

ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

Volume 51

Issue 11

November 1, 2020

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

WARNING

***(REVISED 10/26/20)**

November 3, 2020 State Election

The Electors of the Town of Ashford are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, for the following purposes:

To cast their votes for Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, and Registrar of Voters.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places is as follows:

Voting District

Location of Polling Place

Knowlton Memorial Hall

25 Pompey Hollow Road, Ashford, CT 06278

***Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location:**

Ashford Town Office Building, Room 112 (Boards & Commissions Room) beginning at 6:00 a.m. on November 3, 2020.

Voting machines will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).

***Dated at Ashford Connecticut, this 26th day of October, 2020.**

Sherri L. Mutch, MCTC, CMC
Town Clerk
Town of Ashford



Voting: it's the same, but different, this year!

It's been disconcerting to some people that this election year *just* when they were getting used to using paper ballots instead of the election booth, elections changed again! (Perhaps the only good thing to come out of COVID-19 has been the expanded opportunity to use absentee ballots for this year's primary and election.) If you have not voted by absentee ballot, that's okay. The polls are open in Knowlton Memorial Hall (the big stone building) from 6:00am-8:00pm, as usual.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ashford
Town Office Building remains
CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
until further notice.

Offices are staffed Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.
8:30am—3:00pm.

You may reach us by telephone or email.



Town Offices Directory

Animal Control Officer	860-487-4400
Assessor	860-487-4403
Building Dept.	860-487-4404
Emergency Management	860-428-0870
Finance Dept.	860-487-4405
Fire Marshal	860-429-6222
Housing Authority	860-429-8556
Public Works	860-429-6812
Registrar of Voters	860-487-4410
Selectmen's Office	860-487-4400
Sexton	860-487-4400
Social/Youth Services	860-487-4417
Tax Collector	860-487-4411
Town Clerk	860-487-4401
Zoning Enforcement	860-487-4415



COVID-19

The CDC continues to recommend:

Wear a Mask!
Social Distancing!
Wash your Hands!

Notice from the Tax Collector's Office

**The Tax Collector's Office will not be
staffed on Wednesdays in November:**

November 4th
November 11th (Veterans Day)
November 18th
November 25th

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 \$18 per year donation (as of 1/1/2020).

*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

Karen Zulick, Ads/Subscriptions # 860-487-4401
kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org



**Ashford Town Offices
will be closed to
observe
Veterans Day,
Wednesday,
November 11th.**



**Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday, November 1st.**

**Don't forget to set your
clocks BACK one hour!**

THANKSGIVING HOURS:

**Ashford Town Offices
will be closed for the
Thanksgiving holiday
Friday, November 27th, 2020.**



**For the most accurate information
on the Town of Ashford,
please visit the official town website
www.ashfordtownhall.org
and read the *Ashford Citizen*.**

Ashford School Cafeteria

Good News!

USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue recently announced the continued extension of the nationwide flexibilities that allow free meals for all children age 18 and under who reside in Ashford for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

You may sign up for meals on the Ashford school website (www.ashfordct.org) with meal options for the entire week.

We ask that you sign up no later than Sunday at 8:00PM.

If you choose to pick up the meals for distance learners or children at home please do so at Ashford School; the pick up time is between 10:30 - 11:00 in the circle driveway behind the school.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer meal delivery.

We will provide a breakfast and a lunch daily to each child.

If there are any dietary restrictions or food allergies please include that information when signing up for meals.

Please contact me with any questions regarding free meals for children.

ksamperi@ashfordct.org
or 860-429-6419 ext. 360



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Mansfield Depot, CT 06251

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***Full line of pet and farm supplies
for all your animal needs.***

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Phone: (860) 429-9377
Fax: (860) 429-9378

Ashford Transfers

September 15, 2020-October 15, 2020

Grantor	Grantee	Conveyance Tax Selling Price	Remarks (Not Warranted)
MARION A KERR 105 CUSHMAN ROAD APT A5 ASHFORD, CT 06278	JEFFREY & JENNIFER JASMIN 156 HORSE HILL ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$525.00 \$210,000.00	HORSE HILL ROAD
DEUTSCHE BANK 1600 SOUTH DOUGLAS AVENUE ANAHEIM, CA 92806	KATHLEEN WOOD 7 BEBBINGTON ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$427.50 \$171,000.00	BEBBINGTON ROAD
WILLIAM M MILLER 704 STAFFORD ROAD SOMERS, CT 06071	MARCELO MONIZ 6 VIEW POINT DRIVE ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$667.25 \$266,900.00	VIEW POINT DRIVE
RCN ASHFORD LLC 75 GERBER ROAD EAST SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074	HANS AND KATHERINE WANNER 97 LAKE WOODS LANE EASTFORD, CT 06242	\$0.00 \$1.00	LAKE WOODS LANE
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION 56000 GRANITE PARKWAY PLANO, TX 75024	MICHAEL GOLDWYN 46 ELDER STREET MILFORD, CT 06460	\$0.00 \$108,000.00	ASHFORD CENTER ROAD
JOHN AND SUSAN LEAVITT 194 OLD TOWN ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	JOHN AND SUSAN LEAVITT 194 OLD TOWN ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$0.00 \$0.00	OLD TOWN ROAD
LORELEI SULLIVAN 535 BEBBINGTON ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	MARIAH KIRBY 8 ASHFORD DRIVE ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$375.00 \$150,000.00	ASHFORD DRIVE
ESTATE OF CAROL ANN NORTHROP 161 JUNIPER DRIVE SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403	DOUGLAS LUSSIER 172 SOUTHWORTH DRIVE ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$559.00 \$223,600.00	SOUTHWORTH DRIVE
LAURIE L ENDERLE 108 HIGH PINE CIRCLE WILBRAHAM, MA 01095	ROBERT AND VALERIE PARMENTER 390 TURNPIKE ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$1,075.00 \$430,000.00	TURNPIKE ROAD
ELLEN E DARK 218 NORVENT DRIVE NORWOOD, MA 02062	KYLE LINSLEY 550 WESTFORD ROAD #552 ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$605.00 \$242,000.00	WESTFORD ROAD
SHERRI A & JEFFREY A LEMIRE 244 STICKNEY HILL ROAD STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT 06076	GLENN B & FELICIA BENOIT 404 TURNPIKE ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$875.00 \$350,000.00	TURNPIKE ROAD
RONALD A & DOLORES R STEVENS 77 HANSEN DRIVE VERNON, CT 06066	NANCY DEZOLT 25 CHETELAT DRIVE ASHFORD, CT 06278	\$387.50 \$155,000.00	CHETELAT DRIVE



*Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace -
dead or alive - although it's largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices.*

THANK YOU!

