

ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

Volume 54

Issue 12

December 1, 2023

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

On Saturday, November 11, 2023, the Towns of Ashford, Mansfield and Willington met at Willington's Veterans Memorial to honor surviving World War II veterans from the three towns. We were proud to honor Ashford's Army veteran George Celotti, Willington's Army Air Corps veteran Lawrence Becker, and Mansfield's Army veteran William Aho.



Pictured Left to Right: State Senator Jeff Gordon, First Selectman William Falletti, and Army Veteran George Celotti

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

—John Fitzgerald Kennedy

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.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

**The Ashford Town Offices
will be closed for the Holidays**

Monday, December 25th
Tuesday, December 26th



Monday, January 1st - 2024



*** *The Ashford Citizen* *** **Policies & Procedures** As Amended by the BOS August 29, 2023

- * The *Ashford Citizen* is a local government sponsored newsletter made possible by town taxes and advertising, and the production efforts of the *Citizen* Editor.
- * The *Citizen* is a limited public forum and its limited purpose is to inform the public about news pertaining to local government activities and offer a vehicle for local area organizations and businesses to advertise events, products and services.
- * Residents and Ashford taxpayers will receive the *Citizen* at no charge (every Ashford mailbox and P.O. box). Non-profit groups and taxpayers 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 \$30. annual donation.
- * The *Citizen* will be delivered by the 1st of each month (every Ashford mailbox and P.O. box). Copies of the *Citizen* will also be made available in the Ashford Town Offices.
- * All submissions must be received by the **15th** of each month. Submissions received after the cutoff date for an issue will not be published. **No exceptions.**
- * All items for the *Citizen* must include the submitter's name, address, and telephone number for verification. Items written on behalf of an organization require the signature of an authorized representative.
- * The *Citizen* reserves the exclusive right to revise or reject all materials submitted for publication. As this publication is a limited purpose publication which is heavily subsidized by Ashford taxpayers in order to provide public information, the following will not be accepted: political ads/articles; opinion letters; religious, or other interest group ads/articles that go beyond an invitation to a program, event or time; explicit/exploitive, obscene or degrading text, pictures/illustrations; offensive, proselytizing or slanderous articles.
- * Readers should be aware that opinions or articles by individual writers or organizations are not necessarily those of the *Citizen*.
- * Paid submissions are limited to a half page maximum per business.
- * Paid submissions must be **pre-paid**; cash or check written to the **Town of Ashford**. The Ashford Town Clerk's Office will take payments. Payments may be mailed or dropped in the Town drop box.
- * Articles and ad submissions should be made to ashfordcitizen@ashfordtownhall.org.
- * For more information about Ashford Citizen policies and procedures look in "The Ashford Citizen" section (under About) on the Town website, or pick up a copy at Ashford Town Offices.

Your Contacts:

Colleen DePercio, Editor
Email (submissions)
Payments or Questions

#860-487-4439
ashfordcitizen@ashfordtownhall.org
#860-487-4439

VITAL STATISTICS

DEATHS

Craig Richard Powers
Ethel T. Krapf
Sidney Edward Organ
Margaret M. Martin

November 11, 2023
November 7, 2023
October 24, 2023
October 17, 2023



MARRIAGES



Dillon Gustave Griggs
Juliana Brito Vaz

November 11, 2023

Heather Elaine McKelvie
David Alfonso Garcia

November 2, 2023

Tomas Christian Cooper
Bethany Lynn Grabowski

October 22, 2023

Allyson Marie Roberts
Jake Harrison Krukoff

October 3, 2023

Claire Marie Galvin
Gregory John Tremont

September 16, 2023

Anthony Andrew Fortunato Meade
Nora Marie Ammouche

September 2, 2023



Please contact me for your real estate needs. I'd love to help you!



Bethany Grabowski, MBA
Ferrigno Realtors, Sales Associate
860-377-7110
Bethany.Grabowski@gmail.com



EASTFORD VETERINARY CLINIC



BETSY A. JAPP • VMD
MELISSA DUNLEAVY • BVMS
17 Pomfret Road, P.O. Box 26
Eastford, CT 06242
(860) 974-2638 • Fax (860) 974-8764
eastfordvetclinic@outlook.com
by appointment only



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/or 860-928-2309.

Always no cost ever for veterans and always confidential.

VETERAN NOTES

Don't miss the Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 16th at 11:00 a.m.

There are several taking place in our community.

Call Garry for more information at 860-928-2309

ANNOUNCING A NEW ASHFORD BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

Dear Ashford Business Owners:

On behalf of the Ashford Board of Selectman (BOS) and the Ashford Economic Development Commission (EDC), I would like to extend to you this opportunity to apply for the Ashford Business Grant Program. \$50,000 of ARPA Funds have been set aside to provide grants of up to \$5,000 to any Ashford Business that was impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Town appreciates the challenges you are faced with everyday and hope that this offer of some financial assistance will help.

You will find an overview of this exciting grant opportunity and the application form on the Town's website (www.ashfordtownhall.org).

The EDC will be reviewing all applications and making the grant award recommendations to the BOS.

Applications are due back to my office by 2:30 pm on December 8, 2023.

We encourage you to apply for this grant and look forward to working with you! Please call the selectman's office at 860-487-4400 with any questions. Thank you.

Bill Falletti
First Selectman
Town of Ashford



Please monitor the Town's web page for upcoming job notices for the Department of Public Works and Town Hall positions. Detailed job notices, descriptions, and application forms are available on the Town's website www.ashfordtownhall.org or in the Selectmen's office.

ASHFORD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Holiday Wishes Gift Card Drive



Give the gift of choice and help empower your neighbors in need by donating a gift card for Ashford's "Holiday Wishes" gift card drive.

Ashford Social Services is hosting a gift card donation program for our local families in need. While we have collected physical gifts in prior years, gift card donations allow families to personally select specific items which would be best suited for their own children. Purchasing gift cards from area merchants is a great way to support local businesses, and many other gift cards can be conveniently purchased online. To allow enough time for shopping please consider donating as soon as possible.

Please bring your gift card to the drop box located outside the Town Office Building, mail it to Ashford Social Services, or drop off in person on Mondays & Tuesdays. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation checks can be made out to Town of Ashford and mailed to Ashford Social Services, 5 Town Hall Road.

Looking for Holiday Help?

Through the generosity of community organizations and residents Ashford Social Services provides holiday gift help for those in need. If you find yourself in need of these services please reach out to the Social Service office at (860)487-4417 or mmcdonough@ashfordct.org for an application.





