



ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

Volume 55

Issue 1

January 1, 2024

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

*~Helen Kovarovics*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May 2024 be a year of good health and happiness for you and yours! I'd also like 2024 to be a new opportunity for all of us to work together for the benefit of our lovely rural town. To that end, I would like to keep you informed of issues, plans, and activities that can affect all of us - and encourage your feedback and involvement.

### KEY GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES - JANUARY:

- Initial 2024-2025 budget and capital improvement planning
- Planning & Zoning Commission review of December IID Zone public survey results and the start of soliciting input from each town agency for use in updating the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development

**A CHANGE:** Effective January 1, the town will begin charging a \$50 fee for use of Knowlton Memorial Hall, the Senior Center, and the Old Post Office for private parties/events and will donate the money collected to the town's food pantry. A \$50 fully refundable cleaning fee will also be charged to defray any extra cleaning expense. Anyone who reserved one of these 3 locations prior to January 1 for a private event to be held in 2024 is exempt from these charges, as are all entities who are not charged for Ashford Citizen ads today.

**AN OPPORTUNITY:** A portion of the federal infrastructure money budgeted for deploying dependable high-speed internet service nationwide has been allocated to Connecticut, and a program is being developed by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to identify Town Grant Areas eligible for these funds. The program is based on the number of households in town without adequate internet, which is why we need to hear from you if your location has any one of these 3 internet service issues:

- Unserved: Your location has an internet speed below 25 Mbps/3 Mbps.
- Underserved: Your location has an internet speed below 100 Mbps/20 Mbps or DSL (internet through your phone) is the only service offered in your location.
- Expense is too high: You have tried to obtain basic internet service and found that the cost to get connected is too high to afford. You can check your internet speed at <https://www.speedtest.net/>, then report results by email to [firstselectman@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:firstselectman@ashfordtownhall.org) by January 31 to let us know if any you fall under any of the 3 categories.

Best Regards,

Cathryn

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Town Offices Directory

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

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

### Ashford Town Offices Public Hours:

**Assessor, Selectmen's Office, Tax Collector,**  
**Town Clerk, Land Use Dept:**

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

**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 on**

Monday, January 1st  
New Year's Day



Monday, January 15th  
Martin Luther King Jr.

**Assessor and Tax Collector Offices are CLOSED  
to the public on Fridays during January.  
Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> will be the last  
in person day to make an on time payment.  
DO NOT use the Drop Box after  
5 P.M. on January 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Town Offices are closed on all Thursdays.**



### \*\*\* *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](mailto: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](mailto:ashfordcitizen@ashfordtownhall.org)  
#860-487-4439

**TOWN OF ASHFORD  
LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-153d (b), a signed copy of the Master Agreement between Regional School District #19 Board of Education and E.O. Smith High School Teachers' Association for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027 has been filed with this office. The Agreement is available for public inspection during regular business hours of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Ashford, CT this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

Attest,  
Sherri L. Mutch, MMC, MCTC  
Ashford Town Clerk

***Happy New Year !***

**NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Ashford Connecticut

Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are

hereby notified that a caucus will be held on:

January 14, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. at 105 Nagy Road, Ashford, CT 06278

to **Endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee** and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2023

Democratic Town Committee of Ashford, CT.

Janet Bellamy Chairperson

All registered Ashford Democrats are welcome to attend the caucus and regular meeting of the Town Committee which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact [AshfordDTC@gmail.com](mailto:AshfordDTC@gmail.com) for questions, further information about joining on Zoom or in person when that is possible. Follow us on Facebook @AshfordDemocrats.

**Notice of Republican Caucus**

A Caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Ashford will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, January 13, 2024 to endorse candidates for a two-year term on the Ashford Republican Town Committee.

The caucus will be held in the first-floor meeting room of the Ashford town office building in Warrenville.

For more information, or to inquire about joining the Republican Town Committee, please contact Republican Chairman Gerald Nagy at [nagy.gerald@gmail.com](mailto:nagy.gerald@gmail.com) or 860-429-2973.

Submitted to the Ashford Citizen on December 4, 2023 by Gerald Nagy, Chairman  
ARTC.

LIST OF ASHFORD ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS			Total Voters 2861	
Tuesday, November 7, 2023			Total Voted 1340	
OFFICE	NAME OF PERSON ELECTED	PARTY	TERM	
			FROM	TO
First Selectman	Cathryn E. Silver-Smith	Dem	11/21/2023	11/18/2025
Selectman	William A. Falletti	Rep	11/21/2023	11/18/2025
	Roger T. Phillips	Dem	11/21/2023	11/18/2025
Board of Finance Full Term	Christina Davis	Dem	11/21/2023	11/20/2029
	Pamela Summers	Dem	11/21/2023	11/20/2029
Board of Finance TFV 2 Years	-----	----	11/7/2023	11/18/2025
Board fo Finance Alternate	Timothy Rhodes	Dem	11/21/2023	11/20/2029
Board of Education Full Term	Jennifer K. Leszczynski	Dem	11/7/2023	11/2/2027
	Alfred William Maccarone, Jr.	Dem	11/7/2023	11/2/2027
	Meghan E. Smith	Rep	11/7/2023	11/2/2027
	Amanda L. Cantrell	Rep	11/7/2023	11/2/2027
Board of Education TFV 2 Years	Chonte' Fields	Dem	11/7/2023	11/4/2025
Board of Assessment Appeals	Elizabeth K. Little	Dem	11/21/2023	11/16/2027
	Thomas C. Martin	Rep	11/21/2023	11/16/2027
Planning and Zoning Commission	Luther Brauch	Dem	11/8/2023	11/7/2029
	Thomas Hastings	Dem	11/8/2023	11/7/2029
	Janet Bellamy	Dem	11/8/2023	11/7/2029
Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate	Douglas C. Jenne	Dem	11/8/2023	11/5/2025
	Steven Petsch	Dem	11/8/2023	11/5/2025
Zoning Board of Appeals Full Term	Susan Eastwood	Dem	11/8/2023	11/3/2027
	Michael J. Peppin	Rep	11/8/2023	11/3/2027
Zoning Board of Appeals TFV 2 Years	John Lippert	Dem	11/7/2023	11/5/2025
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate TFV 2 Years	Catherine W. Sampson	Dem	11/7/2023	11/5/2025
Library Trustee Full Term	Barbara Becker	Dem	11/21/2023	11/20/2029
	Jean C. Lipker	Rep	11/21/2023	11/20/2029
Library Trustee TFV 4 Years	Jean N. McCarthy	Dem	11/7/2023	11/16/2027
Regional Board of Education	Anthony J. Paticchio	Dem	12/1/2023	12/1/2027
	Janice A. Chamberlain	Dem	12/1/2023	12/1/2027

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Deaths:



Margaret M. Martin	October 17, 2023
Edward Michael Serra	November 9, 2023
Wayne T. Michaud	November 21, 2023
Jonathan Cromwell Clark	December 3, 2023
Christy J. Clark	December 11, 2023

### Marriages:



Michael Edward Casco	December 9, 2023
Teri A. Selbe	



### Town of Ashford Job Announcement

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](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org) or in the Selectmen's office.