**LEGAL NOTICE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in the Town Meetings in the Town of Ashford, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held at the gazebo in Pompey Hollow Park, Tremko Lane, Ashford, Connecticut, on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. In case of inclement weather, we have set a rain date of Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 11:00 in Pompey Hollow Park.

The Special Town Meeting will be for the purpose of consideration and vote upon the establishment of an Advisory School Building Committee and the appointment of its members who shall be charged with the following tasks:

To evaluate the "Ashford Public Schools Limited Existing Conditions Survey" which was prepared by Friar Associates in 2016 and to present its prioritized findings of said survey to the Board of Selectmen.

The list of members recommended for appointment to the Advisory School Building Committee can be found in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's website at www.ashfordtownhall.org. Please check the town web site to find out whether we have to take advantage of the rain date.

Voting on the slate of candidates shall be based on a show of hands.

Cathryn Silver-Smith
First Selectman

William A. Falletti
Selectman

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, this 19th day of October 2020.


Sherri L. Mutch
Town Clerk

In accordance with Executive Orders issued by Governor Ned Lamont regarding the holding of Town Meetings, we encourage all meeting attendees to mask and maintain social distancing during this meeting.

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•Textured Ceilings

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Ashford, CT 06278
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ISO:9000

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Service • Sales • Rentals • Systems • Test Weights • Balances

LYNNE C. ALLEVO
Office Manager
(860) 429-8268

P.O. Box 64
Ashford, CT 06278
Fax: (860) 429-2187

Email: businessoffice@americanscaleco.net

From the Town Clerk's Office

Question: How did we recently get a new First Selectman in Ashford?

Answer: A recent change in personnel in our Selectmen's Office has puzzled some residents. As Town Clerk, I would like to *briefly* explain how a very complicated process works, as this change is the result of a very orderly process that is regulated by the following Connecticut General Statutes: Sec. 9-222, 9-164, 9-450, 9-459, 9-423 and 9-391 (among others!).

1. A selectman/first selectman retires, resigns, etc. and leaves a vacancy in office.
2. Remaining selectmen have 30 days to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.
3. If no decision made by selectmen, decision goes to "elective town officers of same political party" as selectman who vacated. This is the tricky part: these officers must be from only boards whose members all get elected at the same time! In Ashford, that is a short list: Board of Selectmen and Registrar of Voters. They have another 30 days to decide.
4. Within 15 days after that appointment, a special election can be called for by submitting a petition with signatures of 5% of registered electors (but not fewer than 50) to the town clerk.
5. The town clerk checks the petitions and certifies that all the people who signed are registered voters in town. (The information on the petition must be legible enough to read or the town clerk can't find the electors in the records.)
6. If the petition is valid, the town clerk calls a special election, which includes endorsements being made by the major political parties in town, and a possible primary.

That is how we got to where we are today. See you all at the Special Election on February 23rd, 2021!

Sherri L. Mutch, Ashford Town Clerk

Charles McCaughtry Autumn Studio Open House



Saturday, December 5, 2020
10am - 6pm

Sunday, December 6, 2020
10am - 6pm

44 Portland Drive
(off Rt 89)
Ashford, Connecticut
860-429-1016

The studio is open other days
by appointment.

Please wear your mask, and
social distance.

There is plenty of room for
comfort.

TOWN OF ASHFORD
Office of the Selectmen

Cathryn E. Silver-Smith
First Selectman

1 November 2020

TO: Ashford Residents

FROM: Ashford Board of Selectmen

SUBJECT: Election Day Closure of Town Offices

In anticipation of what we expect to be high voter turn-out and an increased number of poll workers and volunteers on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, the Board of Selectmen, at our meeting of Monday, October 19, 2020 voted to suspend the business hours of the following town offices: Tax Collector, Assessor, Finance, Building, Zoning, Town Clerk, Selectmen. The Registrars of Voters and the Town Clerk will be in the offices conducting election-related business only.



**From the Municipal Agent
for the Elderly**

As we move into the colder months and the holidays approach, we are all wondering if we can gather together again. It is unlikely and this creates problems of loneliness and depression. I know these times are hard and we are all feeling the withdrawal of our loved ones and friends.

For those of you of the WW2 era, you have already experienced these types of separations from loved ones who served our country to end fascism. You wrote letters, planted victory gardens and bought savings bonds. For those of you from the Korean and Vietnam era, you also experienced separations and loss as well. Later, we experienced gas shortages and cheese lines. We witnessed civil unrest, assassinations of our leaders and recession. We survived and endured.

You may be asking why I brought up these difficult times in our joint history. It is because, we did survive and endure. We did what we could to make life better for our families and loved ones. We are doing this now. We are taking precautions, wearing masks, social distancing and we are not gathering together. We do this out of love for our families and our friends. We do this for our own safety, so we can have those better times later. We do this because we are grateful for life and its ups and downs. We endure and survive.

We have sheltered in place for a long time. We have the hope in ourselves that things will be alright. We thought this because we have seen adversity throughout our lives. Things happen that we have no control over, yet we have survived and grown from our challenges. COVID is just one of many challenges that our many generations have faced.

Medicare open enrollment has begun. I am taking appointments to help anyone who wants to check on their Medicare and available supplemental programs.

I AM AT THE CENTER 9 -3 MON-FRI. 860-487-5122 OR seniorcenter@ashfordtownhall.org

Hang in There Everyone. Stay Safe. The scientists are working on a cure.

How to PAY Your Taxes Online

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



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

Ex. Name: John Smith

Enter the search criteria below:

Smith J |

3. 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 ▼

4. Find which bill you want to pay

Ex.

