorized spokesperson. No letters or advertising will be accepted concerning political issues or candidates. All items submitted are subject to editing, and the *Citizen* reserves the right to reject any submissions. Readers should be aware that opinions or articles by individual writers or organizations are not necessarily those of the *Citizen*. The *Citizen* will not print items it regards as offensive or slanderous.
- \*All submissions must be received by the 20th of each month.
- \*Ads must be **pre-paid**; cash, or check written to **Town of Ashford**.
- \*The Ashford Town Clerk's Office will take payments, and article and advertisement submissions. Call for details.

#### Your Contacts:

Sherri Mutch, Editor 860-487-4401 [smutch@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:smutch@ashfordtownhall.org)  
Karen Zulick, Ads/Subscript. 860-487-4401 [kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org)  
Beverly Ference, Gen. Info. 860-487-4404 [bference@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:bference@ashfordtownhall.org)

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

ABA'S 1st Annual

## SUPER SATURDAY

April 27, 2019

10am-2pm

Willington Hill Fire Station, Old Farms Road,  
Willington, CT

Get in touch with your community!

Fun, food, music, activities for all generations!  
Meet local artists, farmers, carpenters, auto  
mechanics, and many other local business peo-  
ple. Talk to representatives from local non-profit  
groups. Food to be provided by award-winning  
Country Butcher of Tolland. Plenty of free park-  
ing! Other activities still being  
scheduled at press time. See  
this space next month for up-  
dated schedule.



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## Trivia Questions

# Q?

1. What's the name of the elephant tricked into sitting on an egg in the Dr. Seuss book?
2. Who was Clark Kent's high school sweetheart?
3. What novel contains the longest sentence in literature?
4. What is the name of the first Sherlock Holmes story written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?
5. How many years did Robinson Crusoe spend shipwrecked on his island?
6. What are you cutting if you are using pinking shears?
7. What is a lollipop man or a lollipop lady in the U.K.?
8. What are Chubby Hubby, Half-Baked and Vermonty Python?
9. How many varieties is the Heinz company famous for in their slogan?
10. What is the dot over an "i" or a "j" called?



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## You are invited to join us in worship at Westford Congregational Church

368 Westford Hill Road, Ashford CT  
 Rev. Steve Anderson, Pastor  
 860-428-4080

[www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org](http://www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org)

A member of Conservative Congregational  
 Christian Conference

Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

We are a small, family- friendly church  
 located in "The Quiet Corner."

Visit us on FaceBook.







## 49th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 20th  
at Ashford School**

440 Westford Road (Route 89)

**10:00 am. SHARP!**

**RAIN (SNOW) OR SHINE!**

Registration starts at 9:15 am the day of the hunt.

**\*\*\*All kids must register to receive a prize\*\*\***

**Five groups – Tiny Tots, (3 & 4 yr olds), Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade.**

The hunt is supported by contributions of Easter baskets, buckets, pails, prizes (stuffed animals, books, balls, jump ropes, bubbles, etc.), wrapped candy and cash donations. All are needed and will be most appreciated. Donations may be sent to Valerie Peppin, 186 Turnpike Road, Ashford, CT, or dropped off with Beverly Ference at the Ashford Land Use Department, Ashford Town Office building. Checks should be made payable to **Ashford Easter Bunny**.

**Please have donations in by April 13th.**

Refreshments will be served after the hunt. Donations of baked goods would be appreciated as well. Please drop them off prior to the hunt. All goods should be individually wrapped in plastic wrap or baggies per the health department.

If you would like to help set up or work the day of the hunt, please contact Valerie Peppin at (860) 429-0226, or email [mikeval186@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikeval186@sbcglobal.net). Hope to see you there!



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## Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

The subject of last month's article was the numbering of residences in the town of Ashford. At the AVFD February monthly meeting, another discussion was held concerning the problem we face locating houses. During a recent call near the town line, the ambulance was off by almost a mile, and time was lost trying to locate the patient's exact location. Back in the day when every home had a land-line, a call to 911 gave an exact address. That exact address still relied on being accurately marked for us to find. Now, according to the NHIS (National Health Information Survey) from 2018, only 42.8% of US homes still have one. When you call 911 from your cell phone, you the caller must give the dispatcher your exact location. The cell phone 911 location service can get us close, but is no guarantee on exact location. Mobile phones present AVFD with a whole other problem locating incidents, when people report incidents while driving. Reporting a vehicle accident on RT. 44 without stopping at the incident to direct first responders, and giving better details (like nearest house number or cross-street) means we have a six mile stretch of road to search. Since the fire station is on RT.89 between the town lines of Eastford and Willington, we have to send responders out in both directions. The subject of GPS also came up, and even with today's commercially available technology, exact address locations in rural areas like Ashford can be "off" by quite a bit. In a more urban area, accuracy is much better. An expensive alternative would be for the town to purchase mapping software, and to manually input the exact location of every building, intersection, dry hydrant, etc. That would then have to be available electronically in all the fire apparatus, and any other necessary town vehicles. As we approached the address we were looking for, it would show up on the map on the computer screen. Of course, this would require infrastructure, constant administration and updating, incurring even more costs. That solution is just not viable.

One thing the town ordinance does not currently address is shared driveways with two or more houses. It is suggested that not only should the numbers be posted at the entrance visible from the road, but as the driveways split off to each house with separate signage at the entrance of the secondary driveway(s). There are several of these in town, where the houses are far apart and hidden from view by woods. Unless we are already familiar with the address, it becomes a counting/guessing game to find a particular house. The town ordinance regarding house numbering has received lax enforcement over the years, mostly due to the lack of a town law enforcement agency. Before exploring methods of rigid enforcement and collection of fines, we ask everyone to make an effort to clearly mark their property. The simple act of following the town ordinance regarding the proper marking of residences will help us immensely. AVFD is still exploring options of what we can do as an organization to assist the citizens of Ashford with this. If you require assistance in placing or mounting signage, please call the AVFD at the number listed below.

**The call count for January 2019 was 16 Fire/Rescue and 39 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 329.**

If you have any non-emergency questions or concerns, you may contact Station 20 at (860) 429-9862 6 AM to midnight every day, or the Tolland County Fire Mutual Aid Fire Service at (860) 875-2543 24 hours a day, and they will contact an AVFD duty officer for you.

Dave LaPorte, Captain, AVFD Station 20

**EASTFORD VETERINARY CLINIC**



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The Hungarian Social Club of Ashford  
314 Ashford Center Rd. (Rt. 44 East) Ashford



***Hungarian Stuffed Cabbage Dinner***  
**Freedom Day Dinner celebration of 1848 Revolution**

**NEW! Karosi Family Stuffed Cabbage Recipe!**  
**Poppyseed roll, Prune, Apricot, and Kossuth Kifli**  
**Big Appetizer table and Commemorative Program too!**

**Sunday, April 28, 2019**

**Hungarian Pastries**  
**Coffee & Tea**  
**Appetizers 12pm**  
**Dinner 12:30pm includes vegetable and hearty bread**  
**Commemorative Program**

Fundraiser Donation: \$20 Ticket  
To Reserve your Ticket call Esther 860-429-5461 – Pay at Door - Please do not mail checks.  
\*\*To-Go Orders: Please pickup from 1:30pm on, to allow seated guests uninterrupted servings.  
RESERVED TICKETS ONLY as Event sells out to capacity.

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**100 Cheshire Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074**



## BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Property owners and lessees have the right under Connecticut General Statutes §12-111 and 12-504d to appeal the assessment of motor vehicles, personal property and real estate. CGS Sections 12-112 and 12-117(a) require written appeals to be received by the Board of Assessment Appeals by Monday, March 11, 2019. Appellants will be notified by April 1, 2019 of the date, time and place in April 2019 when the BAA will hear their appeal.

The appeal form must contain all of the following information:

- i. the property owner's name,
- ii. name and position of the signer,
- iii. description of the property which is the subject of the appeal,
- iv. name and mailing address of the party to be sent all correspondence by the BAA,
- v. reason for the appeal,
- vi. appellant's estimate of value and
- vii. dated signature of the property owner or duly authorized agent of the property owner.

