

Volume 53

Issue 4

April 1, 2022

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

ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

## New Catch and Release Fishing Initiative

You may see some colorful new signs at popular fishing access sites in the northwest part of the Quiet Corner in the next few weeks.

The Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, with the support of local sportsmen’s clubs, are launching a campaign to encourage more catch and release fishing.

Gary Lussier, President of the Thames Valley Chapter of TU, states: “The intent is not to discourage people who like to enjoy a fresh trout now and then (who doesn’t?) but to raise awareness of the benefits of catch and release with minimal harm to the fish.”

Figures from Andrew Bale of the DEEP show about 120,000 freshwater licenses and permits being issued. This includes about 80,000 trout stamps. Plus who knows how many younger kids who don’t need licenses. At the same time the state stocks about 500,000 catchable size trout annually. According to Steve Gerling, coordinator of the project, “Fishing provides a truly great opportunity to enjoy the best of the outdoors. But with those numbers it’s not hard to see why the lakes and streams can be quickly depleted of trout when many people keep their entire catch at every outing.”

He continues, “The main message of the campaign is that more catch and release will yield better fishing for more of the season. Especially in the case of trout, this also increases the possibility of more “holdover” fish and ups the chances for natural reproduction in our lakes and streams. The signs give tips on how to minimize injury to your catch, and will even have a small pair of pliers attached for those who wish to bend down hook barbs at waterside.”

Loos & Co. in Pomfret generously supported the project by donating the steel aircraft cable and hardware assembly that will be attached to the needle-nose pliers.

In addition to the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the following clubs added their endorsement and support to the effort: Putnam Fish and Game Club; Pomfret Rod and Gun Club; Eastern CT Sportsman’s Club (Ashford); Fin, Fur, and Feather Club (Chaplin); and Stafford Fish and Game Club.

All of these groups ask you to please consider Catch and Release. It makes for better fishing for everyone.

Article and top photo submitted by Steve Gerling.



*L: Robert Davis, Loos Director of Corporate Marketing; and R: Steve Gerling, of Trout Unlimited  
Information on Loos, middle and bottom photos courtesy of Loos & Co.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Town Offices Directory

<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	<b>860-234-4093</b>
<b>Assessor</b>	<b>860-487-4403</b>
<b>Building Dept.</b>	<b>860-487-4404</b>
<b>Emergency Management</b>	<b>860-428-0870</b>
<b>Finance Dept.</b>	<b>860-487-4405</b>
<b>Fire Marshal</b>	<b>860-208-0113</b>
<b>Housing Authority</b>	<b>860-429-8556</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>860-487-4409</b>
<b>Public Works</b>	<b>860-429-6812</b>
<b>Registrar of Voters</b>	<b>860-487-4410</b>
<b>Selectmen's Office</b>	<b>860-487-4400</b>
<b>Sexton</b>	<b>860-487-4400</b>
<b>Social/ Youth Services</b>	<b>860-487-4417</b>
<b>Tax Collector</b>	<b>860-487-4411</b>
<b>Town Clerk</b>	<b>860-487-4401</b>
<b>Zoning Enforcement</b>	<b>860-487-4415</b>

**Town of Ashford website:  
[www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org)**

### Ashford Town Offices Public Hours:

Assessor, Selectmen's Office, Tax Collector,  
Town Clerk:

Mon., Tues., Fri. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Wed. 10 am - 6 pm



Land Use Dept.:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., 8:30 am-3:00 pm or by appt.

Social Services: Mon. & Tues. 9 am - 3 pm or by appt.

Transfer Station: Wed. 2-8 pm, Sat. 8 am-4 pm,  
Sun. 10 am - 4 pm

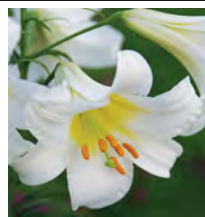
For other depts. not listed, please call for hours.

### Change in Face Mask Requirements in Town Buildings



The Town Office building is open to the public. Effective March 8, 2022, wearing a face mask is optional in all Town buildings. As a courtesy to others we ask that unvaccinated individuals and those with a known exposure please wear a mask. As always, if you are feeling ill please do not enter town buildings.

The drop box at the front doors is always available and checked three times daily during office hours.



**Ashford Town Offices  
are closed for  
Good Friday,  
April 15th, 2022.**

**The Transfer Station will be closed  
on Easter Sunday, April 17th, 2022.**

### *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](mailto:smutch@ashfordtownhall.org)

Karen Zulick, Ads/Subscriptions # 860-487-4401  
[kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org)

# TOWN OF ASHFORD

## Board of Finance

Legal Notice

Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

To be held virtually

To join the meeting, please use the information provided at the bottom of this agenda

5 Town Hall Road, Ashford, Connecticut 06278

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Ashford, Connecticut, are hereby notified and warned that a Public Hearing will be held virtually (connection information below) on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing will be for the purpose of receiving information regarding the proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 town budgets.

Copies of the proposed budgets can be obtained on the Town of Ashford, Connecticut website or picked up outside the Ashford Town Office Building during current business hours.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut this day of 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2022

Judith A. Austin, Chairman  
Ashford Board of Finance

If you have concerns about your ability to attend this virtual meeting, please contact Michael D'Amato at 860-785-5410 or email [ZEO@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:ZEO@ashfordtownhall.org)

Please send written testimony of your intent to present at the Public Hearing to [bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:bofashford@ashfordtownhall.org)

Public comment time may be limited to accommodate more presentations prior to the Board of Finance and Selectmen holding Special Meetings after the Public Hearing

**Topic: Ashford Budget Public Hearing**

**Time: April 5, 2022 07:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87933318665?pwd=dmFhVWRCaDIWQmt1QU81SWRSeDU5UT09>