**ASHFORD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**



### Assistance to Ashford Veterans

If you are in need of advice for Veteran benefits, questions on assistance such as health care, burials, disability compensation, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, or pension, please visit on the first Wednesday of the month with the new hours of 5:00-6:00 pm. Appointments are preferred, especially if Wednesdays are a conflict, but walk-ins are welcome.

Call Garry at 860-928-2309 and leave a message. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help with your veteran issues: [Garry.brown71@aim.com](mailto:Garry.brown71@aim.com) and/or 860-928-2309. Always no cost ever for veterans and always confidential.

### VETERAN NOTES

The VA now screened 5MM veterans for PACT Act Presumptive disabilities. If you haven't yet, what's your reason?

Call Garry for more information at 860-928-2309





# Weather Safety

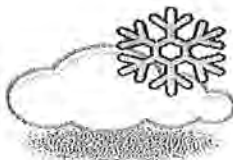
National Weather Service • Boston, MA



## Winter Weather Safety Tips

### Before the storm strikes...

- **In case of heat and power loss, have:**
  - A flashlight and extra batteries
  - Battery-powered NOAA weather radio
  - Extra food and water
  - Extra medicine and baby items
  - First aid supplies
  - Plenty of heating fuel
  - Emergency heat source
  - Fire extinguisher and smoke alarm
- **In vehicles:**
  - Fully check/winterize before winter.
  - **Carry a Winter Storm Survival Kit:**
    - Mobile phone, charger, batteries
    - Blankets/sleeping bags
    - Flashlight with extra batteries
    - First-aid kit
    - High-calorie, non-perishable food
    - Extra clothing to keep dry
    - Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
    - Shovel
    - Windshield scraper and brush
    - Tool kit
    - Battery booster cables
    - Water container
  - Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
  - Avoid traveling alone.
  - Let someone know your travel plan.



### If caught in a winter storm...

- **If outside, find shelter**
  - Try to stay dry, cover exposed skin.
  - If no shelter is available
    - Build a lean-to, windbreak, or snow cave for wind protection.
    - Build a fire for heat and to attract attention.
  - Melt snow for drinking water
    - Don't eat snow—it will lower your body temperature.
- **If in a vehicle, stay there**
  - Run the motor for about 10 minutes each hour for heat.
  - Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked, and open the window slightly to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
  - Turn on dome light when running the engine at night to be visible.
- **If inside with no heat**
  - Be sure to properly ventilate if using heat from a fireplace or wood stove.
  - Close off unneeded rooms
  - Stuff towels in cracks under doors.
  - Cover windows at night.
  - Wear layers of loose-fitting clothing.



NOAA

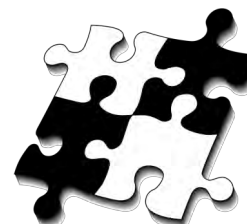
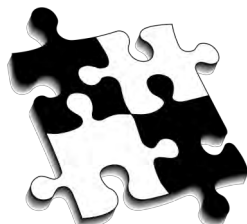
[www.weather.gov/boston](http://www.weather.gov/boston)

## Friends of the Babcock Library

### ANNUAL JIGSAW PUZZLE SALE

During the month of January while supplies last!  
Babcock Library Lobby

All Puzzles are \$1 a piece  
Buy 3- Get One Free!



# HANK'S LAWNMOWER REPAIR & SERVICE

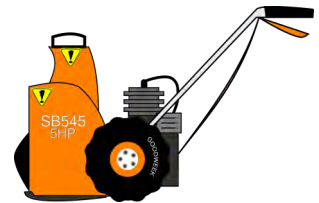
**CERTIFIED MECHANIC ON DUTY  
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**USED MOWERS AND SNOW BLOWERS FOR SALE  
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SAME DAY SERVICES OR NEXT DAY  
NUMBER 1 IN SERVICE**



**HENRY DOBRINSKI  
758 HARTFORD TPK (RTE 44)  
EASTFORD, CT 06242**



**Looking for residential accounts  
on the Ashford/Willington/  
Mansfield line.**

**We do not provide services to the  
Ashford/Union area.**

**We do not clear snow from vehicles or shovel.**

**Please call between 6:00 -10:00 pm.**

**Free estimates.**

**Call # 860-487-1054; ask for John.**

## **H.H.H. Property Maintenance, LLC**

Lawn care, Snow Removal, Clean outs, Dump runs. Spring  
and Fall Clean up, Leaf Removal and other property  
maintenance as needed

**John Henderson, Proprietor**

87 Floeting Road  
Ashford, CT 06278

hhhpropmntllc@gmail.com  
860-487-1054  
860-918-0890



*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

## EASTFORD VETERINARY CLINIC



BETSY A. JAPP • VMD  
MELISSA DUNLEAVY • BVMS  
17 Pomfret Road, P.O. Box 26  
Eastford, CT 06242  
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eastfordvetclinic@outlook.com  
*by appointment only*

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Fax: (860) 429-9378

Approved by the Ashford Board of Finance on Dec. 7, 2023

## ASHFORD TOWN BUDGET CALENDAR For Fiscal Year July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 Budget

- Tuesday, December 12      Region 19 - Municipal Budget Meeting
- Friday, January 12      Town department budgets due to Treasurer
- Friday, February 9      Region 19 Budget distributed to member Towns
- Thursday, February 22:      Ashford School Budget presented to BOF and BOS by BOE
- Thursday, March 7:      General Government Budget presented to BOF by BOS  
Capital Improvement Plan presented to BOF by BOS
- Thursday, March 14:      BOF Reviews:  
-Budget requests requiring additional clarifications  
-Proposed Region 19 Budget request  
-BOS Recommendations
- Tuesday, March 26:      Region 19-Public Hearing on Superintendent's budget
- Tuesday, April 2:      Region 19 Budget-Adopted by Region 19 BOE
- Tuesday, April 2:      Ashford Town Budget:  
-BOF Adopts proposed Budget  
-BOF sets date and approves notice for Public Hearing
- Tuesday, April 9:      Ashford Town Budget – Public Hearing  
BOF Special Meeting immediately following Public Hearing  
Final Budget adjustments
- Tuesday, April 9:      BOS sets dates and approves notice for Town Meeting and  
Referendum
- Friday, April 19:      Town budget books available to the public
- Tuesday, April 23:      Annual Town Meeting adjourning to referendum
- Monday, May 6:      Region 19 Budget- Annual Meeting
- Tuesday, May 7:      Town of Ashford/Region 19 Budget - Referendum
- Tuesday, May 7:      Ashford Town Budget- Referendum



