

Volume 54

Issue 5

May 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

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF ASHFORD ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING ADJOURNED TO REFERENDUM TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 6:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

The electors and citizens of the Town of Ashford qualified to vote in town meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Budget Meeting has been adjourned to referendum. The referendum will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 from 6:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. to vote by voting tabulator on the following questions at Knowlton Memorial Hall, 25 Pompey Hollow Road (Rte. 44), Ashford, Connecticut.

QUESTION ONE

Shall the Town of Ashford appropriate the sum of \$3,839,250 for the General Government budget, and \$2,189,042 for the Capital Improvement budgets of the Town of Ashford for the fiscal year 2023-2024, the total appropriation being \$6,028,292; and

QUESTION TWO

Shall the sum of \$23,603,830, the Town of Ashford's share of which is \$3,680,487, be appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Regional District Number 19 Public School System for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 fiscal year.

QUESTION THREE

Shall the Town of Ashford appropriate the sum of \$8,578,536 for the Ashford Board of Education budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours and will become available on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Dated at Ashford, this 18th day of April, 2023.

Sherri L. Mutch, MMC, MCTC

Ashford Town Clerk

Ashford's Memorial Day commemoration ceremony will be held at 11:00 am Monday, May 29th at the Ashford Veterans Memorial, Tremko Lane. A formal program will be issued prior to that date and will be available on the Town website. Please join us in honoring the men and women who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. We anticipate holding a parade and ceremony for Independence Day on the Fourth of July.

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

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.



**The Ashford Town Offices
will be closed for
Memorial Day
Monday, May 29th.**

THE COMMISSION ON AGING PRESENTS
A COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR FOR ALL AGES
SATURDAY, MAY 13TH FROM 10 - 1
GOOD INFORMATION, GIVE-AWAYS, FREE ADMISSION
COVID BOOSTER SHOTS OFFERED FREE
FREE PIZZA STARTS AT NOON
ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER, 25 TREMKO LANE

VITAL STATISTICS



Deaths:

Paul Nicholas Praklis, Jr.	March 30, 2023
Saba Polnik	April 4, 2023
Hazel Perkins	April 13, 2023

Marriages:

Rebecca Lyn Gregoire	March 2, 2023
Stephen Randall Ross, Jr.	

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

*The *Citizen* will be delivered by the 1st of each month (monthly).
*The *Citizen* is made possible by town taxes & advertising, and the production efforts of the Town Clerk's Office.

*Residents and Ashford tax-payers will receive the *Citizen* at no charge (every mailbox and P.O. box). Non-profit groups and **tax-payers** who live out of town should contact the *Citizen* to be put on the "no charge" mailing list. All other parties may receive the *Citizen* for a \$18 per year donation (as of 1/1/2020).

*All items for the *Ashford Citizen* must include submitter's name, address, and telephone number for verification. Items written on behalf of an organization require the signature of an authorized spokesperson. No letters or advertising will be accepted concerning political issues or candidates. All items submitted are subject to editing, and the *Citizen* reserves the right to reject any submissions. Readers should be aware that opinions or articles by individual writers or organizations are not necessarily those of the *Citizen*. The *Citizen* will not print items it regards as offensive or slanderous.

*All submissions must be received by the 20th of each month.

*Ads must be **pre-paid**; cash, or check written to **Town of Ashford**.

*The Ashford Town Clerk's Office will take payments and article and advertisement submissions. Call for details.

Your Contacts:

Sherri Mutch, Editor	# 860-487-4401
smutch@ashfordtownhall.org	

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

A Summer's Palette

at Westford Hill Distillers



JUNE 24

10AM-4PM

Rain Date June 25

**196 Chatey Road
Ashford, CT**

Art & Flowers

ART SALE
LIVE MUSIC
PLEIN AIR
PAINTING
FOOD TRUCKS
BEVERAGES

SPONSORED BY:



**ASHFORD
ARTS COUNCIL**
In Collaboration with
Windham Arts

CTVISIT
EASTERN CONNECTICUT



www.ctvisit.com/EasternConnecticut
www.ashfordarts.org
facebook.com/WestfordHillDistillers/

ASHFORD WOMEN'S GROUP EVENT

Want to make new friends, learn more about what women are doing in our area, find common interests and share experiences? Come join us for the Ashford Women's Group "**Celebrating Women**" June meeting as we continue our efforts to support and empower each other!

Celebrating Women

Sunday, June 11, 2023

11:00-2:00 PM

Ashford Senior Center

25 Tremko Lane, Ashford, CT 06278

Women who would like their interests, special skills/talents or local business noted in the event handout should email contact info and a brief description to ashfordwomensgroup@gmail.com or call 860.428.0011.

As always, all AWG events are free. Light refreshments will be served. (Finger foods to share appreciated!)

Also, we will be accepting donations of the following for 2 local area shelters: **Clean Used/ New Clothing, Toiletries/Feminine Products, Toddler/Baby Supplies, Laundry Products, Housewares, Blankets/Sleeping Bags, Suitcases/Duffle Bags, New/Gently Used Toys.**

Find us on Facebook: Ashford Womens Group

From the Editor:

I regret to announce that after many years of working on *The Ashford Citizen*, I am stepping down as editor. It is time for me to put my energy into other projects, and it is time for the town newsletter to move out of the Town Clerk's Office. To put speculation to rest, recent events in town and comments on social media have forced this decision for the sake of protecting the Office. Unfortunately, the Town Clerk's Office's long and successful relationship with the *Citizen* is a casualty of our litigious and divisive social environment. After this issue, the *Citizen* will be produced under the auspices of the Selectmen's Office.

This is a good opportunity to give a little perspective on what the *Citizen* is, and is not. People who are new to town may not understand the true nature and purpose of our historic newsletter. A brief summary looks like this:

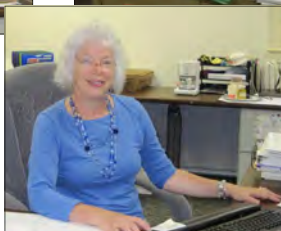
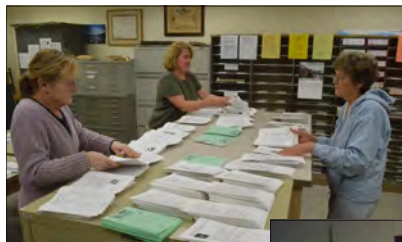
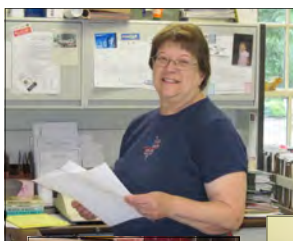
1. The birth of the *Citizen* in 1952. It was staffed by volunteers and financed by donations, advertising and fund-raising. The format was a small cut-and-pasted booklet of a folded page produced twice a month.
2. The *Citizen* grew to 500 copies by 1996. Volunteers contributed content, and copies were made in Town offices and stacked in paper boxes. We met monthly in the Town Clerk's vault to collate and prepare it for mailing. I think that these were the best days of all.
3. Upon Town Clerk Barbara Metsack's retirement in 2013, it became necessary to find a new way of producing the *Citizen*. The computer-driven process meant work could no longer be parceled out to numerous volunteers. Assistant Town Clerk Sherri Mutch became Town Clerk and took over as editor, layout person and coordinator; new Assistant Town Clerk Karen Zulick took over advertisements and subscriptions. Land Use Clerk Beverly Ference continued until her death in 2020 to create and submit transfer and building permit reports, blood drives, interesting facts, and memorials for towns folk who had passed. Publisher was the software used, and submissions primarily came via computer. Printing was moved to a commercial printer in Willington. Issues were mailed to every household, business and post office box.

