

ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

Volume 52 Issue 3 March 1, 2021

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

From the Selectmen's Office:

On February 12th, fire destroyed a number of buildings on the site of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford. The Camp has been a good neighbor and supportive to the Town since it opened in 1988, and we are proud of its mission. Many in our community have been seeking ways to assist in its recovery from the fire. The First Selectman spoke with the Newman's Own organization and they provided the following information.

Thank you for your interest in helping to rebuild The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. All of us at Newman's Own were devastated by the fire, and Newman's Own Foundation has committed \$1 million to help rebuild the Camp in a manner that not only meets the current needs of children living with illness and their families, but also helps them pursue their boldest dreams for the future.

We were particularly thrilled by the inspiring \$1 million match made by Travelers and the Travelers Championship. The community response to this match is heartening, and it's absolutely critical that people continue to donate to help this multi-million dollar rebuild effort. We encourage all to continue to support the Travelers challenge match by making a gift at https://www.holeinthewallgang.org/rebuildcampfund or sending a donation by mail to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, P.O. Box 150448, Hartford, CT 06115-0448, Memo: Rebuild Camp Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!

Newman's Own Foundation & The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

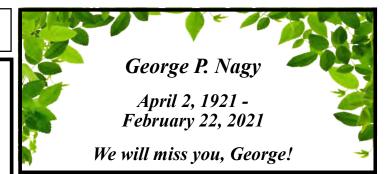
Offices are staffed Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 8:30am—3:00pm.

You may reach us by: telephone

D

email mail fax







SPRING AHEAD!

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14th.

Remember to set your clocks AHEAD one hour!



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

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

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kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Ashford Board of Education

Bicknell Scholarship

The Ashford Board of Education, as trustees of the Bicknell Scholarship Trust, is pleased to announce that applications are available for the Maurice B. & Mildred C. Bicknell Scholarship. This year, there will be up to four (4) \$1,000 scholarships awarded.

The scholarships are awarded in memory of the Bicknells, who established the trust fund to assist residents who are high school seniors who plan to enroll, or students already enrolled, in a full-time undergraduate program at an accredited school, college, or university. The awards, as stipulated by the Bicknell Trust, will be based on both need and merit.

The Board of Education will receive applications for the 2021 scholarships at the following address:

Bicknell Scholarship Trust c/o Ashford Board of Education 440 Westford Rd. Ashford, CT 06278

Application packets must be postmarked by April 12, 2021. Awards will be announced in June.

You may obtain additional information regarding the scholarship by contacting the Office of the Superintendent, Ashford Public Schools, 440 Westford Road, Ashford, CT 06278 or calling 860-429-1927.

Applications will be available at the Office of Superintendent of Schools at the above address and online at www.ashfordct.org beginning February 25, 2021.



The CDC continues to recommend:

Wear a Mask! Social Distancing! Wash your Hands!

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Legal Notice

Ashford Tax Collector's Office taxcollector@ashfordtownhall.org 860-487-4411

Notice is given to Ashford taxpayers that the second installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes, and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes on the Grand List of Oct. 1, 2019 becomes due and payable on January 1, 2021 and is payable without interest penalty through April 1, 2021 unless your account is escrowed thru the bank, or you are a landlord. Escrowed accounts & landlord accounts without application are due by Feb. 1, 2021. After Feb. 1, 2021, interest will accrue at 1 1/2% per month from the due date of Jan. 1, or a minimum interest charge of \$2.00.

For the other accounts, the grace period is **deferred thru** April 1, 2021. Please remember that April 1 is a Thursday, and, therefore, there is no staff available, and the drop box is **NOT** available. After April 1, 2021 interest will accrue at 1 1/2% per month from the due date of Jan. 1, 2021, hence 6% during April, or a minimum of \$2.00, whichever is greater.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or interest penalty (CGS 12-130).

Payments may be:

Mailed to:

Ashford Tax Collector P.O. Box 173 Ashford, CT 06278

If a receipt is required, a self-addressed, stamped envelope must accompany your payment. Only Copy B is suggested to accompany payment.

Checks should be made out to **Ashford Tax Collector.**

Payments that are postmarked by the appropriate date are considered on time.

Paid online: www.ashfordtownhall.org

E-check cost is \$.95. Credit cards are 2.95%. Debit cards must be treated as credit cards. Instructions on how to pay are published in the Citizen and online on the Tax Collector page on the website.

DROP BOX AVAILABLE THRU 3/31/2021, 4:00 P.M.

Staffed Office Hours are as follows:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., 8:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Closed for Legal Holidays

Linda G. Gagne CCMC Ashford Tax Collector

4th Notice, dated February 17, 2021 for March Citizen

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



4. Find which bill you want to pay

2002-01-37 ■ 2002 is the Grand List 2002-01-37 ■ 01 is Real Estate

o 02 Is Personal Property

o 03 is Motor Vehicle

o 04 is Motor Vehicle Supplement

2002-01-37

37 is the bill number

■ You MUST pay the OLDEST bills FIRST o Oldest Grand List

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

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

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

→ 2002-01-0000037

00004200-LIEN

(REAL ESTATE)

2003-04-0000038

00004200-LIEN

(REAL ESTATE)

2004-01-0000040

00004200-LIEN

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)

March 2021 Conservation Commission News

Clean Your Streets Weekends March 27th-28th April 10th-11th

Save the dates (weather permitting)!