2002-01-37	→	BILL #
■ 2002 is the Grand List		2002-01-0000037
		00004200-LIEN
2002-01-37		(REAL ESTATE)
■ 01 is Real Estate		2003-01-0000038
○ 02 Is Personal Property		00004200-LIEN
○ 03 is Motor Vehicle		(REAL ESTATE)
○ 04 is Motor Vehicle Supplement		2004-01-0000040
		00004200-LIEN
2002-01-37		
■ 37 is the bill number		
■ You MUST pay the OLDEST bills FIRST		
○ Oldest Grand List		

5. When all of the bills are in your shopping cart

Click 0 BILL(S) - \$0.00 ▼ and Check Out

6. Read the Terms and Conditions before you press

- Especially if You Have Past Due Taxes

7. 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

8. Enter Payment information, Review, and Submit.

- There is a 2.95% fee for Credit and Debit Cards
- There is a \$.95 fee for Checking Account (Reduced from \$1.95)

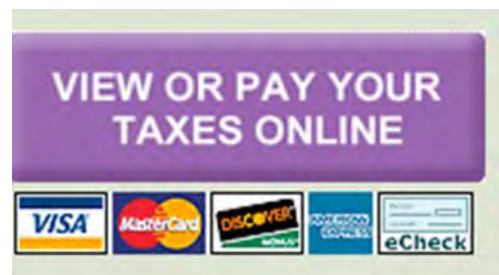


Go Green: Pay your bills online

July 2020 tax bills on real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles were due July 1, 2020, and are now delinquent except for 2nd installments due on Jan. 1, 2021. TOWN OFFICES CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. All bills are listed on the website and are available for payment if there is a shopping cart next to it. There is a service fee to pay online. An e-check costs \$.95, and the credit card fee is 2.95%. If you use a debit card, you must treat it as a credit card, and the 2.95% fee applies.

You can use the system 24/7. You do not need to register, but you need to give an email address in order to obtain a receipt.

Go to: www.ashfordtownhall.org to view and/or pay bills online. The button to enter the portal looks like this:



Pest control, done with Integrity, at affordable prices!

20% OFF QUARTERLY SERVICE SET UP

**Pest Control | Rodent Control
Bed Bugs | Tick Service**

860-800-9911 Lic# B-3424 Integrity-PestControl.com

Do You Have a Dug Well?

Connecticut's Interagency Drought Workgroup has been monitoring the prolonged hot and dry conditions we have been experiencing lately. At this time they have determined that we are at Stage 3 as defined in the State's Drought Plan (available on line at <https://portal.ct.gov/Water/Drought/State-Drought-Plan>). This is comparable to the highest intensity of drought Connecticut experienced during 2016-2017. Conditions can vary locally, inside and outside the Stage 3 area and preparations are beginning for the possibility of targeted emergency response should conditions continue to worsen.



As Ashford's Drought Coordinator, I work with local and state officials to receive and provide information regarding observed drought conditions in our town. One of the interesting things about living in a rural community is that many of us rely on dug wells for our water supply. Dug wells can be more susceptible to drought than the more modern drilled wells. The number of dug wells in our town is not information that is readily available, so I am asking for your continued help! Thank you to all that have responded so far.

If you have a dug well and are willing to do so, please email Sherri Mutch, our Town Clerk, at smutch@ashfordtownhall.org to let her know that you have a dug well, and also mention if you have seen any impacts from the lack of rainfall – either now or in past drought conditions. Any information you can provide would be appreciated. If you have previously responded but conditions have changed, please let us know that as well. Sherri will compile what she receives and provide me with numbers of wells and general observations, so that I can pass along that information to the state along with other collected information.

Thank you so much for your help! Cheryl Chase

WINDHAM COUNTY DROUGHT STATUS

The Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup has increased the drought status for Windham County to Stage 3 or "Moderate" drought. The highest drought stage, as specified by the Connecticut Drought Preparedness and Response Plan, is Stage 5.

Stage 3 is comparable to the highest intensity of drought Connecticut experienced during 2016-2017. Conditions can vary locally, inside and outside the Stage 3 area and preparations are beginning for the possibility of targeted emergency response should conditions continue to worsen.

Reports of low water levels in private wells, streams, agricultural water supplies, and fire suppression ponds have been increasing especially in eastern Connecticut. Due to the unusually dry soils, the rain that does fall does not soak into the ground and the threat of fire returns soon after the rain ends. Residents are reminded to monitor daily forest fire danger reports and plan outdoor burning accordingly, especially in areas dependent on fire ponds that might not be usable.

To avoid further stressing water supplies and to avoid other threats due to the current drought, residents and businesses are being asked to voluntarily take the following measures:

- End irrigation of established lawns and limit other outdoor water uses
- Residents and businesses dependent upon private wells should limit water use to only essential needs to reduce the chance of well depletion (see guidance for private well users)
- Prepare for using alternative water sources in the event wells, farm ponds, fire suppression supplies, or other critical water sources become depleted
- Avoid burning in or near woodlands or brushlands, and obey any municipal or state orders for outdoor burning bans
- Follow best practices for water conservation and wise water use
- Be alert to the potential for worsening conditions and follow conservation requests or mandates issued by public water systems, municipalities, or state agencies

Important Information from the Ashford Registrars of Voters

Lauren Olson / Democratic

Colleen DePercio / Republican

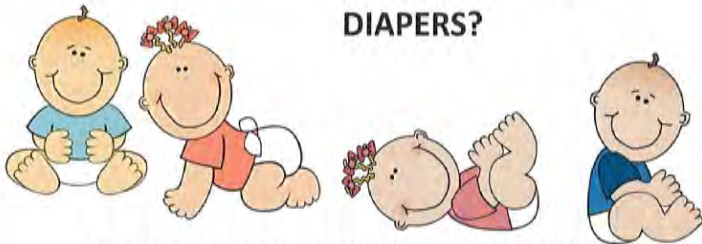
The Presidential/State Election will be held on November 3, 2020 from 6:00am-8:00pm.

November 2, 2020: The Ashford Registrars of Voters will be holding a limited registration session from 9am-5pm to admit those seeking to vote in the November 3, 2020 Election, whose qualifications as to age, citizenship or residence was attained since the October 27, 2020 deadline. If you wish to register in person please call 860-487-4410 when you arrive at the Town Office Building.

November 3, 2020: The polls will be open from 6:00am- 8:00pm at Knowlton Memorial Hall. Any elector in line by 8:00pm will be permitted to vote. Poll workers will be following CDC safety guidelines. **Please wear a mask and observe social distancing when you come to vote.** If you miss the deadline to register to vote, you may register and vote at the Town Office Building, lower level conference room on Election Day from 6:00am-8:00pm. You must provide documents to prove your *identification* and *residency* in the Town of Ashford.