Any real estate needs coming up?

Ashford residents for over 35 years!



Contact Noah King:
Broker Associate
w: Kingteam.homesellingteam.com
e: Noah@homesellingteam.com
c: (860) 933-3432



Contact Steve Galinat:
Realtor
w: Kingteam.homesellingteam.com
e: Steve@homesellingteam.com
c: (860) 428-1211

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH YEAR!

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Friday & Saturday 2~7pm | Sunday 12~5pm

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INFO@WESTFORDHILL.COM



#1

ASHFORD SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah ! November was another spectacular month for us !
We thank you for your continued support and would like to extend our \$60. coupon to you,
our valued customers, both present and future.

Clip the coupon below and **BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT EARLY (959) 929-5795**

\$60.00 off your repair

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The AAAC Corner

November 2023

ASHFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL in collaboration with Windham Arts

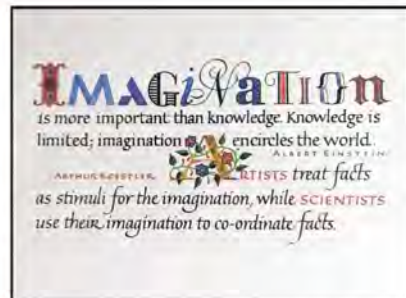
Upcoming Events:

- **ONGOING ONLINE SALES** - via our website, <https://ashfordarts.org>
- **ASHFORD FARMER'S MARKET** artists each month
- **VANILLA BEAN SHOW**, April 2024

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL HUGHEY

Michael W. Hughey, Craftsman and Artist in letterforms and the book arts has had a love affair with beautiful letters and beautiful books since childhood. Through his unique work he translates an ancient & noble craft into elegant graphic statements. He blends an informed and disciplined craftsmanship with the essential qualities of strength and harmony to create beauty in contemporary designs. Originally from Asheville, he lived for many years in NC but now resides in ne CT. He is a juried Life Member of the nation's second oldest craft guild and a founder of calligraphy organizations in California and North Carolina. His calligraphic works are published both nationally and internationally and collected in public and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum, NYC, and the Bahá'i World Centre, Haifa, Israel. He feels that even in an age of increasing technology, "...there is, indeed, an important place in human society for the warmth, beauty, and grace that calligraphy can bring to our lives."

He will exhibit note cards, limited-edition prints, and original calligraphy at the Ashford Farmer's Market, Dec. 3rd & 17th, 10AM to 12:30 PM. He also teaches both calligraphy & handwriting privately.



**All four of the artists shown will be at the
Ashford Farmer's Market in December.
10AM to 12:30AM at Knowlton Hall (Babcock Library)**



John Boiano

John Boiano - Dec. 3rd

Oakes Hollow Mud Werks
John is a potter who creates usable art inspired by nature. He is continually delving into new color schemes and design styles that borrow from the past while expanding creative boundaries.



Xiaohong Song Basketry
photo by Dot Drobney

Xiaohong Song will bring her handcrafts to the market on **Dec. 3rd**. Her woven baskets and jugs are functional and a work of art!



Dan Rackliffe

Find Dan Rackliffe at the market Dec. 17.

Dan has been an active potter since 2014. He teaches hand building techniques and working on the potters wheel. His traditional stoneware is oven safe, dishwasher safe and microwave safe and lead free.

FOLLOW US - ashfordarts.org &
<https://www.facebook.com/ashfordarts>

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

You do not have to be an artist or live in Ashford, to join our group!

Membership: \$30 Donation
October 1st - September 31st

Please Circle One:

- Visual Arts
- Writing/Poetry
- Performance Arts
- Supporter of the arts.

Name: Email:
Phone: Please circle if you'd like to: • demo
Bus. Name: • teach • perform • poetry readings
Website: • take workshops
Mailing Address:

FOR MEMBERSHIP CONTACT:

AAAC Membership Director
PO Box 313

Ashford, CT 06278

Check Payable To:

WINDHAM ARTS ORGANIZATION

MEMO Line: AAAC MEMBERSHIP

Looking for residential accounts
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Mansfield line.

We do not provide services to the
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We do not clear snow from vehicles or shovel.

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John Henderson, Proprietor

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860-918-0890

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Home Heating Assistance

Please **DO NOT** apply online for this program!!



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

487-4417

Income guidelines:

Family size of 1: \$41,553

Family size of 2: \$54,338

Family size of 3: \$67,124

Asset limits: No asset limits

Family size of 4: \$79,910

Family size of 5: \$92,695

Family size of 6: \$105,481

Required Documentation:

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

Social Security #s for all household members

Most recent Eversource bill

Proof of SNAP benefit (food stamps)

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



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Masonic, fire department,
musical instruments.....And much more.

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Planning & Zoning Commission

Interstate Interchange Development Zone

Public Survey

The Ashford Planning and Zoning Commission wants your input regarding potential changes to zoning regulations pertaining to the Interstate Interchange Development Zone (IID).

A short 6-question survey can be found on the Town's website, by scanning the QR Code below or navigating the web address shown. Hard copies are also available at Town Hall.

Responses will be collected until December 31



SCAN ME!



SCANNING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Open the Camera App on your Smart Phone and hold over QR Code
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. A link should appear which you can click and follow to the survey.
4. If you have trouble with the link, or do not have a Smart Phone, you can manually type in the survey URL at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AshfordIID>

Thank you for your participation and important feedback!



Go Green: Pay your bills online

All Tax Bills that are payable are posted online. The new supplemental motor vehicle tax bills will be available on the website in December 2023 and are available for payment if there is a shopping cart next to it. An **e-check** costs \$.95, the credit card fee is 2.99%. If you use a debit card, you must treat it as a credit card, and the 2.99% fee applies. Minimum fee for credit/debit cards is \$3.95. 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.

During January 2024, the collector and assessor offices will be closed to the public on Fridays in order to process mail, online payments, post any adjustments that are necessary, and continue the completion of the Grand List. All Town Offices are closed on Thursdays and legal holidays including Dec. 25th and Dec. 26th, and Jan. 1st.

Go to: www.ashfordtownhall.org. To enter, the portal looks like this:



How to PAY Your Taxes Online

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



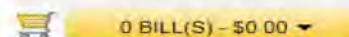
2. In the search bar enter your last name, space, and first initial.
Ex. Name: John Smith

Enter the search criteria below:

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.