If any of these items are not provided, the Board can decide not to hear an appeal.

Appeal forms are available in the Assessor's Office at Ashford Town Office Building. They are also available on the Board of Assessment Appeals page of the Town of Ashford's website, [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org).



## Sean Patrick's Plants

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Fax (860) 429-6340

## FROM THE ASHFORD TAX COLLECTOR

### How to PAY Your Taxes Online

- Go to <http://www.ashfordtownhall.org/> and click this button on the right side of the page,



- In the search bar enter your last name, space, and first initial.

Ex. Name: John Smith

Enter the search criteria below:

Smith J |

- If there is a shopping cart under the pay section then there is an outstanding balance.



Click that button to add as many bills to your cart as you want

0 BILL(S) - \$0.00 ▼

- Find which bill you want to pay

Ex.

2002-01-37

- 2002 is the Grand List

2002-01-37

- 01 is Real Estate
  - 02 Is Personal Property
  - 03 is Motor Vehicle
  - 04 is Motor Vehicle Supplement

2002-01-37

- 37 is the bill number

- You MUST pay the OLDEST bills FIRST
  - Oldest Grand List

BILL #
2002-01-0000037 00004200-LIEN (REAL ESTATE )
2003-01-0000038 00004200-LIEN (REAL ESTATE )
2004-01-0000040 00004200-LIEN

- When all of the bills are in your shopping cart  
Click 0 BILL(S) - \$0.00 ▼ and Check Out

- Read the Terms and Conditions before you press

- Especially if You Have Past Due Taxes

- Make sure the next cart is the same as the previous one and choose how you would like to pay. Then press

- Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards

- Enter Payment information, Review, and Submit.

- There is a 2.95% fee for Credit and Debit Cards
- There is a \$1.95 fee for Checking Account



**HEAR YE, HEAR YE!**

## **WORKSHOP PERTAINING TO THE CARE OF GRAVESTONES**

Presentations by:

**BEYOND THE GRAVESTONE:**

**Lisa & Will Cornell**

**CONNECTICUT GRAVESTONE NETWORK:**

**Ruth Shapleigh-Brown**

Knowlton Memorial Hall, Ashford, CT

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 10:00 AM to 12 PM

Sponsored by the Ashford Historical Society

**LIGHT LUNCH - 12:00 TO 12:30 PM** (Prepared by the Ashford Hungarian Club)

**SHORT WALK TO WARRENVILLE CEMETERY – 12:30 TO 1:00 PM**

There is a \$5.00 fee to cover expenses.

Pre-registration is recommended. You may email [Joanie54@charter.net](mailto:Joanie54@charter.net) & pay at the door.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the Babcock Library and the Town Clerk's Office.

Look for the flyer and pre-registration form in the April *Ashford Citizen*.

### **TRÈS JOLI HIS AND HERS HAIR SALON**

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## Boy Scout Troop 92 March, 2019 Newsletter

### January-February Scout activities:

In January, the Troop participated in the Nipmuck District Klondike Derby. This was two overnights of winter camping. The theme of the Klondike was "On the Trail of Sasquatch." Over 300 Scouts and leaders participated in this annual event. Troop 92 from Ashford/Eastford placed 3rd place at the Skagway First Aid test. They got an honorable mention for their sled design. They cooked soup on the trail and had hearty meals back at the campfire.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> the Cub Scout Pack held their annual Blue and Gold meeting.

Also in February, the Troop followed up with a "Tropical Vacation" event. We enjoyed the facility at the Mansfield Community Center, using the warm swimming pool and the teen game room. Everyone who showed up had fun. One of the leaders is still the undefeated Foosball champion!

The annual Scout rechartering for 2019 is now complete. We can now focus on another year of exciting activities for our Scouts. Scouting promotes leadership skills, teamwork and communication. It builds self-confidence and self-reliance in our youth. Please support Scouting. They are our future leaders.



*L-R: Kyleigh, Eastford; Asst. Sct. Mstr. Nord Yakovleff, Ashford; Cody, Eastford; Jacob, Eastford.*

### Upcoming Activities:

Feb. 24th, Sunday: Scout Sunday. Attend church service in uniform at St. Philip's Church. "A Scout is reverent."

Feb. 28th, Thursday: Guest instructor Mr. Sibiga will demonstrate correct knife and tool sharpening techniques.

March 2nd, Saturday, at 10.00 AM: Pinewood Derby. The Cub Scouts race "gravity race cars." Don't miss the excitement!

April 1st, Monday, 7:00 PM: Troop committee meeting at St. Philip's Rec Center.

Most Scout meetings are Thursday Evenings at 7:00 PM at Knowlton Memorial Hall next to Cumberland Farms store. New members and visitors are welcome.

Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scout Master; Cory Blanchette, Scout Master

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## March 2019 Conservation Commission News

Spring arrives in March and the Conservation Commission is gearing up for a busy spring. We will be holding our annual plant giveaway the last weekend in April, Friday and Saturday. This year we are also having a lecture on invasive species with a walk to identify some invasive plants. Details will be found in the April *Citizen*. The invasive plants program will be late Friday afternoon.

With the end of winter, we will again be sponsoring our Trash Clean Up Event. This year we are considering having 2 weekend pick-ups, so if people are not free one weekend they will be able to participate the next scheduled weekend. If we have a Sat. or Sun. choice, we hope more community people will be encouraged to get out and clean up our roadways. Also, if you are an ongoing trash clean up person, please send us reports of the bags of garbage you have collected. We want to give credit to our Ashford residents who are working hard to keep Ashford beautiful and green! Send your report to [birdeye123@charter.net](mailto:birdeye123@charter.net).

Our clean-up event will be March 23 & 24 and April 6 & 7. The last weekend (March 30 & 31) can be an alternate rain/snow date if first March date has inclement weather. Details of our trash pick-up event will be on the town website before March 23 and on Next Door. If you have an questions regarding this event you can contact Pamm Summers at 80barnowl @gmail.com or Loretta at above email. We want to make this event larger and more successful than last year, so encourage your neighbors to be involved.

### TRANSFER REPORT

1-15-2019 – 2-15-2019

Richard E Whitehouse 450 Ashford Center Rd Ashford CT 06278	Forty4 Beer Wine & Spirits LLC 5 North Rd Ashford CT 06278	\$250,000	North Rd
Richard W Squires 138 Robindale Dr Kensington CT 06037	Brenda Shaw-Trustee 138 Robindale Dr Kensington CT 06037	\$0.00	Lake View Dr
Linda L Naimi 908 N Grant St W Lafayette IN 47906	Allison Bailey & Andrew Olech 35 Sedor Dr Enfield CT 06082	\$0.00	Seckar Rd
KA&G Development LLC 15 Woodland Lane Baltic CT 06330	John IV & Karry Balogh 20 Bicknell Rd Ashford Ct 06278	\$35,000	Bicknell Rd
Christine McVey 15 Ashford Rd Ashford CT 06278	Carl F McVey 15 Ashford Rd Ashford CT 06278	\$0.00	Hillcrest Dr
Christine McVey 15 Ashford Rd Ashford CT 06278	Kimberly Dawn McVey 15 Ashford Rd Ashford CT 06278	\$0.00	Hillcrest Dr
Pauline Backhaus Est c/ o Timothy Backhaus 27 Cardinal Dr Dayville CT 06241	John & Ann Doolittle 31 Pond St Milford CT 06460	\$210,000	Perch Dr
Wells Fargo Bank 3476 Stateview Blvd Fort Mill SC 29715	Secretary of Housing & Urban Development 2401 NW 23 <sup>rd</sup> St Suite 1D Oklahoma City OK 73107	\$0.00	Mansfield Rd

Looking ahead again, our Farmers Market will be starting Mother's Day. We will have more info. in the April *Citizen*. We are planning a hike/talk with Willington Conservation Commission at Fenton-Ruby Park and Langhammer in June. Stay tuned for more details in future issues.

Our CC meetings are held 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7PM at the Town Office Building. All are welcome to attend.