To check your voter registration, please visit: <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/lookup.aspx>

NEED HELP WITH DIAPERS?



THE IHSP-DIAPER BANK OF NECT IS ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILIES RESIDING in the
TOWNS of ASHFORD, EASTFORD and CHAPLIN

ONE-PAGE APPLICATION TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY
**ONE PACKAGE OF DIAPERS AND WIPES PER MONTH FOR
EACH CHILD IN DIAPERS**

CONTACT

**Melissa McDonough, Director of Social Services,
Town of Ashford**

PHONE: 860-487-4417

Email: mmcdonough@ashfordct.org

Diaper pick up available in Ashford

Anyone receiving WIC, SNAP or Husky qualifies

IHSP-DIAPER BANK of NECT, 51 GROVE St., Putnam, CT 06260

MAIN OFFICE: (860)928-0169 FAX: (860)963-7602

EMAIL: ihsp.diaperbanknect@gmail.com

Friends of Babcock Library News



Thanks for all the wonderful book donations during the month of October. I have been busily sorting them by category. As colder weather approaches, you may contact me at babcockfriendspresident@gmail.com to arrange a date/time to deliver your book donations directly into our shed.

Due to Covid-19 we have not been able to hold our annual Wine Tasting or Book Sale this fall. Carolann Mac Master has needed to suspend her special programs so has not needed as much financial support from the Friends. Therefore, Friends of the Library dues have been waived for the 2020-2021 subscription year. If you would still like to make a monetary donation, feel free to do so. Checks can be mailed to FOBL c/o The Babcock Library 25 Pompey Hollow Rd. Ashford, CT 06278.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Elaine Wilmes-Pandolfo, FOBL President



Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

Election Day is Tuesday November 3, 2020. Voting will be held at Knowlton Memorial Hall, 25 Pompey Hollow Rd, Ashford, CT from 6 A.M. until 8 P.M. Please be prepared to show I.D. Whomever you support and wish to vote for, exercise your civic duty if you have not already voted by absentee ballot .

Thank you to AVFD member Tracy Stancil for setting up the "Light The Night" tribute at Station 20 on Westford Road from October 1st through 4th. The front of the station was lit in red to honor Fallen Firefighters on the weekend of the national memorial.

With the colder weather approaching comes the need to run our home heating systems on a daily basis. You may experience an odor the first time you fire it up as dust in baseboard radiators or ductwork heat up and get blown around. This is normal, should not be visible, and dissipate quickly. If it is visible or persists and smells more like smoke or vehicle exhaust, shut your heating system down completely and call 911. The AVFD will respond to make sure there is no fire, and to ventilate if necessary before you call for burner service.

Oil and propane fired boilers, furnaces, and hot water heaters should be professionally cleaned and tuned on a yearly basis. These services do three things; first it makes sure it is running at peak efficiency to save on fuel. Next, parts that normally wear out are usually replaced as part of the service. And last, a technician may find a potential problem before it becomes a big expensive headache later on. This should not be a D.I.Y. project, since incorrect settings or parts can cause safety and fire hazards.

For wood or coal stoves and other alternative heating sources, this means cleaning and inspection of the heating unit as well as the stovepipe or chimney. Make sure seams and welds are intact, firebox bricks are not crumbling or missing, hinges and door latches work, and gaskets are in place and seal properly. For wood and coal stoves be sure to remove all ash when the fire is out, and place ashes in a metal container outside away from all combustibles.

Have a safe and happy Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

The call count for September 2020 was 17 Fire/Rescue and 26 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 139.

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

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Ashford Connecticut:

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on

Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 5:00 P.M.
at the Babcock Library Parking Lot,
25 Pompey Hollow Road, Ashford CT 06278

to **Endorse Candidate for First Selectman for the February 23, 2020 Special Election** and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Masks and social distancing required.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, on the 20th of October, 2020

Democratic Town Committee of Ashford, CT.
Bill Becker, Chairperson

NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN NOMINATING MEETING FOR 2021 SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to all Republican Electors in the town of Ashford, CT that pursuant to its By Laws, the Ashford Republican Town Committee will meet on Friday evening, November 6, 2020 to endorse a candidate for the February 23, 2021 Special Election for First Selectman. The meeting will be held at 7:00pm via a telephone conference service which requires a special access number and password. For more information please contact the Republican Town Committee at the number below. This notice is dated October 21, 2020.



Gerald Nagy, Chairman
Ashford Republican Town Committee
860-429-2973
Nagy.gerald@gmail.com

We are looking for local residents and small businesses who need snow removal and lawn maintenance in the areas of Ashford, Eastford, Willington and Mansfield.

We are a fully insured business with new equipment that will be available with no excuses for vehicle breakdowns.

Call for a free quote.

860-918-0890

H.H.H. Property Maintenance, LLC

Lawn care, Snow Removal, Clean outs, Dump runs. Spring and Fall Clean up, Leaf Removal and other property maintenance as needed

John Henderson, Proprietor

87 Floeting Road
Ashford, CT 06278

hhhpropmntllc@gmail.com
860-487-1054
860-918-0890

Westford Congregational Church

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

www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org
and on Facebook

Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (all ages)

Galatians 6:2
***" Bear one anothers burdens,
and so fulfil the law of Christ"***

**Conservative Congregational
Christian Conference**



November 2020 Conservation Commission News

The Conservation Commission is sponsoring ***Clean Up Your Street*** on 2 weekends, Saturday - Sunday October 24th & 25th, and Saturday - Sunday November 7th & 8th. We will be handing out bags and safety vests 8:45- 9:15am on all four mornings at Knowlton Memorial Hall. We will provide a large container for you to bring back the vests for sanitizing. Please use a vest as cars travel too fast on our roads and we want everyone to stay safe. Also be cautious when picking up trash on our roadways. Always use gloves and be aware of any broken bottles or needles. Let us know what roads you cleaned and how many bags you collected. We are fierce about wanting to maintain the natural beauty of our precious town. Thank you in advance. Any questions Loretta 860 429-2629 <birdeye123@charter.net> or Pamm at 80barnowl@gmail.com.

We recently had a work day to permanently mark the Tremko Trail Link which connects to the JT Rankin Property. Several CC members worked on marking and cleaning the trail. We hope to complete the marking soon. The trail has some steep places and is a moderate level trail.

