

**Volume 54**

**Issue 4**

**April 1, 2023**

*"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

## **Warmer Weather is Coming!**

### **Ashford Farmers Market**



**Opening Day**

**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Mother's Day**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Rte. 44, across from the  
Ashford Town Office Building**

**The Ashford Volunteer  
Fire Department**

**Father's Day**

**Chicken BBQ**

**is ON**

**this year!!!**

**YUM!!!!**



**Construction** is scheduled to start on Southworth Drive on April 17, 2023, weather permitting.

The project will take 7 working days to complete. Residents will have to take caution when traveling during construction.

We hope all goes smoothly and residents are not greatly inconvenienced.

*- Ashford Public Works*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Town Offices Directory

Animal Control Officer	860-234-4093
Assessor	860-487-4403
Building Dept.	860-487-4404
Emergency Management	860-428-0870
Finance Dept.	860-487-4405
Fire Marshal	860-208-0113
Housing Authority	860-429-8556
Parks & Recreation	860-487-4409
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

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

The Ashford Town Offices will be closed on Friday, April 7th to observe Good Friday.

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed Wednesday, April 19th at 3:00pm & Friday, April 21st for staff to attend the Connecticut Town Clerk Association's Spring Conference.

The Ashford Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, April 9th for Easter.

### VITAL STATISTICS



#### Deaths:

Laura (Fenn) Welply	February 16, 2023
Sandra L. Cady	February 27, 2023
John Balogh, III	March 3, 2023
Norma K. Fabian	March 12, 2023

### *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
<a href="mailto:smutch@ashfordtownhall.org">smutch@ashfordtownhall.org</a>	
Karen Zulick, Ads/Subscriptions	# 860-487-4401
<a href="mailto:kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org">kzulick@ashfordtownhall.org</a>	

### 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.



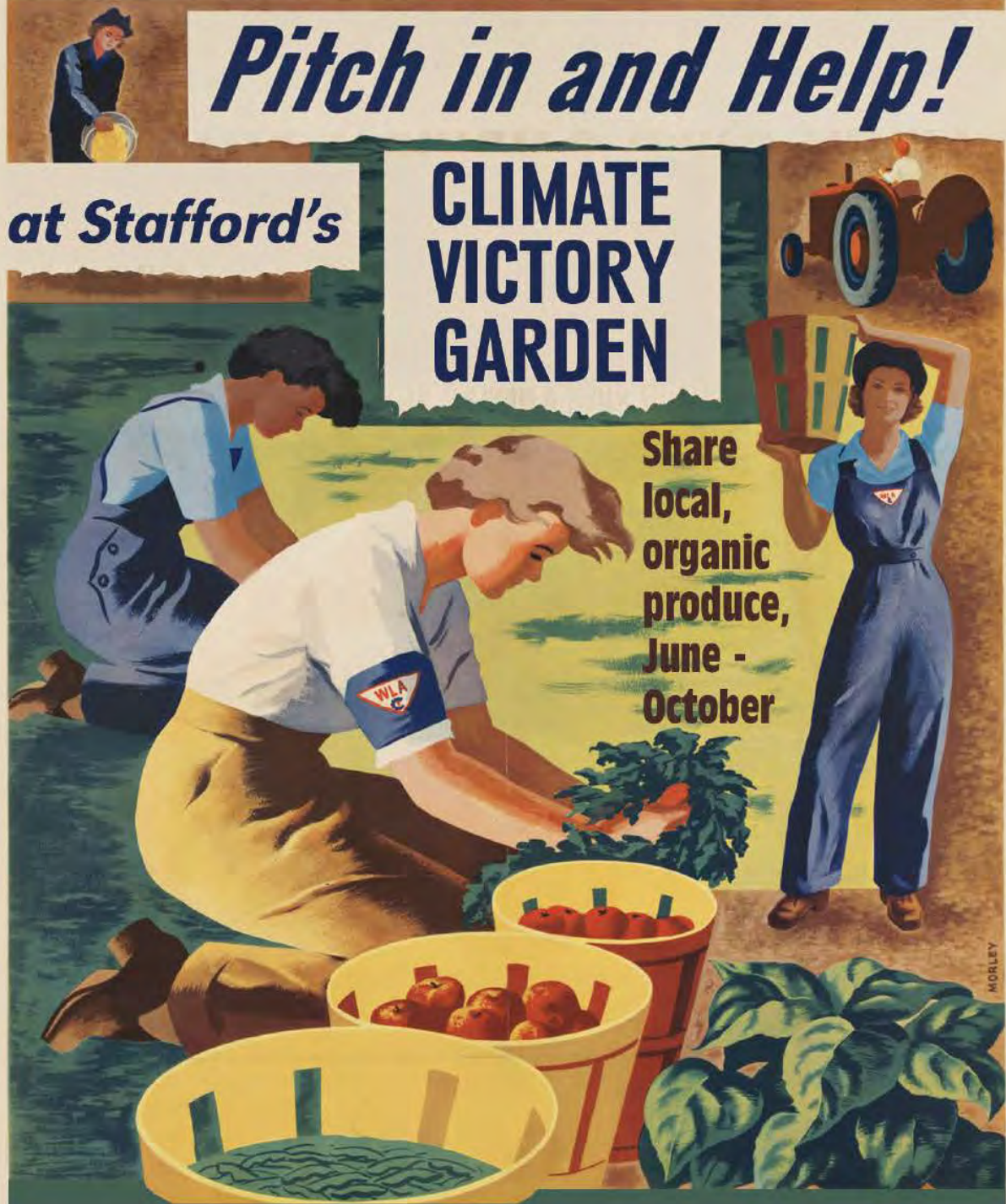
# SEQUESTER CARBON FOR A BETTER FUTURE!

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at Stafford's

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Share  
local,  
organic  
produce,  
June -  
October



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NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023 SEASON  
INFO AT [getdowntoearth.org](http://getdowntoearth.org) OR CALL 860.458.9019

## News from the Town Clerk's Office

I am happy to announce that the Town of Ashford has implemented **OnBoardGOV**, a board and committee management system. This new software system will save time, and make reports regarding term expiration and vacancies user-friendly and easily available for boards, commissions and the public.

OnBoardGOV provides the Town Clerk's Office with the ability to easily make updates to contact information, track membership over time and across boards, and generate reports related to term expirations and vacancies.

This new management system is another step in our digital transformation efforts; it brings Town board and committee information to a transparent, easy-to-use platform. Residents will now be able to view general information on board and committee formation, historical membership, and vacant seats.

We welcome you to view the new site at <https://onboard.ashfordtownhall.org/>.

When on the Town website, look for the logo  at the bottom of the main page. Click it to view membership information on Ashford's boards and commissions.