Meeting ID: 879 3331 8665

Passcode: 997531

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 879 3331 8665

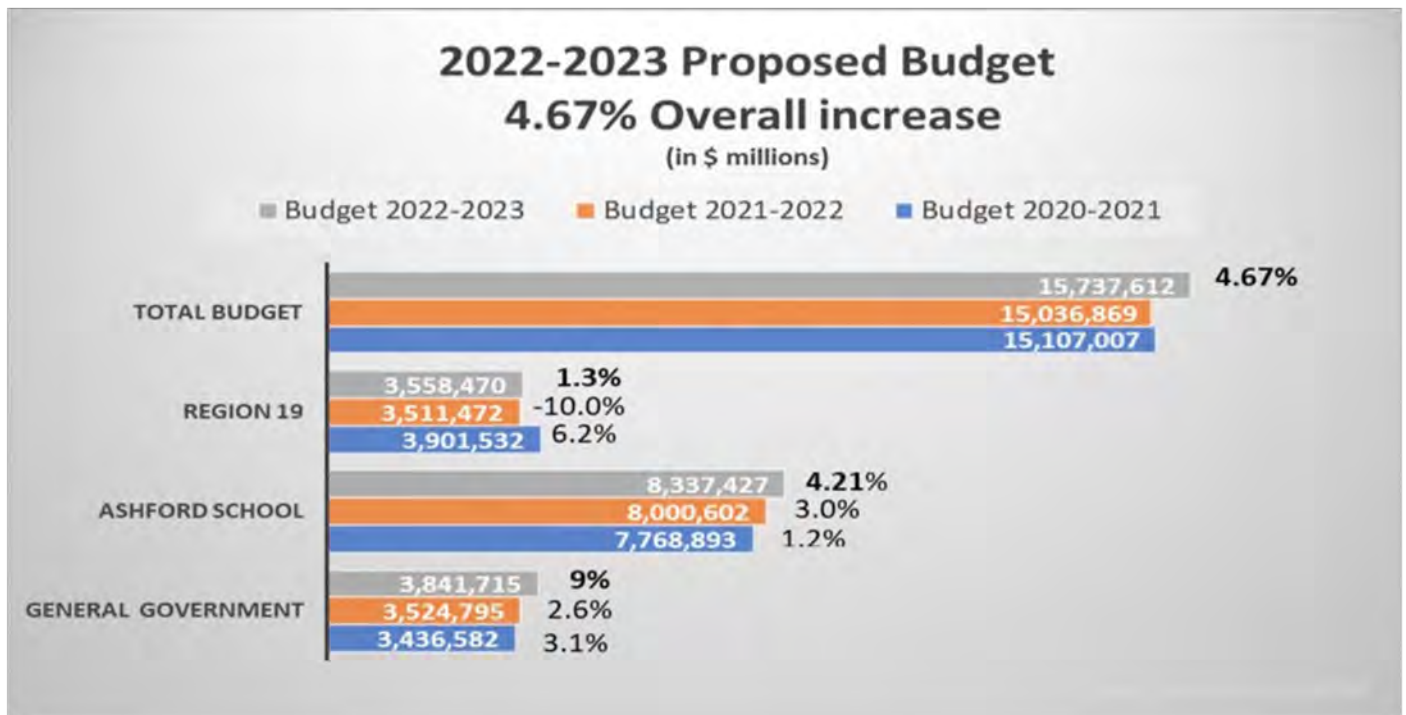
Passcode: 997531

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87933318665>

Fellow Citizens of Ashford,

The Proposed Budget for FY22-23 and calculator [Ashford Tax Calculator \(ashfordtownhall.org\)](http://ashfordtownhall.org) are posted on the Town of Ashford website. The proposed budget increase of 4.67% combined with the recent reassessment of property values will generate a MIL rate of 32.349. The total operating budget for the town, including Ashford School and Region 19 will increase approximately \$700,000 over the prior year budget, to \$15.7 million. Please take the time to see how the higher reassessed property values and proposed MIL rate will impact your tax obligation. We welcome your feedback at the Board of Finance Public Hearing on April 5, 2022.

Example:	<u>Single Family</u>	<u>MIL Rate</u>	<u>Taxes</u>
2020 Assessment	\$120,060	36.369	\$4366.22
2021 Reassessment	\$177,310	32.349	\$5732.79
	57,250	-4.02	\$1366.57



Prepared by Judith Austin, Chairman of the Board of Finance, March 2022

Important information from the Ashford Registrars of Voters  
 Lauren Olson / Democratic                      Colleen DePercio / Republican

**May 9, 2022:** This is the last day that an enrolled elector can transfer from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the state primary of a new party. (§ 9-59)

**August 8, 2022:** This is the last day, by 12:00 noon, that an enrolled elector who is registered as an unaffiliated voter can transfer to one of the major parties to be eligible to vote in the state primary of that party. (§ 9-56)

**August 9, 2022:** If there is to be a primary, the date of the primary will be August 9, 2022.

# **FINANCIAL & TAX SERVICES**

**FOR SMALL BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS**

**DANIEL S. LEVINE, C.P.A.**

**Certified Public Accountant**

**Cell: 860-729-6036**

**dansethlev@cox.net**

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

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## **Westford Congregational Church**

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

[www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org](http://www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org)  
and on Facebook

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m.  
(Summer hours July 4<sup>th</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>:  
Sunday Service at 9:30 and no Sunday School)

Services have resumed in person.

Please join us.

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

Conservative Congregational  
Christian Conference



# Ready for Kindergarten



## Kindergarten Screening Thursday, April 28, 2022

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.

### 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.

**Please call Suzanne Schillinger at 860-429-6419, ext. 317 to make an appointment. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the only day for screenings.**

*\*Children enrolled in Ashford Preschool do not need to participate in the Kindergarten Screenings. They are automatically enrolled.*

### 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)



# ATTENTION ASHFORD PARENTS

## Preschool Screening

**When:** April 26th and 27<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm

**Where:** Ashford School  
440 Westford Road

### Who:

Children who are 3 and 4 years old. Must be 3 by 9/1/22

(\*\*Children who will turn 3 from 9/1/22 to 12/31/22 will be offered a screening in the fall; please call the school number below and give us your child's information\*\*)

To make an appointment for your child, please the main office at (860) 429-6419 x355. If you have any questions about the development of a child below the age of three, please call (860) 429-6419 and ask for Ginger Lusa (ext 301) or Jaday Longo (ext 311).

### What information will the screening provide?

Screening will provide parents with information regarding:

- Speech and Language Development
- Fine Motor Development
- Gross Motor Development
- Vision and Hearing

### What to Bring?

- Proof of Residence
- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Family Questionnaire
- Readiness Application
- Proof of Income (see Readiness Application for required forms of documentation)

Please Note: An appointment is required for this screening. One adult may attend with each child. It will last approximately 1/2 hour. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the development of your child and to indicate if you are interested in a space in the preschool program.

Children who already attend Ashford School Preschool or those who will be entering Kindergarten this fall should not be brought to this screening.



**CR Premier**  
PROPERTIES

860-315-9070

crpremier.com



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**Joe Murphy**  
Realtor

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Woodstock, CT 06281

860.382.9271  
joe@crpremier.com

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## Join us at our Monthly Meetings

Our April 9th meeting will be **7:00pm - 9:00pm** at the Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford. Steve Gerling will be our Presenter. The public is welcome to attend.

Ashford Arts Council Celebrates Anthony Patichio on beginning his second year as our town's Poet Laureate. He wrote the poem below upon being named Poet Laureate last year.

### Becoming

Sometime in March or April,  
The Mount Hope, near its headwaters  
down below the house, turns river again;

grows loud each day; spills its winter  
stream in a full-on cold clear  
silver river rush;

threads a new watercourse run  
across a thick-grown marsh that once was  
a beaver pond;

pours out through a rock channel carved  
in the ruin of an old button mill dam;  
and finds its way.

©2021 Anthony Patichio

**POETRY WORKSHOP: The 2nd & 4th  
Monday of each month, starting April 25th.  
6:30-8pm Contact Tony for Zoom Link**

Up to 6 writing participants who are willing to share and workshop their own poems. I will also hold up to 4 additional reading only slots for those who are interested in reading and discussing poetry, but don't now have work of their own to share. Please indicate your preference when you contact me at **04AJPATI@GMAIL.COM**

## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: Steve Gerling

Steve Gerling has been doing relief woodcarving since the mid-1970's. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from UConn, with a major in sculpture. After school, he was drawn to the additional challenges of relief carving. Not only did an object have to be sculpted but it had to be skillfully distorted in scale, perspective, and space to create an image convincing to the viewer.

Traditionally, most relief work was intended as decoration or embellishment to works of architecture or fine cabinetry. Steve chooses to make the carving the primary object. While much of the work were objects of fine woodworking, using them as a utilitarian frame, the main focus of attention has always been the carving.

Steve will be our presenter for the April 9th meeting at 7pm.