2014-01-1631

- 2014 is the **Grand List**

2014-01-1631

- 01 is Real Estate

- 02 Is Personal Property
- 03 is Motor Vehicle
- 04 is Motor Vehicle Supplement

2014-01-1631

- 1631 is the bill number

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

BILL #
2014-01-0001631 00170100-LIEN
(REAL ESTATE)
2015-01-0001631 00170100-LIEN
(REAL ESTATE)
2016-01-0001604 00170100-LIEN

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 **Continue to Payment Information**
 - Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards

8. Enter Payment information, Review, and Submit.
 - There is a 2.99% fee for Credit and Debit Cards as of June 20, 2023. Minimum fee for Credit and Debit Cards will be \$3.95.
 - There is a **\$.95** fee for Checking Account (**Reduced from \$1.95**)

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HENRY DOBRINSKI

58 HARTFORD TPK (RTE 44)

EASTFORD, CT 06242



Police Report—Troop C

Total Calls for Service

68

Total Calls This Year

1054

	October	YTD
Accidents	8	66
Criminal Investigations	8	64
Burglaries	0	1
Larcenies	1	4
Non Reportable Matters	51	753

Total Arrests	2	27
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 christian@lofcarpentryct.com

860-712-8624

christian@lofcarpentryct.com

December 2023 Conservation Commission News

Ashford Farmers Market Winter Market

The winter market will begin in December. The market will be on the first and third Sundays of the month from December 2023 thru April 2024. The market will run from 10:00-12:30PM. Please note the half hour earlier closing than our regular market. Knowlton Memorial Hall, the stone building next to the Town Hall on RT 44 will be the site of our winter market. Many of the vendors you have come to rely on will be present for this market. We are quite excited to expand our market to the entire year. We know that the Ashford residents will appreciate this addition and will continue to support the vendors as they have for the past 17 years

Survey for IID Zone

Our CC has been working on a survey we sent to the PZC that they requested from all commissions. PZC are examining the present regulations and are planning to amend these regulations for the IID zone. PZC wanted input from town commissions and residents. We appreciate the support that we received from many residents who either attended our meeting to share their views and/or sent in emails expressing their views. It is extremely helpful to us when we hear from our Ashford residents about what they envision for our beautiful and special town. Please see page 9 here in this, the December issue, for a the survey. It is a short 6 question survey. Please take the time to complete, your input is important.

The Conservation Commission meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm. All are welcome at our meetings. We hope to continue meeting in person at the town hall.

Happy Holidays to all and may the New Year 2024 be a healthy and green year for all of us.

Loretta Wrobel, chair





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Biking Routes	Designated Scenic Roads
Playgrounds	Historic Trails and Roads

and more!

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Our Town Our Future - Ashford, CT

Topline

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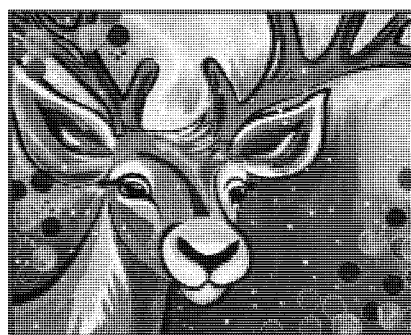
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facebook.com/artnites



December 2023

Tips for the Holidays

Holidays are the best time to connect with family and friends, but parties and gift giving often creates extra waste. Learn what you can do to keep your holidays as green as possible.

Giving Gifts

- Think green before you shop the holiday sales. Bring your own reusable cloth bag for carrying your purchases, and try to buy items with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content.
- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper. Also remember to save or recycle your used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.
- Send recycled content greeting cards and remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.
- Bake cookies or other goodies and package them in reusable and/or recyclable containers as gifts. Homemade goodies show how much you care and help you avoid packaging waste.
- When gifting flowers, consider buying long-lasting silk flowers, potted plants, or live bushes, shrubs, or trees that can be planted in the spring as gifts.

Green Parties and Events

- If you host a party, set the table with cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses, and silverware. Also save and reuse party hats, decorations, and favors.
- After holiday festivities, put leftovers in recyclable containers, and share them with family, friends, or others. Donate untouched leftovers from parties to a local food bank or homeless shelter.
- After parties, fill your dishwasher up completely before running it. You will run fewer cycles, which saves energy.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-waste-what-you-can-do>

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.



ASHFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

While October was Fire Safety Month, inclusive of Fire Prevention Week, we are now approaching the holidays, from Thanksgiving to New Year's, with all their special fire hazards. From fires sparked by holiday decorations to kitchen fires from unattended cooking, it's the time of year for increased fire calls – and an increase in the number of fire deaths and injuries, and the heartbreak when they involve children.

NFPA fire statistics confirm that during the winter months – and particularly the holiday season – the number of structure fires increases.

Keep the Wreath Red

A visual reminder of fire danger

Now in its third year, our department has duplicated a program entitled "Keep the Wreath Red," originated in 1954 by the Naperville (Illinois) Fire Department and then adopted in 1980 by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

The concept is simple, with "Keep the Wreath Red," our fire station displays a holiday wreath, large enough to be seen by passersby or vehicle traffic and decorated in all red holiday lights. For each fire we are called to, from Thanksgiving to New Years, one white light replaces a red light on the wreath.

What we've found is that our residents will glance over to see if any of the red-light bulbs have changed to white. That action, even if just a fraction of second, subconsciously prompts a reminder to our citizens of our holiday fire safety messages. It's a subtle reminder that fires are always possible during the holidays, and that your fire department will be there if you need us.



Will you help us to 'Keep the Wreath Red'?

From everyone at AVFD, we wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday season.

The call count for October was 8 Fire/Rescue and 39 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 280.

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
VP/Captain - AVFD Station 20

Commemorating the Hungarian Revolution: A Dinner of History, Heritage, and Gratitude

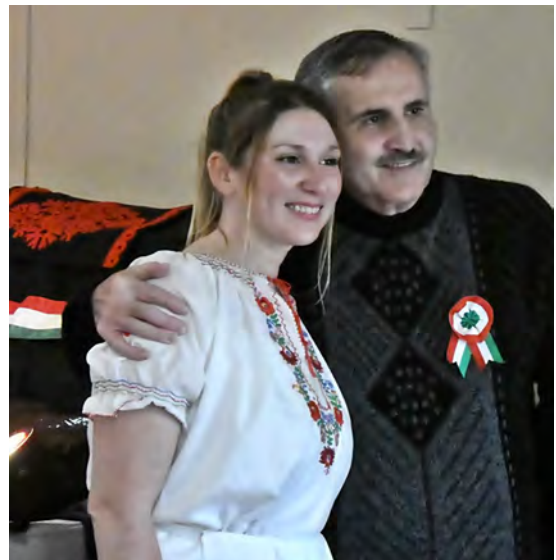
Commemorating the Hungarian Revolution: A Dinner of History, Heritage, and Gratitude

In tribute to Hungary's defining moment, the annual Hungarian Revolution Dinner blends history and flavor, creating a poignant celebration. Set against a backdrop of crimson and white, reminiscent of the Hungarian flag, the dinner unfolded with a menu steeped in tradition. buffet Gulyás, Chicken Paprikas, homemade buttered nookedli with mushrooms, take center stage, symbolizing the resilience witnessed in 1956 when the Hungarians rose against the invading Soviet armed forces.