Sherri L. Mutch, MCTC, MMC  
Ashford Town Clerk

## 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 2023 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 24, 2023.** 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 9, 2023. Applications may also be emailed by sending a request to Jen Truax, Office of the Superintendent at [jtruax@ashfordct.org](mailto:jtruax@ashfordct.org).



Happy Easter! Spring is here.  
March was a spectacular month for us. We appreciate  
all of you and thank you for all your support. To all of our valued  
customers, present and future, we would like to extend  
our \$60 coupon for April and May.

Clip the coupon below.

Book your appointment early.

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**Pick-up and Delivery Available**

# Only a Hop Away Ashford Easter Bunny

Date: Saturday, April 8th

Time: 10:00am (9:30 registrations start)

Where: Ashford Senior Center

Earl W. Smith Building

25 Tremko Lane, Ashford

9:30 registration—All children must be registered in order  
to receive an Easter basket full of goodies.

Interested Volunteers -please email the address below

Come celebrate Ashford's 53rd Annual  
Easter Bunny Celebration

All children who are residents of Ashford,  
from Pre-K to 4th Grade

Come visit, take photos with  
the Easter Bunny, Receive an  
Easter Basket, and enjoy refreshments  
(Egg Hunt—weather permitting)

## Donations Welcome

Monetary donations can be mailed to: Ashford Easter Bunny  
Town of Ashford  
Town Hall Road  
Ashford, CT 06278

Or left in the drop box on the front porch of our Town Hall



Sponsored by the Ashford Easter Bunny and Committee  
Questions and volunteers please contact - [ashfordeasterbunny@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordeasterbunny@gmail.com)

**Greetings to the Ashford Community From Cynthia Ford, Superintendent:**

Budget crunch time is upon us. What are some of the requests that the Board of Education has? Preserve the staff we have. Why? One of the most important aspects of a student's ability to learn is the relationships they form while they are at school. Kids have to want to come to school. Not only are these individuals part of the educational aspect of our programming, but nothing beats human connection. According to the longest scientific study of happiness completed by a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Robert Waldinger, "good relationships keep us happier and healthier. Period." This study has followed a group of people since 1938. Strong relationships stand out to make the biggest impact on mental and physical health along with longevity. The people that work at Ashford School make relationships with our kids, they make a difference in the lives of our children. Ashford School is known for looking at all of our students as individuals and we meet them where they are. Personally, I can't put a price on that. We currently have 44 certified staff, 22 para professionals (13.5 are special education), 5 custodians, 10 transportation staff, 4 cafeteria workers, 6 office support and 4 administrators. That is a total of 95 adults present to make those connections. Out of the 22 paras there are 2 preschool paras, 3 kindergarten paras, one reading para, one library para (we currently do not have a library media specialist), and one technology para. These regular education paras not only fulfill their roles but serve as substitutes throughout the year. If you pass the school you will see an ad for subs. Many schools have had to cancel school due to not having enough staff to cover classes. Another request is to add a full time reading interventionist in our grades 5-8. Why? To regain our learning loss and increase our test scores from 68 Performance Index (goal for state is 75) in reading. Pre-COVID, Ashford's Index Score was 70.3. The reading interventionist would work with our students not only on the lower end but also to work with kids that need the extension to learning. This upcoming year we plan on purchasing new programming in reading for grades k-6 through our COVID ESSER funds that remain. Having more boots on the ground to assist in implementing these programs with fidelity is important. The last current request is a .45 school psychologist. A good quote from Frederick Douglass: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults." If we were to get a part-time school psychologist we could reduce our outsourced psychologist line to \$7,000. This would be a \$15,000 offset towards the school psychologist. Our increase currently is 3.61% increase.

**Building Update:** Our generator has been covered by insurance. We are working with the Towns Capital Project Committee to plan some upgrades on the generator. We would like to have an automatic switch installed. The generator will automatically start up if we lose power and will switch back over to the power once it is restored.

The next step for the roof project is to get bids for an architect to design the roof. We will be looking for three bids, the bid process is very specific and we need to ensure we are following all the state guidelines. The building committee will also be working on gathering all the information and documentation needed to apply for the state grant, which is up to a 65% reimbursement rate.

We continue to be tested for lead in our water every month and continue to pass.

**Budget Timeline:**

**April 4, 2023-** Ashford Town Budget Public Hearing

**April 4, 2023-** Board of Finance will have a special meeting immediately following the Public Hearing

**April 5, 2023-** Board of Selectman sets dates and approves notice for Town Meeting and Referendum

**April 14, 2023-** Town budget books available to the public

**April 18, 2023-** Annual Town Meeting adjourning to referendum

**May 2, 2023-** Ashford Town/District 19 Budget- Referendum

**Coffee and Conversation:** April 5th: Meet with Assistant Principal, David Eichorn

**BOE Meeting:** April 6, 2023 and April 20, 2023. Please come by and inquire or contact me at the school at 860-429-6419 ext. 365 or email me at [cford@ashfordct.org](mailto:cford@ashfordct.org).

**Upcoming Community Activities:** Friday Playgroups held at Ashford School hosted by Youth Services, Melissa McDonough 9-10am. Contact Melissa at: [Mmcdonough@ashfordct.org](mailto:Mmcdonough@ashfordct.org) with any questions.

**COVID-19 Information:** Ashford School has launched a page on the website for Ashford School that has the running tally of current to date cases of COVID-19. The page is:

<https://school.ashfordct.org/covid-19-cases-2022-23/>



# ATTENTION ASHFORD PARENTS

## Preschool Screening

**When:** May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<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 9/1/23 (\*\*Children who will turn 3 from 9/1/23 to 12/31/23 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 Christine DeSocio (ext 311).

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.**

### 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?

- Family Questionnaire
- 

If interested in a preschool space also bring:

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



### Ashford School Early Childhood Registry

Do you have a child under the age of 5 who is not currently attending Ashford School? We are updating our Early Childhood Registry. It is used to send out information about preschool screenings, kindergarten enrollment and other activities for young children.

Please call the school at (860) 429-6419 with your child's information .