Our Farmers Market is extended this year, our 14th season. We will stay open until November 22. Barton Farms and B-Z-B farms will be there all 4 Sundays in November 1,8,15, 22. The hours stay the same 10AM-1PM as does the location, Pompey Hollow Park. B-Z-B Farm has a wide variety of meats and Barton Farms has an abundance of squashes and greens. We hope to have a few guest vendors.

We continue to encourage everyone to consider planting pollinator gardens in Ashford to aid our pollinators. Planting native plants, not using pesticides, decreasing the size of your lawn, and leaving grass clippings and leaves all help the bees, hummingbirds, butterflies and other beneficial insects to thrive. For more information go to <www.pollinator-pathway.org>.

Happy and safe November!

Loretta Wrobel, chair



Ashford Farmers Market

Here are the two vendors who will stay open til November 22nd: (right) Julie Barton, Barton Farms, and (above) Amy Burroughs, B-Z-B Farm.



Pictures by Christine Acebo



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A Plan in Action

By Dr. James P. Longo

As we enter into November, Ashford School has been open for two months. The opening of our school was managed by adhering to a “Reopening Plan”. I wrote the plan in collaboration with a committee of teachers, staff members and administrators based upon a template provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The plan can be found on the school website along with several accompanying documents regarding the pandemic. The plan template had hundreds of places where local decisions could be added, making our plan different from the plans of other communities. Choices had to be made, and an overall decision to devise a plan that was flexible and responsive to conditions that could, and likely would, change was the path that I chose.

After studying the advice of the state, our own Eastern Highlands Health District leaders, national pandemic trends, the lessons of the science, and the opinions of over a hundred Ashford parents provided at three parent Zoom meetings, I made the choice to open Ashford School with students attending in person classes full time, but providing an option to choose distance learning for those parents who were not ready to send their children back to class. This dual option instructional plan presented a complex set of problems. Specifically, a school schedule that served the students attending class in person, as well as those participating electronically from home while providing simultaneous instruction to both, had to be created by the school administrative staff and carried out by the teachers. Luckily, we have an exceptional administrative team and a wonderfully talented, cooperative and dedicated faculty. They got right to work, and figured out the best possible way to carry out the demands of the State and the Reopening Plan. It was a demonstration of skill, cooperation and commitment by all involved, but above all, it remained flexible and able to respond to change in real time.

So, we set the stage for the opening of school. The schedule was put into place, the facility outfitted in the best safety equipment, the faculty and staff trained, and a major effort to communicate with the community was carried out. It has worked. Yes, we have had to make adjustments as the past few months passed, but everyone did their part, and our students have had a positive educational experience that accommodates all parental concerns and preferences.

I am proud of this reopening, but most of all, I am proud of our administration, faculty and staff for the dedication and determination it took to make it work. This has been, and continues to be, a team effort. However, the reason that I am writing this article is to thank the community for their support and cooperation. I understand that it is a monumental act of trust for any parent to send their child to school in the midst of a dangerous pandemic. All of us at Ashford School value that trust, and pledge that we will live up to it with a commitment to keep our students safe, and to provide the world class educational experience that Ashford has grown accustomed to.

As we enter the winter season, move more of our lives indoors, and face the coming of flu, we must all continue to be diligent in our commitment to the necessary safety mitigation practices that will carry us through it all. To remain healthy and safe, please, everyone, wear masks, remain socially distant, wash hands thoroughly and regularly, and try to avoid crowds or leaving the safety of your family cohort. As annoying as it might be, these simple strategies can improve your chances of coming out of these difficult times healthy and ready for what life presents to us next.

Ashford School News and Happenings

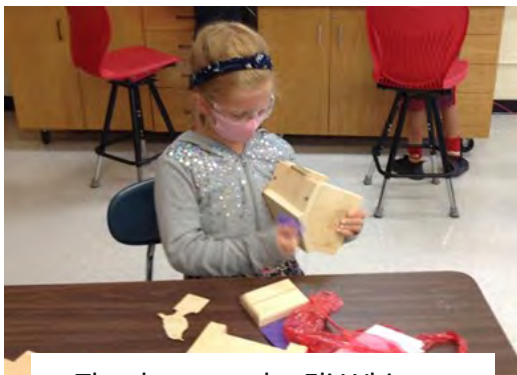
We are thankful for many things as we had a successful start to our school year. We are especially thankful for our hardworking teachers, staff, and students both at school and home. We would also like to say thank you to...



Thank you to First Book for filling our Little Library with brand new books for students.



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped build raised beds in the greenhouse and outdoor classrooms on the nature trail.



Thank you to the Eli Whitney Museum for helping the third graders build birdhouses for our outdoor learning areas!



Thank you to Project Oceanology for helping our fourth graders learn more about their watershed!



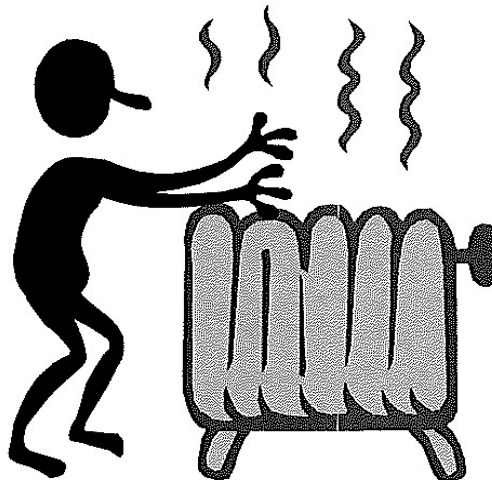
Up-Coming School Events

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday, Nov. 18 th	Lifetouch Student Photo Day	8:45 - TBD
Monday, Nov. 23 rd	Early Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences	12:25p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 24 th	Early Dismissal – Parent Teacher Conferences	12:25p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 25 th	Early Dismissal	12:25p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 26 th – Friday, Nov. 27 th	Thanksgiving Break – No School	



For the most accurate information on the Town of Ashford,
please visit the official town website
www.ashfordtownhall.org and read the *Ashford Citizen*.