Amidst clinking glasses and the aroma of beet pálinka and **Bulls**blood wine, a heartfelt toast reverberates, honoring the heroes of the revolution. The dinner transforms into a collective experience, intertwining past and present through shared stories and reflections on the revolution's lasting impact. The guest speakers spoke of their experience in 1956 fleeing Budapest and the missing friends and relatives whose fate remain unlearned.

A special thank you extends to all attendees and donors, whose generosity made the event memorable. The Hungarian Social Club's hardworking members played a vital role, ensuring the evening's success. Gratitude also extends to sponsors including Westford Hill Distillery, Hyde Country Store, Mrs. Lorraine Cloutier, The Bench Shop, Mrs. Amy Gronus, Mansfield Tree Service, Selectman Cathryn Silver-Smith, and Mr. Jeff Silver-Smith.

One poignant picture captures the essence of the evening, featuring Mr. Steve Taborosi, a 1956 refugee from New Britain, and Miss Avery Gratton of Willimantic. Together, they embody the spirit of remembrance and gratitude that defines the Hungarian Revolution Dinner.



Ashford School Readiness Council

Playgroup



A play group
for children ages 4 and under and
their parents

When: Friday Mornings
8:30-9:30 AM

Where: Ashford School

Contact: Melissa McDonough or Ginger Lusa
for more information
860-429-6419

Join us for free play, crafts,
parent discussion & support!

THOMPSON'S CLEANING SERVICE



RESIDENTIAL ★ SMALL BUSINESS
FREE ESTIMATES ★ BONDED & INSURED
90 ASHFORD ROAD ASHFORD, CT 06278

DEBRA M. THOMPSON
Owner
(860) 428-9874

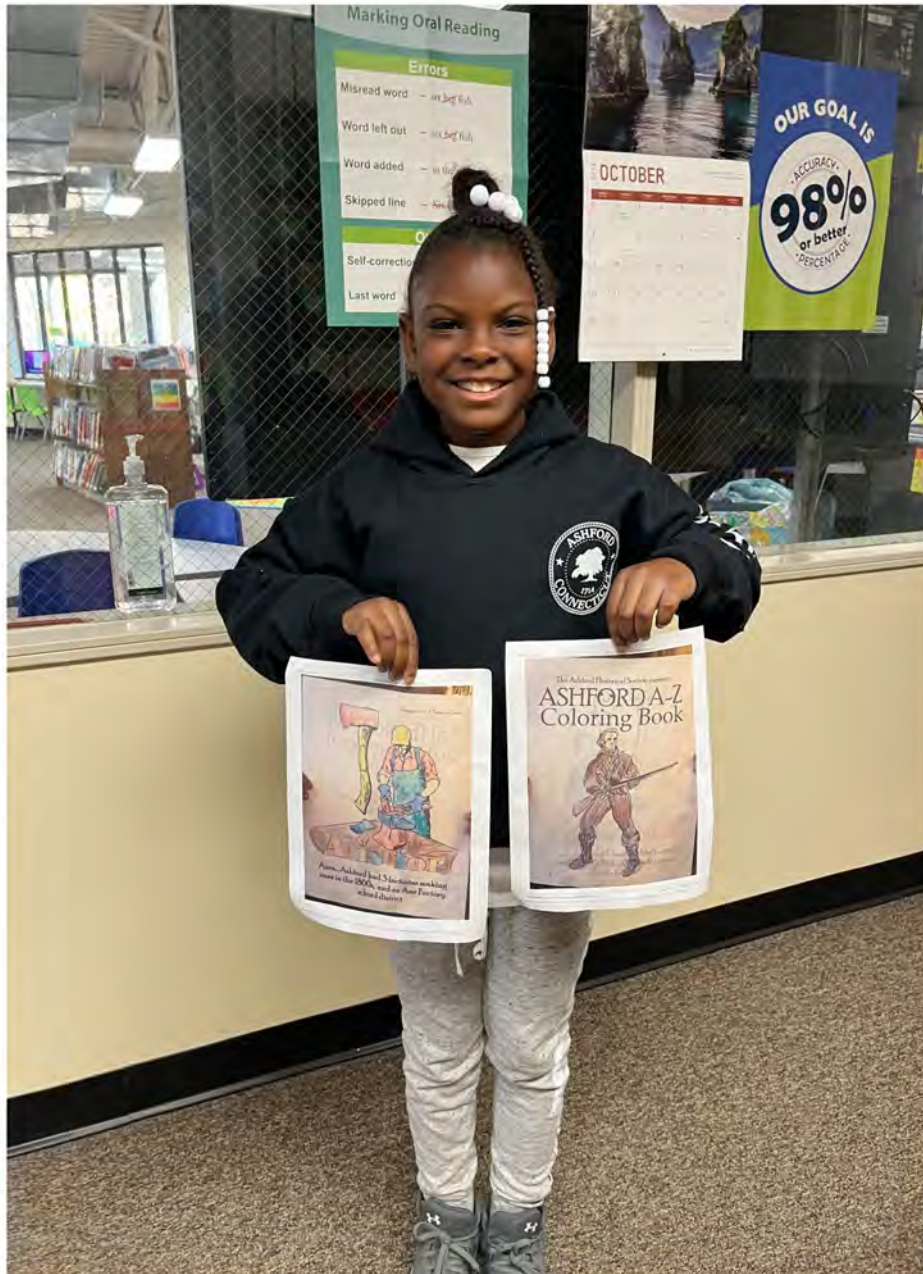
www.thompsonscleaningservice.com

MEDeiros AND SONS INFLATABLES LLC



Ashford Historical Society Announcement

The Ashford Historical Society is pleased to share this picture of our Coloring Contest winner, **Aniyah Montgomery**. Aniyah is a third grader at Ashford School. Our contest was a sneak peek of a coloring book that we hope to publish next year. What a beautiful job Aniyah did adding color to the amazing artwork by Drew Driscoll! Special thanks to everyone who participated in the contest. We loved seeing your artwork!