## Eastern CT Sportsman's Club News

The "Kids Fishing Derby" will take place on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the pond on the grounds of the Club located at 34 Seles Road in Ashford. The event is free for kids ages 1 to 12 and the pond will be freshly stocked with Trout, ensuring there will be hungry fish for the kids to catch. Registration starts at 6:30 AM, fishing commences at 7:00 AM, and ends at 10:00 AM. Food and soft drinks will be available. Trophies and prizes will be awarded for the following:

- Largest Trout caught overall
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Largest Trout per age group
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Second Largest Trout per age group

First "3 Trout group caught" by each age group  
The kids will be separated by age groups for prizes as follows: Ages 1 thru 4, Ages 5 thru 8, Ages 9 thru 12. Opportunities are available to support this event by donations. Businesses that would like to be a Sponsor by donating \$100 or more will be recognized and thanked in our club newsletter and an 18" x 24" sponsor sign will be purchased and displayed at the event. Contact Bill Pastyrnak at (860) 487-9075 or Jeff Breault at (860) 569-6140 if you are interested in donating. Individual donations are welcome and may be mailed in to: **ECSC, P.O. Box 52, Ashford, CT, 06278.**

Dave LaPorte  
ECSC Newsletter Editor



## Assistance to Ashford Veterans

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

A free pass to 2000 federal national park and recreation areas for Military Veterans. See: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

## Ashford Housing Authority Pompey Hollow Senior Housing

### Our Waitlist is Open!

Spacious one bedroom apartments in a well maintained and secure building located inside Pompey Hollow Park.

750 sq ft, heat & hot water included, secure entrance, rural location. To qualify you must be 62 years old or disabled and meet required income limits.

Applications are available in our lobby, they can be printed off of our website, or mailed by request.



Office Hours Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-12  
Phone: (860) 429-8556 • Fax: (860) 487-4500  
Email: [ashfordhousing@gmail.com](mailto:ashfordhousing@gmail.com)



### TAX COLLECTOR NEWS

**The Tax Collector's Office will be closed to the public on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Emails will be checked on all the closed dates, and contact made when possible. Please make sure that your motor vehicle taxes are up to date before these time periods so as to avoid any unnecessary delays when trying to renew or register motor vehicles. You are able to use the online payment system 24/7. When paying online with an e-check, the cost is \$.95. When using Credit or Debit cards, the cost is 2.95%. Please leave enough time for payments to be downloaded thru the online payment vendor, and clearances made to the DMV.

Thank you for your patience and consideration.

## April 2023 Conservation Commission News

### Waste Reduction

The Conservation Commission is concerned about the amount of waste generated by our residents. Please be mindful of the waste you generate.

We are planning to have another roadside cleanup on Sunday April 23, the day after Earth Day. We will have bags and vests available at Knowlton Memorial Hall from 8:45am-9am on April 23. Ian Preston, Preston Family Property Maintenance, is again offering to help us with cleanup day. Ian has been generous with his time for several years during our cleanup days. He and his family are invested in our town and want to keep our town free of trash. Come and meet this civic minded family and support their business as they support Ashford. You can choose a road to clean or we can assign one to you. Be part of the solution and show up on April 23.

Correction regarding Waste reducing tip for March: The last part of the last month tip: Instead of throwing it away ask your neighbors who raise chickens or pigs if they could use your discards, is an error. Fortunately, the Agriculture Commission provided us with the updated information which is included below. Thanks to Luther Brauch and the entire Commission.

Further information about food waste and feeding livestock.

At the federal level, the USDA calls the practice “garbage feeding” and discourages it, noting that it can contribute to animal disease. Although they discourage the practice, the USDA has not gone so far as to make it illegal in all states. Instead, it leaves the decision of whether to allow garbage feeding of pigs up to each state to decide for themselves. Connecticut is one of 27 states that does allow garbage feeding of pigs, however the USDA does require swine farmers who garbage feed to be licensed and inspected by the state they reside in.

In Connecticut (in accordance with federal law), all farmers who garbage feed must be licensed with the State. The food waste must be heated to boiling point and cooked for 30 minutes. The State inspects the farm to ensure that adequate cooking facilities exist and are being used. Full details are provided in the Connecticut General Statute 22-320b.

Ashford does not currently have any farms that are licensed to accept food waste as feed for livestock. As many farms focus on organic, humane, and regenerative certifications, they must be very careful about selecting their husbandry and feeding practices. We encourage residents to build relationships with their neighbor farms to better understand their modern farming practices.

### Farmers Market

Just one more month before the market will be up and running. We will be at same place on RT 44 across from the town office building every Sunday starting May 14<sup>th</sup>, Mother’s Day which is our usual start date. See you in May!

### Solar Statement

A Dozen Years of Energy Improvements

By Susan Eastwood and Tony Patichio

We put solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on our garage in 2014 as part of our regional Solarize campaign, run by the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force (ACETF) and three other neighboring clean energy groups. We worked with Ross Solar, the company that later organized and installed the Town’s three solar PV arrays on the Town Office Building, the Housing Authority apartments, and the Firehouse.

When our oil furnace was dying, in 2011, we replaced it with an in-ground geothermal system, which added air conditioning to our home. That was a great improvement for our allergies! The cost to us after rebates and tax credits, was less than an estimate for central air that we had gotten years before. And NO MORE OIL BILLS!

We love our geothermal but the pumps and fan, with back up electric heat, did cause our electric use to go up. So, our next project was to add solar PV panels to our garage roof. Our house has a Southeast exposure, but a new cedar roof meant that we couldn’t put solar panels there. Our garage has a Southern exposure and needed a new asphalt roof, so we sited the project there. We had one large oak tree that would shade a corner of the roof later in the day, but we decided to let the tree stand, and we minimized the loss of sun by using microinverters that each control 2 panels, so that only a small section would shut off when shaded.

The garage roof holds 20 panels, enough to provide about half of our electric use at the time (less now that we have an electric car). We maximized the space by paying a bit more for the highest efficiency panels available. The installation was quick and trouble free, including trenching the short distance from the garage to the house for the wiring.

Before we could proceed with either of these projects, we were required to have a Home Energy Solutions (HES) audit, which helped to tighten up our home with weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades. These audits can save you a lot of money on heating and electricity by themselves and they will recommend additional work if you choose to do more. In our audit the contractors replaced light bulbs with LEDs, added weather stripping, caulked and foamed drafty spots, and more. On their recommendation, we added insulation to our attic and basement, which made a noticeable difference. You don’t see the snow melting off our rather steep Dutch colonial roof because the attic is so well insulated, and we are losing so little heat through our roof! I highly recommend an energy audit to everyone, whether you are thinking about solar, or not. The current cost is \$50.00, with the rest paid for by a small fee on our Eversource bills. Learn more at [EnergizeCT.com](http://EnergizeCT.com).

Overall, we are very happy with our solar array and wish we had more! Good luck with your own efforts at making your homes more energy efficient. This is a great time to look into solar and heat pumps because the new Federal and State incentives and credits are very generous. If you have any questions, the ACETF is here to help! Contact me at [sceastwood@yahoo.com](mailto:sceastwood@yahoo.com).