# Law Offices of David Seidman, PC

University of Pennsylvania Law School/Wharton School of Business

## PUT KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR YOU



### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Wrongful Death  
Hospital & Doctor Negligence  
Missed Diagnosis  
Birth Injuries  
Ambulance Injuries  
Cardiovascular Malpractice  
Orthopedic Malpractice

### REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Closings  
Refinances  
Purchase & Sales  
Planning & Zoning  
Contracts & Agreements

### PERSONAL INJURY

Auto Accidents  
Motorcycle Accidents  
Slip & Fall  
Dog Bites  
Drunk Driving Victims  
Sports Injuries  
Products Liability

### BANKRUPTCY

Chapter 7  
Discharge Debt  
Save your Home  
Stop Harassing Calls  
Stop Foreclosure  
Stop Lawsuits

**211 Nott Highway**

**Ashford, CT 06278**

**860-487-3703**

**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION**

## Ashford Housing Authority Is Now Accepting Applications



### APPLY NOW!

Ashford Housing Authority is accepting applications for our waitlist through January 31, 2023.

### Amenities Include:

- ♦ Heat/Hot Water
- ♦ Discounted Cable TV
- ♦ On-Site Laundry
- ♦ Pets Allowed
- ♦ Free WI-Fi Available
- ♦ Billiards Room
- ♦ Exercise Room

To qualify you must be 62 years old or disabled and meet required income limits.

Pompey Hollow Senior Housing offers spacious one bedroom apartments in an idyllic rural setting, with shopping and services nearby.

Applications can be found on our website or mailed by request.

The office is open to the public Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9am- 12pm. Photos of units, local resources, & more information can be found on our website.

Ashford Housing Authority

49 Tremko Lane

Ashford, CT 06278

Tel- (860) 429-8556



**Your New Home Awaits**

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

**Now Available at the Town Clerk's Office**

Copies of The Lost Mill Sites Book \$20

A History of  
**Lost Mill Sites**  
in  
Ashford, Connecticut



By  
Richard S. Reynolds, Jr.  
Illustrations by Tom Menard

Limited Edition, Double Matted, Signed Prints  
of  
the Painting of Ashford by Tom Menard \$175



Various Colors, Sizes and Styles of Ashford Apparel

T-shirt- \$15

Long sleeved T- \$20

Sweatshirt - \$25

Hoodie- \$30



**All proceeds benefit the Ashford Historical Society**

*The mission of The Ashford Historical Society Inc. is to promote appreciation of Ashford history by educating the public and advocating for the preservation of significant historic resources.*



**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**



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Free Estimates and Senior Citizen Discounts  
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## ASHFORD SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

HAPPY NEW YEAR ! December 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**

Our customers have rated us #1 in the area—5 Stars and we plan to stay that way !



**BLOW-OUT SPECIAL ON  
SNOW BLOWER MAINTENANCE**



**SNOW BLOWERS, CHAIN SAWS, PUSH MOWERS, LAWN TRACTORS, WEED WHACKERS,  
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[medeirosandsonsinflatables@gmail.com](mailto:medeirosandsonsinflatables@gmail.com)



### **WANTED TO BUY ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF**

Bottles, crocks, jugs, costume jewelry, pottery, toys, games,  
glassware, sterling silver, coins, gold, silver plated items, watch-  
es, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns,  
lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, hunting, fishing, military,  
Masonic, fire department,  
musical instruments.....And much more.

**Call Donald Roy 860-874-8396**

## January 2023 Conservation Commission News

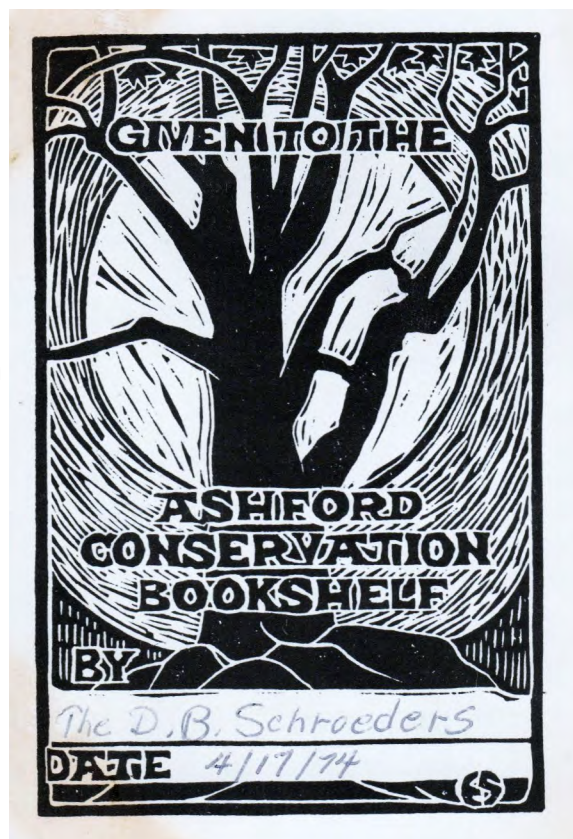
### ***The Ashford Citizen's Artist – Editha Hayes Spencer (1921-2010)*** **and** **The Babcock Library Conservation Bookshelf**

The Ashford Conservation Commission was founded in 1972 and had 8 members: Addison Bassett, Rodney Kreger, William Madsen, Catherine Placek, George Quint, John Rankin, David Schroeder and Editha Spencer. In 1974 they decided to individually donate books to create a conservation book collection for the Babcock Library. Editha Spencer was asked to create a special bookplate just for these books, and 500 copies of the bookplate were to be ordered in 1974. The first donations were to be made by Conservation Commission members.