Loretta Wrobel, chair CC



# **A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO THE ASHFORD TOWN BUDGET 2019-2020**

**Ashford Board of Finance**

In Ashford, the method we use to determine our Town Budget is an open process. Every citizen who is registered to vote and those who own property in the Town (worth at least \$1,000.00) is welcome to participate in determining the Town Budget. This guide provides basic information about the budget process. It can help you take part in the ongoing conversation about taxes and the services they pay for.

During the month of December, town department heads and employees, and our boards of education begin to review programs and services to estimate how much money the Town will spend during the current fiscal year that ends on June 30, 2019. At the same time, they begin estimating how much money will be needed to maintain and/or enhance the services that residents and businesses expect the Town to provide for the coming fiscal year, 2019-2020.

The money used to operate Ashford's General Government and schools comes from property taxes, Federal and State grants and from town agencies that collect fees. Preliminary Federal and State grant estimates are received by the Town in early February. These funds, together with fees collected by town agencies contribute to the revenue side of the budget.

From mid-January through mid-February, the Board of Selectmen review departmental budget submissions and meet with many of those who prepare those budgets to discuss and review anticipated departmental needs. Following the Selectmen's review process, the completed General Government Budget is presented to the Board of Finance for their review. Also during this period, the Ashford Board of Education and Region #19 Board of Education submit their budgets to the Board of Finance. During the Board of Finance's review period, which lasts approximately two months, more solid revenue estimates are received by the Town and through discussion and revision, a budget is constructed.

By the end of March, the Board of Finance adopts a Town Budget and sets a date for a Public Hearing. The proposed Town Budget actually includes three separate budgets: General Government, Ashford Board of Education, and Ashford's portion of the Region #19 budget. (Printed copies of the proposed budget are made available in the Town Clerk's office at this time.) At the Public Hearing, which usually falls within the second week of April, you, as a taxpayer are encouraged to voice your acceptance and/or concerns about the proposed budget package.

Following the Public Hearing, the Board of Finance holds a Special Meeting to make adjustments to finalize the budget package for their presentation to the taxpayers at the Annual Town Budget Meeting (held two weeks after the Public Hearing). During the Annual Town Budget Meeting, the Board of Finance will answer any questions that the public may have in relation to the budget package, but cannot make any changes to the budget to be presented to referendum. In fact, the Annual Town Budget Meeting automatically adjourns to a Town Budget Referendum, which is scheduled to coincide with the Region #19 Referendum on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

The Town Budget Referendum presents the General Government, Ashford Board of Education, and Region #19 budget amounts to voters as separate questions on the ballot. If a budget question is not approved by the voters during referendum, that budget is reevaluated and adjusted accordingly before being presented to the town at a subsequent Annual Town Budget Meeting, which also automatically adjourns to referendum.

Only after the voters have approved the entire Town Budget can it become the income and spending plan for the town. If the Town Budget is not approved by July 1<sup>st</sup>, the start of the new fiscal year, the previous year's budget is followed until a new budget is approved.

### **The Mill Rate: Calculating Your Taxes**

The amount of money to be raised by taxes to run the Town's government and education systems is based upon the difference between the expenditure and revenue portion of the budget. In other words, your property tax is used as a budget-balancing tool. The amount of tax that you pay is determined by the "Mill Rate."

One "Mill" produces one dollar for each \$1,000 of property valuation. For example: Your house has a valuation of \$175,000. (That "valuation" is 70% of its current market value.) The current Mill Rate is 34.767.  $175 \times 34.767 = \$6,084.23.00$  in tax. You can check the Assessor's market value for your property by calling the Assessor's Office at (860) 487-4403.

### **The Budget is All About Choices**

In making budget choices, we have to face certain realities. There may be many new services that we would all like the Town to provide that we may not be able to afford. It is possible that we may not be able to afford some things that we have enjoyed in the past. There are certain expenses that must be included in the budget to fund the service delivery that our residents have a right to expect. If we choose to reduce what we are willing to pay for these and other essential services too much, the Town may change in ways unintended by the people.

There are "fixed" costs in the town's budget that continue to rise, and that the town is obligated to absorb. High on the list are operation of the Transfer Station, the funding of the Department of Public Works, safety of the public, utility costs, employee benefits, and town and school salaries that are mandated by collective bargaining agreements.

The town's revenues have to be managed in a responsible way. During the current fiscal year (2018-2019), we expect to receive approximately 24.041% of our income from the State and Federal government but that money isn't always guaranteed. We could – and have – received less than what we expected. As was mentioned before, the largest source of income in our budget is the local property tax – nearly 71.613% of our budget.

These are choices presented to you, the voter, at the Public Hearing for your consideration and input before the Town Budget is finalized for the Annual Town Budget Meeting.



## **The Budget is About Looking Ahead and Fiscal Responsibility**

The reality is that the choices we make as to how much income we can expect and how much we can spend this year have an effect on future years as well. If for instance, we elected to reduce the size of our Public Works Department to the point where we could no longer adequately maintain our roads or buildings, we would be placing the cost of reclamation on some future budget. The reverse is also true. If we include a new service of some kind in our budget now, we could be committing ourselves to continuing it in future years.

The taxes we pay on real estate, automobiles and other personal property have a long-term influence on our town. We must be aware of the ability and willingness of our taxpayers to pay for services. If our tax rate is perceived as being too high, some residents living on fixed incomes may move away and some shopping for new homes may avoid us. Low/No-Impact businesses that we are trying to attract to Ashford to enhance our tax base may consider locating somewhere else.

Like any household or business, we have to be careful about what we spend and borrow. We must repay money that we, as a community, decided to borrow in the past. This includes outstanding debt for capital projects like the fire station/town offices/library renovation project, Ashford School renovations and Region #19 addition and renovations.

Also, like any family, we need to maintain a savings account. For the town that's called our "Fund Balance." It represents revenues that we have collected over the years but have not spent. It may be tempting to dip into those savings to cover our immediate needs but that may not be fiscally responsible because the size of our fund balance is closely watched by the financial community and various government agencies. Too low a fund balance could reduce our credit rating and make it more difficult for our town to borrow in a time of need. Our fund balance could also be critical if we were faced with a true community-wide disaster or a significant revenue source doesn't materialize as planned. In past years, we have tried to responsibly utilize our fund balance to offset our mill rate to alleviate some of the tax pressure on our residents.

Our challenge then is to figure out just how much, if anything, we can spend on each service the town provides. Instead of simple spending levels, we need to carefully weigh what services we can deliver at what cost.

### **How You Can Get Involved**

As you can see, creating a budget that maintains important services, provides a good education for our children and doesn't raise taxes to unacceptably high levels is not an easy thing to do and it should not be done without your input. We need you to help shape Ashford's future by coming out to voice your concerns, needs and opinions during the budget process.

Some of the opportunities to do so are Selectmen's meetings (first and third Mondays at 7 p.m.) and Board of Finance meetings (second and fourth Thursdays at 7 p.m.). You can send notes or e-mails to the Board of Selectmen ([firstselectman@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:firstselectman@ashfordtownhall.org)) or the Board of Finance ([bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org)) outlining your ideas and concerns. You can participate in Public Hearings and Town Budget Meetings. The important thing is to have a voice in the budget process. Every comment is appreciated and will be considered.

Everyone has a stake in the budget process. We encourage you to participate in the preparation of a fair and responsible budget.

**The Ashford Senior Center invites you...**  
to join us for Corned Beef and Cabbage  
with Steamed Potatoes, Carrot Coins,  
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**Wednesday, March 13th  
12:00 P.M. Dinner**



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Reservations required by noon Thursday, March 7th.  
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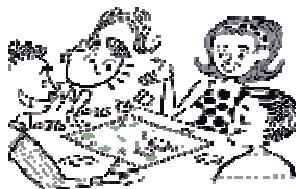
## **MEDICARE BOOTCAMP**

**Thursday, March 28th, 6-8 PM  
Ashford Senior Center**

The Senior Resources Agency on Aging  
will present a program to help Seniors  
understand their Medicare benefits.

Please call to register at: 860-487-5122

## **COMMISSION ON AGING EVENTS**



**A GAME DAY!**

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**Wed: 8:30am – 3:00pm & 7:00pm – 9:00pm**

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Bicknell Rd	AH 3 LLC	generator
Lake View Dr	Thomas	propane
Fitts Rd	Gordon	wood insert
Horse Hill Rd	Parent	mechanical
Chatey Rd	Cosgrove	doors
James Rd	Candelaria	renovation
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## ***And the Budget Development Process Continues...***

By James P. Longo, Ed.D.