*Loretta Wrobel, chair*



## 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:



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 2022, 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"/>

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

*This site is available 24/7.*

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## Leadership Meeting

### Review and Commentary

A consensus among those attending the November 16, 2022 Leadership Meeting produced five critical issues to focus on moving forward. The second was, “**How to Develop a Strategic Plan –Future Change for the Town**”.

There was discussion that the **Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)** that is developed by the Planning and Zoning Commission has in fact and could continue in the future to be the prime documentation of a Strategic Plan, as it represents a ten year vision of the Town. The main body of the 2015 POCD is divided into the following nine subject areas: Governance, Public Safety and Health, Education, Economic Development, Housing, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Historic Resources, and Energy. The 2015 POCD assessed the current state of the Town in relation to those topics, identifying key issues, developing a Vision for each, and proposing objectives and action items to be carried out within a 10-year timeframe.

The group discussed that critical to the process of developing the Strategic Plan and/or updating the POCD is establishing a Communication Plan to fully engage all stakeholders in town-not only board and commissions and town leaders, but also civic organizations, non-profits, churches, businesses, and the general public. It is critical to receive input from all to create a realistic road map for the future betterment of the town. In that way consensus can be reached on ranking the priorities of the town and establishing the short and long term needs as well.

The remaining issues from the Leadership Meeting will be addressed in coming issues of the *Ashford Citizen*.

We welcome input from all who are interested in contributing to Ashford's future. Ideas can be sent to Mike Gantick, OTOF Committee at [mgantick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgantick@sbcglobal.net).



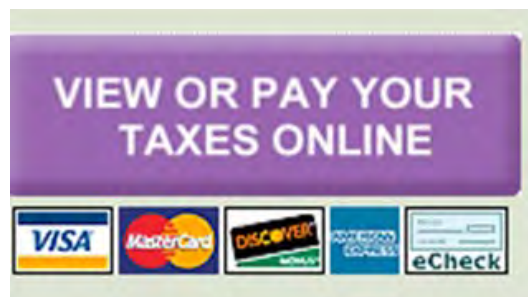
Go Green: Pay  
your bills online

All Tax Bills that are payable are posted online and are available for payment if there is a shopping cart next to it. 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.

All Town Offices are closed on Thursdays. The Tax Collector's Office will be closed to the public on **Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please be sure that your motor vehicle taxes are up to date before those closures so that no problems will occur when trying to register a vehicle thru DMV.

Please check for the correct amount that is past due if you choose to mail in a check.

Go to: [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org). To enter, the portal looks like this:



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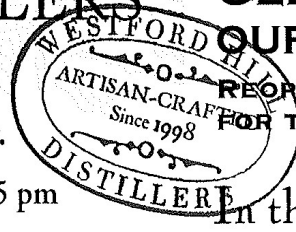
Or simply sit. Sip. And enjoy the view.

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**CELEBRATING  
OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> YEAR!**

**REOPENING MAY 5, 6, 7  
FOR THE 2023 SEASON**



## In the Garden Series

"A Summer's Palette: Art & Flowers"

Saturday, June 24 - 10am to 4pm

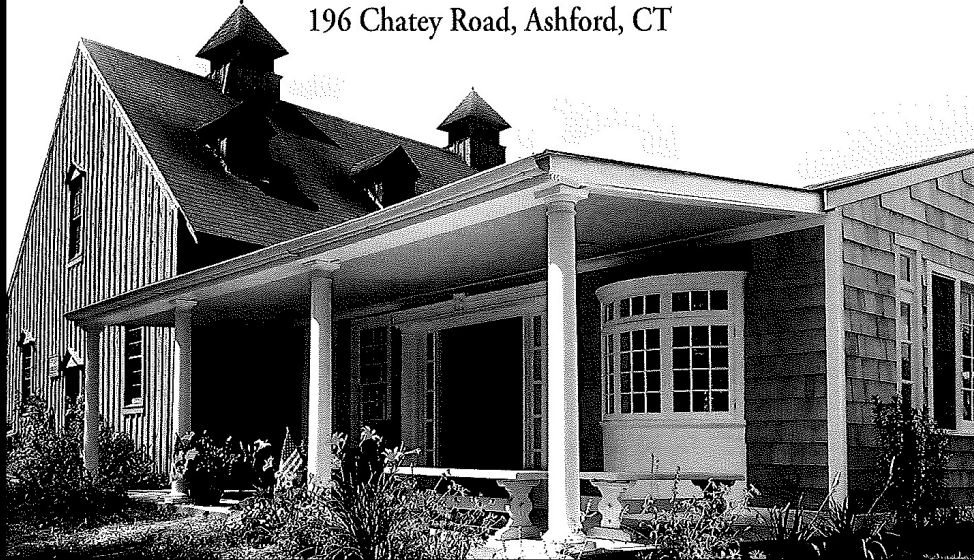
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details.*

*Please, no dogs.*



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e: Steve@homesellingteam.com  
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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

0 BILL(S) - \$0.00

- Find which bill you want to pay

Ex.

- 2002-01-37
  - 2002 is the Grand List
  - 2002-01-37
    - 01 is Real Estate
      - 02 is Personal Property
      - 03 is Motor Vehicle
      - 04 is Motor Vehicle Supplement
    - 2002-01-37
      - 37 is the bill number
    - You **MUST** pay the **OLDEST** bills **FIRST**
      - Oldest Grand List

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

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

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

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  - Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards

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## Ready for Kindergarten



### Kindergarten Screening Wednesday, April 5, 2023

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 5<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)



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## Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

Warmer weather is synonymous with an increase in outdoor grilling and gatherings around outdoor fire pits. As expected, there is an inherent risk associated with open fires and outdoor cooking. A clean grill is one of the best ways to prevent dangerous fires. Statistics show that grilling causes nearly 9,000 home fires each year, and it is a dirty grill that is to blame for 20% of them. Keeping your grill at least 10 feet from anything flammable, including your home, is a great way to prevent a grill fire from becoming a home structure fire.



The necessary safety guidelines for an outdoor fire pit are much the same as for a grill, but there are a few other safety tips to consider when preparing to toast marshmallows. Before you build your fire, fill a bucket with water and set it next to the pit in case there is an emergency, as well as to extinguish the fire when you are finished with it. Keep in mind that children are drawn to the outdoor fire, especially with the promise of toasted marshmallows. Keep a close eye on them when they are near the fire and never leave young children unattended near a fire in the pit.

**The call count for March was 20 Fire/Rescue and 56 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 449.**

If you have any non-emergency questions or concerns, you may contact Station 20 at (860) 429-9862 from 6AM to 6PM 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  
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for the Elderly  
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From the Municipal Agent for the Elderly – Kit Eves 860-487-5122

The Commission on Aging is sponsoring a program on Fall Prevention. April 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday at 10:45. I have written in this column several times about preventing falls in your home, so you know this is a big topic for seniors. Falls are the number one cause for placement in a nursing home. Come learn how to make your home safer for you and yours.