No Monthly Meeting in December
Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 24th 7pm Knowlton Hall



THE ASHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

*mix and mingle with your neighbors
and enjoy a*

Festive Celebration

AT

WESTFORD HILL DISTILLERS
196 CHATEY RD, ASHFORD, CT

10 DECEMBER, 2023 | 1-4PM

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE
COMPLETION OF THE PAINTING OF
ASHFORD BY TOM MENARD

SEE THE ORIGINAL AND MEET THE ARTIST
PRINTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

ALSO AVAILABLE
ASHFORD APPAREL &
A GLIMPSE OF THE LOST MILL SITES OF
ASHFORD, BY RICHARD SYMONDS

JOSHUA'S TRUST



Joshua's Trust activities, events and walks for December and early January are summarized below. For details, updates or cancellations, go to <https://joshuastrust.org/events/>

Harvey Preserve Preview Hike

December 9 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Harvey Preserve 41°48'N, 72°9'16" W (Federal Rd, Chaplin. Midway between Tower Hill Rd and Davis Rd on west side of road), Chaplin.

Join us at the newly blazed Harvey Preserve across the street from 68 Federal Rd in Chaplin as we pay tribute to Sam Harvey and showcase the land that he cared for and generously donated to Joshua's Trust. We'll meet at the new parking area before hiking along the approximately 1.2-mile trail.

Nature Journaling with Arts & Crafts

December 9 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Atwood Farm 624 Wormwood Hill Road, Mansfield Center, CT

Bring your enthusiasm for the natural world and leave with a personal journal, inspired by the landscape of Atwood Farm. This workshop is an opportunity to engage with nature in a dynamic way. (Ages 12 and up. Activity limited to 12 participants).

First Day Hike at Pigeon Swamp Preserve

January 1, 2024 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Pigeon Swamp Pigeon Swamp Road, Lebanon, Connecticut

Join us for a 2.25 mile New Year's day hike through multiple habitats including pasture, wetlands and forested areas.

PLEASE NOTE !!!



Christmas Holiday

**ASCO Public Bingo
will not be held on**

December 26th

Thank you for your understanding

Ashford Senior Center Organization

Voting for all officers of ASCO will be on

December 20, 2023, at 11 am in the Senior Center Hall.

The following positions are being voted on:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

All members are encouraged to attend.

If you wish to run for an office,
please be at the meeting on Dec. 20 at 11 am and
have someone who will nominate you.

If you have a question about the positions or their duties,
please email it to asco_ct@yahoo.com by Dec 12.

2023-2024

CALENDAR OF CULTURAL ARTS EVENTS

**OCT
20**

NAPPY'S PUPPETS

Spooky Silly Singalong
Grades 1-3 • Cafeteria

1:30 PM

**NOV
3**

FRISBEE GUY

Playshop
Grade 7 • Gym

1:00 PM

Assembly
Whole School • Gym

2:00 PM

**NOV
6**

NAT'L THEATRE FOR CHILDREN

Energy Academy
Grades 3-5 • Cafeteria

1:30 PM

**DEC
15**

TRAVELING LANTERN THEATRE

1:30 PM

A Christmas Carol
Grades 5-8 • Cafeteria

**FEB
12**

THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE

Whole School • Gym

2:00 PM

**MAR
8**

ZUZU AFRICAN ACROBATS

Whole School • Gym

2:00 PM

**APR
12**

AMAZING MATH WIZARDS

Grades K-3 • Cafeteria

1:30 PM

**MAY
3**

SYREN MODERN DANCE

2:00 PM

Science of Dance
Grades 3-8 • Gym

**MAY
17**

GREAT AGE OF SAILING

Sea Shanties w/ Bonnie Milner & Deirdre Murtha
Grades 5-8

1:10 PM

Grades PreK-4

2:20 PM

SPONSORED BY THE ASHFORD SCHOOL PTO



Scout Troop 92 December Newsletter

Activities: Scouts visited Ashford's Fire Station and were shown how equipment is used for fire and rescue work.

Wolfden camp out: Webelos and their parents will be joining the Troop midday Saturday to go with Scouts for a hike and then spend the night. 8 Cub Scouts and 8 Adults in addition to the Troop..

Bring a compass (we will need extras to show the Webelos) as we plan to do some orienteering as part of the hike.

It is supposed to rain during the day, we will be hiking rain or shine so be sure to bring rain gear and extra clothing as it is forecasted to get cold Saturday night.

Bring a second sleeping bag for Saturday night, the temperature will be below freezing and it's always better to have extra warmth.

Cub Scouts collected food for the Scouting for food campaign in November. Non perishable food was presented to the local food pantry.

The bear scouts have been learning how to respect and observe nature. They went for a hike at Fenton Ruby Park and made pinecone bird feeders as part of their badge requirements.

Upcoming events: Cub Scouts will hold a "Rain Gutter Regatta." This is a lung powered sailboat race. The race will be held at Knowlton Memorial Hall on Dec 1, at 7 PM.

Scouts plan to have a Holiday Party in December. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Scout meetings are the first and third Tuesday of the month. New members are welcome.

Scout Troop 92 BSA
Ashford/Eastford/Pomfret

Nord Yakovleff Ast Sct Mstr
Jesse Burnham Scout Master
Chris Murphy Ast Sct Mstr
Kurt van Heiningen Cubmaster
Rob Hany Committee Chair



Cub Scouts learn to observe and respect nature. They made pinecone bird feeders as part of their badge requirement.



Fireman Rob Churnuk explains equipment and procedures for fire and rescue to Scouts.



Cub Scouts on a Hike at Fenton Ruby Park.

Houses of Worship

Events & Happenings



Advent Season

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

DECEMBER 3 - Candle 1 symbolizes **HOPE**.

"The Prophet's Candle" is purple.

DECEMBER 10 - Candle 2 symbolizes **PEACE**.

"The Bethlehem Candle" is purple.

DECEMBER 17 - Candle 3 represents **JOY**.

"The Shepherd's Candle" is pink.

DECEMBER 24 - Candle 4 represents **LOVE**.

"The Angel's Candle" is purple.

DECEMBER 25 - Candle 5 represents the Advent Child, **JESUS**.