In order to continue the newsletter, it was agreed to turn over the remaining funds of \$1,000+ to the Town, and we asked the Town for ongoing financial assistance. **Key to understanding the content of the current *Citizen*: as the newsletter is largely subsidized by taxpayers, it must remain neutral.** There can be no political content, religious content, or opinion letters, as Taxpayer A should not have to subsidize Taxpayer B's choice of baseball team, church, political party, etc.

4. Today in 2023, 2,045 copies are mailed in town by Every Door Direct Mail, and 27 copies are mailed to subscribers. Sherri and Karen are the total staff; Anything Printed continues as printer and handles the drop to the post office. Issues of 32 pages are produced monthly and include local paid ads, legal notices and updates from town departments, boards and commissions, as well as informational articles from other groups. Legal notices are sometimes published in the *Chronicle* due to statutory time frames for publishing. There is no staff to do investigative reporting, nor would that fit the nature and mission of our *Citizen*.

Thank you for the many years of friendship and support. I am confident that *The Ashford Citizen* will adapt and endure, as it has so many times in the past.

Sherri Mutch, Editor



Taken from the minutes of the ABCD (Ashford Better Community Development) Board, August 15, 1952.

You probably know by now of the action taken at our August meeting relative to publishing a semi-monthly publication to be entitled "The Ashford Citizen". The motion made and carried included the statement that "The Ashford Citizen" be sent to all homes, servicemen, previous residents of Ashford and others interested. The publication will be supported through donations, advertising and other efforts of the ABCD Board whereby they would raise funds. There will be no subscriptions.

The purpose of the publication is to keep Ashford citizens informed on what is going on in town. It is not a money-making scheme, but strictly a community service. Civic events, ads and the calendar of coming events will appear in each issue and other interesting articles will appear when space is available. It is hoped that members of the ABCD Board will furnish brief articles from time to time to be published. Perhaps one article in each issue, or at least one each month, will be possible. The cost of printing each publication will be approximately \$22, including postage. Through the balance in our treasury and any club donations that may be made, the project will be launched. John Bartok will do our printing.

The first issue will reach the citizens around Sept 20. The issues will be dated the first and 15th of each month. The staff will meet at the Babcock Library at the Town Hall the first and third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM to address, stamp, tie up and mail the issues. A part of the evening will be set aside for the staff to discuss changes or improvements in the publication, how it is received by the residents, and any other business pertaining to the paper.

"The Ashford Citizen" will be in the form of a four-page booklet 5"x7 1/2" (one folded page), and will be as complete as we can make it. If we succeed to support it financially the number of pages can be increased later.

All members have not had the opportunity to discuss this project so there will be ample time to give up your suggestions and criticisms as we go along. You may be sure they will be welcome since launching such a project will be a challenge. It will be a valuable community service – and it should be fun!

The September meeting of the ABCD Board will consist of further discussion on this project. We will appreciate new ideas on ways to raise funds to support the paper. Since the meeting will come before the first copy is printed, there will be an opportunity to raise questions and discuss possible problems involved.

The first meeting of the staff will be held at the library on September 17 at 8:00PM. Thus far, the following have agreed to serve on the staff: Mrs. James Stone-circulation; Mrs. Clarence Sweetland-school news; George Swaykus-sports and ads; Mrs. Frank Cushman-assist in mailing and assembling other material. We will need someone to handle the calendar of events, club and church news and other articles.

To date this is the extent of our progress on this project. I'm sure the publication will be well received by our townspeople. The members present at the August meeting were quite enthusiastic about the paper and hope the other members will help us succeed as a unit.

Sincerely yours, Helen Kovarovics, Editor-The Ashford Citizen

The Ashford Citizen back in August, 1996:

Today we have tried to follow through with the original idea of "The Ashford Citizen". The format has remained the same. Volunteers still work to put information together to benefit those interested. Donations still arrive to take care of expenses. Printing is done on a copy machine now and mailed bulk rate (no licking stamps). An issue is now published every month to arrive before the 1st of the month listing events for the coming month. Groups of volunteers still get together once a month to collate the pages into booklets, label, staple and sort for mailing.

Today we print 500 copies of "The Ashford Citizen". Copies are mailed to Florida, Washington DC, Virginia, Michigan, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Arizona, California and many Connecticut towns. In the last year a copy is also being sent to the Connecticut State Library. People can receive "The Ashford Citizen" today, by making a donation you will be placed on the mailing list. Hopefully "The Ashford Citizen" will endure for years to come.

The Ashford Citizen back in July, 2014:

Our little publication has literally become a "big" publication; what was 4 pages in 1952 has grown to 24 pages; the size of the booklet has doubled from a folded-page to a full page. The *Citizen* comes out once a month, instead of twice. The total cost for printing and postage is certainly not \$22 anymore! Lastly, instead of donations, fund-raising, and advertisements, we are funded by a combination of advertisements and town taxes.

From the Selectmen's Office (2014):

This is the first issue of the newly "renovated" *Ashford Citizen*. The *Citizen*, which you will receive monthly, will provide relevant information on available services, upcoming events, town news and what we anticipate will be an introduction to local businesses. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen I would like to thank *The Ashford Citizen* volunteers, past and present, for their hard work and dedication in getting the news to us.

We have all worked very hard to make Ashford a great town in which to reside and raise our families. Much of Ashford's success can be attributed to our tireless volunteers. These volunteers are members of boards and commissions that oversee our children's education and provide emergency services. They develop guidelines regarding land use and decide where our tax dollars are spent. By sharing news relating to Ashford's boards and commissions, we hope to encourage you, our residents, to share in the governing of our town by volunteering to serve alongside your neighbors.

(Michael Zambo)

Happy Mother's Day! April was another spectacular month for us. We appreciate all of you and thank you for all your continued support. Our customers have rated us Number 1 in the area! To show our appreciation to all of our valued customers, present and future, we would like to extend our \$60 coupon for May, June, July & August.