Several residents over in senior housing have asked for a monthly trip to Trader Joe's in Manchester. We are scheduling this trip for the second Thursday. There were some available seats in the first trip, so I am putting it out to the public. The van leaves from senior housing promptly at 10:00. You have to sign-up for the van in advance. Call me for a reservation. Senior Housing has priority as they are the folks who requested this trip.

I have expanded our Lunch Bunch van trips. There were several people who requested lunch bunch on a different day than the original Wednesday. So, Lunch Bunch One goes on the first Wednesday of the month and Lunch Bunch Two goes on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Both leave the Center at 11:00 and you do need to sign-up. Note: you can sign-up for both if you wish.

We are celebrating April birthdays on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Sign-up and join the fun if you have an April birthday. Your family and friends are welcome. Cake, Coffee, Tea and a little something to open. We will reminisce about past birthdays with each other.



Let's celebrate each of our seniors who were born in the month of APRIL.

Tuesday, April 18th  
1:00 p.m.

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ARE WELCOME



## Henrietta House Tea

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 p.m.

\$15.00 at the door  
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Call 860-487-5122 to reserve  
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Seating is limited.



April 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 9:30 Walking Tape 10:00 COA 11:00 Hairdresser 1:00 Mah Jong	4 9:30 Tai Chi 11:00 Craft Project 5:00 Big Bingo	5 Food Distribution Day 11:00 Lunch Bunch (one)	6 12:00 Dime Bingo 1:00 Footcare	7 Good Friday Holiday	8 10:00 Easter Bunny 
9 EASTER 	10 9:30 Walking Tape 9:30 Casino 1:00 Mah Jong	11 9:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Aqua Turf Trip 5:00 Big Bingo	12 Food Distribution Day	13 10:00 Trader Joe's Trip 12:00 Dime Bingo	14 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominoes	15
16 3:00 English Country Dancing / Recreation sponsored	17 9:30 Walking Tape 1:00 Mah Jong	18 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Birthday Party 5:00 Big Bingo	19 Food Distribution Day 11:00 ASCO Board 1:00 ASCO Membership	20 12:00 Dime Bingo	21 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 10:45 Fall Prevention workshop 1:00 Dominoes	22 10:00 Pastel Workshop / Arts Council Sponsored
23 	24 9:30 Walking Tape 1:00 Mah Jong	25 9:30 Tai Chi 11:00 Lunch Bunch (Two) 5:00 Big Bingo	26 Food Distribution Day 3:00 Henrietta House Tea	27 12:00 Dime Bingo	28 9:00 Walking Tape 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominoes	29 ASCO Spring Fair
30						



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*Read more about this and other businesses in  
our community at [ashfordedc.org](http://ashfordedc.org)*

**Ashford Businesses:** We are collaborating with the Selectmen's office to coordinate an American Rescue Plan Act funding program for eligible businesses impacted by the COVID pandemic, so please be sure we know how to contact you.

If you are a business owner, please reach out to us by email to member Mike Gantick at [mgantick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgantick@sbcglobal.net).

The AEDC welcomes residents and businesses at our monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 PM. There are two vacancies on the commission, plus alternate positions for active members to help us do important work of growing businesses here.



[Ashfordedc.org](http://Ashfordedc.org)

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## **Assessment News**

During the month of April, the Assessor's office will be closed April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. The office will also be closed on April 11<sup>th</sup> to attend an assessment workshop.

**To receive a credit on a motor vehicle tax bill** - You must provide the Assessor with two documents:

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

A returned plate receipt unaccompanied by any other disposal proof is insufficient to prove the transfer of ownership. Only vehicles on the 2021 and 2022 Grand Lists are eligible for credits.

Please provide the best phone number to reach you on the documentation. You can submit the document by:

Email the documents to: [assessor@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:assessor@ashfordtownhall.org)

Mail to Assessor, Ashford Town Hall, 5 Town Hall Rd, Ashford, CT

Leave them in the black drop box by the entrance door to town office building.

**Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Tax Relief Program** - Connecticut law provides for tax relief for certain homeowners. Credits (reductions in taxes) are determined as a percentage of taxes and range from \$150 - \$1,250. To be eligible for the abatement on the 2022 Grand List:

- 1) You, or your spouse, must have been at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2022; or you must be permanently and totally disabled (per Social Security or VA).
- 2) You must reside as the owner, or have life use, of the property as of October 1, 2022, and you must have lived in Connecticut for at least one year.
- 3) Your 2022 income cannot exceed \$49,100 if you are married or \$40,300 if you are unmarried. Qualifying income is defined as taxable income for IRS purposes AND non-taxable income, with limited exceptions.
- 4) You must provide the assessor with a copy of your SSA 1099 and your 2022 federal income tax return if you file one. If you do not file a tax return, proof of all 2022 income must be provided.

Applications are filed with the Assessor biennially from February 1st - May 15th. **Persons already enrolled in the program were mailed an application at the end of January 2023.** New applicants can download an application from the Assessor's page of the town's website at [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org). For additional information please email [assessor@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:assessor@ashfordtownhall.org) or call 860-487-4403.



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## April 2023

### Hours

**Monday - 9-5**

**Tuesday - 9-5**

**Wednesday - 9 - 8**

**Thursday - Closed**

**Friday - 9-5**

**Saturday - 9-1**

**Sunday - Closed**

### Library Staff

**Ann Chonte' Chris**

**Diane John**

**Stacey**

### Overdrive

**Available 24 / 7!**

Try Overdrive for  
Babcock Library card  
holders! [Overdrive](http://babcocklibrary.org)  
offers e-books &  
audiobooks accessible  
on mobile devices!

Be Sure to Check the Library  
Facebook Pages for Updates  
and Additions!

### *April Special Events*

#### **Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation**



**Saturday, April 8 @ 11 a.m.  
Knowlton Memorial Hall**

**Special Nerd Night!  
Wednesday, April 12  
5pm—8pm**

Learn how to create a  
work of art with  
poured-paint!

Call 860-487-4420 to  
Pre-Register

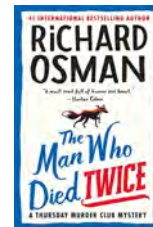
### CALENDAR

#### **Ukulele Lessons**

First Wednesday of each month.  
Please call the library to register.