I have been using this monthly article to keep you up to date on the progress of the Ashford Board of Education's 2019-2020 Ashford School budget proposal, and hope that these articles are helping to keep you informed. I have received several positive comments, and am appreciative of your interest in the process. The coming year's Board of Education proposal will be submitted to the Board of Finance on Thursday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

The BOE is undergoing a very difficult process this year because we have been operating for several years with minimal budgets. We have been operating with budgets that have been through a number of reductions in appropriated funding, federal and state grants. We have done everything under our control to keep our requests low and our spending down, and it is apparent that we will have to ask for an increase this year.

The numbers below represent the past four fiscal year budgets appropriated by the Town of Ashford:

- 2015-2016 - 1.8% increase
- 2016-2017 – 0.4% decrease
- 2017-2018 – 0%
- 2018-2019 - 1.36% increase

As you can see by this example, we have been able to keep our budget requests low for several years. We have worked diligently to be good citizens. The effect of these funding levels is now catching up to us because costs have continued to rise, while our budgets have remained low.

Here are some of the most significant aspects of the Board of Education's current proposal. The first thing we are hoping to do is fill our vacant math interventionist position. A staff member moved away from Connecticut, and resigned last year, and we were unable to fund filling her position in the subsequent budget. We have gone without this math tutor for a year, and feel strongly that we need to restore the service. We feel that we can do this most economically with a half-time teacher. So, our budget proposal has one instructional improvement in it, the restoration of a math tutor for the middle school on a half-time basis. Otherwise, the budget is essentially the same as last year. It reflects state mandated and mediated wage increases for certified and non-certified staff, and an increase in the BOE cost share for medical insurance coverage for its employees. The cost for medical coverage for our employees is slated to increase by 3.5 %.

Here are a few steps that have already been taken to keep our 2019-2020 budget request as low as possible:

- Administrators and non-union BOE employees have waived wage increases;
- We have eliminated all requests for purchases of new items;
- Wherever possible, we've held each line steady from the current budget with the exception of areas that affect student safety or facility maintenance.

The amount requested may seem higher than usual, but after four years of low overall budget requests, this was due to happen. Costs increase each year at school, just as they do in our homes. We are requesting an approximate 4.5% increase over last year at the time this article was written. This increase is primarily based upon the addition of the half-time math tutor, certified and non-certified staff wage increases negotiated through state mandated mediation, and the earlier mentioned cost increase in health insurance, even after our healthcare package was sent out for competitive bidding.

Our proposal will be posted on the Ashford School website by the time this article appears in the *Citizen*. Please visit the website and examine the proposal. I cannot ask you to support the budget, but I can ask you to participate in the process by either writing to a Board of Finance (BOF) member, or attending the upcoming BOF meetings to voice your opinion on the BOE proposal. Both the Board of Education and the Board of Finance are doing the very best that they can to balance the need to maintain a quality school, and to minimize that cost's impact upon the taxpayer. This is a difficult job with no clear right or wrong thing to do. Because of the difficulties the annual school budget presents, your opinion is really important. Whether you are supportive of the budget proposal, or against it, the Board of Finance needs to know. Having insight into what the taxpayers think helps them in their decision on what to put forward for a vote at the May referendum, just as the input that the Board of Education has received from the community over the past few months has guided them in the formation of their budget proposal.

Please become informed and participate. The end result impacts you, the taxpayer, and the students.



## - ARTIST SPOTLIGHT - Pat Morris, Artist

I am a wildlife artist, native of Connecticut, resident of Willington. I work primarily in pastel, painting pets and wildlife and I also enjoy painting with acrylic on feathers and birch bark. I am a self-taught artist; my ability to 'capture' life on paper, feathers, birch bark and other canvases is a humbling gift. Nature provides me with not only my inspiration, but also its own canvases! My inspiration is drawn upon a lifetime of observation in the woods and natural areas of the world. The expression of these experiences and observations is a lifelong challenge; my artwork is an invitation into that world.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Delightful Dinner Dance*

Money raiser from this event has generously supported the Cultural Arts program at Ashford School, also the Art Club and have awarded scholarships to two EOSmith Arts seniors, all adding up to about \$1,000 donated in 2018. Our organization will be four years old this October. So come, enjoy Patti Tuite and the New Years Allstars Band and dance the night away.

Contact Deb Gag for more information.  
[debragag@hotmail.com](mailto:debragag@hotmail.com)  
(860) 933-2987

Are you an artist? Would like to become a member of our local artist community?  
We are always welcoming new members.  
Visit us online at [www.AshfordArts.org](http://www.AshfordArts.org) for more information.



## VITAL STATISTICS



<b><u>Deaths:</u></b>	<i>Jeffrey Thomas Chirgwin</i>	<i>December 10, 2018</i>
	<i>Justin W. Parsons</i>	<i>December 16, 2018</i>
	<i>Galina Kuzmina</i>	<i>January 19, 2019</i>
	<i>Rev. Mother Mary Peter Jordan</i>	<i>January 25, 2019</i>
	<i>Judith Ann (Earley) Jakowski</i>	<i>January 28, 2019</i>
	<i>Ernest Clifford Gunn</i>	<i>January 28, 2019</i>
<b><u>Marriages:</u></b>	<i>George Irving Barr</i>	
	<i>Kaeleen Hall Martin</i>	<i>October 20, 2018</i>
	<i>Otoniel Mangual</i>	
	<i>Claribel Torres</i>	<i>December 22, 2018</i>



## Let's Spring Into Gardening!

Three students from the ECSU social work program are going to be helping the Ashford Senior Center create a beautiful garden area and landscape their building. We will be collaborating with the members of the town community in order to create a design plan, gather equipment, create a budget, and plant a garden. There will be a meeting held at the Ashford Senior Center on **Monday, March 4th at 12:00pm** to formulate and discuss ideas relating to this project. All are welcome to attend and contribute ideas to the group.


We are asking that any community members who would like to be involved with this project reach out to:

- Morgan (ECSU student)  
# 860-933-2063  
[keeganmo@my.easternct.edu](mailto:keeganmo@my.easternct.edu)
- or
- Kit at # 860-487-5122  
[seniorcenter@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:seniorcenter@ashfordtownhall.org)

We are in need of some supplies to complete this project and would appreciate any contributions:

Potting soil, seeds, flower pots, seed trays, plant tags, watering cans, gardening gloves, basic gardening tools (shovels, hoes, spades, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc.)


**THANK YOU!**



# A Special Evening

at  
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*Hungarian Social Club of Ashford*



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Please Bring 1 non-perishable food item  
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**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**  
**Doors Open 6:15 PM – BYOB and Snacks**

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**Help our Community &  
Help Save the Hungry!**

**#FIGHTHUNGERJUSICFEST2019**





Quiet Corner Productions  
proudly welcomes  
**Castlebay**  
to perform for us at  
Westford Congregational Church  
Saturday March 30, 2019  
7:00 P.M

Ticket price: \$12.00 per person.  
Capacity 100. Tickets can be purchased on line,  
[https://squareup.com/market/millpond-ink-llc/  
item/castlebay](https://squareup.com/market/millpond-ink-llc/item/castlebay).

**Castlebay** is a husband and wife team from Maine, Fred Gosbee and Julia Lane, who perform timeless songs, spritely dance tunes, and haunting aires in the spirit of our nautical and Celtic heritage. Julia is an award-winning celtic harper and Fred is an expert on 12-string guitar, violin, and woodwinds. **Castlebay** blends history, legend and experience into their personable performance style. And you will love their story telling! We invite you to join us for an enjoyable evening on March 30th.