Clip the coupon below.

Book your appointment early.

Ashford Small Engine Repair (959) 929-5795

\$60.00 off your repair

WE ARE ALSO PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE
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Lawn Tractors, Weed Whackers, Generators,
Fall and Winter Tune-ups, plus more.**

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

VETERAN NOTES

If you have had a ringing or buzzing in your years since your service time, how about \$150.00 a month tax free from Uncle Sam. Contact me and we will see if you qualify. Garry - 860-928-2309

I will be available for questions at Ashford's Health Fair on May 13th from 10:00 - 1:00.

TOWN OF ASHFORD Office of the Selectmen

William A. Falletti
First Selectman

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Ashford will be accepting applications for the position of Director of Public Works. This is a full-time highly responsible municipal management position involving the direction of all elements of the Public Works Department activities including, but not limited to engineering, highway maintenance, Maintenance of town buildings and grounds, Transfer Station management and oversight and coordination with multiple town boards, commissions and departments. Responsibilities also include short- and long-term road maintenance planning, budget preparation and personnel management within the department. This work requires that the Director has thorough knowledge, skill and ability in all phases of public works and construction management.

A complete job description and employment application can be found on the Town of Ashford website: www.ashfordtownhall.org or from the Selectmen's Office.

SPRING PLANTS

Available at
Farmstand
Open Dawn to Dusk
Beginning May 1st

Annuals
Hanging baskets
Vegetable seedlings
Herb seedlings

West View Farm
813 Westford Road
(Rte 89)

God's People Praying Together

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, 2023
5:00 - 6:00 pm

Ashford Veterans Memorial
Tremko Lane, Ashford
(Across Route 44 from the
Ashford Town Office Building)

In everything by prayer and supplication,
with thanksgiving, let your requests
be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6



ATTENTION ASHFORD PARENTS

Preschool Screening

When: May 16th and 17th 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)

MEDEIROS AND SONS INFLATABLES LLC



401-390-9800

medeirosandsonsinflatables.com

medeirosandsonsinflatables@gmail.com



Renee Schmidt
rvschmidt@snet.net

860-377-5334

Appointment Only

Permanent Hair Removal

Monthly Meetings Public Welcome

Next Meeting is May 10th.

7:00pm - 9:00pm at the

Knowlton Memorial Hall in Ashford.

Presenter will be Griffin Ryan

The public is always welcome to attend & leave after the presentation.



Artist Spotlight: Griffin Ryan

Griffin Ryan is the speaker at the May 10th meeting. He will talk about experiences working with young artists in the 21st century. Ryan's business, T-shirts with a Purpose (T-SWAP), strengthens connections between people by using art to focus our collective attentions on our immediate communities. They manufacture t-shirts designed by local artists.



A Summer's Palette Art & Flowers

The Westford Hill Distillers have again graciously offered to host our annual Summer's Palette on June 24 from 10:00 – 4:00, 196 Chatey Road, Ashford, CT. 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...

- A full schedule of performers will be on the garden stage including the Ashford Babcock Band.
- Enjoy the many vendors who have created works of art already.
- 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 for more information.
- Artists are encouraged to find a spot and paint the Chatey's beautiful historic home, flowers, and landscape. Don't have supplies? We will provide paper, paints, and brushes.
- Sit a spell and enjoy a craft cocktail while you enjoy a snack from Sweet 'Lil Details, or lunch from Hungry Lion Food Truck.
- This is what a day in June should be—bring a friend, enjoy art, hear great music, and drink in a New England experience!

for more info: www.ctvisit.com/EasternConnecticut • ashfordarts.org
facebook.com/WestfordHillDistillers/



Dan Merlo's booth from A Summer's Palette 2022



Blanch Serban paints en Plein Air
A Summer's Palette 2022

Upcoming 2023 Events:

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

Workshops:

- Midge Makuch's jewelry workshop, date & info - tbd



ASHFORD
ARTS COUNCIL
In Collaboration with
Windham Arts

A Summer's Palette Sponsors:



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

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

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
or (860) 798-1738

Your Name:
Email Address:
Business Name:
Website:
Phone Number:
Mailing Address:

Darcie Boiano
AAC Membership Director
196 Oakes Road
Ashford, CT 06278
Check Payable To:
WINDHAM ARTS ORGANIZATION
MEMO Line: AAC MEMBERSHIP



SUPPORTED BY WINDHAM ARTS

Renters Rebate

Are you over 65? Are you Disabled? Are you a Renter? Did you earn less than \$49,100 if married or \$40,300 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. If you have questions please call (860)487-4417

Required Documentation: (all for calendar year 2022)

Proof of Income Including: Social Security income (form SSA 1099) & SSI if applicable; Copy of 2022 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 2022 (all 12 months); Utility bills paid in 2022 (heat, gas, electric only)

Looking Up Payments for IRS Reporting Purposes

Go to the Town's Website at:

www.ashfordtownhall.org

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



When the box comes up to search by name,

SEARCH BY
Name
[See Example](#)

Enter the search criteria below:

Enter Last Name then space then 1st 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.



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

This site is available 24/7.

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Email: businessoffice@americanscaleco.net



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- to make Ashford a cleaner place to live
- to save the town money by not filling the trash compactor so quickly

Call me, my number is 860-882-2286
and my name is Rick Marlin.

Save on time and gas.

The inside of your car stays clean
and does not smell.

I pick up in Ashford and nearby
towns Sunday-Monday.

We Need Friends!

The Friends of Babcock Library is actively seeking new members.

Who we are:

We are a 501c3 nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is to further the educational and informational needs of our community through our support of the Babcock Library



What we do:

Purchase new materials for the library collection.
Provide materials for ongoing programs
Purchase library passes for local museums
Fund a scholarship for local students

Member Benefits:

Early access to the annual book fair
Advance registration to library programs

Membership levels begin at \$5 per person

To join, stop by the Babcock Library or send an email
to Ewilmespandolfo@gmail.com or 860-450-6745



Charles McCaughtry Spring Studio Gallery Open House

Saturday, May 6, 2023

10am - 5pm

Sunday, May 7, 2023

10am - 5pm

Saturday, May 13, 2023

10am - 5pm

Sunday, May 14, 2023

10am - 5pm

44 Portland Drive (off Rt 89)

Ashford, Connecticut

860-429-1016

The studio Gallery is open other
days by appointment.

Greetings to the Ashford Community From Cynthia Ford, Superintendent:

Referendum is scheduled for May 2nd, 2023 at Knowlton Hall. The BOE increase is 2.89%.

Building Update:

We will be getting a delivery of our Underground Storage Tank in June and the installation process will begin shortly after the delivery. Our town's building committee will be meeting shortly to review our next steps for the roof project. We are still on target for a summer of 2024 project completion.