#### **Mystery Book Discussion Group**

*The Man Who Died Twice*  
Tuesday, April 4 @ 1 pm



#### **Friends of Babcock Library Meeting**

Tuesday, April 18 @ 2:30 pm

#### **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

Tuesday, April 25 @ 10 am

#### **Children's Storytime & Craft**

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am

#### **Embroidery & Knitters Group**

Wednesdays @ 1 pm

## April Book Theme of the Month



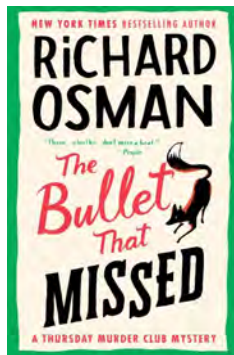
Thoughts are turning to gardening and planting, and the earth! Happy Earth Day April 22! In Correlation with the annual seed program will be nature themed books for your consideration!

## **MAY Mystery Book Discussion Group**

*The Bullet That Missed*

By Richard Osman

Tuesday, **May 2** @ 1 pm

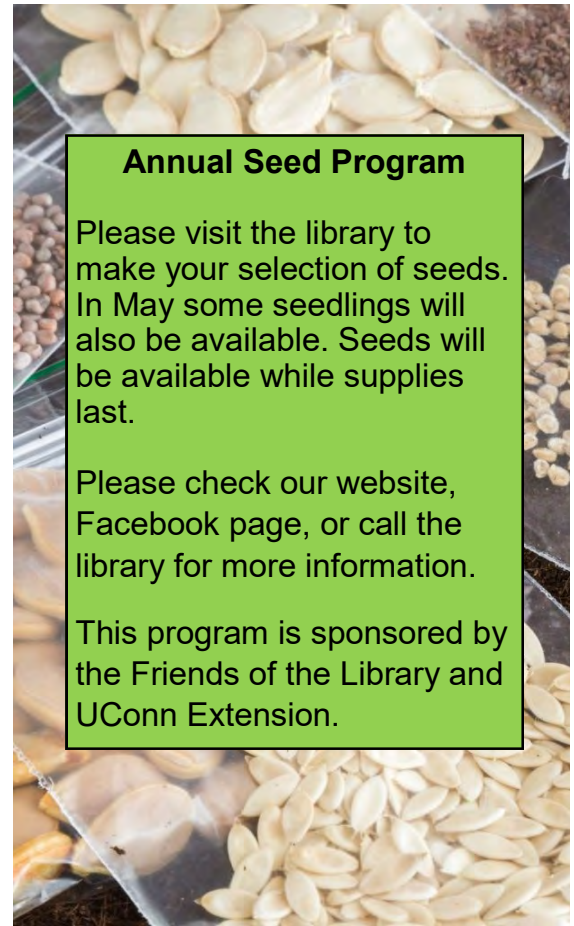


## **Annual Seed Program**

Please visit the library to make your selection of seeds. In May some seedlings will also be available. Seeds will be available while supplies last.

Please check our website, Facebook page, or call the library for more information.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and UConn Extension.



**Rescheduled from March!**

**Family Mystery Night!**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**

Come to Babcock Library to solve a mystery and have lots of fun at the same time!



The theme is around showing a mystery movie ... or not showing it ... Interested attendees may sign up to play specific roles!

Pre-registration is needed so we know how much popcorn to make and who will be playing what part!

Call 860-487-4420 to register

## **Friends of Babcock Library**

The Friends group is actively accepting new members!

Please contact Elaine for more info at:

[ewilmespandolfo@gmail.com](mailto:ewilmespandolfo@gmail.com)

## **Museum Passes**

The library has several passes available that may be used for free/discounted entry to selected museums & historical sites.

- ♦ *Bushnell Park Carousel & Museum (seasonal)*
- ♦ *Carousel Museum*
- ♦ *Connecticut Old State House*
- ♦ *New Britain Museum of American Art*
- ♦ *Vintage Radio & Communications Museum of CT*
- ♦ *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art*





## Scout Troop 92 April Newsletter



*John Zulick & Ryker Hany inspect and weigh cars.*



*Excitement at the finish line!*



*Trophy time.*

**Activities:** Cub Scout Pack 92 had a big turnout for their annual Pinewood Derby. Cub Scouts race gravity-powered racers and compete in multiple categories. This event is one of the most popular Cub Scout activities. Becket van Heiningen's car was the over-all fastest speedster.

Troop 92 provided manpower to spruce up the public hiking trails located at Josias Byle's Sanctuary in Ashford. Winter blow downs were removed and milkweed seed was planted in the meadows as future food for migrating Monarch butterflies. Byle's is located across from the North Vet clinic. It is owned by Joshua's Trust, a local land conservatory. By working here Scouts are fulfilling conservation requirements for advancements in rank.

**Upcoming:** Owen Gratton, of Pomfret, has completed his requirements for advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout. After his paperwork is reviewed and approved by Central Scout HQ he will be promoted at a special Court of Honor.

Summer Camp fee will be due before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

May 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>: Bicycle ride on the East Bay Bike path in R.I.

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Saturday, Mother's day flower sale.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Saturday, Honor Guard at Ashford's Memorial Day celebration.

Scout meetings are most Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM located at St Philip's Rec. Center. New members are welcome to attend.

Troop 92 BSA  
Ashford/Eastford/Pomfret

Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scout Master  
Cory Blanchette, Scout Master  
Chris Murphy, Assistant Scout Master  
Rob Hany, Committee Chairman  
Kurt van Heiningen, Cubmaster



*Eight Scouts and four adults spent most of the day working at Josias Byles Sanctuary.*



## Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

By Jennifer Sterling-Folker, April 2023

**Happy Spring Ashford!** With spring comes renewed efforts by Ashford Pollinator Pathways (PP) to encourage gardeners and land-owners to include native plants for pollinators and wildlife while reducing lawn sizes and avoiding the use of pesticides. PP began in Wilton, CT with volunteers from town conservation organizations working together to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources. Email us ([AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com](mailto:AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com)) with questions, if you'd like site/plant advice, a list of native plant nurseries, to visit a native plant garden or to get involved. Also let us know if you register your land with Pollinator Pathways so we can drop off a free medallion courtesy of the Ashford Conservation Commission. Our Facebook page will have more information and events in the coming months (<https://www.facebook.com/AshfordPollinatorPathway>).

**Can You Resist the Siren Call of Early Spring Cleanup?** I find it VERY difficult to resist cleaning up the leaf debris and old flower stalks in my garden on an early spring day. But many pollinators, like bees and butterflies, overwinter in dead plant material and by removing it too early we risk destroying many of these pollinators. Some bees don't emerge until late May, so the longer we can tolerate a "messy" garden the better for pollinators and other wildlife. A good rule of thumb is to wait until temperatures are consistently about 50 degrees Fahrenheit over several days. This helps protect their habitat until they can safely emerge, thereby ensuring a healthy pollinator population. It also improves your overall garden ecosystem, as decomposing leaf litter is good for the soil and many spring wildflowers need a layer of leaf litter in order to emerge.