"The Christ's Candle" is white.



9:30AM - Sunday School

"Who I am in Christ" by Neil Anderson

10:30AM - Worship Service

December 24 - Christmas Service- Lessons & Carols

368 Westford Hill Road, Ashford, CT 06278

ClerkWCC@gmail.com • (959)-995-1705

All Places of Worship in Ashford
are welcome to submit their
Events and Happenings
Please e-mail:
Ashfordcitizen@ashfordtownhall.org

*The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-Day Saints*



Sunday Meeting Schedule

Sacrament Meeting ~ 10:00am

Sunday School/Priesthood/Relief Society ~ 11:00am

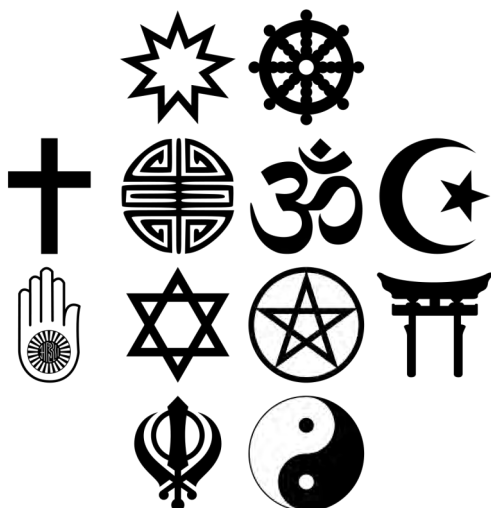
525 Ashford Center Road, Ashford

(860) 429-8681

Bishop Bruce Fountain

We're a Christ-focused community, doing our
Best to love and serve others.
There's a place for you here.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Ashford School News and Happenings

Fall was quite a rainy month but at Ashford School there was plenty of fun spirit!

The primary grade had a Halloween parade.

The older kids, as well, took part in the Halloween spirit!

Here are just a few fun photos from the day.



Upcoming Events

Thursday, Dec. 7th	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7th	Lifetouch Picture Retake	
Thursday, Dec. 21st	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 22nd	Early Dismissal	12:25 p.m.
Monday, Dec 25th - Monday, Jan. 1st	Winter Recess - No School	





Greetings to the Ashford Community From Cynthia Ford, Superintendent

Wow, time is going fast. Congratulations to those who prevailed in the most recent elections. I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with the town governing body. We all share the same goal, moving Ashford forward in a positive manner while being fiscally responsible. We may not all agree on what degree of fiscal responsibility and where the focus should fall but I believe we can all come together to have those discussions respectfully.

Building Update:

Generator is planned to be delivered at the end of November and the automatic switch has been installed. An architect for the roof replacement project has been selected by the Board of Selectman in collaboration with the Building Committee. We are working with the state on the non-priority grant process which will provide the town with the going reimbursement rate towards the project once completed. Currently that reimbursement rate is 66.79% for general construction in 2024. We will begin working in collaboration with the town in submitting the financial records for reimbursement for our Underground Storage Tank (UST) in the coming months. This project was completed this past summer.

Two times a month during the BOE meetings there is an update to all building projects if you are looking for continuous information around needed updates being completed at the school.

BOE Meetings:

December 7, 2023 and December 21, 2023 are the next regularly scheduled meetings. The second meeting of each month is when the curriculum committee meets. At a prior board meeting, it is decided which school committee will be invited to present a subject or curricular area report to the BOE. 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.

After School Care Program:

This program is going well. Please contact me with any questions. The staff, Caitlyn, Sarah, and Marilynn, work very hard to make the program a success. They thoroughly enjoy working with your children.

Budget Process:

Ashford School Superintendent and Business Manager will be holding a Saturday morning work session for preparing the 2024-2025 school year budget. We want to hear from the public on the wants and needs of the community. This is a great opportunity for those that are unable to attend Thursday evening Board meetings to voice their thoughts. **Please join us from 10:00am to 12:00 pm on December 2, 2023.**

Light refreshments will be provided.

Starting in late December the budget process will be a topic of discussion at the BOE meeting. Please tune in to hear the rich discussion around our students and how to budget for the upcoming year. It is important for everyone to see that this is a collaborative approach with the teachers and all the different departments. We do our best to predict the unknown expenses that may pop up during the school years. The team looks at every line to determine what is needed to maintain and continue to push our students forward into our ever changing complex world. This can be very challenging for small districts because one to two students can affect the bottom line. The budget is developed with the Board of Education goals as the guide and we look at every cost savings opportunity.

Early Childhood Registration:

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 share this information with any friends or neighbors who have young children.

Please call the school at (860) 429-6419 with your child's information or email it to sschillinger@ashfordct.org.



ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes	2
3	4 11:00 Hairdresser 1:00 Mah Jong	5 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 11:00 Crafts 1:00 Birthday Party 6:00 Big Bingo	6 11:00 Lunch Bunch (Golden Greek)	7 12:00 Dime Bingo	8 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 10:00 COA—Cookie Swap Music & Pizza 1:00 Dominoes	9 11:00 Pumpkin Town Ride
10	11 9:30 COA Mtg 9:30 Casino 1:00 Mah Jong	12 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 10:00 Aqua Turf 6:00 Big Bingo	13	14 10:00 Trader Joe's 12:00 Dime Bingo	15 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes 3:00 Holiday Lights	16 3:00 Snow Date for Holiday
17 3:00 English Country	18 10:00 Walmart 1:00 Mah Jong	19 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 12:00 Holiday Lunch 6:00 Big Bingo	20 11:00 ASCO Board	21 12:00 Dime Bingo	22 9:30 Tai Chi (Sr Ctr) 11:00 Lunch Bunch (Shady Glen)	23
24/31	25 Holiday	26 Holiday	27	28 12:00 Dime Bingo	29 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes	30

ASHFORD COMMISSION ON AGING
COME, JOIN THE HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Bring some cookies & take some home!

*Cookie
Swap*

DECEMBER
08
10:00AM

Enjoy socializing with friends,
optional craft making, pizza lunch,
& singing along with Marian Varga!

ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER | 25 TREMKO LANE

ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER

**ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON**

TUESDAY
DEC 19 | 12:00 | \$13.00

Celebrate the Season
*with good friends
and good cheer!*

25 TREMKO LANE - 860-487-5122

From the Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Kit Eves 860-487-5122



Just a reminder that the Center follows the Ashford School schedule for snow days. If the school is closed so will the Ashford Senior Center. If there is a delay in opening, the Center will also have a delay.