## WORKSHOP: CANING A FOOTSTOOL

**Two-Session Workshop**  
**Wed., April 27 and May 4, 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Ashford Senior Center**

Have you ever wanted to learn to cane chairs? Join us for an entire 7-Step chair caning process and complete a 10" x 14" solid oak footstool during the workshop. No caning or limited caning experience needed, just the desire to learn.

1. Register with Bob Johnson, an experienced and passionate chair caner and seat weaver at **rejohnson117@gmail.com** or **860-455-6503**.
2. Materials: Participants will purchase online a "Chair Caning Footstool Kit". Cost is \$44.95 and contains all of the materials you will need for the class. Order asap.

**[https://basketweaving.com/shopsite\\_sc/store/html/chair-caning-footstool-kit.html](https://basketweaving.com/shopsite_sc/store/html/chair-caning-footstool-kit.html)**

3. Class fee: free for AAC members; \$5 for non-Members. Exact cash or check made out to Windham Arts Organization. In Memo line: AAC Workshop.



**SAVE THE DATE!** A Summer's Palette Art Show -July 9th  
at Westford Hills Distillers. Details coming soon!

Visit us @ [www.AshfordArts.org](http://www.AshfordArts.org) & on Facebook.com/AshfordArts  
The Ashford Arts Council is in partnership with Windham Arts

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

You do not have to be an artist or live in Ashford. Join our fun dynamic group!

Membership: \$20 Donation  
October 1st – September 31st

For more information contact our Membership Director, Darcie Boiano at [Boiano.Darcie@gmail.com](mailto:Boiano.Darcie@gmail.com) or (860) 798-1738

Your Name:

Email Address:

Business Name & Website:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Darcie Boiano  
AAC Membership Director  
196 Oakes Road  
Ashford, CT 06278

Check Payable To:  
**WINDHAM ARTS ORGANIZATION**  
MEMO Line: AAC MEMBERSHIP



## VITAL STATISTICS



### Deaths:

Pamela Bailey Lentz February 23, 2022

Leona Irene Olson February 26, 2022

### Marriages:

Frank J. Carbone, III March 17, 2022

Sharon Marie Tasko



## Assistance to Ashford Veterans

### IN-PERSON OFFICE HOURS ARE BACK

We have re-started the Veteran's Hour again at the Town Office Building after many months. If you are in need of advice for Veteran benefits, questions on assistance such as health care, burials, disability compensation, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, or pension, please visit on the first Wednesday of the month with the new hours of 5:00-6:00 pm. Appointments are preferred, especially if Wednesdays are a conflict, but walk-ins are welcome. Call Garry at 860-928-2309 and leave a message. Please do not hesitate to contact me 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

If you have been rated by the VA at 0% for a mental Health disability, you may be eligible for a new rating. Contact Garry at 860-928-2309.

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# BOWEN'S GARAGE

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## How to PAY Your Taxes Online

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



- In the search bar enter your last name, space, and first initial.  
Ex. Name: John Smith

Enter the search criteria below:

Smith J | Search

- 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



- Find which bill you want to pay

Ex.

2002-01-37

- 2002 is the Grand List

2002-01-37

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

2002-01-37

- 37 is the bill number

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

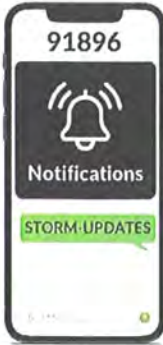
BILL #
2002-01-0000037 00004200-LIEN (REAL ESTATE)
2003-01-0000038 00004200-LIEN (REAL ESTATE)
2004-01-0000040 00004200-LIEN

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

- Read the Terms and Conditions before you press **Pay Now**
  - Especially if You Have Past Due Taxes

- Make sure the next cart is the same as the previous one and choose how you would like to pay. Then press
  - Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards

- Enter Payment information, Review, and Submit.
  - There is a 2.95% fee for Credit and Debit Cards
  - There is a **\$.95** fee for Checking Account (Reduced from \$1.95)



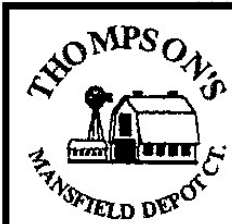
Just text a **KEYWORD** to **91896**

Include dashes (-)  
Case doesn't matter



Group	Keyword	Description
<b>FIRST SELECTMAN/TOWN ALERTS</b>	STORM-UPDATES	Storm Information, Local Power Outages, Closures
	TOWN-DELAY-OR-CLOSE	Town Office Late Openings or Closures Due to Inclement Weather *Does not include school delays or closures*
	ROAD-CLOSURES	Road Closure Notifications
	OTHER-EMERGENCIES	Non-Weather-Related Urgent Notifications
	TOWN-EVENTS	Notifications Regarding Ashford Events
<b>COVID</b>	COVID-UPDATES	COVID Alerts, Clinics, and Testing.
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>	PARKS-REC-CXL	Parks & Rec Event and Program Cancellations.
	PARKS-REC-UPCOMING-PROGRAMS	Notifications about new Parks & Rec programs and events.
	PARKS-REC-VOLUNTEER	Volunteer Opportunities
<b>SENIOR SERVICES</b>	SR-CTR-EVENTS	Special Upcoming Events
	FOOT-CARE	Podiatry Care
	FROZ-MEALS	Senior Center Meal Distribution Program
	MEDICAID	Medicaid Enrollment
	MEDICARE	Medicare Enrollment
	SR-CTR-WHATS-NEW	New Senior Center Programs and Services
	SR-CTR-DELAY-OR-CLOSE	Senior Center Delayed Openings and Closures.
	SR-CTR-VAN-TRIPS	Van Trips Sponsored by the Senior Center
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES</b>	BACK-TO-SCHOOL	Back to School Assistance (backpacks, supplies, shoe gift cards)
	DIAPERS	State Sponsored Diaper program
	FOOD	Food Pantry, Mobile Food Share
	HEAT	Heating Assistance Services
	HOLIDAY-GIFT-HELP	Gift Assistance for Families in Need
	HOUSING	Housing Assistance Services
	INSURANCE	Medical Insurance for Low-Income Households
	RENTER-REBATE	State Rebate for Renters 65 + or Disabled Individuals
	SNAP	State Benefit Food Program
	SS-WHATS-NEW	New Social Services Notifications
	THANKSGIVING-FOOD	Thanksgiving Food Boxes
	UTILITIES	Financial Assistance for Electrical and Water Utilities

- Message and data rates may apply, check with your carrier for more details. Message frequency will vary.
- To opt-out text STOP; this will unsubscribe you from ALL groups. To rejoin, text the keyword for your desired notification list.
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**EASTFORD VETERINARY CLINIC**



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eastfordvetclinic@outlook.com  
*by appointment only*



**Book Release Event**  
**" The Owl Watchman"**  
**Come meet the author and artist**  
**Frietha Lawrence**  
**April 2,2022(Saturday) 12-3pm**  
**Swift Water Artisan Coop.**  
**866 Main Street, Willimantic ,CT.**

**SPRING IS HERE!!!**

**COME TO THE EASTER BUNNY  
MEET & GREET**



**DATE:** Saturday, April 16th

**TIME:** 10am – 12pm

**WHERE:** Knowlton Memorial Hall, Route 44 (the hall below the Babcock Library)

Come meet and take a picture with the Easter Bunny. Kids that are Ashford residents and 4<sup>th</sup> grade or lower will receive an Easter basket.

We are looking for volunteers to help make baskets on Friday (April 15<sup>th</sup>) and help on Saturday. Please contact Val Peppin at 860-429-0226 (home), 860-208-5300 (cell) or [mikeval186@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mikeval186@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold a hunt this year but hope to in 2023!