**Free Native Plant Seeds:** As with last year, we have provided native plant seed packets free to Ashford residents and available at Ashford Library as part of their annual Seed Bank. There are 10 different seeds, all the easy-to-grow variety that do not need cold stratification.

**Coming Soon: "NO MOW MAY!"** Ashford PP is collaborating with young conservationists in Ashford School's third grade to learn about No Mow May and develop ideas on how residents can participate. The idea is to avoid mowing grass for the month of May so that lawn weeds, such as clover, violets and dandelions, can bloom and provide vital spring food for bees emerging from hibernation and birds foraging to feed young. If you really hate the idea of not mowing your entire lawn until June, you could leave patches unmown (perhaps in your backyard or an unused area behind a shed) or mow the edges of your lawn and leave a few meandering paths down the middle. Even small efforts help pollinators survive & thrive!



## Calendar

**4/5 – NCCD's deadline for ordering from its annual native plant sale,** BUT they may still have some plants available for late ordering and often have plants for sale on their pick-up days (4/21 & 4/22) at 24 Hyde Avenue Vernon. For more info: <https://conservect.org/northcentral/plant-seed-sale/>

**4/29, 10AM** – I will be speaking about the "Do's and Don'ts of Native Plant Gardening" at Hampton Fletcher Memorial Library, 257 Main St, Hampton. This is a free native plant talk based on my experiences trying to establish a native plant garden and wildlife habitat in my own yard in Ashford.

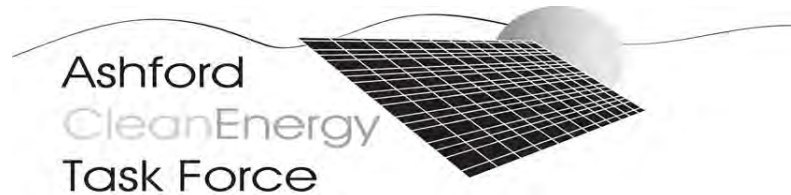
**5/13 -- RI's Wild Plant Society's Early Native Plant Sale** in Saunderstown, RI, featuring Spring ephemerals and early blooms. Their larger plant sale is on June 3 in Kingston RI. For more info see: <https://riwps.org/native-plant-sales/>

**6/3-6/4 -- Grow Native Massachusetts Plant Sale**, 240 Beaver St, Waltham, MA. Must register in advance, see info at: <https://grownativemass.org/Our-Programs/plant-sale>

**6/10 & 6/11, 10AM-5PM – Annual Local Art and Garden Tour.** The tour is free and self-guided. Map and info at their website: <https://artgardenct.com>

**Ashford PP will once again host a table at the Ashford Arts Council summer event at Westford Hill Distillers (Date TBA).** We will have information and some native plant seedlings to give away free at this event. Stay tuned for more info.





April 2023

## Air Fryers

Maybe you have been thinking about buying an air fryer, and would like to know if owning one would make sense for you. An air fryer is basically a mini high temperature electric oven with a strong fan. It cooks foods very quickly, and produces results similar to deep frying. But because you only use a thin coating of oil, you eat much less oil and get more of the food's natural taste and nutrition. French fries are fabulous, as well as fresh garden veggies like zucchini and green beans.

Are they expensive to operate? The table below compares the costs of using both a propane and electric oven with an air fryer for one hour. The oven is a fairly standard 16,000 BTUs, and the air fryer a 1500-watt unit. A gallon of propane produces 91,502 BTU<sup>1</sup> and cost \$3.70 on my last purchase, so it would require .175 gallons for one hour. One BTU contains .000293 KWh<sup>2</sup>, and the Eversource default price is an astonishing \$.365/KWh.

	BTU	KWH	\$/HOUR
<b>PROPANE OVEN</b>	16,000	4.688	.65
<b>ELECTRIC OVEN</b>	16,000	4.688	1.71
<b>AIR FRYER</b>	5,119	1.500	.55

The winner is the air fryer, primarily because it is so much smaller than a full-size oven. If you only need to cook for one or two people, a 2 or 3 quart 1500-watt unit might be sufficient, but you will need to add a quart of capacity for each additional person, with a slightly higher energy cost. You will still need your full-sized oven for Thanksgiving. Because most foods cook much faster in an air fryer, it will run less time, and you will save even more.

If your current oven is propane, it is generating greenhouse gases every time you use it, and probably leaking methane even when you are not. The air in your kitchen and the planet will be cleaner using an air fryer, and you will save money.

But there are a few things to be aware of. Some air fryers have baskets coated with Teflon or PTFE, a PFAS chemical, which can release toxic fumes at the high cooking temperatures. It is best to look for baskets made from stainless steel, and avoid plastic housings as well.

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 Susan Eastwood at [sceastwood@yahoo.com](mailto:sceastwood@yahoo.com).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amerigas.com/amerigas-blog/propane/geeking-out-over-propane>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.rapidtables.com/convert/energy/BTU\\_to\\_kWh.html](https://www.rapidtables.com/convert/energy/BTU_to_kWh.html)

***Correction: The ACETF Green Tip for January contained some inaccurate information about feeding food waste to livestock. The Agriculture Commission has been kind enough to give us accurate information on the laws pertaining to feeding pigs and other livestock. Please read this in the Conservation Commission News in this issue.***



## Monthly Meetings

### Public Welcome

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00pm - 9:00pm at the  
Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford.  
Next Meeting is April 12th.  
Presenter will be Marilyn Makuch

*The public is always welcome to attend and  
can leave after the presentation.*

## Workshops:

- Nancy Bunnell's Pastel Painting Workshop, April 22<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 2:00pm, Ashford Senior Center

\*More info on how to register to follow.



Debra Gag

Congratulations belong to Debra Gag who was nominated by her peers and selected by the Windham Arts Awards Committee to receive the Community Arts Partnership Award which recognizes those people who have made an outstanding contribution to the Arts in their community. This award is given to talented and creative people who are leaders, mentors, educators, advocates, and volunteers who have been instrumental in creating organizations, events, or networks: furthering arts education; have given of themselves throughout their lifetime supporting and promoting the arts; have been art philanthropists or financial supporters of the arts; have spent tireless hours advocating for the arts; or have worked to ensure access to the arts for all people. There was a ceremony and reception on Thursday, March 30 at 5:00 pm at the home of Windham Arts. Debra Gag has been actively involved in the Ashford Arts Council since its inception in 2015.