According to the Commission's reports, the librarian in 1976, decided not to continue this collection; her reason was the time involved. Since Editha Spencer designed this special bookplate – did the Babcock Library have a copy forty-seven years later? After recent conversations with our new Library Director and librarian, Ann Harper, about this special Conservation Bookshelf and the bookplate, she magically was able to locate the bookplate inside Edwin Way Teale's 1959 publication *Adventures in Nature, selections from the outdoor writings of Ewin Way Teale*. This specific book was a gift of the D.B. Schroeders, David and Jill, on 4/17/74.

Dr. David B. Schroeder was a beloved professor of dendrology in the Plant Science Dept at UConn, beginning his career there in 1965. He ended his tenure there 41 years later also having served as head of the Dept. of Natural Resources Management and Engineering. The Schroeders lived in Ashford many years before moving to Woodstock Valley for their later years together. According to his obituary, "Doc Schroeder" was also a founding member of the Eastern Conn. Forest Landowners Assoc., chairman of the Ashford Inland Wetlands Commission, chairman of the Wolf Den Land Trust and the UConn representative on the Connecticut Licensed Arborist Examining Board. The Schroeders' choice of the Teale volume on nature writings was probably meaningful to a man who loved to tell stories himself and a way to further honor Teale, a classic environmentalist.

The bookplate itself depicts the Ashford Oak tree standing tall and strong on firm earth with possibly a bright sunrise or sunset silhouetting its branches. In 1974 this tree was considered the second largest red oak in the United States according to Richard Schimmelpfeng, a UConn Librarian, bookplate collector and friend of the Spencers. The remnants of the tree are still standing today although greatly diminished. Editha's typical "ES" hallmark, seen on her other wood or linoleum cuts, is in the lower right.



Valerie Oliver and Ann Harper, Babcock Library Ln.



# LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHES DEBUT NOVEL

## *THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LOOKING-GLASS*

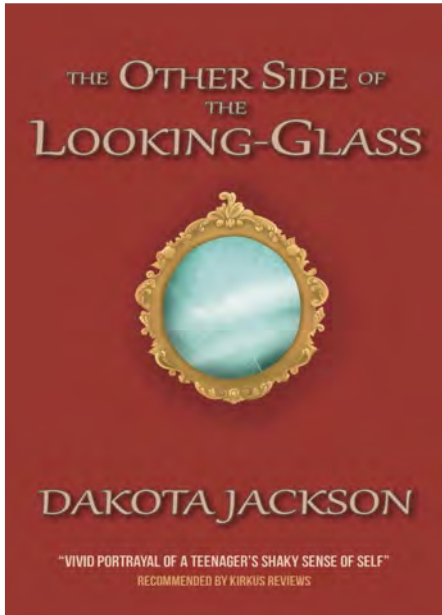
By Dakota Jackson

“Vivid.”

“Realistic.”

“Absorbing.”

Fifteen-year-old Naomi Nakano craves love and acceptance. She never knew her mother, her birth father is neglectful to say the least, and her guardian Matt isn't exactly the traditional parent. So when she moves to a new town and finally makes a real friend, she can't help but feel good about the attention her friend's older brother, Wren, immediately gives her. He lavishes her with compliments and attention—and so what if he's 25-years-old and she can't tell anyone about him? At least she's no longer an outsider. But as Naomi gets lulled into the intoxication of Wren's attention, she fails to see how easy it is to lose her newfound sense of normalcy in all the lies. Now she must fight to maintain her secret at the same time she juggles hardship after hardship before she loses not only Wren, but herself, too.



Buy & Review on Barnes & Noble:



Buy & Review on Amazon:



## 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 4: \$79,910
Family size of 2: \$54,338	Family size of 5: \$92,695
Family size of 3: \$67,124	Family size of 6: \$105,481

**Asset limits:** No asset limits

### Required Documentation:

Proof of previous 4 weeks income (including child support, unemployment, family support)  
Social Security #s for all household members  
Most recent Eversource bill  
Proof of 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.

## Carpentry

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christian@lofcarpentryct.com

**860-712-8624**

**christian@lofcarpentryct.com**



# ASHFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Be Prepared for Winter Weather

Our winters are very unpredictable and its increasingly difficult to trust the weather forecast. Winter storms regardless are challenging, and it doesn't matter if it's a snow or ice storm, we should always prepare for the worst. We need to prepare both our homes and our cars, not just for storms, but for the whole winter season. The fire department has come up with these safety tips to help you and your family have a safe and fun winter.

### At Home:

Prepare for possible power loss.  
Stock up on supplies such as non-perishable food, fresh water, flashlights & batteries.

Prepare to move snow. Have shovels ready, snow removal equipment fueled and rock salt/sand available.

Allow faucets to drip to prevent pipes from freezing.

Bring pets indoors or provide a warm shelter area.

Check heating fuel levels.

Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working.

Charge your electronic devices.



### Your Car:

Check your tires and assure they have proper air.

Fill your fuel tank.

Essential supplies – Extra socks, hats, gloves, snacks, flashlight, flares, shovel, kitty litter or sand, and a blanket.

First aid kit

Ice scraper/snow brush

Jumper Cables

Phone charger

Pocket knife or multi-tool

Snow shovel

Tow rope

**If an emergency arises, you can help us by clearing snow and treating walkways with sand/salt and make sure your house number is cleared of snow so we can find you.**

*Wishing you and your family have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!*

**The call count for November was 11 Fire/Rescue and 36 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 327.**

If you have any non-emergency questions or concerns, you may contact Station 20 at (860) 429-9862 from 6AM to Midnight 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  
Captain/ VP - AVFD Station 20





# The Commission On Aging

The Commission On Aging held a Craft Day and Cookie Swap on December 8, 2023 at the Ashford Senior Center.

The craft made was to be used for Christmas tray favors at Mansfield Nursing and Rehabilitation in Mansfield, CT.

There were approximately twelve seniors helping to make sixty little Christmas trees for the trays.



# Assessment News

## 2022 SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE BILLS

Supplemental motor vehicles are vehicles which were newly registered after October 1, 2022 and prior to August 1, 2023. The assessments are prorated from the month registered through July 2023.

If you receive a supplemental bill and disposed of that vehicle prior to September 1, 2023 your tax bill may be eligible for a credit, if you provide **Proof of Disposal** to the Assessor. It's best to provide proof prior to paying your taxes.

Credits and all other changes to motor vehicle assessment and taxes will only be processed on Fridays during the month of January, when the Tax Collection and Assessment offices will be closed to the public. The new assessment and tax due will be available in the online lookup on Saturdays.