The Conservation Commission is planning to sponsor two weekends of Clean Your Streets this spring. Depending on what is happening with Mother Nature, we are scheduling for the last weekend in March (27th and 28th) and second weekend in April (10th and 11th). All residents are invited to pitch in and get out to tidy up your roadways. You can choose anytime during those weekends to get some exercise and pick up the trash that seems to grow along our Ashford roads. Let us know what street/s you are cleaning so we can have the town crews pick up the garbage bags for you. We also have garbage bags available for you. For further info.. contact Pamm Summers 80barnowl@gmail.com or Loretta at birdeye123@charter.net

Now that March is here, Spring can't be far behind. In May, only two months away, our Farmers Market will begin its 15th season. Once again you will be able to get a variety of locally grown fresh food. Look for details in next issue of the *Citizen*.



Any CC meeting that we have held during the pandemic on zoom is recorded. The videos can be viewed at the Town of Ashford website. Click on agendas/minutes and select CC meeting.

As the weather warms, we hope to have more residents sign on to the pollinators pathways program to help out our butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and other insects. Stay tuned for more information.

Happy Spring. Ashford is blessed with an abundance of healthy natural resources. Get out and enjoy the rivers, streams, ponds, trails and forests.

Loretta Wrobel, chair



Looking Up Payments for IRS Reporting Purposes

Go to the Town's Website at: 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,



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 2020, 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:



Click on it, your information should be there.

This site is available 24/7.





KARATE TRAINING CAM

June 21st -25th 2021

Time: 9am -11:30am Age: 5-17 yrs. old

Cost: \$125 per student Week or \$40 per day Location: 211 Nott Hwy Ashford, CT 06278

Contact: Lunging Tiger Phone: 860 281 9271

Email: ltkoffice@lungingtigerkarate.com

Skill level: beginner- advance

Training Shaolin Kempo, self-defense and martial/medical first aid

Outline of camp day: Monday - Thursday

9am arrival 9:15am yoga

9am Combination/self defense

10am break / group games

10:30- belt rank training beginner-advance

11:am - martial/medical first aid & group games.

11:30- dismissal

Outline of camp on Friday: Kids Fun day — 9am- 11:30am

- group games
- bounce house
- carnival games

Save \$10 sign—up by March 30th

______ Name of Child: _____ Age:_ Address: phone: Email: Any medical issues: yes or no issues: Karate level: beginner, intermediate, advanced karate school: Belt rank: Emergency contact: ______phone number:_____ Emergency contact: ______phone number:_____ Medical insurance company:______policy:_____ Group number:

Students need to bring a white shirt the first day of training, students will be doing a contest and winner

art work will be up on the camp shirt.



Yes, It is School Budget Time Again

By Dr. James P. Longo

This has been the strangest year that I have ever experienced. Masks, social distancing, being aware of every place I went, or everything I touched. Yes, it has been a strange year. But some of the usual things still happen. For instance, if it is February, it is time to think about the school and town budgets. On the same day that I submitted this article to the Citizen, the Ashford Board of Education submitted its budget proposal to the Board of Finance. By now it should be posted on both the school and the town websites.

This year, with the economy in such upheaval, we put together a "maintenance" budget; one with no big changes in staffing or programs, with small reductions in supplies and equipment, and little investment in any new technology. Essentially, this budget proposal just includes the increases in fees and prices that occur outside our control, you know, insurances, utilities etc., as well as the previously agreed to contractual increases with our unions. It is a budget designed to carry forward our programs and our staff in the least expensive manner possible. That is the approach that we all felt was most prudent. We considered the needs of the taxpayer and the needs of the students and came up with a simple, no frills budget proposal.

Usually, we strive to improve a little each year. It is normally a balancing act between our drive for excellence, and the burden it places upon the taxpayers of Ashford. This year is no exception. But, this year we are going to focus upon helping our students catch up on what they missed because the virus came between them and their normal school day. Between distance learning and classrooms with many of their peers not present and learning from home, no sports, social events or extra-curricular activities, our students really have put up with a lot. By trying to offer a familiar and normal year to them, we hope to get everyone on track to catch up.

So now that the first proposal is out there, it is in your hands. Take a look at it, let the Board of Finance know what you think, and the process will run its course. This is my final budget cycle in Ashford. Next year you will have a new superintendent, and it will be his or her honeymoon year. I feel that this budget proposal offers a solid start with enough of a base to be the foundation for an exciting year. I hope that it survives largely intact. But the budget process is complex and needs everyone's attention. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me.

I wish you all good luck, good health and a great year.

Easter Bunny Candy Cruise

Since we are still unable to do an Egg Hunt this year, we will be celebrating the Easter season with the Easter Bunny in a different way. Bunny is jumping into his egg-mobile this year and riding around Ashford to greet all kids - tiny tots to adults. The route will be posted next month, so meet us on the route. Bunny will be throwing Easter candy from the car.