## Answers to Trivia

**A!**

1. **Horton** is the elephant in Dr. Seuss's book that is tricked into egg sitting.
2. Clark Kent's high school sweetheart is **Lana Lang**.
3. **Les Miserable** by victor Hugo contains a sentence with 823 words.
4. Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes story, "**A Study in Scarlet**," was published in Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1887.
5. Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked on his island for **24 years**.
6. You would most likely be cutting **fabric**, if you are using pinking shears.
7. A lollipop man or lady is another name for a **crossing guard**.
8. Those are just three of Ben & Jerry's **ice cream flavors**.
9. The Heinz company is famous for **57** varieties.
10. The dot of an "i" or a "j" is called a **title**, because it is so small.



## Assistance to Ashford Veterans

The American Legion offers financial assistance to veterans through the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund (SSMF). Veterans Representative Garry Brown will hold office hours at the Ashford Town Office Building on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room. No appointment is necessary, as walk-ins are welcome, but call 860-928-2309 if you wish to schedule a more convenient time. All information is free and completely confidential. If you have any questions regarding the SSMF, or your veterans benefits or disability, contact Garry at [garry.brown71@aim.com](mailto:garry.brown71@aim.com).

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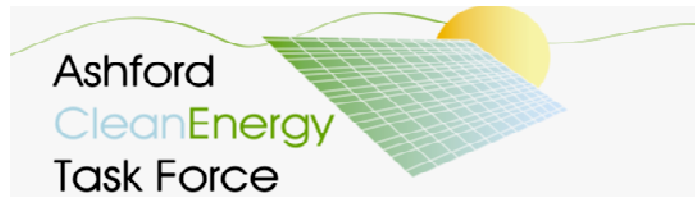
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\*Fish and Chips \$7.95

\*Choice of Pasta and Meat Ball with garlic bread \$6.95



March 2019

*It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold:  
when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. -- Charles Dickens*

On Feb. 7, New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced her Green New Deal in the Senate. The text of the legislation, which is a nonbinding resolution, lays out a broad vision for how the country might tackle climate change\* over the next decade, while creating high-paying jobs and protecting vulnerable communities. Modeled after FDR's New Deal, the Green New Deal focuses on tackling climate change, but isn't concerned just with reducing emissions. There are five goals of a 10-year mobilization effort: 1) Achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers. 2) Create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States 3) Invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century 4) Secure for all people of the United States for generations to come: clean air and water; climate and community resiliency; healthy food; access to nature; and a sustainable environment 5) Promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth ("frontline and vulnerable communities").

The primary climate change goal is to reach net-zero greenhouse emissions in a decade. "Net-zero" means that after tallying up all the greenhouse gases that are released and subtracting those that are sequestered, or removed, there is no net addition to the atmosphere. The goal, then, is slightly less ambitious than calling for no greenhouse gas emissions at all.

In October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded in a special report that in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – and thereby avoid many climate change impacts – the world would have to reach net-zero emissions of carbon dioxide by the year 2050. If the country wants to reach net-zero emissions, one of the most important areas in which reductions must occur is transportation (through investment in zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and high-speed rail). Another goal of the Green New Deal is to meet 100 percent of the power demand in the US through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources. According to the EPA, generating electricity accounts for about 28 percent of US greenhouse gas emissions. Removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector would involve supporting family farming, investing in sustainable farming and land use practices that increase soil health, and building a more sustainable food system that ensures universal access to healthy food. A key goal is to create "millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people in the US."

\* Another term is *Anthropogenic Climate Disruption*, so as not to be dismissed by arguments that "the climate is always changing."

The ACETF thanks you for your interest in our work and welcomes your input. And we would welcome your participation by joining us as a member. If you have concerns or comments, or to join us, please contact Cindy Moeckel at 860-487-3827 or [clmoeckel@gmail.com](mailto:clmoeckel@gmail.com).

## Ashford School News and Happenings



The 2019 QVJC Small Division Girls Basketball Champion are our very own Ashford Wolves!!!! Congratulations!!!!



Kindergarten's STEAM event was all about healthy eating habits on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.



We are a hundred days smarter as we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of the school year on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.



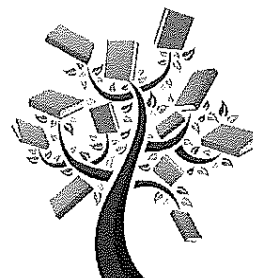
The 8<sup>th</sup> class sponsored a Candy-Gram fundraiser to raise money for their class. Candy-Grams are a fun way to show your appreciation for friends, teachers, and other members of the Ashford Community.

### Up-Coming School Events

Date	Event	Time
Friday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Tanglewood Marionettes</i> Cultural Arts Assembly	9:00am
Saturday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	PTO Father / Daughter Dance	5:00 – 7:00pm
Monday, March 4 <sup>th</sup>	PTO Meeting	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Take Apart Night	6:00 - 7:00pm
Thursday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Education Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	No School for students - PD Day	
Thursday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Nutrition Night	6:00 - 7:30pm

# Babcock News

**Babcock Library**  
**25 Pompey Hollow Road**  
**Ashford, CT 06278**  
*Your Center for Life-Long Learning*



**March 2019**

www.babcocklibrary.org  
 t. 860.487.4420  
 f. 860.487.4438

## Hours:

Monday - 10-6  
 Tuesday - 10-6  
 Wednesday - 10-8  
 Thursday - Closed  
 Friday - 10-6  
 Saturday - 9-2  
 Sunday - Closed

When Ashford School is closed due to road conditions the library will also be closed.

**Carolann Mac Master, MLIS**  
 Library Director  
 cmacmaster@babcocklibrary.org

## Staff

Terese Mayer, AS  
 Susan Way, BGS  
 Jessica Douglas, MA  
 Rick Peck  
 Bonnie Chemerka  
 Tennille Waldo, BA

## Save the Dates!

### Deadbolt Mystery Society Club

Do you like solving mysteries? Have an eye for detail? Come to the library and join us as we solve mysteries! We will meet each week on Monday at 3:00 (starting April 8<sup>th</sup>) to work on our box, and when we solve one there are more!

### Reiki Level I Practitioner Class

Reiki can bring about a sense of inner peace, quiet the mind, and promote a sense of harmony. This program is free to Ashford residents. There is a \$10.00 materials fee which includes the Certificate.

## Author, Shawn Flynn

Connecticut author, learn more about his heartwarming pet rescue story, "THE KITTY: Who Rescued Me After I Rescued Him." Flynn's book was recently named a Top Shelf Magazine Book Awards First-Place Winner, won a Readers' Favorite Book Award, and was an award-winning finalist in both the Best Book Awards and the International Book Awards competitions. **Saturday, March 9th at 11:00**

## Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame

*Celebrating 300 Years of Connecticut's Remarkable Women*  
 Join us for an interactive multi-media program by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame and learn about some of our state's most remarkable women! Be inspired as you learn about librarians, teachers, and other remarkable women. This presentation will introduce you to the Hall, its mission and programs, and give you a panoramic view of some of its 121 Inductees from across all fields of endeavor, from politics and sports to the arts and sciences. Portraits will be available for viewing after the program, refreshments will be served.  
 All ages are welcomed. **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00**

## Invisible Cities

Calling all imaginary minds! Writers and artists come join up to be a part of "Invisible Cities," creating stories and illustrations of imaginary cities and cityscapes. During the 4 sessions, participants will take a close look at 3 cities from the book, "Invisible Cities," by Italo Calvino where Marco Polo imagines and narrates to Kublai Khan the cities he has traveled to. Working solo or together, you will then create your own city both written and illustrated in a large format drawing. On the final day both will be displayed.

*Registration is required.*

**Mondays, March 4, 11, 18 and April 1, 3:30-5:00 for children ages 9 and up.**

## Ghost Hunters of Connecticut

They will be presenting the findings from their past investigations from over 30 years in the paranormal including photos videos and audio clips. They will explain what equipment they use, as well as talking about first hand experiences they have had.