The website is <https://www.mytaxbill.org/inet/bill/home.do?town=Ashford>  
or scan code:



To receive a credit, you must provide:

- 1) proof of what happened to the vehicle (i.e., Proof of Disposal) and
- 2) a returned plate receipt from the CT DMV. **A PLATE RECEIPT ALONE IS INSUFFICIENT**

**1. Proof of Disposal** depends on what happened to the vehicle. All documents should include the vehicle's VIN and a date.

- i. Registered in another state: proof is a copy of the registration in that state showing the initial date of registration.
- ii. Sold: proof is a dated bill of sale
- iii. Total loss: proof includes a letter from the insurance company indicating the date of loss or a receipt from person hauling the vehicle away for the insurance company.
- iv. Repossession: proof is a letter or notice from the repossessing company indicating the vehicle's date of repossession.
- v. Junked: proof is a receipt from the hauler or junk yard.
- vi. Traded-in: proof is the bill of sale or invoice for the new vehicle showing the car being valued in trade.
- vii. Stolen: proof is a copy of the police report.

**2. Plates can be cancelled** using the DMV Online Services at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/Online-Services/Online-Services>.

Or scan code:



Print a copy of the completed cancellation as your receipt.

**Documents (please include your phone number) can be submitted by:**

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

Drop Box: Using the black drop box to the left of the Town Hall entry doors.

Mail: Assessor, Town Hall, 5 Town Hall Rd., Ashford, CT 06278.

**Any questions? Call 860-487-4403 or email [assessor@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:assessor@ashfordtownhall.org)**

**THE DEADLINE TO RECEIVE A CREDIT FOR A VEHICLE ON THE 2022 GRAND LIST IS 12/31/2024.**





## Go Green: Pay your bills online

All Tax Bills that are payable are posted online. The new supplemental motor vehicle tax bills are available on the website as of December 13, 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 Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Go to: [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://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:

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.

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 and Check Out



6. Read the **Terms and Conditions** before you press

- Especially if You Have Past Due Taxes

7. Make sure the next cart is the same as the previous one and choose how you would like to pay. Then press

- Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards

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**)

# News From the Hungarian Club

The Hungarian Club would like to thank the Ashford Volunteer Fire Department, retired Chief Wayne Fletcher, and other local donors whose generosity permits us to update the town cemetery boxes twice a year; Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The club refurbishes and decorates the gates with patriotic and festive boxes or wreaths in honor of all of the veterans buried within, especially those who no longer have local families to decorate individual gravesites.



We also make a special effort to decorate our Gold Star Veteran Memorial at the Veterans Wall on Tremko Lane, and also the plot with our town hero, Vietnam veteran and First responder, Chief Bruce Fletcher at Westford Hill Cemetery.



Thank you to our Ashford Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance with this continuing community service honoring our military veterans.

The Hungarian Club will open to the public briefly for a New Years Eve Gala and then be closed until April 2024 Stuffed Cabbage Freedom Day 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!

THE ASHFORD HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY WISHES YOU A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

# 2024



NEXT MEETING:  
JANUARY 23, 2024  
7PM  
KNOWLTON HALL



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*"No Job Too Small"*

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## Scout Troop 92 January Newsletter

Activities: December is a slow month for the Scouts because of the holiday season. They had a holiday party. Afterwards they repaired the dogsled to prepare for the upcoming Klondike Derby in February. One of the wheels fell off last time during the dogsled race. Dogsleds are required at the Klondike. Also, at this meeting we will be working on some of the emergency preparedness requirements for First Class Scout.

Owen Gratton's application for advancement to Eagle Scout rank has been approved by Scout authorities. We will hold a Special Court of Honor to present him with this in February.

15 Cub Scouts competed in the Rain Gutter Regatta. The overall winner was.  
Mason Taylor, (center in the photo.) They competed by den in a double elimination tournament.

Upcoming: More preparations will be required to get ready for the Klondike Derby. Scouts will spend 24 hours or more without going into a heated building. It is an experience that you will never forget. Typically, the Klondike is well attended, with 400 or more in attendance at times. Competitions go on all day long.

Our application to recharter in Scouts for another year will be submitted at this time.

Happy New Year, Everyone!  
We hope that you all do well in 2024!

Scout meetings are on Tues evenings twice a month at St Philip's Rec Center. New members are welcome.

Troop 92 BSA  
Ashford/Eastford/Pomfret

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







# WINDHAM-TOLLAND 4-H CAMP

## KICKS OFF 70 YEARS OF CAMPING IN POMFRET!!!



"I pledge my hands to larger service"\*... As we kick off our 70<sup>th</sup> year of camping in Pomfret, Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp will be helping local food banks fill their shelves. We hope to collect at least 1000 lbs of food. We are excited to be partnering with UNFI to help kick regional hunger. UNFI has generously already committed to between 500-600lbs. Our Kickoff Event will be January 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm with a snow date of January 21<sup>st</sup> 3-5pm. We will offer curbside drop off or you can bring your items into the lodge and enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

As you help us kick regional hunger, you will also be helping us with a few of our capital projects. We have businesses and individuals that have committed to donate money towards our capital projects for each pound of food you donate. Under our 70<sup>th</sup> Year Directors Challenge we have 5 capital projects we are raising funds for: Endowment Fund, Hacienda Renovations, Dam Fund, Health Center Updates and Campership Funds. Each capital project will have a bin and you choose where to put your food donation. The capital project with the most food at the end of the drive will receive the monetary donation from our financial sponsors.

We hope you will join us in our HELPING HANDS FOOD DRIVE! Food pantries in Windham and Tolland Counties benefit from you stopping by with non-perishable food items or contacting us to be a per pound financial sponsor. To become a financial sponsor email [campdirector@4hcampct.org](mailto:campdirector@4hcampct.org).

As we continue to celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to join us for a fun night of making your own floral arrangement. Event will be held on **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30-8:30pm** in the main lodge at 326 Taft Pond Rd Pomfret. Check out more details on our website after the New Year.

\*4-H Pledge





## Ashford Clean Energy Task Force

January 2024

**Happy New Year!**

The start of a new year is a good time to look back at where we've been, and ahead to the new resources becoming available this year. Did you know that you can access our website at:

<https://www.perryhillpublishing.com/ACETF/>

Or scan the QR code:



You will find a wealth of information to help you save money, energy, and preserve the earth. Here are some of the more recent Green Tips, and you can click on the links on the Green Tips Highlights on the web site:

- You can learn about the state's programs to save money on solar panels in [March 2022](#), and batteries in [April 2022](#).
- To learn about how to use heat pumps to save money on heating and cooling your home, go to [March 2023](#).
- Find out about using a home energy audit to reduce your fuel bills at [June 2021](#).
- Our generation of waste consumes a lot of energy, and pollutes the air. Learn about zero waste at [July 2023](#) and [August 2020](#), food recycling at [January 2022](#), plastic recycling at [May 2023](#), and avoiding plastic at [January 2020](#).
- Learn about indoor air quality at [September 2022](#), and wildfire smoke at [September 2023](#).
- If you want to save money and keep the kitchen air cleaner, learn about inexpensive stove top induction heaters at [October 2022](#), and air fryers at [April 2023](#).
- Learn about saving electricity at [March 2021](#) and [July 2021](#), and how to keep the house cooler without air conditioning at [May 2020](#) and [July 2020](#).