Where: Route will be published soon (Ashford Citizen and Facebook)

When: Saturday, April 3rd

Rain Date: Sunday, April 4th (Easter)

Time: 2-4pm

Thanks for your support.

We hope to be back to hunting for eggs next year!!

Ashford School News and Happenings

We celebrated School Spirit Week and our 100th Day of school last month!





Up-coming School Events

Date	Event	Time
Friday, March 5 th	Cultural Arts Assembly - <i>Karim Nagi</i>	9:30 am
Friday, March 12 th	No School for Students	



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.

Beginning December 6, 2020 and until further notice, Sunday services will be live streamed on our Facebook page, Westford Congregational Church. Please join us.

> Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

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Jan. 2021 tax bills on 2nd installment of real estate and personal property bills, supplemental motor vehicle bills for vehicles registered between Oct. 2nd, 2019 and July 31st, 2020 are due 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. The supplemental file was uploaded in the middle of December. Most 2nd installment taxes and the supplemental motor vehicle tax have a deferred grace period thru April 1, 2021. This is a Thursday, and Town Offices are Closed, and there is NO Drop Box available for on time payments on April 1st. There is a service fee to pay online. An e-check costs \$.95, 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 enter, the portal looks like this:





Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

At just after 5 PM on Friday February 12th, the AVFD was dispatched to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for a fire alarm. As AVFD units were responding, the call came over the radio that dispatch was receiving multiple calls for a working fire. As the first engine was driving up the hill on RT. 44 the thick column of heavy dark smoke rising high into the sky became visible. Upon arrival, the "downtown area" of the camp was fully engulfed in fire. Downtown was built as a row of buildings resembling an old Wild West town, which went from near the infirmary and connected to the dining hall. It housed arts & crafts, a woodworking shop, and a camp store. The buildings between the camp store and the dining hall housed the "Cooking Zone" and staff lounges, and that is where the initial attack was made to cut off the fire to save the dining hall. It worked, just long enough to get a large diameter supply hose and water supply established from the pond at Old Eaton Road. Once that was running, there was plenty of water to continue fighting the fire prior to the dining hall. A second fire attack area was set up to protect the infirmary, generator, propane tanks, and a small building called "The Chalet." A water supply and large diameter supply line was set up from the dry hydrant at Pearson Pond in the other direction to feed the second attack area, as well as the tower ladder from UConn. The tower ladder was set up near the middle of the main fire, and dumped thousands of gallons of water down onto the main body of fire. We could not have accomplished the successful saving of property and buildings without the mutual aid assistance we received from the Eastford, Mansfield, Willington, Willington Hill, Tolland, and UConn Fire Departments. The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the State Fire Marshall's Office. The photos below are from local media outlets online.



Looking north from the front of The Infirmary (r)



Looking northwest in front of The Dining Hall

With the parade of snowstorms, fluctuating temperatures, and recent rain, the AVFD recommends staying off the possibly unsafe ice on town lakes and ponds. For solid (black) ice to form, several days of below freezing temperatures without precipitation is required. Then if it snows or rains on top, at least there is more solid ice under the snow. Even that depends on other conditions, like feeder streams, hidden springs, or fish/animal activity. Please let someone know where you are going, and take proper safety precautions if you choose to venture out.

The call count for January 2021 was 19 Fire/Rescue and 18 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 297. If you have any non-emergency 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 7/24/365.

Dave LaPorte Captain, AVFD Station 20



Scout Troop 92 March Newsletter

On-going Activities:

Court of Honor

February's Court of Honor had 12 Scouts in attendance. Four Scouts were awarded "Scout" rank and two were "Tenderfoot." Merit badges were awarded for achievement.



Hiking

Cub Scout Pack 92 Report:

Cub Scout Wolf Den enjoyed winter activities. They went on a "Letter Box" hike. The Den followed clues to a letterbox off of the Nipmuck trail recently. The boys needed to identify landmarks and take compass bearings to find the letterbox wedged under a rock near the trail.

Pictured from left are Gavin Tatro, Jack Birdsey, Beckett van Heiningen and Sam Champagne.

(Continued on next page.)

Fishing

On another activity the Wolf Den went for a day of catch and release ice fishing on Halls Pond in Ashford. The boys learned about ice safety, practiced drilling holes and setting "tip-ups."

Pictured: Dave Birdsey explains the different parts of a fish as Jack Birdsey, Sam Champagne and Beckett van Heiningen look on.



March meeting dates are 3/13 and 3/28. Meetings will start at 10 AM at St. Philip's rec. hall. Topics covered have been First Aid. All Scouts either learn or teach about First Aid to qualify for advancement in rank. Home First Aid kits were inspected.



Deposits for Summer Camp are due in March. We will be attending Summer Camp 7/11 thru 7/16. We need to know who plans on going. Once we know who is going, some scouts have money earned for camp from past fundraisers. We will also need volunteers for adult supervision. We don't know what camp will be like yet but we will need adults either way.