This program is for patrons 12 and up, **Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**

## CALENDAR

### Babcock Book Club:

**Wednesday, March 13th at 3:30**

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**Teen Meet Up:  
 Friday March 22nd, at 4:00**

~~~~~

### FRIENDS OF BABCOCK LIBRARY

**Tuesday, March 19th at 3:00**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Tuesday, March 26th at 2:30**

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### Storytime Ages 0-5 Tuesdays at 10:30

~~~~~

### STITCH AND CHAT

Come bring your knitting or other yarn work and visit with friends.  
**Wednesdays at 1:00**

~~~~~

### UKULELE CLUB

**Tuesdays at 12:30**  
 Registration is required



# BABCOCK LIBRARY

March 2019

## Drop-In Crafts

Stop by the library anytime during the week and make the craft project for the week. This is a self directed activity, usually for ages 4 to 8, although younger children may enjoy it with help from an adult. Crafts are available throughout the week until they are gone!

## **Join the Teen Meet Up! (Registration is required)**

*Are you 12-16 and like spending time at the library? If your answer is yes, then the Teen Meet Up is for you! You will assist with collection development, programming for all ages and set up book displays. Of course we have snacks! Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00*

## **Learn to play the Ukulele**

Sue Way will instruct students on how to play and tune a ukulele. Participants must have a valid library card in good standing for this program. Program is designed for participants 9 years old and up. (Yes, adults are welcome!) Registration is required. Tuesdays at 12:30

## **Save the Date!**

The Babcock Library is proud to announce that we are part of the Connecticut Authors Trail 2019! More information will be available in the upcoming months. Our Author will be

Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo and her book Ruby in the Sky **Wednesday, July 31st at 6:30.**

## **Magic Show**

Ed Popielarczyk Comedy Magic Show!! Ed has been entertaining children and family audiences for over thirty years. The kids in the audience are the stars...they make the magic happen!!! All ages are welcome!

**Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00**

## **Author, Lisa Taylor**

Ms. Taylor will speak about her second collection of short fiction, "IMPOSSIBLY SMALL SPACES". She is a teacher of creative writing, poetry, and fiction at Eastern CT State University. "IMPOSSIBLY SMALL SPACES" has been described as "hugely perceptive [and] sizzling with electric images." Join us for this free author event, and be sure to bring a friend or two. **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30**

## **VHS to DVD Conversion**

Bring in your home VHS tapes and we will transfer them to a DVD for you.

Please note that we cannot convert VHS tapes containing copyrighted material.

Converted DVDs are \$5.00 each and generally take a week to process.

## Storytime

*Come join us for games, stories, and a craft, for ages 3 to 5 and their adult companions. This program lasts about 45 minutes and registration is not required at this time. Tuesdays at 10:30 in the children's room.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Overdrive Training

The Library now has a subscription to Overdrive for Babcock Library card holders! Overdrive offers e-books and audiobooks that you can access on your mobile devices. Bring your phone, iPad, tablet, Kindle, or NOOK to the library and we will teach you how to get started! Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30  
If you require other dates, please let us know and we can accommodate you.

## Teen Reads:

### **"The Ocean at the End of the Lane" by Neil Gaiman**

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy. Friday, March 8th at 4:00

## Adult Book Discussion:

### **"The Cat Who Tailed A Thief" by Lilian Jackson Braun**

There's been a rash of petty thievery in Pickax—ever since banker Willard Carmichael and his flashy young wife, Danielle, moved in. But now Willard's been killed in a mugging Down Below...or so it seems. Qwill's suspicious, especially when Willard's house-restoration project in Pickax falls into the hands of Danielle's cousin—whose rich new wife then dies on her honeymoon! The clues are confounding. But with Koko's help, Qwill intends to catch a thief—and a killer... Wednesday, March 13th at 3:30

## **Seed Exchange**

*Come to the library and pick up flower, vegetable and herb seeds beginning March 25<sup>th</sup>. This program is sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Seed Program. Limited 5 packs per family, seeds are available until they are gone.*

The Babcock Library Cookbook is available for purchase, the cost is \$10.00. The cookbook is an accumulation of out of print recipes and was created by the staff at the Babcock Library.

## **Become a Friend of the Library**

**Our Friends group is always looking for new members willing to assist the library with activities. Book Sale, Wine Tasting and other fun activities await you.**



The Friends will be holding their Spring Book Sale  
May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Please drop off donations in good condition in the  
blue bins in the lobby.

VHS tapes and textbooks are not accepted.

## **Assessment News**

**(NEW) BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS** – Property owners and lessees have the right under Connecticut General Statutes §12-111 and 12-504d to appeal the assessment of motor vehicles, personal property and real estate. CGS Sections 12-112 and 12-117(a) require written appeals to be received by the Board of Assessment Appeals by Monday, March 11, 2019. Appellants will be notified by April 1, 2019 of the date, time and place in April 2019 when the BAA will hear their appeal.

The appeal form must contain all of the following information:

- i. the property owner's name,
- ii. name and position of the signer,
- iii. description of the property which is the subject of the appeal,
- iv. name and mailing address of the party to be sent all correspondence by the BAA,
- v. reason for the appeal,
- vi. appellant's estimate of value and
- vii. dated signature of the property owner or duly authorized agent of the property owner.

If any of these items are not provided, the Board can decide not to hear an appeal.

Appeal forms are available in the Assessor's Office at Ashford Town Office Building. They are also available on the Board of Assessment Appeals page of the Town of Ashford's website, [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org).

**ELDERLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAM** - Connecticut law provides for tax relief for certain homeowners. Credits (reductions in taxes) are determined as a percentage of taxes and range from \$150 - \$1,250. To be eligible for the abatement on the 2018 Grand List:

- 1) You, or your spouse, must have been at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2018; or you must be permanently and totally disabled (per Social Security or VA).
- 2) You must reside as the owner, or have life use, of the property as of October 1, 2018, and you must have lived in Connecticut for one year.
- 3) Your 2018 income cannot exceed \$43,900 if you are married or \$36,000 if you are unmarried. Qualifying income is defined as taxable income for IRS purposes AND non-taxable income, with limited exemptions.
- 4) You must provide the assessor with a copy of your Federal Income Tax Return if you file one. Proof of all 2018 income must be provided.

Applications are filed with the Assessor biennially from February 1st - May 15th. Persons already enrolled in the program were mailed an application package. New applicants can download an application from the Assessor's page of the town's website at [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org) after February 1, 2019. You can also request an application package by leaving a message with the Assessor at 860-487-4403 or emailing her at [assessor@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:assessor@ashfordtownhall.org).

Applications can be mailed in until April 15, 2019. From April 16, 2019 - May 15, 2019, you or your agent must apply in person at the Assessor's office. Please call 860-487-4403 to make an appointment.

**REMINDER - TO RECEIVE A CREDIT ON A MOTOR VEHICLE TAX BILL** - You must provide the assessor with two documents:

- 1) Proof of disposal, e.g., if sold, the bill of sale; if totaled, a letter from the insurance company; if repossessed, a letter stating such; if junked, a receipt from the junk yard; if traded in, the bill of sale for the new car showing the car being valued in trade.