Ashford School continues to be tested for lead in our water every month and continues to pass these tests.

Budget Timeline:

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

BOE Meeting:

May 4th, 2023 and May 18th, 2023 at 7 pm. The meetings are held at Ashford School in Room 16 or online via Zoom. Please come by and inquire, contact me at the school at 860-429-6419 ext. 365, or email me at cford@ashfordct.org.

Upcoming School Events:

May 8th: Kindergarten Orientation at 5pm in the school cafeteria

May 12th: Ashford Staff Variety Show at 7 pm in the school cafeteria. If interested in tickets to the show, please call the main office at 860-429-6419.

May 24th: Ashford Day Concert at 9:15 am in the school gymnasium

May 25th: Ashford Night Concert at 7pm in the school gymnasium

May 22nd-25th: Ashford Book Fair in the school library

Save the date:

8th Grade Commencement: June 14th, 2023

Last day of school is June 16th, 2023 with an early dismissal of 12:25 pm.

Upcoming Community Activities:

Friday Playgroups held at Ashford School hosted by Youth Services, Melissa McDonough 9-10 am. May 5, 12, 19 and 26th. Contact Melissa at: 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/>

ASHFORD SCHOOL	
HONOR ROLL	
2022-2023 Trimester Two	
Grade 8	Grade 7
Bourciquot, Bailee	Alfaro, Santiago
Byers, Joseph	Gates, Prescott
Lewis, Brian	Kennedy, Isabella
Moller, Raina	Marocchini, Dominic
	O'Donovan, Nathan
	Piecuch, Alden



ASHFORD SCHOOL	
HIGH HONORS	
2022-2023 Trimester Two	
Grade 8	Grade 7
Buch, Benjamin	Bowersett, June
Caisse, Ayva	Draczynski, Taylor
Cantrell, Jack	Forrest, Lance
Caye, Nicholas	Gordon, Abigail
Champagne, Louise	Lussier, Emma
Dingler, Addison	Tatro, Adam
Kopec, Alexander	Urban, Elizabeth
Krapf, Jadya	
Matos, Jonathan	
Nemeth, Cameron	
Stygar, Ava	
Viel, Isabella	

ASHFORD SCHOOL	
Exceptional Effort	
2022-2023 Trimester Two	
(received four exceptional effort marks (1) in at least four classes)	
8th Grade	7th Grade
Buch, Benjamin	Driscoll, Ivy
Byers, Joseph	Draczynski, Taylor
Caisse, Ayva	Gordon, Abigail
Caye, Nicholas	Lussier, Emma
Champagne, Louise	Piecuch, Alden
Dingler, Addison	Tatro, Adam
Kopec, Alexander	Urban, Elizabeth
Matos, Jonathan	
Nemeth, Cameron	
Ruprecht, Ava	
Stygar, Ava	
Viel, Isabella	

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.



ASHFORD SCHOOL TO HOST SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

MON, MAY 22nd - THUR, MAY 25th

What:

Ashford School will be hosting an "Under the Sea" themed Spring Scholastic Book Fair. All Funds raised will help purchase books for classroom libraries, Birthday Books and the main school library. Families, faculty, and the community are invited to attend this fun reading event that helps inspire children to become lifelong readers. Stop in and stock up on books for Summer reading!

When:

Monday, May 22nd, from 9 am - 5.30 pm;
Tuesday, May 23rd, from 9 am - 5.30 pm;
Wednesday, May 24th, from 9 am - 5.30 pm; and
Thursday May 25th, from 9 am - 7 pm;

Where:

Ashford School, in the Library; 440 Westford Road, Ashford, CT.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Volunteers Needed!

Fair setup on Saturday May 20th from 10 am.
Book sales from 9 am - 5.30 pm daily, and
Fair break-down on Friday May 26th from 9 am.

Any amount of time you can give would be great!

Please call/text Lisa Hassett at (860) 576-3208.
EVERY VOLUNTEER WILL RECEIVE A FREE BOOK OF THEIR CHOICE.



Eastern CT Sportsman's Club News

The "Kids Fishing Derby" will take place on Sunday May 7th 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
- 1st Place Largest Trout per age group
- 2nd Place Second Largest Trout per age group
- First "3 Trout group caught" by each age group

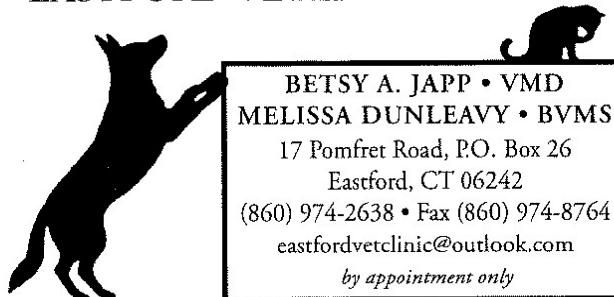
The kids will be separated by age groups for prizes as follows: Ages 1 thru 4, Ages 5 thru 8, Ages 9 thru 12.

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

EASTFORD VETERINARY CLINIC



How to PAY Your Taxes Online

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



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

Ex. Name: John Smith

Enter the search criteria below:

Smith J | Search

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



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



4. Find which bill you want to pay

Ex.

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

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

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

7. Make sure the next cart is the same as the previous one and choose how you would like to pay. Then press
■ Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards **Continue to Payment Information**

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

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Sunday Worship Service - 10:30AM

Wednesday Prayer - 7:00PM

Moms In Prayer International - TBD



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Owner

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HIC 0659051

EPSC Approved Contractor



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:00 COA 1:00 Mah Jong	2 9:30 Tai Chi 5:00 Big Bingo	3 Food Distribution Day	4 12:00 Dime Bingo	5 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominoes	6
7	8 9:30 Casino 11:00 Hairdresser 1:00 Mah Jong	9 9:30 Tai Chi 5:00 Big Bingo	10 11:00 Lunch Bunch (1) Food Distribution Day	11 10:00 Trader Joe's 12:00 Dime Bingo	12 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominoes	13 10:00 Health Fair
14 	15 1:00 Mah Jong	16 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Birthday Party 5:00 Big Bingo	17 Food Distribution Day 11:00 ASCO Board 1:00 ASCO Membership	18 12:00 Dime Bingo	19 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominoes	20 11:30 Metropolitan Opera at Buckland Hills
21	22 1:00 Mah Jong	23 9:30 Tai Chi 11:00 Crafts 5:00 Big Bingo	24 Food Distribution Day	25 12:00 Dime Bingo	26 9:30 Tai Chi 1:00 Dominoes	27
28	29  Town Offices Closed	30 9:30 Tai Chi 11:00 Lunch Bunch (2) 5:00 Big Bingo	31 Food Distribution Day	<p>THE METROPOLITAN OPERA PRESENTS, THE MOZART OPERA DON GIOVANNI IN SURROUND SOUND AT THE BUCKLAND HILLS THEATRE SATURDAY, MAY 20TH. The cost is \$23.00. VAN LEAVES THE ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER AT 11:30 AM. Call 860-487-5122 to reserve a seat on the bus. ALL ARE WELCOME and two scholarships are available for those who cannot afford the \$23.00. Pay at the Door.</p>		

Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

Every October, in the past, AVFD has honored fallen firefighters in coordination with the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, by lighting up our stations with red lights. Last year, the foundation announced they are moving the annual Memorial to May instead of October. This year, we will be honoring 144 men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, and to continue the memory of our own, Chief Bruce Fletcher whom we lost in Nov. of 2002. Beginning on May 4th (which is International Firefighters Day) through May 7th, our fire station will be lit up with red lights to show our support to the families of our fallen Brother's & Sister's. You can also join us by lighting up your homes, porches, and/or garages with red lights.