There are some wonderful Events scheduled for December

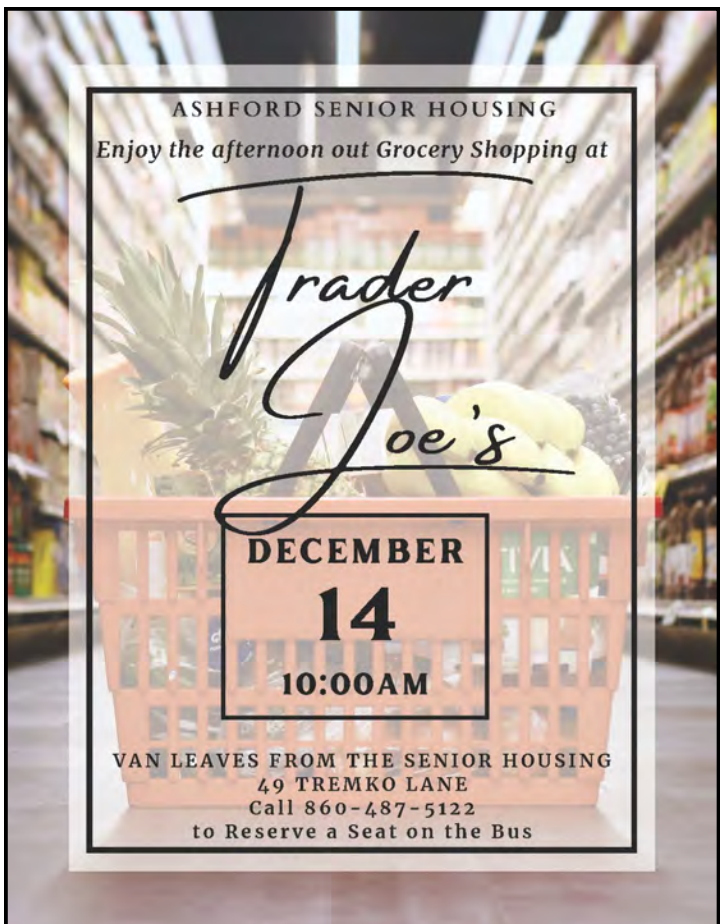
- Dec. 5th - Birthday Party Celebration for all December Birthdays
- Dec. 6th - Lunch Bunch 1 at The Golden Greek in Dayville
- Dec. 8th - Commission on Aging (COA) Cookie Swap with Pizza Lunch and Music
- Dec. 9th - Pumpkin Town Christmas Ride and Lunch at Sadler's in Marlborough
- Dec. 11th - Casino Trip to Mohegan Sun
- Dec. 12th - Lunch at Aqua Turf
- Dec. 14th - Trader Joe's in Manchester
- Dec. 15th - Holiday Lights and Dinner at Bidwell Tavern in Coventry
- Dec. 19th - Ashford Senior Center Holiday Luncheon
- Dec. 22nd - Lunch Bunch 2 at Shady Glen

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Dime Bingo Money Counter - Thursdays from 12 – 3. In the past, we have had an individual whose job it was to collect and distribute all the money for the Dime Bingo. Ideally, this person would not be participating in the game. Should several folks come forward, we can rotate the weeks.

Medical Appointment Drivers - Are you willing to drive someone to medical appointments? There get many calls from Ashford residents who need a ride to their medical appointments. You can set your own parameters (day, time, distance, season, etc.). You can make a difference with this volunteer opportunity.

In closing, The Center has many lovely Holiday greeting cards available for free. Please come visit and find a card for a loved one. Birthday, Get Well, Thinking of You, etc. all available as well.





Babcock Library News

25 Pompey Hollow Road

Ashford, CT 06278

Your Center for Life-Long Learning

Phone: 860-487-4420 * Website babcocklibrary.org * email: director@babcocklibrary.org



December 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 EMMA JOHN

STACEY

LIBBY

AVAILABLE 24 / 7!

LIBBY OFFERS E-BOOKS

& AUDIOBOOKS -

ACCESSIBLE ON MOBILE

DEVICES!

Check Facebook
for Additions
and Updates!

Holiday Trimmings Swap!

Bring your tinsel, garlands, extra ornaments and holiday decorating items to trade with others!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

**KNOWLTON MEMORIAL HALL
10AM—1PM**



Library Trim-A-Tree Ornament Crafting!

Come to Babcock Library
to make
Holiday Ornaments!

Help Decorate the tree
Here at Babcock Library!

**Wednesday, December 6
5pm—7:30pm**

ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED

Gift Wrapping Party!

Need to get your gifts wrapped without prying eyes? Come wrap your gifts in a social setting. Show off your skills or learn a few new tricks!

Bring your gifts to wrap and we will provide a variety of wrapping paper and ribbons

**Wednesday, December 20
Knowlton Memorial Hall
5pm —7:30pm**

SNACKS AND HOT CHOCOLATE TOO!



View Decorated
Gingerbread Houses
too at the Gift
Wrapping
Party on
December 20!



**FRIENDS OF BABCOCK
LIBRARY MEETING**

USUALLY 3RD TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH @
2:30PM

**LIBRARY BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEETING**

USUALLY 4TH TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH @ 10AM

**EMBROIDERY &
KNITTERS GROUP**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
@ 1PM

**CHILDREN'S
STORYTIME & CRAFT**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
@ 10:30AM

UKULELE LESSONS

1ST WEDNESDAY OF
EACH MONTH.
CALL TO SCHEDULE

Gingerbread Houses

Build and decorate a Gingerbread House
and then display it December 20
at the Gift Wrapping Party in Knowlton Memorial Hall

Return the completed Gingerbread House to display at
the Gift Wrapping Event being held in
Knowlton Memorial Hall on December 20!

Gingerbread Kits are provided by the Library

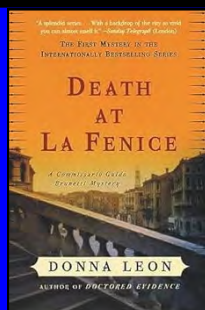


*Please call to reserve a kit
@ 860-487-4420*

*Limited to 12 participants
Pick up kit on Dec. 6, 8, or 9*

JANUARY LIBRARY EVENTS PREVIEW

- **MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION TUES. JANUARY 2 @ 1PM**
- **COOKING CLUB WED. JANUARY 10 @ 6:30PM**
- **LIBRARY HISTORY / BIRTHDAY WED. JANUARY 17 @ 5PM**
- **LITERARY BOOK DISCUSSION TUES. JANUARY 23 @ 1PM**
- **COFFEE & CHAT WITH THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR FRI. JANUARY 26 @ 9AM**



**MYSTERY BOOK
DISCUSSION!**

TUES, DECEMBER 5, 2023 @ 1PM
DEATH AT LA FENICE
BY DONNA LEON

COOKING CLUB!