- 2) Returned plate receipt from the CT DMV.

Only vehicles on the 2017 and 2018 Grand Lists are eligible for credit. If you provide the documents before Friday, June 14, 2019, the credit will be reflected on the tax bill mailed to you for July 2019 payment.

## EDUCATIONAL NOTES:

### Dean's List Fall 2018:

State University of New York (SUNY)-Oneonta, New York

**Spencer Potter**

Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic

**Erick Bora, Faith Carabino, Leah Crowley,**

**Tiffany Gagnon, Haley Grimson, Amanda**

**Maloney, Jacob Rupert, Kyle Strogoff**

American International College Springfield, Massachusetts

**Jannie Settembro**

University of Connecticut, Storrs

**Antonio Cajigas, Zack Cosgrove, Bright Eze, Andrew Frascarelli,**

**Fangzhou Gai, Bridget Keleher, Harrison Mangines, Gavin Metsack,**

**Taryn Shannon**

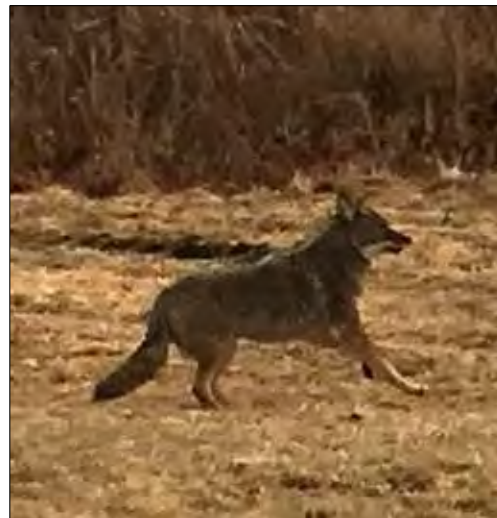
Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

**Faith Noel**

East Catholic High School, Manchester

First Honors – Grade 9 **Jack O'Connor**

First Honors – Grade 10 **Michael O'Connor**

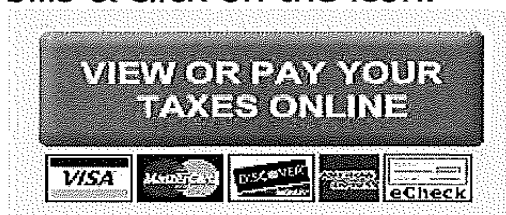


*Recently spotted loping across a hayfield on Kennerson Reservoir Road, this big, healthy coyote was in search of breakfast!*

## Looking Up Payments for IRS Reporting Purposes

Go to the Town's Website at: [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org)

On the right hand side of the page, go to the purple button View & Pay tax bills & click on the icon.



When the box comes up to search by name,

SEARCH BY  
Name ☐

See Example

Enter the search criteria below:

Search



Enter Last Name then space then 1<sup>st</sup> Initial (example SMITH J) or Business Name (No comma, & or -)

☐ All ☐ Due Now ☐ Balance Due ☒ IRS Payment Records for Year 2016

Type in last name, a space, and then the first letter of the first name. Also, check off the bubble that says IRS Payment Records for the year 2018, and hit search. When the page comes up, there will be a box on the right side of the page in the second blue bar that says IRS. "Check it, and a View IRS button will appear.

| BILL # | NAME/ADDRESS | PROPERTY/VEHICLE | PAID | OUTSTANDING | OPTIONS | PAY IRS |
|--------|--------------|------------------|------|-------------|---------|---------|
|--------|--------------|------------------|------|-------------|---------|---------|



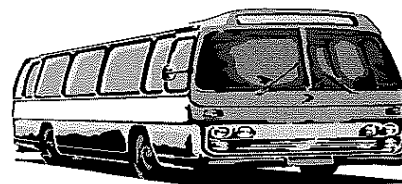
Click on it, *your information should be there.*

*This site is available 24/7.*

# Recreation Reminders!

Programs are sponsored by Ashford Parks and Recreation Commission 860-487-4409

## SPRING 2019 COACH BUS TRIPS



**Fri. April 12th, 2019 Mangia, Mangia**

**Boston's Little Italy, Sam Adams, Italian Food Tour**

*Spend the day in Italy without your passport. This walking tour is like a cooking class on foot. Enjoy the colorful sights, tantalizing aromas and authentic tastes of bread, pastries, cured meat, cheeses, blasamic vinegar and the freshest seasonal produce. After the tour there will be some free time to shop for some of these authentic Italian ingredients and have lunch on your own. In the afternoon, we will head to Sam Adams Brewery to learn about the beer making process and enjoy a sample. This tour involves a lot of walking and standing, wear comfortable shoes and bring appropriate outerwear. Fee: \$139 per person, Coach bus departs 7:30 a.m. from the Tolland Commuter Lot and returns there approximately 6:45 p.m.*

**Sunday June 9th, Red Sox vs Tampa Bay at Fenway at 1:05 p.m.**

Fee: \$130 pp (includes coach bus, game ticket, cookout, games & prizes)

**Thursday July 4th, James Taylor at Tanglewood at 8 p.m.**

Fireworks will follow the 4th of July concert, Bring your own picnic or purchase at Tanglewood, Bus leaves at 3:00 p.m. and returns about midnight. Fee: \$69 pp

### REGISTRATION FORM

**Registration Information:** You may register for all activities at the Recreation office in Town Hall or by mail to: 5 Town Hall Rd. Registration and payment are required prior to the start of a program. Permission slips and waivers must be signed before participating in programs. Out of town residents are welcome if space is available and are charged an extra \$5 fee. Refunds are not given once a program begins except for medical reasons. Credits or refunds are given for cancelled programs. Checks may be made out to A.P.R.C. Please call 860-487-4409 with questions.

| Participants Name<br>Address & (e-mail) | Program | Phone | Age | Fee |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|-------|-----|-----|
|                                         |         |       |     |     |
|                                         |         |       |     |     |
|                                         |         |       |     |     |
|                                         |         |       |     |     |
|                                         |         |       |     |     |
|                                         |         |       |     |     |
|                                         |         |       |     |     |

Please list any allergies or medical conditions  
(Write "None" if appropriate)

The signer or parent /guardian agree to waive, release and hold harmless the A.P.R.C. any persons connected with A.P.R.C. and or any volunteers from any claims of bodily or property damage resulting from the use of facilities or activity during an A.P.R.C. sponsored program.



# Swimming Lessons



Monday nights at the Evangelical Christian Center Pool.  
Spring Swim Lessons will run 8 weeks from March 25th-May 13th  
Sandy Reed and Ashley Ault will instruct.  
Parent Tot /Preschool 6-6:30, Preschool/ Level I 6:30-7:00  
Level II & III 7:00-7:30 Level IV & V 7:30-8:00  
Fee: \$60, Call 860-487-4409 with questions.

# Swim Club

## How Cool to go from School to the Pool!

4th, 5th and 6th graders are welcome to join.  
Transportation provided from school to the pool.  
Swim Lesson 4:00-4:30,  
Water Games and Contests 4:30-5:00.  
Parents pick up at the pool 5:00-5:15. Fee: \$ 75  
( Kids needed 12 (min), 18 (max)  
8 weeks, Mondays, March 25th -May 13th 2019



# GYMNASTICS



A 6-wk program for K-4 graders.

Meets in the gym after school on

Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$50, Instructor : Caylin Fitzgerald

Program runs March 12th-April 16th 2018.

Participants will stretch, strengthen, use the equipment and practice their favorite tricks!

**TINY TUMBLERS** our Preschool Gymnastics class runs Tuesdays from 4:00-4:45 in  
Knowlton Memorial Hall, from 1/29-3/5. Fee: \$50

# YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CLINICS

Learn to Bump, Set, & Spike with Coach Fran McDonough,  
for Boys & Girls in Grades 3-8, **Saturday March 16th & 23rd**, 9-12. Ashford School Gym  
Fee: \$10 pp each clinic. Call 860-487-4409 to pre-register.

# RED CROSS BABYSITTERS TRAINING

Take this 8 hour Certification Course taught by Jim York, for 11-15 yr olds. Ashford School Library,  
3:30-5:30 p.m. March 11,15,18, 22. Fee: \$85 (includes materials) Register by March 4th. (6-10 pp)

# YOGA

## HATHA YOGA

Class meets Wednesday Evenings 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
at Knowlton Memorial Hall ( Instructor T.B.A.)  
Spring Session runs March 20th thru May 8th  
(\$64 for 8 wk session, or Drop in \$10 a class)

**Namaste!**

# TAI CHI

Joe Pandolfo is a certified, experienced Tai Chi instructor offering Monday evening classes for  
adults at the Senior Center from 5:30-6:30 p.m.. Spring session runs Mar. 11th thru May 13th.

(Fee: \$80 for the 10 wk session, or drop in for \$10 a class)

Learn the basic forms of this traditional Chinese exercise art for health, balance and rejuvenation.

## BLOOD DRIVES      March 2019

### March

1 8:00-2:00 Windham Hospital 112 Mansfield Ave, Willimantic  
5 1:30-6:30 Somers Congregational Church 599 Main St Somers  
6,7,8 11:00-4:45

UConn Wilbur Cross Reading Room Glenbrook Rd, Storrs

8 7:30-1:00 Manchester Memorial Hosp 71 Haynes St, Manchester  
13 1:00-6:00 Putnam Elks Club 64 Edmond St, Putnam  
17 9:00-2:30 Cabela's 475 East Htfd Blvd-North, East Hartford  
19 1:00-6:00 Elks Club 198 Pleasant St Willimantic  
21 10:00-3:00 Parish Hill High School 304 Parish Hill Rd, Chaplin  
26 9:00-2:00 Gerber Technology 24 Industrial Park Rd West, Tolland  
27 1:00-6:00 Rockville General Hospital 31 Union St, Rockville  
28,29 11:00-4:45

UConn Wilbur Cross Reading Room Glenbrook Rd, Storrs