Visitors and new members are welcome at meetings. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Troop 92 BSA Ashford/Eastford and Pomfret

Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scout Master Cory Blanchette, Scout Master Chris Murphy, Assistant Scout Master



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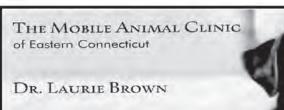
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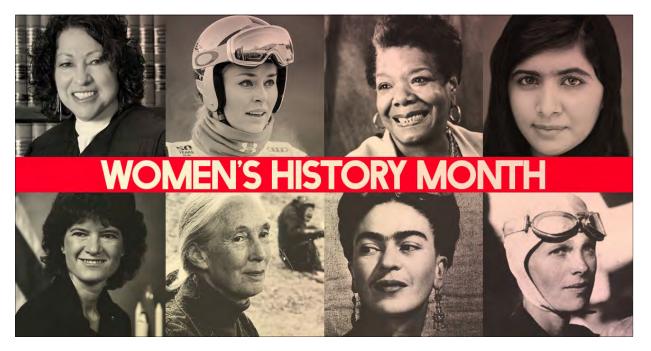
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Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually during March in the United States since 1987. Throughout history, in every culture around the world, extraordinary women have pushed society to think bigger, move forward and create. The following women are glowing examples of ceaseless curiosity, boundless courage and world-changing ingenuity. Thanks to each of them, women and girls all over the world live with fewer restraints and bigger dreams.

Marie Curie:

Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win twice, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences (Physics and Chemistry).

"In science, we must be interested in things, not in persons."

Clare Boothe Luce

Luce was the first American woman to be appointed to a major ambassadorial post abroad. She was also an accomplished author, known for her 1963 play, *The Women*, which did not feature a single male performer.

"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount."

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

This woman earned her glider pilot's license in 1930, just two years before her first child was kidnapped for ransom and murdered. After moving to England with her husband, Charles, and second son, Jon, she became the author of more than two dozen works, and won many awards related to her writing and her flying feats she accomplished with her husband.

"The most exhausting thing in life is being insecure."

Babe Didrikson Zaharias

Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias was an American athlete. She was successful in golf, basketball, baseball *and* track and field. In the 1932 Summer Olympics, she earned two gold medals in track and field and won ten Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) major championships.

"The formula for success is simple: practice and concentration, then more practice and concentration."

Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall is a British primatologist and anthropologist and was named a UN Messenger of Peace in 2002. After 55 years of studying chimpanzees in the wild, she is considered to be the world's leading expert on them. She is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots programme, constantly working on conservation and animal welfare issues.

"The greatest danger to our future is apathy."

(Continued on next page.)

Dr. Erna Hoover

Hoover's 1971 patent for a telephone switching computer program was among one of the first software patents ever issued. She worked on her idea while still in the hospital, following the birth of her second daughter.

"I designed the program for handling situations when there are too many calls. Basically it was designed to keep the machine from throwing up its hands and going berserk."

Miep Gies

Anne Frank didn't hide herself. Hermine "Miep" Santruschitz Gies is the woman who helped protect her and her family from the Nazis for over two years during World War II. She is also the woman responsible for saving Anne's diary after the Franks were arrested.

"Permanent remorse about failing to do your human duty, in my opinion, can be worse than losing your life."

Mary Wollstonecraft

An English writer, philosopher and women's rights activist, Wollstonecraft is best known for her 1792 work, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. In it, she argued that women are not naturally inferior to men and should be treated as rational beings — an opinion that reached far ahead of her time.

"I do not wish [women] to have power over men; but over themselves."

Malala Yousafzai

When she was still a young girl, Malala stood up against the Taliban in Pakistan, insisting that girls be allowed to receive an education. In 2012, she survived a shot to the head by a Taliban gunman and went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her human rights advocacy work.

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell

Blackwell was the first woman to graduate from medical school in the US. Throughout her lifetime, she was a leader in public health activism.

"None of us can know what we are capable of until we are tested."

Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was one of the 20th century's greatest humanitarians. She founded the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women that helped the poor, and was canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016. "Peace begins with a smile."

Clara Barton

Barton was an independent nurse during the Civil War. After a visit to England, she returned to the US and founded the American Red Cross.

"I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers can stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them."

Harriet Tubman

Tubman escaped slavery and became a leading abolitionist. She led hundreds of slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. She also served as a spy during the Civil War.

"I would fight for my liberty so long as my strength lasted...."

Annie Oakley

Annie Oakley was a renowned sharpshooter and TV star. She spent years on Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. "I ain't afraid to love a man. I ain't afraid to shoot him either."

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Legend has it that Abraham Lincoln greeted Stowe at the White House by saying: "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war," in reference to the civil war. This is due to her best selling novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" that helped popularize the anti-slavery movement.

"The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone."

Source: https://medium.com/the-mission/50-women-heroes-who-changed-the-world-c07eeffb7184

Babcock News

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



March 2021

www.babcocklibrary.org tel. 860-487-4420 or 959-210-8556 fax 860.540.1742

Hours:

Monday - 9:30-4 Tuesday - 9:30-4 Wednesday- 9:30-7 Thursday - Closed Friday - 9:30-3 Saturday - 10-2 Sunday - Closed

Carolann Mac Master, MLIS

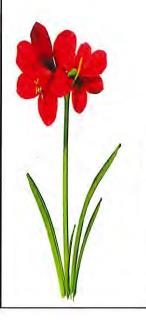
Library Director cmacmaster@babcocklibrary.org

Staff

Susan Chris Jessica Terese Sara

We have a notary here!!