Thank you for your support!

~Ashford Easter Bunny and Committee



## **Lunging Tiger**

**K.I.S.S. PROGRAM**  
**KEEP IT SIMPLE SELF DEFENSE**

Program: seven weeks from May 13th - July 9th 2022  
(no class on May 28th, June 11th and July 2nd)

Cost: \$140.00 or \$25 per session

Age group: teen/adult

Class: Saturday 11:45am - 1pm

Program: All students will learn to use household items as weapons, along with learning basic karate strikes and self-defense combinations to defend themselves. This workshop helps build your awareness, self-defense skills and self-esteem. If you have any questions and/or would like to sign up, please contact the office or stop by any Saturday between 8:15am - 12pm at the studio.

Address: 141 Nott Hwy Ashford, CT  
Phone/text: 860- 281- 9271  
Email: [ltkoffice@lungingtigerkarate.com](mailto:ltkoffice@lungingtigerkarate.com)



## Renters Rebate



Are you over 65?  
Are you Disabled?  
Are you a Renter?

Did you earn less than \$46,400 if married or \$38,100 if single?

Then you may qualify for a Renters Rebate from OPM.

If you would like to apply please call to make an appointment or mail copies of your documentation to 5 Town Hall Rd, Ashford, CT 06278, drop documents off in the drop box out front or scan and email to [mmcdonough@ashfordct.org](mailto:mmcdonough@ashfordct.org)

If you have questions please call (860)487-4417

### **Required Documentation: (all for calendar year 2021)**

#### **Proof of Income Including:**

- Social Security income (form SSA 1099) & SSI if applicable
- Copy of 2021 Federal Income Tax Return, if filed
- 1099 forms for pension, dividends, interest, stocks & bonds, etc.
- W-2's from employment
- Veterans Disability or Railroad Retirement

#### **Proof of Expenses Including:**

- Rent receipts for 2021 (all 12 months)
- Utility bills paid in 2021 (heat, gas, electric only)

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## Scout Troop 92 April Newsletter

Activities: The Troop is planning to campout at Crystal Pond Park in Eastford.

Scout Owen Gratton from Pomfret is scheduling his Eagle project to begin around April 30. To advance to the rank of Eagle Scout, a project is one of the requirements. Owen lives near the Old Abington Burying Grounds on Route 97. It's kind of a three-pronged project. (1) He is coordinating mowing and doing general yardwork. (2) He is working with Michael Carroll from Rediscovering History to learn about, and help the younger Scouts, clean gravestones. (3) The placement of a stone (it's currently at Mercer Monuments being sandblasted) which will be placed when you enter the cemetery which contains a message thanking Veterans for their service.



*Owen Gratton,  
Eagle Scout candidate*

As a little aside, the cemetery contains the remains of 62 Revolutionary War veterans. His family usually places flags there before Memorial Day, so this project is kind of a labor of love. The Troop and Cub Scout Pack will provide manpower to help with this worthwhile project.

Cub Scout Activities: As part of the "Duty to Country" adventure, Cub Scouts from Pack 92 were generously hosted by the Willimantic Police Department where they toured the police station, learned about the many tools a police officer carries, saw a K-9 demonstration and even got to sit in the department's SWAT vehicle.

Troop meetings will be on alternate Saturday mornings in April. New members are welcome to attend.

Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is April Fool's Day. Be ready for tricksters!

Scout Troop 92  
Ashford, Eastford and Pomfret  
Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scout Master  
Cory Blanchette, Scout Master  
Chris Murphy, Assistant Scout Master  
Kurt van Heiningen, Cub Master  
Doug Nemeth, Committee Chair



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## Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

We have officially entered the Spring season!!!

Now that Spring has arrived, folks are getting antsy to do some yard clean up so you may be wondering, can I burn my yard debris? The answer is Yes and No. There are some steps you need to take before you can light that fire like knowing what you can burn and most importantly – You need a Burn Permit!

Open burning is limited to the burning of brush only. Brush is defined as shrubs, vegetation or pruning's, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point. **Leaves and grass are not considered brush.**

Open burning is not allowed:

- to clear land prior to construction activities.
- to dispose of construction debris, household trash, or leaves.
- if the **Air Quality Index** (AQI) is forecasted to be 100 or higher anywhere in the state.
- if the Forest Fire Danger Index is rated **High, Very High, or Extreme.\***
- if there is an advisory from DEEP of any air pollution episode.
- if directed by any member of the town Fire Marshal's office, Officer of the Fire Department, designated Municipal Official responsible for enforcing the open burning laws and ordinances, or any official of the Health Department or DEEP.

Remember, before you burn, always have a garden hose or pails of water nearby to prevent your fire from getting out of control, and to extinguish your fire when you are done burning.

To obtain a Burn Permit in the Town of Ashford, contact Ashford's Burn Officer:

Captain Andrew Campbell  
860-933-4196

[Andrew.campbell@ashfordfire.org](mailto:Andrew.campbell@ashfordfire.org)

\*You can check CT fire danger on the DEEP website at: (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Fire/Forest-Fire-Danger-Report>). Daily reports will start-up again anytime now (early Spring).

**The call count for March was 7 Fire/Rescue and 31 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 369.**

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

Tracey Stancil  
Firefighter/EMT  
AVFD Station 20

## 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. Awards, as stipulated by the Bicknell Trust, will be based on both need and merit.

The Board of Education will receive applications for the 2022 scholarships at the following address:

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

**Application packets must be postmarked by April 15, 2022.** 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](http://www.ashfordct.org) beginning February 15, 2022.



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# Babcock News

**Babcock Library**  
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April 2022

www.babcocklibrary.org  
t. 860.487.4420  
f. 860.744.5531

## Hours:

Monday - 9-5  
Tuesday - 9-5  
Wednesday - 9 - 6  
Thursday - Closed  
Friday - 9-5  
Saturday - 9-1  
Sunday - Closed

Closed 15th and 16th  
**Carolann Mac Master, MLIS**

Library Director  
cmacmaster@babcocklibrary.org

## Staff

Susan Chris Chonte'  
Sara Stacey Diane  
Meghan John

## 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

- ◆ **Proper face covering is optional for any one entering the building**
- ◆ All library material **MUST** be returned to the outside book drop. Do not bring your returned items into the library.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Most important: if you are sick, or believe you may have been exposed to Covid-19, please stay home.
- ◆ Book drop pick up is still available for anyone.
- ◆ Please keep in mind masks are optional for all library programs.
- ◆ The children's computers are not available.
- ◆ During this time, some of our collection may not be available for browsing or circulation.

Carolann Mac Master, MLIS  
Library Director

## Friend's of Babcock Library Scholarship

Applications are available at the library! Open to all Ashford Graduating Students wishing to continue their education after high school.

## Adult Mystery Book Club

This is a new book club that will meet once a month on the last Monday of the month at 1pm, this month's book will be Jane Harper's The Lost Man.

## Needlepoint and Embroidery Club

The program is for beginners to advanced participants. If you are a beginner just bring yourself and a willingness to learn; we will supply the materials. This program will be held the 2nd Monday of every month at 1pm. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

April 4th - 9th Pick up your Greenhouse that you reserved last month. If you did not sign up please call the library to find out if we have any left over. Limited to two per family. Please call the library starting the first week of March.