Home Heating Assistance



*Help may be available to assist in home heating bills this winter.
Call Ashford Social Services for more information or to apply.
487-4417*

Income guidelines:

Family size of 1: \$37,645

Family size of 4: \$72,394

Family size of 2: \$49,228

Family size of 5: \$83,977

Family size of 3: \$60,811

Family size of 6: \$97,732

Asset limits: home owners- \$15,000 renters- \$12,000

Required Documentation:

Proof of previous 4 weeks income (including child support, unemployment, family support)

Proof of all assets (bank statements for the last 30 days)

Social Security #s for all household members

Most recent Eversource bill

Proof of rent or mortgage

Proof of SNAP benefit (food stamps)

*The CT Energy Assistance Program is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of CT's lower income households. Heating Assistance is available for all forms of heat including oil, electricity, propane, kerosene, wood, and gas.



Scout Troop 92

November Newsletter

Ongoing Activities:

Three Cub Scout Webelos crossed over into Scouts at the end of October. A big increase in enrollment! The ceremony was held at JN Webster Scout Reservation observing all virus safety protocols.



The new Scouts at "Cross Over." Their first rank will be "Tenderfoot."

At Scout meetings in October instruction topics included knife and tool sharpening and First Aid. Hopefully no one gets hurt sharpening and needs First Aid! Senior Patrol leader Cody Blachette from Eastford was the instructor.

Also in October, Scouts enjoyed a canoe fishing trip on Zulick's pond. Hikes and campouts are being planned for this fall.

November:

Scout meetings will now be every other Thursday at 7 PM, meeting at St. Philip's Rec. Center in Ashford. New members and visitors are welcome. Please wear a mask.

Scouts learn the importance of citizenship. Scouts have three citizenship merit badges: Town, Country, and the World. Don't forget to vote on Tuesday!

Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scout Master
Cory Blanchette, Scout Master
Chris Murphy, Assistant Scout Master
Troop 92 BSA Ashford/Eastford

Babcock News

Babcock Library
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November 2020

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t. 860-487-4420
Or 959-210-8556
f. 860.540.1742

Hours:

Monday - 10-3
Tuesday - staff only
Wednesday - 10:00 - 7
Thursday - Closed
Friday - 10-3
Saturday - 10-2
Sunday - Closed

Closed 11/3, 11/11,
11/27, 11/28

Closing at 3:00 on
11/25

**Carolann Mac Master,
MLIS**

Library Director
cmacmaster@babcocklibrary.org

Staff

Susan Chris
Jessica Terese

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If you need something
Notarized please contact
the library and we will
schedule a time for you to
meet with our Notary.
A \$5.00 donation to the
library is requested.



From the Director's Desk

Our new temporary library hours are listed on the left side; these hours are subject to change. Patrons who wish to use a computer must call the library and schedule a time period. The children's computers are not available. The copier and fax machine are available with staff assistance. We have a new way to pick up your library requests which will be explained when you come in. At this time there are no in person programs. During this time, some of our collection may not be available for circulation. Book drop pick up is still available for anyone, and is available on Tuesdays when the library is closed to the public.

- ♦ **Proper face covering is required to enter the building;** there will be no exceptions to this rule. Anyone 2 and over must wear a face covering, that covers their mouth and nose. If you are unable to wear a face covering please call the library and we will bring your items out to you.
- ♦ All library material **MUST** be returned to the outside book drop. Do not bring your returned items into the library.
- ♦ Restrooms are not available at this time.
- ♦ Seating isn't available at this time, except when using the computer that you have reserved.
- ♦ No food or drinks are allowed in the library.
- ♦ We have the right to restrict the number of patrons in the building at any given time.
- ♦ Please limit family members to **2** at a time.
- ♦ Please follow the directions given to you when you enter the library, both verbal and directional instructions.
- ♦ Most important: if you are sick, or believe you may have been exposed to Covid-19, please stay home.
- ♦ Please remember not to approach library staff outside the building without a mask on.

Until we see you again, please follow the guidelines set forth by our health and public officials.

Respectfully,
Carolann Mac Master, MLIS
Library Director

CALENDAR

Have a favorite Author?
No waiting on the hold
list, be the first to read
it! Sponsor the Author
~~~~~

*Please stop by the  
library to see this  
month's Storywalk.*  
**This month's story is  
"Black is a Rainbow  
Color" by Angela Joy**  
~~~~~