*The ACETF thanks you for your interest in our work and welcomes your input. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, or to join us, please contact Susan Eastwood at [sceastwood@yahoo.com](mailto:sceastwood@yahoo.com).*



# Houses of Worship

## Events & Happenings



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



### Sunday Meeting Schedule

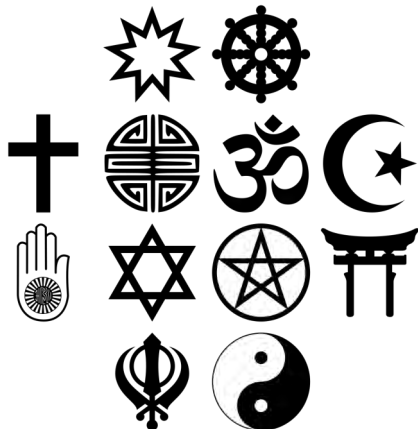
Sacrament Meeting ~ 10:00am  
Sunday School/Priesthood/Relief Society ~ 11:00am

525 Ashford Center Road, Ashford  
(860) 315-3616  
Bishop Bruce Fountain

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

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



*Sunday*

9:30AM - Sunday School  
"Who I am in Christ" by Neil Anderson

10:30AM - Worship Service

*Monday*

8:00-9:00AM - Moms In Prayer Group  
Moms Praying for their Children & the Schools they Attend

*Wednesday*

7:00PM - Corporate Prayer  
Prayer Room

368 WESTFORD HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, CT 06278  
[CLERKWCC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CLERKWCC@GMAIL.COM) - (959)-995-1705



# The AAAC Corner

January 2024

ASHFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL in collaboration with Windham Arts

OUR NEXT MEETING: Jan 10th, 7 pm, Ashford Senior Center

## Upcoming Events:

- **ONGOING ONLINE SALES** - via our website, <https://ashfordarts.org>
- **ASHFORD FARMER'S MARKET** various artists each month
- **WOOD TURNING WORKSHOP**, Feb. 24
- **VANILLA BEAN SHOW**, month of April

## Giving Thanks!

Debra Gag planned, organized, and facilitated this year's Ashford Area Arts Council's 7th annual Holiday Artist Market which took place on November 17th and 18th at Knowlton Memorial Hall in the Babcock Library. But she didn't do it alone – not by any means. Deb wants to stress the importance of the volunteers and give thanks to them, for without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, this event would have been rocky at best. Starting with Larry Gag whose help with the layout was key, Lance Arnold, Dan, and Jane Rackliffe with chair/table placement, and lastly our ambassadors/greeters who also helped the vendors to take breaks: Kathryn Eidson, Sharon Punt, Marian Vitali, Valerie Oliver, and Dot Drobney.

Thanks to our many promoters:

Local radio hosts Wayne Norman and John Murphy, for helping to promote the event, and the many artist/vendors who posted roadside signs and distributed postcards. Thanks to Kathy Lepak for posting many updates on our Facebook page and Christine Acebo for submitting the information to Neighbors.

Thank you to the 24 talented vendors who made this year's market such a wonderful success! Find the list of artists on our website.

Our thanks also to the fine musicians who kept us entertained with their varied instrumentals and folk music - Mike South, guitar Instrumentals, Don Jakoboski with guitar and vocals and Vicki and Jim McGiver with their many various instruments and traditional tunes and songs. We are so proud of our artisans and musicians.

Most importantly, thank you to the almost 500 people from Ashford and beyond who attended this event. Without you, the event would have been for naught. What a magical day!

## THE ASHFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR A CHAIRPERSON... IS IT YOU?

We have a wonderful artist community from all over NE CT, a robust group of supporting volunteers and a strong board of officers. Our monthly meetings, workshops and artist shows are well attended. We are looking for someone to steer this wonderful ship. If interested, please contact us directly at: [StaceyTheAAAC@Outlook.com](mailto:StaceyTheAAAC@Outlook.com) or come to our next meeting January 10th!



## Search for Ashford's Poet Laureate Applications due by February 1, 2024.

The Ashford Area Arts Council (AAAC) requests applications for consideration as the Poet Laureate for the town of Ashford. Applicants should be recognized for a long-standing involvement in poetry and should demonstrate passion and expertise in poetry.

The Poet Laureate, in coordination with the AAAC, will be expected to fulfill a number of duties over a 3-year appointment, some of which may include: organize and/or participate in poetry readings open to the public, read a poem at AAAC and town events, write or find poems about the community, historical events, figures, visit schools and work with students and more. An Honorarium of \$600 (\$200 per year) will be provided. Please request an application or contact for questions: Christine Acebo (leave voicemail at 860.617.5609 or email [cacebo@mac.com](mailto:cacebo@mac.com))

AAAC Poet Laureate Committee

Christine Acebo – [cacebo@mac.com](mailto:cacebo@mac.com)

Marian Matthews, Debra Gag, Kathryn Eidson, Marian Vitali

**Pen Turning Workshop - Back by Popular demand!** *The Central Connecticut Woodturners Club and the Ashford Area Arts Council will have another pen turning event on Saturday Feb. 24 from 10 to 2 at Knowlton Hall. Absolutely no woodturning experience necessary...and the event is FREE! Open to all ages: any kids must be at least 10 years old to participate. There will be plenty of skilled woodturners there to guide you in creating a beautiful pen! No reservations needed, just come between 10am - 2pm.*

FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFO ON THESE STORIES - [ashfordarts.org](https://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  
[StaceyTheAAAC@outlook.com](mailto:StaceyTheAAAC@outlook.com)  
PO Box 313  
Ashford, CT 06278  
Check Payable To:  
WINDHAM ARTS ORGANIZATION  
MEMO Line: AAAC MEMBERSHIP





## *Ashford School News and Happenings*

On November 10, Ashford School hosted a Veteran's Day assembly that included a breakfast to honor our local veterans.

Kids in all grades participated in performing and wearing their Red, White, and Blue colors!