## CALENDAR

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

*Knitters*  
Wednesdays 1 to 3 pm  
All are welcome!

~~~~~  
**Pokémon Go Club**  
We will meet in the library and spin and visit the Gym, trade with our Pokémon Friends. You must have your own cell phone. Children under 10 must have an adult caregiver remain with them. Fridays in April at 3:30pm  
~~~~~

## FRIENDS OF BABCOCK LIBRARY

April 19th  
~~~~~

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 26th  
~~~~~



© Can Stock Photo

**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.

**Storytime**

Come join us for stories and a craft, for children ages 2-5 and their adult companions. This program lasts about 45 minutes and registration is required. Tuesdays at 10:30am!

**Ukulele**

This program will be offered the first Wednesday of every month. Please call the library to schedule your time.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Museum Passes**

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

*Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art*-Free and open to the public until end of June

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Story Theme Bags**

Please check the library website or Facebook page for a list of bags available.

**Sammy the Library Turtle**

Stop by and meet Sammy our turtle. Sammy is always happy to meet new friends and we enjoy answering questions about him. Come to the library and write your question down on our form, place it in the box and Sammy's scribe will write back!



**Drop in and Pick up a Craft Project**

Come to the library any time on Mondays with your child and pick up a craft project to do at home.

**500 Books before Kindergarten**

500 Books Before Kindergarten is a commitment you make to your child that will prepare them to succeed in school and beyond! Stop by the library and pick up your 500 Book entry form and start reading, reach a milestone and earn a special prize.

**Annual Seed Program**

Once again we will be holding our seed program, either on Facebook, our website or in the library. Pick up an order form, simply tell us the number (not the name) that you would like. We will put together your request and you can pick them up. This is not a self service program; the library staff will prepare your order. We will also have the seeds from the Pollinator Pathway Project. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library, UConn Extension Service and a generous donor. In late May we will have some seedlings available. These seeds will be available until the planting season is over. Limited supplies. Call the library for more information.

**Quiet Corner Reads**

Author Nathaniel Philbrick  
May 17th 7pm  
Mansion at Bald Hill

\$20.00 per ticket. There is a very limited supply of tickets. In fairness to all who wish to attend we will do a lottery for the tickets. Please leave your name at the library. We will have a lottery on Monday, April 25th at 12 noon to determine who will get a ticket. Must be 21 or over to have name in the lottery and attend the event, ticket winners must pay for their ticket by April 27th at the library.

**Join the Friends of Babcock Library!**

Membership drive is underway. Pick up a brochure at the circulation desk, or call the library to have one sent to your home.

Help out at the Book Sale and Wine Tasting which support the library. Book donations are always welcome

Email [ewilmespandolfo@gmail.com](mailto:ewilmespandolfo@gmail.com) . Please do not leave them outside Knowlton Memorial Hall or in the library book drop.

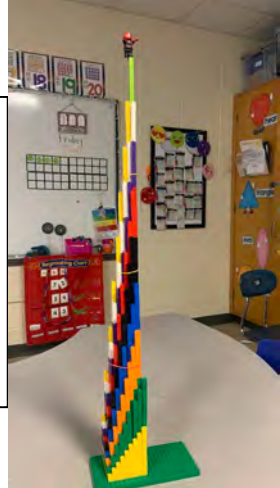


# Ashford School News and Happenings



Congratulations to two of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Alma van Heiningen and Ava Rufrano, received the Elementary School Arts Awards from the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Two third graders worked very hard on a 3D Lego model of multiplication. They shared their work by talking to classes about their model and allowing students to estimate how many Legos they used in all.



Fun in P.E.

## Up-Coming School Events

Date	Event	Time
Thursday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal – Professional Development	12:25pm
Friday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	No School	
Monday, April 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring Recess – No School	
Tuesday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Preschool Screenings	By appointment
Wednesday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Preschool Screenings	By appointment
Thursday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Screenings	By appointment

**TOWN OF ASHFORD  
ROLLING BLACK OUT ASSISTANCE  
REGISTRY**

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

The Town of Ashford is developing a registry for residents who will need assistance should they lose power for an extended period of time. This is an opportunity for you to provide information that may help emergency responders meet your needs during an emergency situation or potential rolling blackouts.

**THIS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALLING 9-1-1 IN AN EMERGENCY**

**To be included in this registry, please fill out this form, sign it, and send it to the Ashford Selectmen's Office, 5 Town Hall Road, Ashford, CT 06278. If you are unable to fill out this form on your own, please have a family member or caregiver assist you with completion of the form. Please call (860)487-4400 with any questions or concerns.**

**General Information:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults in your home \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children in your home \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If we cannot reach you is there someone else we may call? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Lack of Heating Source**

\_\_\_\_\_ if the power goes out I do not have a generator

\_\_\_\_\_ if the power goes out I do not have an alternate heating source such as a woodstove/pellet stove/fireplace, etc. to heat my home

---

**Life Support Systems**

Do you use any of the following life support systems:

\_\_\_\_\_ Oxygen \_\_\_\_\_ Respirator/Ventilator \_\_\_\_\_ Pap/Nebulizer

\_\_\_\_\_ Dialysis \_\_\_\_\_ Insulin dependent

Do you have a generator or energy source to run your medical device should you lose power? **Yes/NO**

Is there any other medical information that we should be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Mobility**

Are you confined to bed? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Can you walk without assistance? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Which of the following do you use (Check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair/Mobility Vehicle \_\_\_\_\_ Prosthesis \_\_\_\_\_ Walker/Cane

\_\_\_\_\_ Crutches \_\_\_\_\_ Assistive Animal \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**Transportation Assistance:**

In the event that Ashford sets up a community shelter or warming station, will you need assistance with transportation to the shelter? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

*(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page)

**By signing this form and submitting it to the Town of Ashford I agree to permit my information to be shared with local and state emergency responders in the effort to better assist me during an emergency. The Town cannot guarantee assistance to me in all cases. I also understand that this is a voluntary program.**

**I am aware that participating in this registry will not take the place of calling 9-1-1 in an emergency.**

Signature of person filling out form: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would be interested in assisting us during an emergency situation and would be willing to attend Citizen Emergency Response Team training please contact the Selectmen’s Office at (860) 487-4400.**

**Office of the Tax Collector**

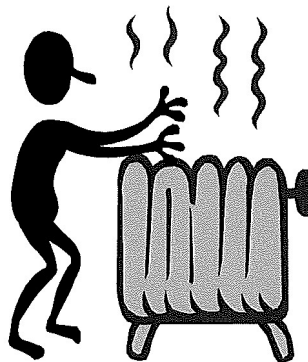
The Tax Collector’s Office is reviewing all accounts for unpaid balances. Real Estate accounts are being reviewed for possible action in a tax sale. There are currently 15 accounts that are identified for inclusion in the next auction of property for unpaid taxes. Taxpayers will be notified by mail. A Demand Letter will be issued, and after the prescribed time listed in the Demand, the account will be turned over to our Tax Attorney to initiate the tax sale process.

The office attempts to work diligently with all taxpayers to achieve successful solutions to the problems that may be incurred. PLEASE make every effort to bring your account current.