Father's Day Chicken BBQ

Sunday, June 18th | 11:00AM – 1:00PM

AVFD is excited to announce that we are bringing back our Annual Father's Day Chicken BBQ!! Since Covid, we've been unable to hold this popular event and we know many of you have missed it... So have we! This year will be a bit different, as the food will be distributed from our fire house and NOT the school this year.

CHICKEN BBQ



- Tickets this year will be purchased online and will be available beginning May 1st. Check our website for updates and a secured link for orders.
<https://www.ashfordfire.org/fathers-day-chicken-bbq>
- A 50/50 Raffle will be offered, you can raffle tickets to your online order.
- There will be a limited number of tickets available for cash purchase, please see any AVFD member.
- Tickets can be printed and presented at pickup. **All orders will be picked up at Station 20 (46 Westford Rd).**
- Traffic patterns will be setup at the fire house for pickup – We ask that you do not exit your vehicle, we will have staff bring your orders to you. Please follow the traffic so as not to cause traffic back-ups.
- Meals will be packed in a single container; multiple orders will be bagged. You are free to bring your own bags/boxes.
- Due to rising costs of all the items, and to maintain ticket pricing, we will not be offering beverages or ice cream with the meal.
- You can check for updates on our website, next month's edition of the Citizen, Ashford Community FB page and flyers that will be posted throughout town.

Dinner includes:

½ Chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll, sour cream & butter, and a cookie. **Tickets: \$12.00 each**

The call count for March was 28 Fire/Rescue and 10 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 487.

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
Firefighter/EMT
AVFD Station 20

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From the Municipal Agent for the Elderly, Kit Eves 860-487-5122

HEALTH FAIR: As municipal agent, I think sponsoring an annual Health Fair for the community, not just for seniors, is an important educational and social event. We were unable to provide the community with a health fair during COVID. However, the Center will be hosting its second health fair on **Saturday, May 13th from 10-1**. Free pizza will be offered at noon. Members of the Commission on Aging are helping with this. We had an excellent turnout for the first fair a couple of years ago. This year, I have invited organizations from a wider range of providers. We should have home care, medical equipment suppliers, veterans' services, retirement planners, hearing impaired providers, hospitals, nursing homes footcare, and assisted living providers. I have a confirmed **COVID Booster Clinic** as well.

FOODSHARE: The Center has been approved to be a delivery site for monthly delivery of food for those who are eligible. This is extra food beyond what SNAP or other food resources you may have. This is in addition to the Wednesday frozen meals we already provide. Eligibility requirements for this program are: You must be 60 years old or older. Income based eligibility is as follows. 1-person monthly income of \$1,473 or less and annual income of \$17,667. 2- persons monthly \$1,984, yearly \$23,803, 3-person \$2,495. Yearly \$29,939. If you have more in your household than three and need to know the scale for eligibility, call me. If you fit the criteria call me for an application. You do not have to live in town but must agree to pick up your food monthly. You do not have to prove your income. This is on the honor system. Please call me if you are eligible.

SENIOR CENTER NEEDS: Extension cords, a standing easel, and three card tables

TRIPS: Do you love the opera. I have a trip to the Buckland Hills movie theatre. The Metropolitan Opera Company performs Don Giovanni in surround sound. The cost is \$23.00. The sound is so good it is like being front row at the Met. 5/20/23 p/u 11:30 at the Center.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Grocery shopping at Trader Joe's second Thursday of the month. (Limited Seating). Sea Music Festival in Essex on June 10th, Baseball game with fireworks June 16th, Ocean Beach Park on June 19th. Details to follow or call for more information

SPECIAL EVENTS IN JUNE: Our annual Picnic on June 9th. Game Day sponsored by Commission on Aging on June 20th and the free Mammogram Van on June 29th.

Assessment News

Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowners 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.

The filing deadline is Monday, May 15th. You must apply in person. Email assessor@ashfordtownhall.org or call 860-487-4403 for questions or to set up an appointment.

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. Cancelled plate receipt from the CT DMV. Plates can be cancelled using the DMV Online Services at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/Online-Services/Online-Services>. Print a copy of the completed transaction to have for your records.

A cancelled 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 documents by:

Email: assessor@ashfordtownhall.org

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

Or place in the black drop box by the entrance door to the Town Office Building.

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Triple T is owned by Brendan Tuller, an Ashford native. After graduating from E.O. Smith High School, Brendan earned a Bachelor's degree in Systems Engineering with a minor in Business Administration from George Washington University. He has a passion for the outdoors, however, and from that passion he launched Triple T, LLC in 2019. If you have landscaping needs, reach out to Brendan by phone at 860-970-2912, or via email at triplettct@gmail.com. You can also learn more on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TripleTLLC1>. Triple T LLC is a licensed and insured contractor (HIC.0654137).

*Read more about this and other businesses in
our community at ashfordedc.org*

Why Support Local Businesses? According to *Forbes Magazine* (June 28, 2022) you stimulate the local economy by feeding money back directly into your community. Accessing services close by reduces your carbon footprint. Local businesses provide jobs to other folks who live close by, and give more support back to the community—250% of what larger businesses give to local charities and organizations. And they tend to offer better customer service. Thank you for thinking of Ashford businesses first!

The AEDC welcomes input from residents and business owners. Please join us at our monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 PM at Town Hall.