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

In March the library will remain closed to the public with the exception of book drop pick-up and computer appointments. We are hopeful to reopen to the public in April.

The copier and fax machine are available by appointment only. At this time there are no in person programs. During this time, some of our collection may not be available for circulation.

If you have an appointment in the library, the following rules must be followed:

Proper face covering is required to enter the building; there will be no exceptions to this rule.

- All library material MUST be returned to the outside book drop.
- 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 follow the directions given to you when you enter the library, both verbal and directional instructions.
- The children's computers will remain unavailable at this time.
- 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

Our new Storywalk is currently under construction

Please check out our non-fiction collection for your child's educational needs.

> FRIENDS OF BABCOCK LIBRARY Check website

Check website

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Check website

We still have a few packets of seeds!
Please contact for more information on our seed distribution program sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Extension Service.



BABCOCK LIBRARY

March 2021

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.

At no cost to you, shopping at Amazon.com can help our library. We receive back a percentage of your purchase price whenever you begin your Amazon shopping at:

wowbrary.org/babcock

We benefit from Amazon not only when you buy books, but also movies, CDs, electronics, appliances, printer supplies, gifts, and more. Thank you.

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

The following Museum Passes are available, and as of this printing, the museums are open to the public. However they may have limited hours, please contact them.

Florence Griswold Museum-Sponsored by the Friends of Babcock Library

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



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 weeks theme.

Take Home Craft Projects

Please call the library to reserve your kit. After the kit is completed, please take a picture of your project and send it to the library through our email babcocklib@gmail.com, and we will post it on our website and Facebook! Reserve your child's kit by calling the library. Your child's kit will be ready for pick up on Wednesday. Kits are limited and must be reserved, and are age appropriate for 5 and up.

Recovering from COVID-19 or ending home isolation

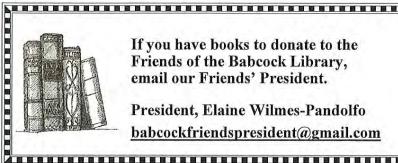
It can be stressful to be separated from others if you have or were exposed to COVID-19. Each person ending a period of home isolation may feel differently about it.

Emotional reactions may include:

- Mixed emotions, including relief.
- Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved
- Stress from the experience of having COVID-19 and monitoring yourself, or being monitored by others.
- Sadness, anger, or frustration because friends or loved ones have fears of getting the disease from you, even though you are cleared to be around others.
- Guilt about not being able to perform normal work or parenting duties while you had COVID-19.
- Worry about getting re-infected or sick again even though you've already had COVID-19.

Other emotional or mental health changes. Children may also have strong emotions if they, or someone they know, has COVID-19, even if they are now better and able to be around others again.

> Disaster Distress 1-800-985-5990 National Suicide Prevention 1-800-273-8255 National Domestic Violence 1-800-799-7233 National Child Abuse 1-800-4AChild National Sexual Assault 1-800-656-4673 The Eldercare 1-800-677-1116 Veteran's Crisis 1-800-273-8255



If you have books to donate to the Friends of the Babcock Library, email our Friends' President.

President, Elaine Wilmes-Pandolfo babcockfriendspresident@gmail.com



Kindergarten Screening

May 6, 2021 Ashford School 440 Westford Road 860-429-6419

The purpose of our Kindergarten Screening is to meet your child and gain a basic understanding of his/her readiness skills and personality. We make up classes by placing the same number of boys and girls per class and having a range of abilities in each class. Meeting your child helps us with class placement for the upcoming year. This year screenings will take place outside underneath the big tent on the side of the school. When you arrive, please park in the back parking lot and walk over to the basketball court. A Kindergarten staff member will greet you by the basketball court and guide you over to the tent. We are asking that only one adult accompanies their child and that you both wear a mask. Only 3 or 4 children will be under the tent at one time and all tables and materials will be disinfected between groups. Thank you!!!

Please call Suzanne Schillinger at 860-429-6419, ext. 317 to make an appointment. Appointments will be at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. or later if needed.

Who does the screening?

The Kindergarten Teachers and the Speech/Language Pathologist.

What does my child have to do?

Your child will be asked to do short, fun tasks, which are related to success in school, such as using playdough, naming colors, listening to a story, answering questions about the story, cutting, writing his/her name, naming letters/numbers and drawing a picture.

The screening is not used to verify if your child is ready for Kindergarten. **No child is refused from Kindergarten**. Kindergarten is available to all children who are age eligible; all children who will be 5 years old before January 1, 2022.

How do I register my child for Kindergarten?

Ashford School now has an online registration process. The system is a secure and green process, which allows the district to verify all student demographic, emergency and medical information for your child. This process also allows you to electronically sign annual

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permission forms for school policies. In short, this online process replaces the majority of new and returning student registration paperwork and permission forms that are mailed home in the summer and periodically throughout the school year.

Please visit our webpage at www.ashfordct.org, click on "New Students", create an account and complete all information. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Schillinger in the main office via 860-429-6419 x317 or sschillinger@ashfordct.org.

When and who do I return the forms to?