Thank you.  
Linda G. Gagne CCMC  
Tax Collector

# Home Heating Assistance

**Applications accepted through May  
Renters with heat INCLUDED in rent may apply as well!**



*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: \$39,027      Family size of 4: \$75,052  
Family size of 2: \$51,035      Family size of 5: \$87,060  
Family size of 3: \$63,044      Family size of 6: \$99,069*

**Asset limits:** No asset limits

**Required Documentation:**

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

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF ASHFORD**

Notice is given that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Regional School District #19, Edwin O. Smith High School, for the year ended June 30, 2021 as prepared by the E.O. Smith Finance Department and audited by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, West Hartford, CT, is on file in the Ashford Town Clerk’s Office for public viewing during regular business hours.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

Attest: Sherri L. Mutch, MCTC, CMC  
Ashford Town Clerk



# CT Fishin' Tips



Your Source for CT's Fishing News, Pointers, and Tips

## 2022 Fishing Licenses are Available Online!

### Summary of the Status of Legal Fishing Options in Connecticut Lakes and Ponds as of March 1, 2022

There are three categories, and here are some examples of nearby waters that fall within those categories. *Please note that the State of Connecticut does not control access to some of these locations.*

**1. Lakes and ponds open to all species, open to fishing all year round, not stocked with trout**

- Eagleville Lake – Mansfield
- Griggs Pond – Woodstock
- Halls Pond – Eastford
- Hamilton Reservoir – Union
- Hampton Reservoir – Hampton
- Mansfield Hollow Reservoir – Mansfield
- Morey Pond – Union
- Pine Acres Lake – Hampton

**2. Waters open to trout only, currently closed to all fishing except for trout**

**Proposed changes: closed season for all species to be removed, trout fishing to be catch and release from 3/1 to second Saturday of April**

- Beaver Brook Ponds – Windham
- Bicentennial Pond – Mansfield
- Bigelow Pond – Union
- Lower Storrs Pumping Station Pond – Mansfield
- Mansfield Training School Ponds – Mansfield
- Mashapaug Lake – Union
- Paine Pond – Ashford**
- Roseland Lake – Woodstock
- Wangumbaug Lake (Coventry Lake) – Coventry



**3. Waters to close on 3/31/2022 to all species, except trout**







- Black Pond – Woodstock
- Crystal Lake – Stafford

There is currently confusion about the inland fisheries regulations at this time since the current regulations and the recently passed Public Act 21-12 are not yet in sync. The proposed regulations seek to remove the closed season for all species statewide, but until those are adopted, people can go to the state DEEP website for clarification:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/fishing/regulations/simple-list-of-open-or-not-03072022.pdf>

# April

shutterstock.com / 3689410863

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL ARE WELCOME					1 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominos	2
3 	4 9:30 Walking Tape 10:00 COA 1:00 Mah Jong	5 9:30 Tai Chi 10:45 Low Impact 1:00 Hat Craft	6 11:00 Lunch Bunch Food distribution day	7 12:00 Dime Bingo	8 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Game Day 1:30 Dominos	9
10	11 9:30 Walking Tape 9:30 Casino Trip 1:00 Mah Jong	12 9:30 Aqua Turf Trip 9:30 Tai Chi 10:00 ASCO Board 10:45 Low Impact	13 Food distribution day 10:00 Probate Court Outreach	14 12:00 Dime Bingo	15 Holiday  Good Friday	16
17 	18 9:30 Walking Tape 1:00 Mah Jong	19 9:30 Tai Chi 10:45 Low Impact	20 10:00 Probate Court Outreach 1:00 ASCO membership Food distribution day	21 12:00 Dime Bingo 1:00 Footcare 	22 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominos	23 
24	25 9:30 Walking Tape 12:00 Haircuts 1:00 Mah Jong	26 9:30 Tai Chi 10:45 Low Impact	27 Food distribution day	28 12:00 Dime Bingo	29 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominos	30

**ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR**  
**25 TREMKO LANE**  
**860-487-5122**





## From the Municipal Agent for the Elderly



**Kit Eves 860-487-5122**

As Municipal Agent I have been asked to join the Sustainable CT committee working on the town's ratings. Specifically, I will be the liaison for homelessness in Ashford. This means that if you or someone you know is in danger of losing their apartment, or house, I can try to help you with finding housing. If you or someone you know is couch surfing from one friend or relative to another you should let me know so you can be helped into permanent housing. I will be attending training session on homelessness soon.

Our Craft class this month is on April 5<sup>th</sup>. You decorate your own sun visor. Lunch Bunch is going to Sherwood's Restaurant in Woodstock on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Mohegan Sun Casino trip is slated for April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Probate Judge visits on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Morgan returns on April 21<sup>st</sup> for Footcare and Haircuts return to the Center on April 25<sup>th</sup> with a new stylist.

April celebrates National Volunteer Recognition week, April 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I would like to recognize these volunteers who have been wonderful during the past two years throughout COVID. Bingo volunteers: **Chris Rae, Janice Nash, Pat Harlow, Kathy Carlson, and Jane Kalinowski**. Bulletin board and decorations: **Elaine Wilmes-Pandolpho, Bernard Douglas and Laurie Testa**. Van and medical appointment drivers: **Chris Rae, Nord Yakovleff, Donna Drasch, Bernard Douglas, Doug Milanese, Terry Wakeman, Glenn Humes and Dan Kehoe**. And the frozen meal delivery folks: **Jane Martin and Jean Haines**. I couldn't do all the things we do at the Center and in the community without them. It is in the nature of things, when you list folks for recognition, someone is invariably forgotten. If I did, please let me know and I extend my apologies. BRAVO, BRAVA.

Commission on Aging  
presents

### Game Day

Ashford Senior Center  
25 Tremko Lane

Friday, April 8th 10:30am - 1:30pm

PIZZA & SODA provided,  
but you must sign-up.

Call 860-487-5122 ALL ARE WELCOME



### HAT CRAFT



Decorate your own visor!  
Craft Supplies Provided Free  
Tuesday, April 5th at 1:00pm

ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER  
25 TREMKO LANE  
PLEASE SIGN UP



### Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust

On Saturday, April 9 at 1:00 pm, join Peg Curtis and Debra Hultgren at Friedman Forest in Ashford. We will be searching for those elusive spring flowers beyond skunk cabbage and for the migrating birds as well as nesting ones.

Please sign up at [activities@joshuastrust.org](mailto:activities@joshuastrust.org)



**Amy McCarthy, CIC**  
Agency Owner

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Vernon, CT 06066  
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# Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

By Jennifer Sterling-Folker, April 2022

Hello Ashford! I'm the town coordinator for the Pollinator Pathway PP Initiative, a grass-roots movement to support pollinators -- bees, butterflies and hummingbirds -- by adopting pollinator-friendly practices in our own gardens and property. It encourages using more native plants and reducing both empty lawn spaces and pesticide/fungicide usage. Even a small patch of pesticide-free wildflowers in a window box or left to seed on the edge of fields or lawns is beneficial to pollinators.

Registering your pollinator-friendly gardens and efforts with the regional organization demonstrates your commitment to pollinator-friendly practices and helps us map out Ashford's pollinator pathways. It's also an honors system -- no one will monitor your property or pass judgement on it. Thanks to the Ashford Conservation Commission, we also have free Pollinator Pathway medallions to give you when you register!

I'll be doing a monthly feature about pollinator activities, registered gardens and local partners in town. Numerous public events are already being planned, some in coordination with surrounding towns (events and other information will be posted to our Facebook page). I'll also be introducing you to the volunteers on our town's coordinating committee -- myself, Melinda MacDonald and Heather McKelvie -- and their registered pollinator gardens. Email if you'd like to join the committee and help plan events.