Debra Gag

**Visit our talented artists online! - [www.AshfordArts.org](http://www.AshfordArts.org) & on [Facebook.com/AshfordArts](https://www.facebook.com/AshfordArts)**

The Ashford Arts Council is in partnership with Windham Arts

## WELCOMING NEWMEMBERS

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

Membership: \$30 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

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

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## Artist Spotlight: Marilyn Makuch



Tree of Life Pendant by  
Marilyn Makuch

Marilyn (Midge Makuch) will be the presenter at our first 2023 in-person meeting at Knowlton Memorial Hall at 7:00 pm on April 12th.

Marilyn makes her joyful jewelry in her little barn studio in Willington. Her wire wrapped stones used in bracelets, earrings and pendants are lovely. The public is welcome to attend and can leave after the presentation or stay for our business meeting to hear about all the exciting things we're planning for 2023. Marilyn has agreed to do a jewelry workshop soon. Date TBD.

## Upcoming 2023 Events:

- Spring Online Sales (Valentine's)
- Vanilla Bean Artist's Show (Month of June)
- A Summer's Palette Art Show at Westford Hills Distillers, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 4:00pm
- Holiday Artists Market, November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

## Our Second Summer's Palette

The Westford Hill Distillers have again graciously offered to host our second Summer's Palette on June 24 from 10:00 – 4:00. We are adding spaces and opening it up for artists members and non-members (can join the council to participate) to display and sell their art. Artists may contact Darcie Boiano at [boiano.darcie@gmail.com](mailto:boiano.darcie@gmail.com) for more information.

A full schedule of performers will be on the garden stage including the Ashford Babcock Band. You are encouraged to request a booth yourself or to bring a chair, find a spot and paint the Chatey's beautiful historic home, flowers, and landscape.

As a wayside spot on The King's Highway, a 1,300-mile road laid out from 1650 to 1735 in the American colonies to link Charleston, South Carolina, to Boston, the place is full of history. Lou will be there to tell a tale... what?...something in the walls?



**The Ashford Historical Society, Inc.**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

**7 pm, Room 304, Lower Level**

**Ashford Town Office Building**

The Annual Yearly Meeting for the Ashford Historical Society, Inc. will be held on this date. Voting to accept our updated By Laws and to elect officers for different term limits as stated in these By Laws will be done. To vote at this meeting your yearly membership dues **must be paid either before this meeting or at this meeting.** A membership form is provided below and will be available at this meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joan E. Bowley, President at (860) 429-4568 or [joanie54@charter.net](mailto:joanie54@charter.net).

***The Ashford Historical Society, Inc. Dues/Renewal Form***

\_\_\_ New applicant      \_\_\_ Renewal      DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

I am willing to help the Historical Society:

\_\_\_ Fundraising events      \_\_\_ Research

\_\_\_ Refreshments at events      \_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_ SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$15.00      \_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$25.00

\_\_\_ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$300.00      \_\_\_ CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP \$50.00

Please make checks payable to: **The Ashford Historical Society, Inc.**

Mail checks to: **Valerie Peppin, Treasurer, 186 Turnpike Road, Ashford, CT 06278**

If you have any questions or need more information: Please contact **The Ashford Historical Society, Inc. President, Joan E. Bowley at: (860) 429-4568 or [joanie54@charter.net](mailto:joanie54@charter.net)**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for supporting The Ashford Historical Society, Inc.*

**Rev. 2/4/23**



# Recreation Reminders!

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



## Bus Trips are Back for 2023!

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **Daffodil Festival on Nantucket Island**

Here's an opportunity to venture out and fully embrace Spring Time! Your Coach bus will leave from the Tolland Commuter Lot at 6:00 a.m. and drive 2 hours and 15 minutes to Hyannis on Cape Cod, MA where you will board a Hy-Line Cruise, for a 1-hour high speed ferry ride to picturesque Nantucket! Explore this charming island, enjoy the Daffodil Festival and the antique car parade and the local eateries on your own. For more info go to:

<https://daffodilfestival.com> or [www.nantucket-ma.gov](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov)

We plan to take the 5:30 p.m. ferry back to Hyannis and make a quick stop for fast food on the way home and arrive back in Tolland by 9:30 p.m. **Fee: \$172** (includes coach bus and high speed ferry round trip) Avoid the busy summer tourist season! Consider travelling with your mom and celebrating Mother's Day early, Treat yourself to a delightful adventure!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 3RD**

### **Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>—Yankee Stadium Boston Red Sox vs New York Yankees**

Join My Fun Bus Staff on a trip to see the Boston Red Sox vs the New York Yankees (first pitch 7:35 pm). Trip Includes: Charter Bus, Ticket to the baseball game (Sec 234), games and prizes on the bus, and a cookout before the game (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage and Pepper Grinders, Mac and Cheese, Sweet and Sour Meatballs, assorted Salads, Chips, Water and Soda). Your coach bus will depart from the Tolland Commuter Lot at Exit 68 off of I-84. **Departure Time: 2:45 p.m.**

**Return Time:** Approximately 1:00 a.m. **Fee: \$210** (includes bus transportation, ticket to the game & cook out)

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE  
FRI. MAY 26<sup>th</sup>!**



### **PINT SIZED PICASSO (Ages 3-5)**



A Painting Class for Preschoolers. Join Art Teacher Sharon Puntty and give your little one a chance to explore and experiment with a variety of paints, brushes, and projects. Develop their creative, artistic, side, & leave the mess to us! Class meets in Warrentonville (Post Office) on Friday Mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. The 6 week class runs April 21st thru May 26th. **Fee: \$60.** Call 860-487-4409.

## YOGA



### **Come experience YOGA CLASS with Karrie Kirchner!**

Reawaken your body, mind, and spirit!  
Class meets Tuesday Mornings 8:15-9:15 a.m.  
6 Week Spring Session  
March 21st –April 25th

## PICKLEBALL

### **INDOOR AT ASHFORD SCHOOL!**

**Tuesday Evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

See: [www.playtimescheduler.com](http://www.playtimescheduler.com)  
for spring outdoor schedule at  
**POMPEY HOLLOW PARK**



## **ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING!**

**Sundays, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the  
Senior Center!  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, & May 21.**

Come alone or with a friend, no experience required. Led by Barbara Renna, No charge or registration form needed, just drop in. Watch for more info. about a very special event in June!

For a **Registration Form** go to the Town's website  
[www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org), Recreation  
or request one by emailing [syork@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:syork@ashfordtownhall.org)

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

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Shooters Services  
Stoney Maple Carpentry  
Terry's Transmissions  
The Last Green Valley  
The Mobile Animal Clinic  
Web Design by Robin  
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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