29 1:00-6:00 Willimantic VFW 1415 Main Street, Willimantic  
29 12:00-5:00 Suburban Subaru 14 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon  
31 9:00-2:30 Cabela's 475 East Htfd Blvd-North, East Hartford

Register on line at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
Or call 1-877-287-3327

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ASHFORD

Notice is given that the Annual Financial Report of the Regional School District #19, Edwin O. Smith High School, for the year ended June 30, 2018 as prepared by the E.O. Smith Finance Department and audited by Blum, Shapiro & Company, 29 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT, is on file in the Ashford Town Clerk's Office and available for public inspection during regular business hours.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, this 25th day of January, 2019.

Attest: Sherri L. Mutch, CMC  
Ashford Town Clerk

## SPRING CLEANING WORK DAY

**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**at J N Webster Scout Reservation**

*Hoss Haskell, Chairman*

Join the usual 'suspects' for satisfying work, fellowship, and food. We need help to get our camp ready for the 2019 season. We need your help on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and lunch will be provided.

JNW will be hosting National Camping School in June, so we need to have many of the campsites and program areas open early for that program. As usual, there is also a great deal of clean-up work to be done from the winter.

What is your skill set? If you have any special skills, such as a carpenter, plumber, electrician, painter, or mechanic, please let me know you are coming at [hosshaskell@gmail.com](mailto:hosshaskell@gmail.com). I will then try to match your skills with work projects that need to be done. Be sure to bring your tools

There is also plenty of work to be done that doesn't require any special skills including loading small logs, splitting and stacking firewood, and clearing brush and leaves from program areas and around buildings

Please sign-up on the JNW Facebook page (or e-mail Hoss) so we can better plan the projects to be done and prepare the food that will be needed.

### WORK DAY SCHEDULE

|          |                                                           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 am  | Meet at the Ranger's Station<br>for donuts, coffee or tea |
| 8:45 am  | Projects assigned, Supplies issued                        |
| 9:00 am  | Work projects begin                                       |
| 12:15 pm | Lunch served in Dining Hall                               |
| 1:00 pm  | Work resumes                                              |
| 4:00 pm  | Work projects conclude                                    |





# TOWN OF ASHFORD

## BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



### March 2019

| Sun                                     | Mon                                                                                                                          | Tue                                                                                                                                                | Wed                                                                 | Thu                                                                                                                                                         | Fri                                | S  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----|
|                                         |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                             | 1                                  | 2  |
| 3                                       | 4<br>Commission on Aging,<br>Senior Center, 10am<br><br>Board of Selectmen,<br>ATO, 7pm                                      | 5<br>Board of Ed., Reg. #19,<br>EOS Media Center,<br>7:30pm<br><br>Inland Wetlands<br>& Watercourses<br>Commission, ATO, Rm<br>304, 7pm            | 6<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b>                                           | 7<br>Board of Education,<br>Ashford School, 7pm<br><br>Board of Finance<br>ATO, Rm 104, 7pm<br><br>Ashford Business<br>Association (ABA),<br>Midway, 6:30pm | 8                                  | 9  |
| 10<br><b>Daylight Saving<br/>Begins</b> | 11<br>Planning & Zoning<br>Commission, ATO,<br>Rm 104, 7pm<br><br>Ashford Arts Council,<br>Knowlton Memorial Hall,<br>7:15pm | 12<br><br>Housing Authority,<br>Pompey Hollow<br>7:30pm                                                                                            | 13<br><br>Zoning Board of<br>Appeals, ATO<br>7pm                    | 14<br><br>Board of Finance<br>ATO, Rm 104, 7pm                                                                                                              | 15                                 | 16 |
| 17<br><b>Saint Patrick's<br/>Day</b>    | 18<br>Board of Selectmen,<br>ATO, 7pm<br><br>Parks & Recreation<br>Commission, APRC, 7pm                                     | 19<br>Our Town Our Future,<br>ATO, Commissions<br>Rm, 7:30pm<br><br>ADTC<br>ATO, Rm 104,<br>7:30pm<br><br>Board of Assessment<br>Appeals, ATO, 6pm | 20<br><b>Spring Begins<br/>(Northern<br/>Hemisphere)</b>            | 21<br>Board of Education,<br>Ashford School, 7pm<br><br>Board of Finance<br>ATO, Rm 104, 7pm<br><br>Agriculture Commission,<br>ATO,<br>Rm 112, 7:30pm       | 22<br>NECCOG<br>Dayville<br>8:30am | 23 |
| 24                                      | 25<br>Conservation<br>Commission, ATO,<br>Rm 112, 7pm                                                                        | 26<br>Library Board of<br>Trustees, Babcock<br>Library, 2:30pm                                                                                     | 27<br>Economic<br>Development<br>Commission, ATO,<br>Rm 112, 7:30pm | 28<br>Board of Finance<br>ATO, Rm 104, 7pm                                                                                                                  | 29                                 | 30 |

31



**The Ashford Citizen**  
**5 Town Hall Road**  
**Ashford, CT 06278**

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

Alexander Hastillo Electric Inc.  
American Scale Company, Inc.  
Antero, Inc.  
Anything Printed  
Ashford Dairy Bar and Grill  
Ashford Garden Center, LLC  
Ashford Spirit Shoppe  
Bakerwoods Farm  
Basch Stone Masonry, LLC  
Basto Flooring, LLC  
Christopher Home Improvement  
Cool-Grind Technologies, LLC  
Count It All Joy Studio  
Country Coop  
County Line Septic, LLC  
Designs For Independence  
Eastford Building Supply  
Evamanda  
Franc Motors  
Funk & Little, Inc.  
Gary B. Stevens  
GM Thompson & Sons, Inc.  
Greg Peck Landscaping  
Hall Davis Marketing Strategies  
Hank's Lawn Mower Repair & Service  
Henrietta House Bed & Breakfast  
HIBU Sue Supina  
Hope and Wellness  
Hummingbird Hollow Wildlife Control

Insurance Engineering Solutions, LLC  
Integrated Neurology of CT  
JCL Lawn Care, LLC  
J.M. Cyr Construction, LLC  
Lance Glass  
Latham Automotive  
Lawrence Real Estate  
Liberty Bank  
Love Construction  
LuLa Roe - Erica Baker  
Made and Formed Foundations  
Mansfield Supply  
Mansfield Tree Service  
McClintock Roofing, LLC  
Midway Restaurant  
Mike Kovarovics  
Mindful Media, LLC  
NAPA Autoparts of Tolland  
Neighbors Paper, LLC



[www.ashfordbusiness.org](http://www.ashfordbusiness.org)

### **Our Mission**

**To promote and provide support to all businesses within the Towns of Ashford, Willington, and Eastford**  
**To act as a collective resource of business information and education**  
**To create awareness of Ashford, Willington, and Eastford business within the community**  
**To address common business issues within Town governments**

Noah King- Home Selling Team  
Northeast Builders Roofing  
North Veterinary Clinic  
Pet-Law Farm  
Pfalzgraf Pfarm  
Preston Family Property Maintenance  
Renewal by Andersen  
Rettenmeier Woodcarving  
Rivers Edge Sugar House  
Rogerson Masonry, Inc.  
Savings Institute Bank and Trust  
Scentsy Consultant-Dessi Liebman  
Sean Patrick's Plants, LLC  
Shooters Services  
State Farm Insurance  
(Anthony Raggi, Agent)  
Stoney Maple Carpentry  
Terry's Transmissions  
The Last Green Valley  
The Mobile Animal Clinic  
Tolland County Foundation Replacement  
Unlimited, LLC  
Vacation Property Check, LLC  
Veterans Base Camp  
Village Springs Distributors  
Westford Hill Distillers, LLC  
Willington Pizza  
Willow Valley Farm  
Yeagle Technology, Inc.

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