*We have resources
for parents who will
begin homeschooling
their children this
fall, as well as
connections with
various
homeschooling
groups. We are
always here to
provide you with any
information you may
need in regards to
education in these
challenging times.*
~~~~~

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## 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.

## **Help Us. For Free.**

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\*\*\*\*\*

You are welcome to call the library and request these passes if they are open!

## Museum Passes:

**State Parks and Museums**-Sponsored by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protections No Child Left Inside initiative

**Florence Griswold Museum**-Sponsored by the Friends of Babcock Library

**New Britain Museum of American Art**-Sponsored by the Friends of Babcock Library

**Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**-Sponsored by the Wadsworth Atheneum

**Mystic Aquarium**-Sponsored by the Mystic Aquarium

**The Bushnell Park Carousel & Museum**-Sponsored by the Friends of Babcock Library

**Connecticut Science Center** Discount coupons

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Storytime Take Home Kits**

Please call the library to reserve your Storytime Take Home Kit.

Each kit comes with books, poems and / or finger plays, and an art project based on that week's theme.

## **Children's Themed Book Collections**

As most of the world has changed, the way we educate our children may have changed as well. We know parents may be looking for supplemental educational materials for their children. Here at Babcock, we have many children's books for your needs! We have a program in which you may request a themed children's book collection, such as books with tigers. We will put together a collection of books with this theme for you. Don't forget about our E-book and E-Audio collections!

**Homebound**, please contact us and we will do our best to make arrangements for contactless drop-off at your home. Book drop pick-up is still available any day of the week we are open; it is the only service available on Tuesdays.

Our book drop is open 24/7. All library materials taken out before the pandemic started are now due back to the library. Please do not put items in bags before you put them in the book drop. Interlibrary Loans from other libraries are now available.

However, please allow several weeks for this, due to the quarantine process. For those of you who have a Babcock Library card, you may access e-books and audio books through our website. On the main page under catalog, click on Overdrive.

For the latest information on Covid-19 please go to the following:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>  
or

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

**If you have books to donate to the Friends of the Babcock Library, please let us know ahead of time so we can contact our FOBL President, Elaine Wilmes-Pandolfo.**

## **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.**



November 2020

The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming than wine they tell of.

The mite which November contributes becomes equal in value to the bounty of July.

-- Henry David Thoreau

With so many reasons to limit being out and about now, this might be a good time to put some energy into cleaning. And whether it is your home or your workspace elsewhere, there are sustainable ways to safely keep the place clean. You can clean your whole house with vinegar, baking soda, and lemon. People have been cleaning with these household staples for a long time because they are safe and effective. Bonus: If you clean with these natural cleaners, you not only have fewer harsh chemicals around, but probably save money.

Baking Soda from the kitchen is great for everything from removing stains from coffee mugs, to removing odors from food containers, to polishing flatware, to cleaning spills in the oven. Elsewhere in the home, baking soda can remove odors from upholstered furniture, (sprinkle with baking soda, then vacuum), erase crayon marks from white walls, clean no-wax and tile floors, and freshen carpets and rugs. In the bathroom, clean hairbrushes and combs. Remove any hair from the bristles, then immerse in a baking soda/water solution. Let them soak for 30 minutes, then rinse well with hot water. When it's time to get back outdoors, baking soda can also remove burnt food from a grill grate, and is good to clean lawn furniture. Meanwhile, sprinkle upholstered furniture with baking soda, then vacuum.

Lemons are a natural disinfectant and stain remover because of their acidity. And they will leave a pleasant scent. A little baking soda with some lemon juice will work on food storage containers. Microwaving a slice of lemon in a bowl of water for 45 seconds is a good way to remove stains there, and eliminate unpleasant odors. To remove scale from faucets, rub the fixtures with lemon juice and let sit overnight, then rinse in the morning. And storing half a lemon in the refrigerator uncovered, will help eliminate unpleasant odors. Remove lime scale from faucets by rubbing them with lemon juice to let sit overnight, rinsing in the morning. Got grout stains? Make a paste from lemon juice and 1 teaspoon of cream of tartar, and apply to the area with a toothbrush. Once the stain is gone, rinse with water. Clean glass with a mixture of 3 tablespoons of lemon juice and 1 cup of water. Shake it up and spray it on glass to clean. Rust stains on clothes can be eliminated with some lemon juice on the stain, sprinkled with cream of tartar, and rubbed into the fabric. Once the stain is gone, wash in the washing machine.

White Vinegar is a great way to kill salmonella and E.coli. Clean our coffee maker, unclog a drain, clean the microwave, and make glasses sparkle.

*The ACETF thanks you for your interest in our work and welcome 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 Family News

*From Gerry & Diane Gerlach*

Our daughter Holly Parimore was promoted to **Senior** Chief Petty Officer this September 21st. She is stationed with the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Virginia Beach, VA. She is now E-8, and this year's selection as the youngest at 18 years served in the Navy. It's worth mentioning that only 29 Senior Chiefs were selected this year! Holly has had a variety of deployments and duty stations abroad, including Japan and in the U.S. Mostly notably, she was nominated for Sailor of Year while with 6th Fleet Headquarters Command in Naples, Italy.



Holly is with her husband, pictured here, Nick, Chief Petty Officer; their children: Abigail, Braeden, and Caleb. They have worked together to raise their family even when Holly was at sea for months at a time. Sometimes my wife, Diane, and I not did see Holly and her family for years at a time.