I've been an Ashford resident since 1994 when I began teaching as a Professor of International Relations at UConn. I was a member of the Board of Education (two years as Chair) and am currently a member of Ashford Garden Club. My own garden is a woodland shade garden with a mix of cultivars and native plants. It is registered with Pollinator Pathways and as a National Federation of Wildlife habitat. Once the weather is warmer, I'd be happy to give you a tour of my garden and/or provide site/plant advice for your property.



If you are unsure how to support the effort, how to register (or want your medallion), or wonder what a native plant even is, we are here to help! We are happy to answer questions, provide site/plant advice and exchange ideas. Contact Info:

Email: [AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com](mailto:AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AshfordPollinatorPathway>

## FAQs, Info & Events

### Looking for Native Plant Seeds?

Ashford Library has got them! We are supplying the Library's annual seed bank with easy-to-grow native plant seed packets!

### Looking for reputable places to buy native plants?

Email us for a list of local nurseries. Local plant sales will also be posted on our Facebook page.

### Looking for advice on how to grow a native plant garden?

We have a DIY handout for that! We can also do site visits to provide advice.

### Want to see what a pollinator - friendly native plant garden looks like?

The town garden area running along the metal fence near the parking lot (closest to Cumberland Farms) is dedicated to native plants. You are also welcome to come see my garden once it is in bloom.

### Upcoming Free Talks:

**4/6, 7PM** -- "Including Native Plants," Speaker Lydia Pan of Wild Ones CT. Woodstock Town Hall lower level

**4/18, 6PM** -- "Gardening for Pollinators," Speaker Margery Winters of Roaring Brook Nature Center. Stafford Community Center



April 2022

“Save it For a Rainy Day”

For most of us in town, power failures have cost money, been inconvenient, and uncomfortable. Maybe you are considering buying a generator. But did you know that the new Energy Storage Solutions program being run by the Connecticut Green Bank will pay you money towards installing batteries. For example, you can get \$2700 toward a small battery system, and \$5400 if your income falls below 60% of the state median. Financing is available from the Green Bank.

	Standard	Low-Income
Cost of 5kW, 13.5 kWh System	\$13,500	\$13,500
Up-Front Incentive	\$2,700	\$5,400
Cost to You	\$10,800	\$8,100

If you are skeptical about a free lunch, well, you are correct. In order to get the up-front money, you have to allow the power grid to use up to 80% of your battery in an automatic passive dispatch to reduce the peak load, which makes the whole grid more reliable for all of us. The power would be drawn from your battery on non-holiday weekdays in June, July, and August. But the 20% remaining if the grid goes down would likely be enough to power your well pump, furnace, and an efficient refrigerator, and some lights, for at least a day. And most of the time, you would have much more than 20%.

In addition to the passive dispatches, you can also be paid to allow the grid to draw on your battery in special situations. This could happen up to 60 times total in June through September, and up to 5 times total in November through March. You can always decline any of these active dispatches. If you allow the maximum active dispatches, you would be paid (not up-front) an additional \$9,150 over a 10-year period, reducing the cost of the battery substantially.

Pairing a battery system with solar panels makes even more sense. Your battery can be charged from the sun, allowing you to ride through a much longer outage, especially if you are frugal. The Storage Solutions program can be used with existing solar as well, but this might require a change to your existing system.

You can learn more about the Storage Solutions program at <https://energystoragect.com/>

The ACETF thanks you for your interest in our work, and welcomes your input. If you have questions, concerns or comments, or to join us, please contact John Sievel at [johnsievel@gmail.com](mailto:johnsievel@gmail.com)

**Keep it simple, keep it local**

**Zen Solar**

*Helping homeowners transition to solar since 2014*

Check out our monthly column “local solar” in Neighbors newspaper

John Boiano - 860.798.5692 - [john@zensolar.net](mailto:john@zensolar.net)

**HANDYMAN SERVICES**

Sheet Rock Repair Misc. Repairs

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No Job Too Small Senior Discounts

Very Fair Prices

**(860) 465-7262**

**24-hour Emergency Services**

## April 2022 Conservation Commission News

### Clean Your Streets Day Rain date-March 26

As I write this news, it looks like our March 19<sup>th</sup> trash day is rained out so we are crossing our fingers that March 26 will be a better day. There may be a possibility of forming a trash committee to further address this ongoing issue that detracts from the inherent beauty of our town. Anyone who is interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Pamm Summers [80barnowl@gmail.com](mailto:80barnowl@gmail.com).

We need to address this issue and welcome input and ideas from all town residents. There are many creative ideas such as neighbors and/or a town business adopting a road and maintaining it on a regular basis. We want to involve high school students and families in promoting clean streets. Contact us with any brilliant ideas and suggestions. We appreciate your support and input.

### Farmers Market

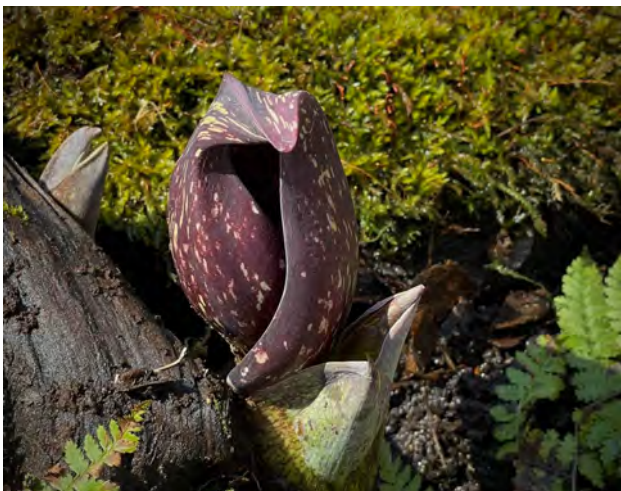
Now that spring has officially arrived, our Farmers Market will begin its 16<sup>th</sup> season as usual in May. Again, you will be able to get a variety of locally grown seasonal fresh food. We plan to have many of the same vendors returning and our market will remain at Pompey Hollow across from the Town Office building. The market is on Sundays from 10AM-1PM.

### Sustainable CT

We continue to explore more options to maintain our status as a Sustainable CT certified town. Our Arts Council has hosted many activities to support, celebrate and encourage artists in our town even in the midst of the COVID crisis. We are working with IREC (Interstate Renewable Energy Council) to become a Solsmart community. We recently received good news from Danny Falk our resource contact at IREC that we are close to achieving bronze status. We are planning to feature stories in the Citizen from residents who have solar who will share their experiences with us. Our first installment is from the MacDonalds and is in the next section, under MacDonald Solar Statement. Thanks to Melinda and Ron for sharing their solar experiences with us. Our committee is also continuing to examine issues of homelessness and affordable housing. We now have a homelessness liaison, Kit Eves at the senior center. The CAN (Coordinated Access Network) offers trainings that Kit has expressed an interest in attending. The PZC is developing a survey about affordable housing and hopefully the survey will generate a good response from our residents. All CT towns are exploring their affordable housing options. If you want to hear more about Sustainable CT, please contact Loretta 860 429-2629 or at [lorettaw886@gmail.com](mailto:lorettaw886@gmail.com)

Have a delightful spring and be sure to enjoy the spring flowers. Two early spring beauties are pictured in the accompanying photos by Christine Acebo.