- Blue Medical Form please return to the school nurse or office before the first day of school with current records from the doctor. You may also fax it to the school at 860-487-4393.
- Kindergarten Questionnaire please return to the Kindergarten teachers at screening or at the Kindergarten orientation.

Areas covered include:

Drawing and Copying

- Hand preference
- · Approach to task
- Comfort level
- Fine motor/grip (how well the muscles coordinate paper and pencil activities)

Remembering

- Visual Remembering what is seen
- Auditory Remembering what is heard

Using Language

- To describe
- To reason
- How your child understands and uses words and sentences
- Articulation (how well your child produces the sounds of speech)

House Clean Outs

Evictions and Rental Ready Services Available

You Call We Haul
No Job Too Small
We Also Do Dump Runs
Free Estimates and Senior Citizen Discounts
Call (860) 465-7262

Men's Big Book Meeting

J.N. Webster Ranger Station

Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.





Dear Senior Residents of Ashford,

This letter is to provide you with information to assist you in making appointments for COVID-19 vaccine shots and to offer our help if you encounter difficulties.

As of Governor Lamont's February 22nd Coronavirus Update, individuals age <u>55 and older</u> are eligible to receive the vaccine on March 1st.

If you have access to a computer (or a relative/friend with one to help you), you can make your appointments through the following online systems. Please note, each individual must have their own email account.

- 2-1-1 of Connecticut is available at https://www.211ct.org. This site allows you to view a map of all vaccine clinics in the state. Click on each location to view the clinic's website to see how to go about making your appointment.
- VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System). Step-by-step VAMS registration instructions to register are available at https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations---VAMS-Support.
 - * Begin the registration process by entering basic information (name, email, zip code, date of birth), then select from a dropdown list of eligible occupations or age eligibility (65 or older and live in CT) and submit your information.
 - * If you are eligible to receive the vaccine at this time, you will receive an email within 3 days from no-reply-@mail.vams.cdc.gov with a link that will allow you to create a VAMS account and password to complete your registration.
 - * Once fully registered, you can use your zip code to search for available appointments in clinics near you and expand your search area up to 100 miles, find an appointment slot that works for you and book your appointment.
- Use your personal MYCHART PLUS account with Hartford Health Care.
 https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health-wellness/covid-vaccine/schedule-your-vaccine.

 There are also instructions on how to set up a MYCHART PLUS account if you do not have one.

If you do NOT have access to a computer, call:

- 1-877-918-2224 (2-1-1 of Connecticut COVID Vaccine Appointment Assist Line), 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, 7 days a week
- 1-860-827-7690 or toll free at 1-833-943-5721 (Hartford Healthcare Access Center).
- Relay services are available at 7-1-1 for those who are deaf or hard of hearing & use a TTY machine

There is a high volume of callers for each of these numbers. Try to call early in the morning if you can. Please be patient and keep trying.

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If you are NOT successful scheduling your appointments using the methods outlined above, contact:

- **860-487-5122** (Kit Eves, Ashford Agent for the Elderly) Mon-Fri, 9:00-3:00 for scheduling help.
- **860-487-4417** (Melissa McDonough, Director, Ashford Social/Youth Services) Mon-Fri, 9:00-3:00 for scheduling help and help setting up an email account.

<u>If you need a ride to an appointment</u>, we may be able to find someone to drive you. Please call 860-487-5122 or email <u>seniorcenter@ashfordtownhall.org</u> as soon as you have your appointment scheduled. This will give us time to organize your ride.

As more information becomes available, we will post it:

- On the Ashford Town website: https://ashfordtownhall.org/.
- On the Town of Ashford facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/AshfordConnecticut.
- In the monthly Ashford Citizen publication mailed to each household in Ashford.

Sincerely,

Kit Eves Melissa McDonough

Ashford Agent for the Elderly Director, Ashford Social/Youth Services

860-487-5122 860-487-4417

seniorcenter@ashfordtownhall.org mmcdonough@ashfordct.org

Introducing the NEW Ashford Town Office Building Drop Box!



Located to the left of the doors on the front porch.

Drop Box Policies

- Do not deposit cash in drop box.
- Do not deposit any pistol permit materials.
- Access is strictly limited to Town Clerk's Office staff.
 Contents will be delivered to other offices promptly.
- The drop box is for ANY town business. It will be checked at 12:00 pm every day that offices are open.
- <u>Taxes</u>: 2nd Installment Real Estate Tax Bills, 2nd Installment Personal Property Tax Bills, and Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills that have a January 1, 2021 due date and are not escrowed by the bank or are not a landlord/leased account, have a deferred grace period thru April 1. These bills are not late. Visit our website or call our office for updated interest on the other accounts. Thank you.

VITAL STATISTICS



Deaths:

Oliver C. Rosenquist	December 20,2020
Faye Schwartz	January 22, 2021
Olga Krilov	January 24, 2021
Harriet J. (McDaniels) Ackley	January 26, 2021
Frances Szall	January 26, 2021
Beverly Parrotte	January 29, 2021
Valentina Kadantseva	January 30, 2021
Eleanor May (Garnesky) Zambo	February 5, 2021
Carolyn Viola Beers	February 7, 2021
Dudley C. Cooper	February 13, 2021
George P. Nagy	February 22, 2021

Marriages:

Marcel J. Cote	January 15, 2021

Annette Louise Knowlton

William John Classen February 6, 2021

Lisa Marie Licata



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 and 860-928-2309. Always no cost ever for veterans and always confidential.