She has succeeded by 'killing it' from the first day I dropped her off for the Navy Boot Camp *as well as* raising her family with a great unmentioned persistence and grace all these years!

Congratulations, Holly!

*The Ashford Citizen also offers its congratulations to Holly and the Parimore and Gerlach families!*



November 2020

**“We saved 95% off the sticker price on our wall insulation with the new incentives. Now our home is much more comfortable at little cost to us!” - Jen & Tyler, Middletown**

Energize CT is offering **FREE Home Energy Solutions** (HES), and a new improved Insulation rebate. As an electric Ratepayer you can access the new rebates by completing a home energy assessment. Now is the time to save on your energy bills!

The Ashford Clean Energy Task Force is working with **Energy Efficiency Solutions** (EES) to bring you safe and experienced service.

Please call EES to schedule your assessment or email for our next available appointment.

**Completed home energy audits will earn a \$25 donation to the Ashford Fuel Bank!**

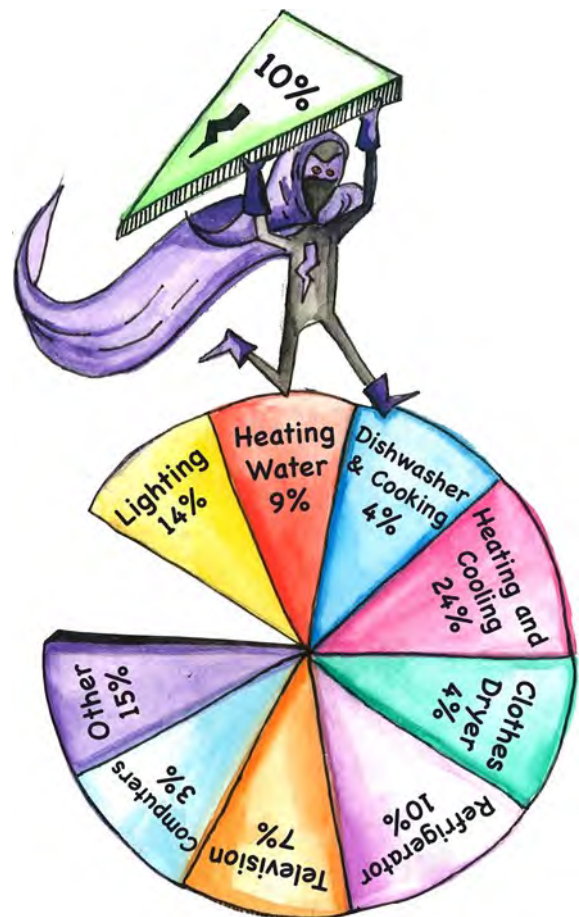
The new insulation rebates and incentives, which have increased from \$1.00/sq. ft. to \$2.20/sq. Ft., will help CT ratepayers save on both heating and cooling costs! Saving energy saves money for your family, and it lowers energy-related air pollution in your home.

Learn more at [www.EnergizeCT.com](http://www.EnergizeCT.com) or contact EES at 860-580-9076 or by email at [contactus@eesgogreen.com](mailto:contactus@eesgogreen.com)

How we keep you safe: <http://eesgogreen.com/covid-19/>

What to expect when we complete a virtual assessment: <http://eesgogreen.com/virtual-pre-assessment/>

*The ACETF thanks you for your interest in our work and welcome 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  
Conservation Commission**

***Clean Up Your Streets***

**November 7th-8th Weekend**



Details on Town of Ashford website.



**Assistance to  
Ashford Veterans**

**IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS  
ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.**

Although office visits are currently restricted at the town hall, I encourage you to contact me about any veteran issues and questions you may have. Although it is not ideal, we are able to accomplish a lot by phone and even email. Please do not hesitate if you need help with your veteran issues. [garry.brown71@aim.com](mailto:garry.brown71@aim.com) and 860-928-2309. Always no cost ever for veterans and always confidential.

**Veteran Notes:**

Cost of Living Adjustment, COLA, for 2021 is 1.3% for military retirees, disability compensation and pensions. The new rates take effect on December 1st and will show up in your account on December 31st. It is the same increase for those on Social Security as well.



**VITALS**



**Marriages:**

|                                           |                    |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| James M. Whitehouse<br>Patricia A. Tuite  | August 15, 2020    |
| Jacob K. Mullin<br>Mikayla C. Peters      | September 4, 2020  |
| Derrick A. Connolly<br>Carissa L. Johnson | September 21, 2020 |
| Kurt A. Love<br>Stephanie A. West         | September 26, 2020 |
| Lucas A. Cogan<br>Abigail E. Georger      | September 26, 2020 |
| Kaitlyn A. Boggio<br>Allison M. Valluzzo  | October 3, 2020    |
| Ian A. Dugan<br>Yazmin A. Cruz            | October 17, 2020   |
| Stephen F. Chase<br>Arlene P. Bartolome   | October 23, 2020   |

**Deaths:**

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Lynsea Russi | September 5, 2020 |
|--------------|-------------------|

*As featured in Neighbors Magazine 7/20*

Discover the many reasons  
homeowners go solar with

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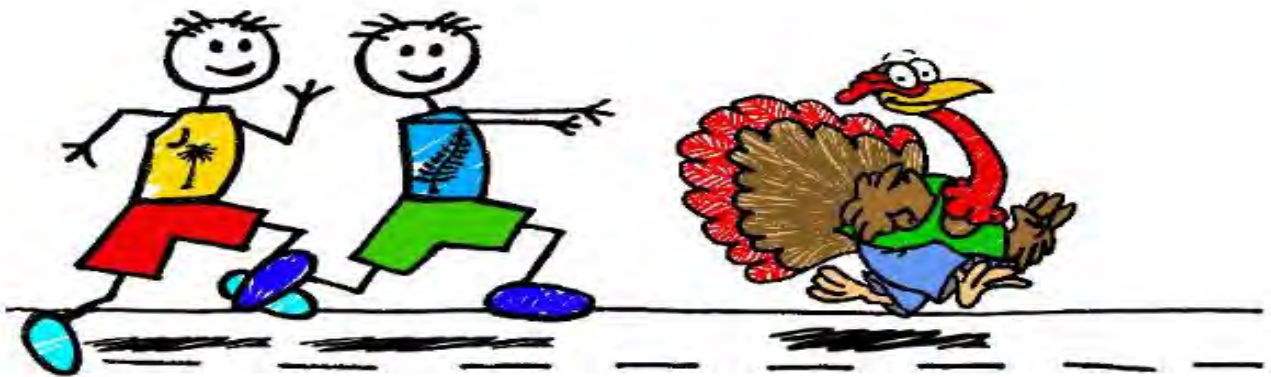
**John Boiano 860-798-5692**  
[john@zensolar.net](mailto:john@zensolar.net)      [www.zensolar.net](http://www.zensolar.net)

Ashford resident with  
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**It's true, incentives  
are reducing at the end of 2020**



# TURKEY TROT



**Join us Saturday Nov. 14th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
at Ashford Memorial Park for this  
Fun Family Fitness Event !**

Participants may sprint, jog, trot or walk around the ball fields on the stone dust trail. It's a challenge by choice event. Each lap earns you another ticket in the **11:45 drawing** for a Turkey, Pumpkin Pie or other Thanksgiving food!

**Make it more fun and get dressed up!** Come dressed as a pilgrim, native American, turkey or other Thanksgiving food item and earn another chance in the drawing! Gobble, Gobble! Where's the Pie??

When you need a break, you can warm up near the fire, or with some hot cider and be sure to give the kids a chance to check out the **new playscape!**

**This event is sponsored by your Park & Rec. Dept.  
Call 860-487-4409 with ?'s**



Normally, at this time we would be registering for Basketball teams, and planning practice schedules. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic our Youth Recreational Basketball Season has been postponed/cancelled.

We will reassess in January and March to see what may be possible. We will also consider outdoor summer league play.

The primary deterrents are that basketball is considered a high-risk sport due to the close proximity of all the players.

None of the towns in our league are currently able to use their school gyms. They remain closed for extracurricular activities.

We look forward to resuming our basketball program when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we encourage players to stay fit, and continue to practice their individual skills.

Sherry York      Ashford Park & Rec. Director



### Help a Neighbor in Need

Ashford Social Services works to support families in need throughout the year. Winter is especially hard on families. Please consider helping your fellow residents by donating non-perishable food to be used in Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. There will be a collection box in the lobby of the Babcock Library. If you would like to purchase a holiday gift for a child in town you can take a name off the tree located at the Babcock Library; beginning Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your unwrapped gift to the library, Social Service office, or Tree lighting ceremony by Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation checks can be made out to Ashford Social Services and mailed to 5 Town Hall Road.

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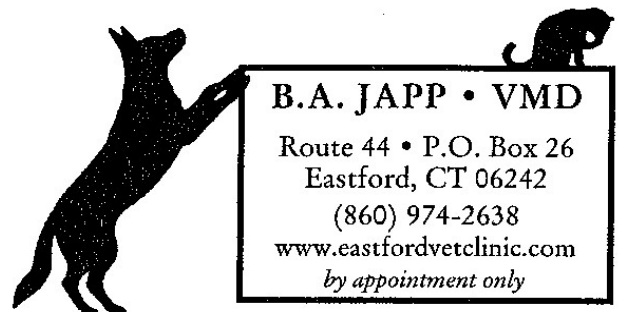
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The Last Green Valley  
The Mobile Animal Clinic  
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Veterans Base Camp  
Westford Hill Distillers  
Wilmington Pizza  
Willow Valley Farm



### **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**

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