Loretta Wrobel, chair



## MacDonald Solar Statement

We are quite pleased with our solar panel experience. We had a 48-panel, bleacher-mounted system installed in 2012, opting to own rather than lease, since that gave us the best return and no burdensome lien on our home. Federal and state incentives at the time paid us back about half of the \$54,000 installation cost. We're nearing the end of the anticipated life span of the inverter, so there will be maintenance costs over time, but we don't expect this to be onerous.

Around the same time that we installed the panels, we also installed heat exchangers to use in place of our oil-fired hot air heat as well as an instant-on central hot-water heater so that we could use more of our self-generated energy and less oil. The oil burners remain in both of our buildings as fallback, but we've seldom needed to rely on them. We do supplement with wood heat in our home.

So, over the years, we've seen the panels produce between 60% and 70% of our total consumed energy (i.e., heat, hot water, cooking, and lighting). This means that the system has already covered our original investment. We're now considering batteries for storage to recoup even more of the energy that we produce. This decision will most likely be made in conjunction with the inverter replacement.

In summary, our solar experience has resulted in significant cost savings and enhanced the comfort of our home. We have no regrets.

## Looking Up Payments for IRS Reporting Purposes


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

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



When the box comes up to search by name,

SEARCH BY  
Name   
[See Example](#)

Enter the search criteria below:  
 Search 

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

All  Due Now  Balance Due  IRS Payment Records for Year 2021

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 2021, and hit Search. When the page comes up, there will be a box on the right side of the page in the second blue bar that says IRS. Check it, and a View IRS button will appear:

BILL #	NAME/ADDRESS	PROPERTY/VEHICLE	PAID	OUTSTANDING	OPTIONS	PAY IRS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Click on it, *your information should be there.*

***This site is available 24/7.***

# Lets Go Swimming!

Remember a Safe Swimmer is a Strong Swimmer!



**SWIM LESSONS** Red Cross Learn to Swim Lessons will be offered on Wednesdays at the Evangelical Christian Center Pool. Spring Swim Lessons will run 6 weeks from April 6th-May 11th. Sandy Reed and Ashley Ault will instruct. Fee: \$60, Call 860-487-4409 with questions.

- ◆ Parent Tot /Preschool 4:30-5:00
- ◆ Preschool/ Level I 5:00-5:30
- ◆ Level II 5:30 –6:00
- ◆ Level III 6:00- 6:30,
- ◆ Level IV & V 6:30-7:00

The Benefits of Swim Lessons are Endless!  
 Give yourself and your child piece of mind.  
 Enhance your enjoyment of all water sports.  
 It's great exercise and will build confidence  
 as your child develops skills and progresses from  
 one level to the next!



**HURRAY!! E.C.C. Pool Repair, New Boiler and Heat Exchanger is  
 LOOKING GOOD! The Temperature is Rising!**



## Swim Club

*For 4th, 5th, & 6th Graders!  
 Participants must be at least a  
 Level 2 Swimmer to participate.*

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

School bus transport is provided from school to the pool. Swim Lesson 4-4:30, we will practice our swim strokes, and build endurance! From 4:30-5:00 is time for fun and games! Water sports, challenges and contests. Parents pick up at the pool 5:00-5:15.  
 Fee: \$ 70 (10-16 kids needed)  
 Program runs on Mondays, for 6 weeks  
 April 4, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23.

### REGISTRATION FORM

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

Participants Name Address & (e-mail)	Program	Phone	Age	Fee

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

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

# YOGA



**HATHA YOGA**  
 with Karrie Kirchner  
 Tuesday Mornings from 8:15-9:15  
 at Knowlton Memorial Hall  
 Spring Session runs 3/15– 4/19.  
 Fee: \$50 for 6 week session  
 (Drop in \$10 a class)

# TAI CHI

**Moving  
 Meditation!**

Class is led by Joe Pandolfo  
 a certified Tai Chi instructor, and Reiki master.  
 Offered Monday evenings for adults  
 in Knowlton Memorial Hall, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
 Session runs 3/7– 4/11. Fee: \$50 for 6 weeks  
 (Drop in \$10 a class)

# PICKLEBALL

*In April Mondays at 1:00*

Spring has Sprung ! Groups are Forming.  
 Beginner Class Coming Soon!  
 Email: syork@ashfordtownhall.org  
 to get put on the list of players!



Baseball, Softball and T-Ball  
 go to [www.mansfieldctll.org](http://www.mansfieldctll.org)



T-Ball opens with a Clinic Fri. 4/29 and Games 4/30.  
 Then 2 Sessions of T-ball each Saturday thru 6/11.  
 9:00 a.m. in Ashford or 1:00 p.m. Mansfield.  
 Registration Open until May 1st!

**CONGRATULATIONS!** to this very special group of girls on an outstanding, undefeated basketball season for both the Ashford School Team and the Rec. Team. They are the product of years of good coaching, good parenting, good teaching and a supportive community!

**It takes a village you know!**

All of Ashford should be proud of their growth and development as athletes, students, and human beings! Nothing was wasted on you, you have absorbed it all and have attitudes, spirit and habits to help you **WIN** at LIFE too! Congratulations & Good Luck! S. York

**Coach:** Christine Knowlton, 7&8 Rec. Team Players  
 Kailee Kouatly, Katelynn Damble, Malerye Knowlton,  
 Kierra Busse, Esther Bowersett,  
 (Front Row) Einin Kirchner, Hazel Pufahl



## ENJOY A DAY AT THE BRONX ZOO, SAT. JUNE 4TH 2022



*The Bronx Zoo is one of the premier zoos in the world covering more than 265 acres. It is home to more than 4000 animal species. Your All-inclusive ticket allows access to the exhibits, attractions and special rides. You will want to experience the Zoo Shuttle, Dinosaur Safari, the Wild Asia Monorail, the Children's Zoo, the Bug Carousel, Nature Trek, Jungle World, Congo Gorilla Rain Forest and the Butterfly Gardens. It is hard to see this entire amazing zoo in one day. Bring your camera, your best walking shoes and your lunch if you want or you may purchase it at the zoo. The coach bus will leave from the Tolland Commuter Lot at 7:00 am, we will arrive at the zoo's Southern Blvd parking area about 10:00 a.m. We will leave from the same location at 4:30 p.m. We will plan a quick stop for dinner on the way home at the Darien rest stop. We return to the Tolland Commuter lot about 8:30 p.m. Fees: Adults \$80 Children and Seniors \$77*

**BUS TRIPS  
 ARE BACK!**

**WATCH FOR A DAY ON YOUR OWN IN BOSTON, AUG. 13th,  
 A TRIP TO SALEM, MA OCT. 15th &  
 A DAY ON YOUR OWN IN N.Y.C. DEC. 3rd**

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

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CNM Heating Cooling & Piping LLC  
Cool-Grind Technologies, LLC  
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Lance Glass  
Lawrence Real Estate  
Lyman Real Estate Carolyn Trotta  
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Mansfield Tree Service  
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Midway Restaurant  
Mike Kovarovics Contracting  
Mobile Welding Industries LLC  
NAPA Tolland Auto Parts  
Neighborspaper LLC  
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Outpatient Mobile Solutions Inc.  
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Residential Foresters  
Rettenmeier Woodcarving  
Rogerson Masonry Inc.  
Sean Patrick Plants LLC  
Shooters Services  
Stoney Maple Carpentry  
Terry's Transmissions  
The Last Green Valley  
The Mobile Animal Clinic  
Westford Hill Distillers  
Willington Pizza  
Willow Valley Farm  
Yeagle Technologies



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

## Our Mission

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

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