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Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Ashford's Easter Egg Hunt Committee would like to thank the individuals and businesses that donated to our hunt this year. We received generous gifts from:

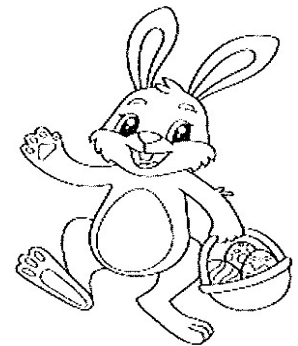
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- **Ashford Dairy Bar**
- **Brialee Family Campground**
- **Ashford Small Engine Repair**
- **Terry's Transmissions**
- **Eastern CT Sportsman Club**
- **Joseph & Linda Gagne**

We'd also like to thank student volunteers from Ashford and E.O. Smith schools:

- **Morgan Fontaine**
- **Ollie Henchir**
- **Charlie Recchia**
- **Sam DeJesus**
- **Helena Hand**
- **Daniel Heumann**
- **Anna Burnham**
- **Cooper Armogida**
- **Oliver von Hollander**
- **Henry Burnham**

Special Thank You to:

- **Ashford Senior Center**
- **Friends of the Babcock Library**
- **Bill & Linda Falletti**
- **The Ashford Citizen**
- **Mansfield Dunkin' Donuts**
- **Ashford School and PTO**
- **Ashford Volunteer Fire Dept**
- **Nord Yakovleff**



Thanks to all who participated and donated time or goods, I couldn't have done it without you! There were 121 registered egg hunters. Hope to see you next year :)

--Ashford Easter Bunny--



Leadership Meeting Review and Commentary

LEADERSHIP ROUND TABLE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSS ASHFORD HOUSING ISSUES

A town wide Leadership Roundtable was held in November 2022. Accomplishments on the 2015 POCD were discussed along with updates. Participants shared their thoughts on goals and objectives for our town. Five common concerns were identified. The first two focused on; 1) the tax base, and 2) developing a strategic plan. These were summarized in previous issues of the Ashford Citizen.

The third concern centered on how to approach the need for additional Senior and Affordable housing in Ashford. Discussion ensued and several challenges were identified. Seniors have issues with locating housing and with the ability to pay taxes. One or two companies are buying the apartments in town limiting competition. There has been an increase in rental and lease fees. There is a sense that some apartments are not well maintained nor are they senior friendly. Assisting seniors to remain in their homes was a priority.

Thoughts to explore include:

- Researching the need for a Town Planner/Manager . There are cost concerns with this initiative which raise the question if the salary would be worth the benefits.
- Search for federal/state programs that purchase easements from property owners.
- Sharing the use of facilities.
- Mutual living in large homes.
- Cluster housing-sharing open space, forest land & farmland. Would work with Planning and Zoning and other boards on this.
- Creative alternative housing – need further input to develop this

There will be a follow up meeting this spring. Look for announcements in the Ashford Citizen.

Interested in contributing to the development of Ashford's future? Pass your thoughts on to Mike Gantick, OTOF Committee at mgantick@sbcglobal.net



Babcock Library News

25 Pompey Hollow Road

Ashford, CT 06278

Your Center for Life-Long Learning

Phone: 860-487-4420 * [Website](http://babcocklibrary.org) babcocklibrary.org * email: director@babcocklibrary.org



May 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

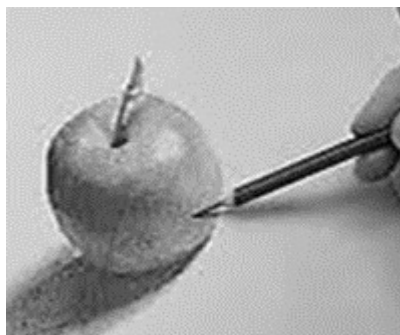
Libby

Available 24 / 7!

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

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

Special Events **Drawing Lessons with Drew Driscoll For Teens and Adults**



Wednesdays — 6 Sessions

May 3, 10, 24, 31, June 7, 14

6pm—8pm

Call 860-487-4420 to Pre-register

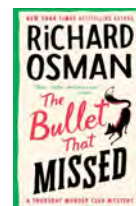
CALENDAR

Ukulele Lessons

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

Mystery Book Discussion Group

The Bullet That Missed
Tuesday, May 2 @ 1 pm



Friends of Babcock Library Meeting

Tuesday, May 16 @ 2:30 pm

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 23 @ 10 am

Children's Storytime & Craft

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am

Embroidery & Knitters Group

Wednesdays @ 1 pm

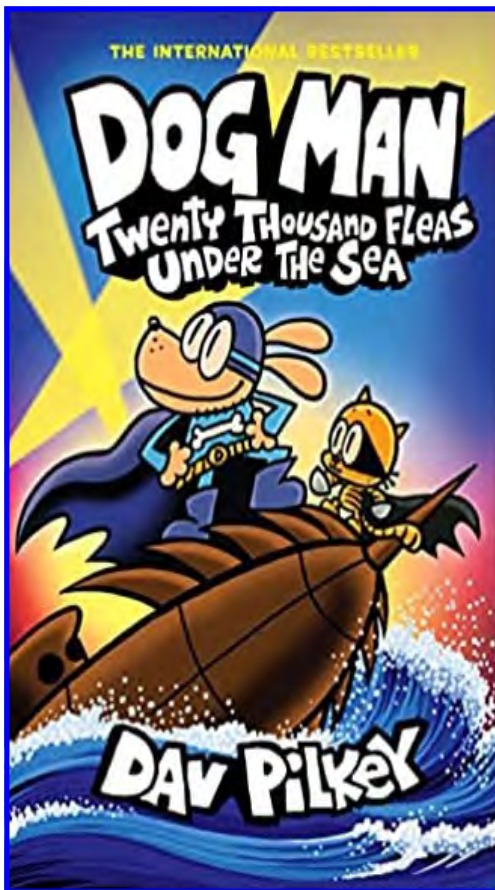
**MAGIC
SHOW**

Knowlton Hall!

**Saturday May 6th
11am**

**Goodtime
Magic**

**Magician
Mike
Stevens**



Rescheduled from March!
Family Mystery Night!
Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Call to
Register!



Dog & Puppy Adoption

Knowlton Memorial Hall

Saturday, May 20, 10 am—1 pm

- ◇ Dog & Puppy Adoptions
- ◇ Supa Epic Dog Man Activities

To celebrate the release of Dav Pilkey's newest book in the Dog Man Series, "Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea" Babcock Library, in coordination with PawSafe, is hosting a **live pet adoption event 10 am—1 pm**

There will be **Supa EPIC Dog Man activities!**

- Come dressed as **Dog Man**, or any of the Dog Man story characters, to be in a Dog Man parade around Knowlton Memorial Hall!

Parade @ 11 am

Friends of the Babcock Library News \$1,000.00 Student Scholarship

Offered by
Friends of Babcock Library

The goal of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to an actively involved Ashford student who is pursuing a post-graduation career. A panel of the F.O.B.L. officers will select the winning candidate. This scholarship is funded by membership dues and fundraising events. The application and details about eligibility requirements are available at Babcock Library, E.O.Smith High School, and Windham Tech.