Veteran Notes:

The Congress has directed the VA to add 3 more items to the Agent Orange presumptive disease list. If you served in Vietnam and have a diagnosis of bladder cancer, Parkinson-like symptoms, or hypothyroidism, you may be eligible for VA health and disability benefits. Call me for more info on what to do: 860-928-2309.

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 hhhpropmntcllc@gmail.com 860-487-1054 860-918-0890 Please join our zoom community conversation!

Zen Solar

3/08/21 at 7:00 pm

Read our monthly column "Local Solar" in Neighbors newspaper

Doing what we love:
Helping local families go solar
for the past 8 years.

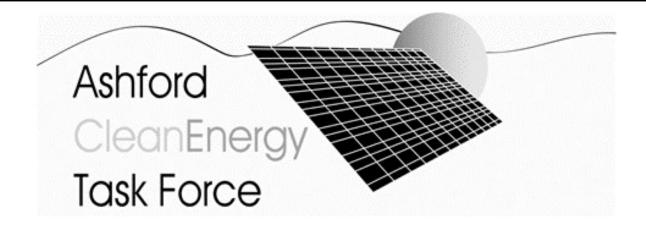
Fun Fact: Solar costs less than the utility.

For zoom link access, please email, text or call.

John Boiano 860-798-5692

iohn@zensolar.net

www.zensolar.net



March 2021

"A penny saved is a penny earned" - Benjamin Franklin

You may not know it, but phantoms and vampires may be lurking in your home, slaking their thirst on your juice. I'm talking about phantom energy loss, which is likely draining some of your hard-earned money away by consuming electricity without you even knowing. Many devices these days are actually "on" all the time, even when you think they are off. Some of the typical devices that are sheltering vampires are computers, televisions, microwave ovens, game consoles, set top boxes, sound systems, washing machines and dryers, and on and on. A clue is that anything that has a remote control is likely "on" all the time, just waiting for you to push the "on" button.

You might not think that they draw very much power when they are just waiting for you to press the "on" button, and though this is strictly true, there are so many devices that do this that it does add up. Another reason these devices suck so much of your juice is that they are actually on 24/7, sipping gently, but none the less sipping all the time. I've seen estimates that in a typical home, all of that can add up to 10% of your total energy use. Across town, the state, the country and the world, that adds up to a huge amount of energy! I've seen estimates of \$10 billion in annual energy costs, and 100 billion kilowatt hours annually in the U.S. That is an awful lot of carbon dioxide being generated.

What can you do to drive a stake through the heart of some of these devices? Simple. Turn them off. You can unplug them. If you have a cluster of these devices located in one area, you can plug them all into a power strip that has a switch, and turn them all on/off together. This also would have the advantage of protecting these devices if the power strip has a built-in surge protector.

There are some sacrifices you might need to make if you do this. If the device has a clock, it might lose its time. But how many clocks do you need in the house? Devices can also lose their settings in some cases. And some devices might take a little more time to wake up. With experimentation, you can decide which devices you want to actually turn off, and which you are willing to tolerate sucking your juice.

Many devices are available to measure the power consumption of devices. A common one is a Kill A Watt meter, and you can borrow one from the Babcock Library. Some may not do a good job of measuring very low power, but they will give you a pretty good idea of where most of your juice is going.

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 questions or comments, or to join us, please contact John Sievel at johnsievel@gmail.com.

Ashford Park & Rec. 860-487-4409

meeting will be

Monday March 15th 7:00.

The agenda will be posted
on the website.

The public is always welcome
and we value your input on our
programs and facilities.

We will be discussing our lineup
for our summer concert series.

Next Rec. Commission



PICKLEBALL

Spring is Coming! Lets Celebrate by returning to the courts at Pompey Hollow Park on the 1st Day of Spring!
Sat. March 20th, 11:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.
See you there!

PICKLEBALL 101
Sign up for this intro.
class for this fun sport!
Practice the shots and
your serve. Learn the

rules and how to stay out of the kitchen. Held at Pompey Hollow Park tennis court. 4 sessions for \$30! Equipment provided. Mondays 1:00–2:00 April 5, 12, 19, 26. Instructors: Ross Anderson & Sherry York



Ashford Park & Rec.'s Free Ice Skating Tradition Continues!

Join us at Bolton Ice Palace Friday March 12th, 1:30-2:30!

(It's a day off from school)
Space is limited! Call to reserve your spot,
860-487-4409

We all know getting outside, communing with nature is good for us, but do we know how good?

Common sense tells us that it often improves our mood, reduces anxiety, and gets us moving.

Scientific research shows that it improves memory, increases levels of vitamin D, strengthens the immune system, improves vision, inspires creativity, renews us, and develops a deeper sense of spirituality.

So unplug from your devices, put on the new gloves you got for Christmas, and your old favorite boots and venture outside. Look at the white winter beauty, hear the stillness, breathe in the crisp fresh air and let nature do its thing!