## *Upcoming Events*

Board of Education Meeting	January 4th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting	January 18th	7:00 p.m.
No School	January 1st	
No School	January 15th	





# ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER JANUARY



	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> <b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 Tai Chi (KH)	<b>3</b> 11:00 Lunch Bunch 1	<b>4</b> 12:00 Dime Bingo 6:00 Corn Hole	<b>5</b> 9:00 Walking 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 Walking 9:30 Casino 10:00 COA	<b>9</b> 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 6:00 Big Bingo	<b>10</b> 11:00 Valentines for Vets –crafts	<b>11</b> 10:00 Trader Joe's 12:00 Dime Bingo 6:00 Corn Hole 12:00 Dime Bingo	<b>12</b> 9:00 Walking 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 11:00 Valentines Snow Date	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 6:00 Big Bingo	<b>17</b> 11:00 ASCO Mtg	<b>18</b> 12:00 Dime Bingo 6:00 Corn Hole	<b>19</b> 9:00 Walking 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 Walking 11:00 Hairdresser	<b>23</b> 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 6:00 Big Bingo	<b>24</b> 10:00 Aldi's Trip	<b>25</b> 10:00 Chair Yoga 12:00 Dime Bingo 6:00 Corn Hole	<b>26</b> 9:00 Walking 9:30 Tai Chi (SrCtr) 11:00 Lunch Bunch 2 1:00 Dominoes	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 Walking 1:00 Birthday Party	<b>30</b> 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 6:00 Big Bingo	<b>31</b> 11:00 Self-Defense Class			

The Commission On Aging presents.....

## Valentine Crafts for Vets

Come join us on **January 10th** at **11:00am**

Make Valentines for our Veterans.

(January 12th is the snow date)

All the supplies are provided.



Coffee, tea and cocoa available

Coming to the Ashford  
Senior Center....Every month

## Senior Chair Yoga Poses



Thursday, January 25th at 10:00am  
\$4.00 at the door.

## From the Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Kit Eves 860-487-5122



**Needed: Volunteer Public Van Driver** with license to provide senior trips. The Senior Center pays for the license, background check and medical exams. This is a fifteen-passenger bus. There is a small stipend and tips for all trips. Trips are as your schedule allows.

**Needed: Bingo Caller** for Thursday afternoons. There are other callers so you can rotate and call once a month or so. We will teach you how to call and note this easy-going Bingo. Everybody is welcome.

**Needed: A Crafter** interested in leading the monthly craft program for all comers. Supplies are provided by the Center. Your skills with different mediums are important to help teach the novice crafters. You can choose the craft project, day, and time during weekdays.

**Needed: Birthday Party Organizer**: This is a once-a-month program. Party Organizer would set the tables, wrap the gifts, make coffee and tea, and cut and serve the cake. Clean-up is also needed. The Center pays for the above. You can choose the party day and time during weekdays.

**Needed:** 1. Donations of Decorations to spruce up the Senior Center. We especially need Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day.

**Needed:** 2. There have been numerous requests to have the jigsaw puzzles "return to borrow" from the Center again. Thus, we need puzzles of less than 1000 pieces to be donated for the seniors to borrow. For seniors who have a hard time getting around, winter can make things even harder. If you are a senior, I encourage you to ask your neighbors for help with shoveling driveways and paths and laying down the salt and dirt for traction. If you are a younger person, this is a call to arms. Help your neighbors so they can stay safe in their homes. For winter emergencies it is best to be prepared. The Town of Ashford has an emergency checklist of people social services calls when there is a very bad storm. If you want to be on this checklist, let me know. I would be pleased to make sure you are ok in bad weather.

In the meantime, put together an emergency supply of water, food that doesn't go bad, medications, flashlights, and a radio that runs on newly bought batteries. Sign up for weather alerts through the Town at TEXTMYGOV keyword to 91896.

## SELF-DEFENSE FOR SENIORS

Presented by



January 31st, Wednesday at 11:00am  
This is a **free** class

Would you know what to do to protect yourself?  
In a parking lot.... In your home....  
While shopping....?  
Learn Basic common sense safety tips.

YOU MUST SIGN-UP IN ADVANCE

PRESENTED BY THE ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER  
25 TREMKO LANE  
860-287-5122

## JANUARY BIRTHDAY PARTY



Let us celebrate each of our seniors who were born in the month of **January**

January 29th, Monday at 1:00pm  
Our event will be: Let's Play Jeopardy



CAKE, TEA, COFFEE AND SOMETHING FOR THE  
CELEBRANTS TO UNWRAP  
ALL PROVIDED FREE

YOU MUST SIGN-UP IN ADVANCE  
FAMILY MEMBERS OF CELEBRANTS ARE WELCOME

PRESENTED BY THE ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER  
25 TREMKO LANE  
860-487-5122





# 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



## January 2024

### 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!

Library will be closed on Monday,  
January 1 for the New Year Holiday  
and on Monday, January 15 for Martin  
Luther King Day

Check Our  
Facebook Pages  
for Additions &  
Updates!

## Celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday!

### Birthday Party! Cake & Fun Bear Activities & Prizes



### Fire Truck Visit!



### Learn Fire Prevention from the Ashford Fire Department!

### Bring Your Teddy Bears to Meet Smokey Bear!



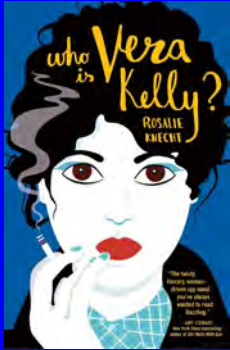
### Saturday, January 13, 2024 10am—12pm

## MYSTERY BOOK

### DISCUSSION!

TUES, JANUARY 2, 2024 @ 1PM  
**WHO IS VERA KELLY?**

BY ROSALIE KNECHT

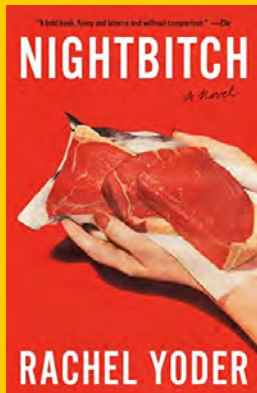


## LITERARY BOOK

### DISCUSSION!

TUES, JANUARY 23, 2024 @ 1PM  
**NIGHTBITCH: A NOVEL**

BY RACHEL YODER



# W I N T E R B O O K C L U B S E L E C T I O N S

## New! Coffee & Chat with the Library Director

Friday, January 26 @ 1pm

Come by the library for a casual  
coffee with the Babcock library  
director, Ann Harper.  
Share your thoughts  
on programs & other  
library services.