Scout Troop 92 May Newsletter

Ongoing Activities:

Campout April 22nd–23rd at the General Lyon Homestead in Eastford. This will require backpacks as it is a trial run for the High Adventure Hike in June in the N.H. White Mountains.

Personal Fitness Assessment at weekly meeting. Initial assessment May 16th.

Mother's Day Flower Sale. Support the Scouts and pick up some beautiful spring flowers. We will also have surplus bicycles for sale along with the flowers. Pick up a high quality bike in top condition at bargain prices.

Bicycle ride on the East Bay Bike Path in R.I. has been rescheduled to October. It will be a fall foliage ride. Rescheduling is due to conflicts.

Scouts will be a Color Guard at Ashford's Memorial Day event.

Life Scout Curtis Desabre from Pomfret will age out of Scouting this month. He has always been an asset to Troop 92 and Scouting. Curtis was serious enough to earn 33 merit badges. Curtis would like to stay on as an adult leader in our Troop and take on an instructor role.

Cub Scouts had a trip to Battleship Cove and spent the night aboard the USS Massachusetts. They got to sleep in the same quarters the original crew used. Did anyone find the Brig? The Brig is the jail aboard ship.

Cub Scouts will attend the Webster Fishing Derby on May 20th.

For two of the last three weekends, the Cub Scouts and parents have helped to get the baseball and softball fields ready for the season at Ashford Memorial Park. Work has included painting one of the sheds, replacing a roof on another shed and extensive weeding and raking out of the infields.

Qualified Cub Scouts will cross over into Scouts on June 10th.

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

Scout Troop 92 BSA
Ashford/Eastford/Pomfret

Nord Yakovleff, Assistant Scout Master
Cory Blanchette, Scout Master
Chris Murphy, Assistant Scout Master
Rob Hany, Committee Chair
Kurt van Heinigen, Cub Master



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Ashford Pollinator Pathway News

By Jennifer Sterling-Folker, May 2023

GET A FREE “NO MOW MAY” SIGN DESIGNED BY ASHFORD SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS!!

Ashford School Third Graders, in collaboration with Ashford Pollinator Pathway, are encouraging everyone to participate in **No Mow May** by not mowing their yards until June as a way to help pollinators. The “weeds” that grow in our lawns – clover, dandelions, violets – bloom before summer flowers and are an important early food source for pollinators & birds feeding on insects.



Melinda Macdonald spoke with third grade students about No Mow May & they had a chance to grow clover for their own lawns. The students then designed **FREE YARD SIGNS** for Ashford households participating in No Mow May. Help spread the word by signing up to get one of these beautiful lawn signs designed by our own students at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJc-PjYGhGJ2cLNHLzm-3a7Lq8x0k6bSEDASxK7mg5s-AFGg/viewform?usp=sf_link (if you'd prefer to get the link via an email, reach out to us at the email below)

We've put together an assortment of **Native Plant Seed Packets** available for **FREE** at the Babcock Library. If you'd prefer established plants, look for the brand “**American Beauties Native Plants**” grown by Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon, CT. A limited selection of American Beauties plants can be found at our very own **Ashford Garden Center**, 330 Ashford Center Rd (Ashfordgardencenter@gmail.com; 860-429-0854). Other local nurseries that carry them are Foster Hill Farm (Stafford), Sprucedale Gardens (Woodstock), Ladd's (South Windsor) & Mackey's (Willimantic). If you don't see a specific native plant, ask the nursery if they can order it for you. Email us for a list of local/regional nurseries with more extensive native plant selections



Would you like to get more involved with Ashford Pollinator Pathway? Have you already registered with Pathway and want a free medallion courtesy of Ashford Conservation Commission? How about a tour of a native plant garden? Need advice on what to plant or when to mow a wildflower meadow? Email: AshfordPollinatorPathways@gmail.com
FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/AshfordPollinatorPathway>

Calendar

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

5/13 -- Quiet Corner Garden Club Plant Sale, Woodstock Fairgrounds, 9AM-noon. <https://quietcornergardenclub.com/>

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>

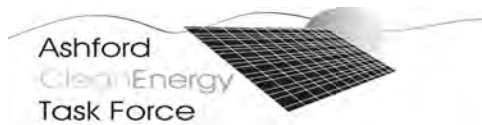
6/10 & 6/11, 10AM-5PM – Annual Local Art and Garden Tour. The tour is free and self-guided. Map and info at their website: <https://artgardenct.com>



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



We've started an online Ashford Pollinator Pathway Newsletter! Email us if you'd like to be added to our distribution list



May 2023

Plastic Recycling – Is it Really Recycled?

Recycling: the process of converting waste materials into new materials and products.

America recycles only about 8.7 % of its plastic waste. The other 90% or so is incinerated or landfilled or ends up in the environment, often on beaches around the world.

What about the triangles with numbers inside? This is the resin ID code of the type of plastic an object is made of. It **does not mean the item is recyclable**. Only plastics #1 and #2 that are bottles or jugs with “acceptable shrink sleeves and labels” and are “not contaminated” are recyclable. Only 18.2% of #1 and 9.4% of #2 plastics are recycled. It is cheaper for industry to produce more new plastic than to devise a way to recycle or repackage.

Companies bear no financial responsibility to clean up the plastic they create after it is used. When they add “green,” or “certified plastic neutral” to their products without a program to actually recycle the plastics it is called “**Greenwashing**.” This strategy makes the consumer think that they are taking actions to help the environment. Another strategy they use is to imply that it is up to the customer to take care of their plastic waste by recycling. But as we have seen very little actually gets recycled.

Plastic in the environment kills animals by entanglement and ingestion. Effects on human health are being studied but may include reproductive disorders and cancer.

Ashford's plastic recyclables that are not able to be sold or are contaminated at our local material recovery facility (MRF) in Willimantic are sent to an incinerator.

What you can do to reduce plastic waste!

- Buy drinks in cans (aluminum is recyclable)
- Use reusable cutlery, straws, plates, stirrers and containers
- Ask for cardboard/paper containers for take-out food
- Buy in bulk rather than things that are individually wrapped
- Carry reusable bags, bottles, and utensils with you

Let companies that make your favorite products know that you want more durable, recyclable, renewable, and recycled packaging, and less fossil fuel derived plastic (especially Coca Cola, PepsiCo, and Nestle, the biggest producers of single use plastics.)

Refs: Circular Claims Fall Flat: Comprehensive U.S. Survey of Plastics Recyclability. [Greenpeace.org/USA/plastic-recycling](https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/plastic-recycling). 2/18/20; [npr.org/2022/12/08/1141601301/the-myth-of-plastic-recycling](https://www.npr.org/2022/12/08/1141601301/the-myth-of-plastic-recycling); [nrdc.org/resources/recycling-lies-chemical-recycling-plastic-just-greenwashing-incineration](https://www.nrdc.org/resources/recycling-lies-chemical-recycling-plastic-just-greenwashing-incineration)

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.