AAC Corner

March 2021

Ashford has a Poet Laureate!

The Ashford Arts Council is pleased to announce that, after interviewing 2 very impressive applicants, we have selected Anthony Paticchio as our Poet Laureate, and the Board of Selectmen has appointed him as the Town of Ashford's Poet Laureate for a 3-year term. Ashford now joins a group of more than 30 towns in Connecticut to have a Poet Laureate.

Tony has many years of experience studying and writing poetry, and he continues to publish poems in national and international journals. He has given much thought to how he will approach the role of Poet Laureate, and he has excellent, concrete ideas that are consistent with the AAC's vision. We believe Tony will bring additional excitement and opportunity to what is already a very vibrant arts community in Ashford.

World Poetry Day is on Sunday, March 21, 2021 and we plan to honor Tony's appointment with a virtual party on that day. We will celebrate on Zoom with poetry by Tony, virtual toasts, and then an open Mic for town well-wishers to read their own poems.

The celebration will be held on Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 pm.

Please email Christine Acebo to register for this event and get the Zoom link: cacebo@mac.com

"I am honored to accept the appointment as Ashford's Poet Laureate and to participate in a virtual celebration on World Poetry Day, Sunday, March 21st. My hope and goal through this appointment is that I can contribute to increasing an appreciation of what poetry offers to us and how it contributes to our sense and realization of community." – *Anthony Paticchio, Ashford's Poet Laureate*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month Virtual meetings via Zoom until further notice

Ashford Art Nights

March 16, 2021 7:00-7:30pm ZOOM

Poet Laureate Celebration

March 21, 2021 4:00pm ZOOM

Holiday Artist Market

November 20-21, 2021 Knowlton Memorial Hall



VISIT US ONLINE & ON FACEBOOK

Artist of the Month – Maggie Kendis

My name is Maggie Kendis, and I am a printmaker. Growing up, my ambition as a child was to illustrate children's books or do the cover of the New Yorker Magazine! I was always drawn to the whimsey of flat patterns and animals. I drew with radiograph pens, coloring in with watercolors. In college, I was introduced to printmaking, primarily intaglio. It was the intimacy, the texture, the flatness, I enjoyed. I could work on a small plate, or multiple plates with colors, and when ready to print, there was always an element of surprise. Unlike painting, I had to wait through the inking of the plate, the soaking of paper, and running it through the press, to see what I got. After college, I spent a quarter in Mexico studying silkscreening and batik. Batik also held the element of surprise. Between dying the cloth, and applying the wax to resist the dye, the process would be a continual building up of layers of colors. A lot of the process was working in negative space and only after removing all the wax, there was again that element of surprise, seeing what I got. For over thirty years, I have sent out Christmas cards using linoleum print to chronicle my year. Now, I am back to the small intimate pieces of tile, using as my subjects, my dog, cats, pets of friends, birds, chickens, guinea hens, goats, llamas, and horses in the neighborhood. I work in black and white as well as color, often creating a collage background specifically designed for the individual piece. The results are infinitely varied and never boring.

> Look for her artwork on the AAC Facebook Page and her website: www.MaggieKendis.com

WWW.ASHFORDARTS.ORG

The Ashford Citizen 5 Town Hall Road Ashford, CT 06278

PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S. POSTAGE PAID EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer

Alexander Hastillo Electric American Scale Company Inc. Antero Health Care **Anything Printed** Ashford Garden Center Ashford Spirit Shoppe Basch Stone Masonry LLC **Basto Flooring LLC** Bearing Star Insurance - Daniel Storer Berkshire Bank Black and White Pet Care LLC CNM Heating Cooling & Piping LLC Cool-Grind Technologies, LLC Count it All Joy Studio County Line Septic Eastford Building Supply Franc Motors Inc. Funk & Little Inc Gary Stevens Remax Destination GM Thompson & Sons Inc. **Green Valley Tees Greg Peck Landscaping** Hall Davis Marketing Strategies Hanks Lawnmower Repair and Service Henrietta House Bed & Breakfast and Red House Farm

Home Selling Team, LLC- Noah King Hope and Wellness Insurance Engineering Solutions LLC Integrity Pest Control J.M. Cyr Construction LLC JCL Lawncare Key Bank Lance Glass Latham Automotive Lawrence Real Estate Love Construction Lyman Real Estate Carolyn Trotta Made and Formed Foundations Mansfield Supply Mansfield Tree Service Mary Kay Tina Fradette Independent Beauty Consultant McClintock Roofing Midway Restaurant



Mike Kovarovics Contracting Neighbors Paper LLC North Veterinary Clinic Northeast Builders Roofing Company Northeast Painters LLC Outpatient Mobile Solutions Inc. Pet-Law Farm Pfalzgraf PFarm Residential Foresters LLC Rettenmeier Woodcarving Rivers Edge Sugar House Rogerson Masonry Inc. Sean Patrick Plants LLC **Shooters Services** State Farm Anthony Raggi Stoney Maple Carpentry Terry's Transmissions The Last Green Valley The Mobile Animal Clinic Tolland County Foundation Restoration Veterans Base Camp Westford Hill Distillers Willington 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