## Electronics De-construction!

Come to the library & through  
the *deconstruction* of  
decommissioned desktop &  
laptop computers see & learn  
what is hiding inside!

**All Ages / Family Activity**  
**Wednesday January 31, 2024**  
**@ 6pm**



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

## COOKING CLUB!

THE THEME FOR  
JANUARY 2024 IS

## COMFORT FOOD

**MONTHLY**  
**2ND WEDNESDAY**  
**@ 6:30PM**

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

## CHILDREN'S STORYTIME & CRAFT

EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
**@ 10:30AM**

## KNITTERS GROUP

EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
**@ 1PM**

## FEBRUARY LIBRARY EVENTS PREVIEW

- **Pearls From Carol** Book Discussion w / Albert Ruggiero Saturday, February 3 @ 10am
- **Take Your Child to the Library Day** Saturday, February 3 @ 10am—12pm
- **Mystery Book Discussion Group** Tuesday, February 6 @ 1pm
- **Valentine's Day Craft for Adults** Wednesday, February 7 @ 6pm
- **Cooking Club** Wednesday, February 14 @ 6:30pm
- **Coffee & Chat with the Library Director** Friday, February 23 @ 1pm
- **Literary Book Discussion** Tuesday, February 27 @ 1pm

~Hello Ashford,

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from your Parks & Recreation Department! We have a few things to bring to your attention and some interesting programs to share to start 2024.

First, I hope you've noticed the beautiful new patio in front of Knowlton Memorial Hall. Thank you to all who worked so hard and made it possible ! Also many thanks go to Carrie and Buzzy Balogh and Mansfield Tree Service for once again lighting up the huge tree and star on the lawn of K.M.H. and igniting our holiday spirit!

In the Parks Department: Ashford Memorial Park's gate is now closed for the season but residents are still welcome to park outside the gate and walk in to enjoy the park during daylight hours.

Pompey Hollow Park (near the Senior Center) has had upgrades that make it more user friendly. The pavement and curbing were replaced and lighting enhanced making it a safe and pleasant place to walk at night. The gazebo is all lit up now too and adds to our small town holiday charm. Many have enjoyed and are still playing, even in the cold weather, on our newly resurfaced Pickleball/Tennis courts.

Speaking of outdoor activities, please check out the new website [www.ashfordctoutdoors.org](http://www.ashfordctoutdoors.org) for information on local places to hike, bike, and kayak and a wealth of interesting tidbits and recommendations about exploring the great outdoors right here in Ashford.

Read on! Details are enclosed about our expanded Yoga program and a really special event called 'Tranquility Zone' to be held 1/2/24! Don't forget to stop by Ashford School on Saturdays to check out a game in our Youth Rec. Basketball Program. The teams are off to a great start! Finally, the Ashford Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Recreation office. We are open to your ideas, suggestions and feedback!

Sherry York ~

# BASKETBALL



## HIGH SCHOOL REC. BASKETBALL LEAGUE

*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) teams nearly full**

**\*JV Boys (Grades 9 & 10) need more players!**

Registration form and payment required before you practice. Fee: \$120

Practice 1 or 2x weekly with games on the weekends! Games begin 1/6/23

**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 finish season. Fee: one session \$40, both sessions \$70.

**LAKES REGION LEAGUE** –for Kids in Grades 3-8.

Practices resume on Tuesday Jan. 2nd and Games Jan. 6th. Runs thru February.

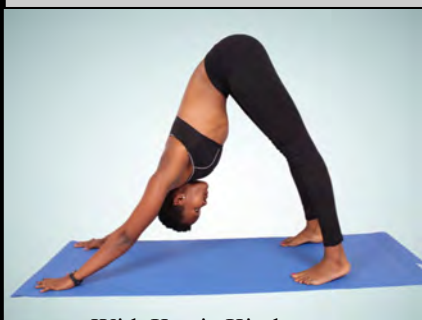




**BUILDING  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH  
PEOPLE, PARKS,  
AND  
PROGRAMS!**

**START the NEW YEAR in the TRANQUILITY ZONE!**  
**Join us TUESDAY JAN. 2nd, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Knowlton Memorial Hall**  
**for a special evening of Yoga, with Karrie Kirchner,**  
**Tai Chi with Joe Pandolfo and Sound Healing Rhythms,**  
**with Amy Ordonez.**

*The class is designed to enhance your focus and flexibility,  
gently stretch your mind and body, move your soul and balance  
your energy. Sign up early, 860-487-4409, Fee: \$10  
Space is limited for this very special event!*



With Karrie Kirchner

**Y  
O  
G  
A**

**WINTER  
WEDS.  
EVENING  
SESSIONS  
5:30-6:30 p.m.**

**In Knowlton  
Memorial Hall  
6 weeks for \$50**

**Jan. 10th-Feb. 14th  
&  
Feb. 21st- April 3rd**

**TUESDAY MORNING  
SESSIONS 8:15-9:15 A.M.  
Knowlton Town Hall  
6 weeks for \$50  
Starts January 9th, 2024,  
Classes ongoing. Drop in's Welcome!  
(\$10 per class)**

**A.P.R.C. SPONSORS  
ICE SKATING  
FOR**



**Sunday January 7th at the  
Bolton Ice Palace  
3:00-4:30 p.m.**

**Other Dates and Times  
to be Announced!**

**Sunday March 17th at the  
UCONN Toscano Ice Forum  
4:00-8:00 p.m.**

**ENGLISH  
COUNTRY  
DANCING**

**At the Ashford Senior Center  
Sunday Afternoons  
from 3-5 p.m.**  
Dances are held monthly and will  
be **January 21st,**  
**February 18th, &**  
**March 17th, 2024**  
Experience not needed,  
Come alone or bring a friend!  
Contact:  
[barbarareenna0012@gmail.com](mailto:barbarareenna0012@gmail.com)



The Ashford Citizen  
5 Town Hall Road  
Ashford, CT 06278

PRSR 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. 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Thursday and Town Offices will not be open. The last in person day is Wed. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://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](mailto:taxcollector@ashfordtownhall.org)

Assessment questions, call 860-487-4403, or email [assessor@ashfordtownhall.org](mailto:assessor@ashfordtownhall.org)

View bills online at: [www.ashfordtownhall.org](http://www.ashfordtownhall.org)

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

Linda G. Gagne CCMC  
Ashford Tax Collector

2nd Notice, for Jan. 2024 Citizen