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May 2023 Conservation Commission News

Waste Reduction

The Conservation Commission is concerned about the amount of waste we continue to create which is devastating our planet. Please be mindful of the waste you generate and reduce your waste when you can.

May is Ashford Spring Cleaning Month

The Commission is attempting to come up with new ideas to help our citizens be conscious of roadside litter and to join with us to keep Ashford roads clean and litter free. We are planning to have a month long clean up campaign. May is the perfect time for spring cleaning. Anytime during the month get out on your road and pick up the trash. Please let us know where you cleaned.

Let's Make Ashford Roads Beautiful:

1. Collect roadside litter on your road or in your neighborhood.
2. Bring the litter to the Transfer Station or leave it for your trash service.
3. Send an email to tell us what road you helped clean up: lorettaw886@gmail.com

Yellow vests to keep you visible on your road, trash bags and pick up sticks are available at the BABCOCK LIBRARY.

Farmers Market

Finally, our Ashford Farmers Market is opening its 17th season in May on Mother's Day. We will be at same place on RT 44 across from the town hall every Sunday starting May 14th, Mother's Day which is our usual start date. Our market runs 10AM-1PM. Most of our long- time vendors will be returning. We will have a new market master, Jackie Kulig, from Willow Valley Farm in Willington. Jackie has been a part of the market for many years so the market will run smoothly with no problems as it has for the past years. We plan to continue our market until the Sunday before Thanksgiving in November rain or shine.

Pollinators Pathways

Take the time to check out all the programs and seeds available at the library that the pollinators pathways group has set up for our residents. Take advantage of all their efforts in providing food for our pollinators and enhancing our town. Register your garden and be a pollinator ally!

Loretta Wrobel, chair

TAX COLLECTOR NEWS

The Tax Collector's Office will be closed to the public on: **Tuesday, May 9th until 1 P.M.**
Friday May 12th
Wednesday, May 24th
Monday, May 29th, Memorial Day

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.

Notices of Intent To Lien Real Estate Properties will be sent in May, along with Demand to Pay.

Please Note: Online Credit/ Debit Card Fees will change In June. The amounts will be posted in June.

During **July 2023**, the office will be **closed** to the public on **Fridays** in order to process mail, download online payments, any adjustments that are necessary to change accounts, and return emails. All Town Offices are closed on Thursdays.

Thank you for your patience and consideration.

Ashford Farmer's Market Vouchers



Vouchers for the Ashford Farmers Market on Sunday mornings are available for residents in need of food help. Vouchers can be used from June 1st through the end of the 2023 market season. Contact Ashford Social Services for income guidelines.

Farms to Families 2023 Program



Are you interested in receiving locally grown food produced by area farms? If so, the Farms to Families program may be for you! This program provides Ashford residents access to fresh produce through food distributions. Available through Ashford Social Services for low-income households, limited spots available in both programs.

If you would like to be part of the Farms to Families program., please email: mmcdonough@ashfordct.org or call 860-487-4417 for more information and/or an application. Applications can be found on the town website as well.

Recreation Reminders!

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



***Bus Trips are
Back for 2023!***

Saturday, June 10th—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: Approx. 1:00 a.m.

Fee: \$210

(includes bus transportation, ticket to the game & cook out)



REGISTRATION DEADLINE FRI. MAY 27th!

Free Summer Concert Series

It's in the works!

**Watch for our line up
Tuesday Nights starting
July 11th**

**@ Pompey Hollow Park
6:30-8:00 p.m.**



Support the Town Budget, so concerts continue!

**We're counting on our local organizations to
serve food again at the concerts.**

Call 860-487-4409 to sign up & select a date!

EARLY SUMMER SWIM LESSONS

**Six Weeks, Weds, May 24th to June 28th
Evangelical Christian Center indoor pool**

Preschool - 4:30

Level 1 5:00

Level 2 5:30

Level 3,4,5, 6:00

Baby Class 6:30

(Kids 6 mo.-3 yrs with

Parent) Register early,

classes fill! This is our only session of swimming for summer.



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
May 2nd - June 6th

PICKLEBALL

**OUTDOOR AT
POMPEY HOLLOW PARK**

M.W.F. 9:30- 11:30 a.m.

T & TH 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Tues. Eves 6:00 p.m.

**or go to playtime scheduler app.
for more options**



ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING!

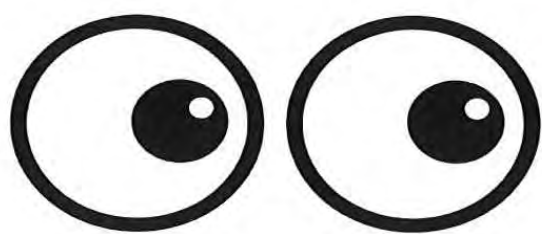


**Sundays, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the
Senior Center!**

May 21st. & June 25th

Led by Barbara Renna,
We are planning a very special dance with
live music and a pot luck
for the 25th of June to celebrate our first
season, watch for details.

For a **Registration Form** go to the Town's website
www.ashfordtownhall.org, Recreation
or request one by emailing syork@ashfordtownhall.org



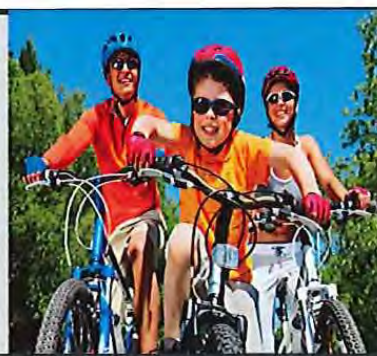
Looking Ahead To Summer!

BIKE CAMP, June 19th-24th, 9-11 a.m.

Ashford Memorial Park, Ages 4-10, Fee: \$50

Join Garth Bean and friends and practice riding, balancing, steering and braking!

BYO bike, helmet, and water each day!



GYMNASTICS CAMP, June 26th –30th

9-12 a.m. Ashford School Gym

Ages 6–10 yrs. Fee: \$100

Flip, roll, stretch, and tumble, get strong and flexible as you learn new tricks, and work on the apparatus.

NEW!

ASHFORD SUMMER CAMP

July 17th-21st, Ages 5-12 (Full day) 8:30-4:30,

Ashford Memorial & Pompey Hollow Park,

Fee: \$200 A traditional camp program with sports, games, crafts, swimming, nature, a field trip, and more!



MUSIC CAMP Babcock Summer Youth Band!

July 24th –28th, 9:00 am-1:00 pm,

Grades 6-10, Fee: \$100

Pompey Hollow Park, & indoor locations,

A chance to learn, play, practice and

perform side by side with the Babcock Band on the last day!

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Willington Pizza
Willow Valley Farm
Yeagle Technologies



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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