THE THEME FOR
DECEMBER IS COOKIES!
PLEASE BRING ABOUT 30
COOKIES FOR SHARING AND
SAMPLING!

**MONTHLY, ON THE 2ND
WEDNESDAY @ 6:30PM**

DECEMBER 13: COOKIE SWAP!
JANUARY 10: COMFORT FOOD!

*PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE
@ 860-487-4420*

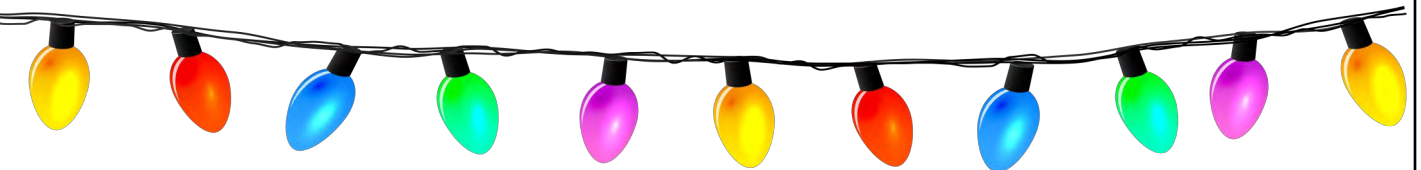
LITERARY BOOK DISCUSSION!

TUES, DECEMBER 26, 2023 @ 1PM
NIGHTBITCH: A NOVEL
BY RACHEL YODER



Recreation Reminders!

These programs are sponsored by Ashford Parks & Recreation Commission 860-487-4409.



Carol Sing & TREE LIGHTING

***Knowlton
Memorial Hall
Sunday DEC. 3rd
4:30 p.m.***



**Join us for some
Nostalgic
Hometown Holiday
Festivities
Sure to Fill your Hearts
with the Spirit
of the Season!**



**Best of all,
a Visit
from
Santa!**

Music by the Babcock Band, Homemade Soup, Bread & Holiday Treats!

BASKETBALL



LAKES REGION LEAGUE –for Kids in Grades 3-8 is off and running fastbreaks! League games begin on 12/2.

HIGH SCHOOL REC. BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Teams form after the school teams finish tryouts! (Dec. 4th) Ashford, Willington, and Mansfield Students Welcome Contact Recreation Directors Sherry York 860-487-4409 or James Callahan 860-487-3108 for dates, times, and details.

***Varsity Boys (Grades 11 & 12)**

***JV Boys (Grades 9 & 10)**

Registration form and payment required before you practice. Fee: \$120
Practice 1 or 2x weekly with games primarily on the weekends!

INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL for students in Grades 1 & 2,

Session I - Saturdays 1/6/24 thru 2/10/24, 8:30-9:30a.m.

Session II - Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Begins in Feb.) Dates T.B.A .

Starts after Ashford school teams finishes. Fee: one session \$40, both sessions \$70.

START the NEW YEAR in the TRANQUILITY ZONE! Join us Tuesday Jan. 2nd at 6pm for a special evening of Yoga, with Karrie Kirchner and Tai Chi with Joe Pandolfo and Soul Healing Rhythms. The class is designed to enhance your focus and flexibility, gently stretch your mind and body, move your soul and balance your energy. Watch for more details, sign up early, because space is limited for this very special event!

**Y
O
G
A**



Current session runs
Tuesday Mornings
8:15-9:15 in
Knowlton Memorial Hall
Instructor:
Karrie Kirchner,
\$50 for
6 week session

Drop ins welcome! (\$10 per class)

**WEDNESDAY
EVENING
WINTER SESSION
5:30-6:30 pm
Starting in the
New Year!**

**ENGLISH
COUNTRY
DANCING**

**At the Ashford Senior Center Sunday Afternoons from 3-5 p.m.,
Dances are held monthly and will be on **December 11th and
January 8th.** Experience not needed, Come alone or bring a friend!
Contact: barbarareenna0012@gmail.com**

The Ashford Citizen
5 Town Hall Road
Ashford, CT 06278

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

Town of Ashford Tax Collector
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given to Ashford taxpayers that the second installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes, and the Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes on the Grand List of Oct. 1, 2022 becomes due and payable on Jan. 1, 2024, and is payable without interest penalty thru Feb. 1, 2024. Feb. 1st falls on a Thursday and Town Offices will not be open. The last in person day is Wed. Jan. 31st, 2024. There is a mill rate of 33.085 for real estate and personal property, and 32.46 for motor vehicles. (After Feb. 1, 2024 interest will accrue at 1½% per month from the due date of Jan. 1, or a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Hence, during Feb., the interest is calculated at 3%, or the minimum of \$2.00, whichever is greater.

Payment may be paid online, deposited in the black drop box next to the front door, postmarked, or in person with check during posted payment hours. Please have your payments prepared. NO CASH.

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

For the purpose of collecting said tax, I shall be at the Ashford Town Offices as follows:

Mon., Tues., 8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Wednesday: 10:00 A.M to 5:30 P.M.

The Assessor's Office Hours will be the same.

The Offices are closed to public on Fridays in order to process mail, online payments, and work on the Grand List.

All Offices are CLOSED EVERY THURSDAY, and all Legal Holidays.

PLEASE have checks made out to the Ashford Tax Collector. **INCLUDE** one copy of the bill with payment. If a receipt is requested, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with payment.

Payments may be:

1. Paid online @www.ashfordtownhall.org

E-check cost is \$.95. Credit cards are 2.99%

Debit cards must be treated as credit cards.

Minimum Fee on credit/ debit cards is \$3.95.

2. Put in the black drop box, checks only.

3. Mailed to:

Ashford Tax Collector

P.O. Box 173

Ashford, CT. 06278

Tax questions: Call 860-487-4411, or email taxcollector@ashfordtownhall.org

Assessment questions, call 860-487-4403, or email assessor@ashfordtownhall.org

View bills online at: www.ashfordtownhall.org

Dated at Ashford, this 13th day of Nov. 2023.

Linda G. Gagne CCMC

Ashford Tax Collector

1st Notice for Dec. 2023 Citizen

