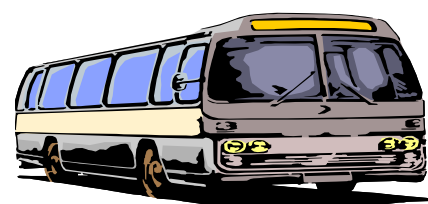


The Ashford Citizen
5 Town Hall Road
Ashford, CT 06278

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
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PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer



BUS TRIPS!



Join us for a Coach Bus Trip to Boston on Sunday, March 17th for the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New England!

Meet at 9:00 am at the Tolland Commuter Lot for a complimentary breakfast. Bus departs at 9:30. You will arrive at the end of the parade route by 11:30. You'll have time to pick out the perfect spot to watch before the parade begins at 1:00. After the parade, the bus ride back will have food, games and if you have the Luck of the Irish a chance to win prizes! Return time 6:30-7:00 p.m. Fee: \$80
Registration deadline 3/4/2024

**Celebrate the 4th of July in Style!
at TANGLEWOOD with JAMES TAYLOR!**

Make it a holiday to remember, and "shower the people you love with love!"
Celebrate in Lennox, MA on the beautiful grounds known as Tanglewood with James Taylor and his iconic band. Concert starts at 8 p.m. and is followed by fireworks. The coach bus leaves from the Tolland Commuter Lot at 3:30 p.m. You may purchase food there or bring your own picnic/wine etc. (no cooking)
Register early, we anticipate a sell out! Lawn tickets and coach bus \$95 pp

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



The Ashford Citizen is printed by Anything Printed Copy Center



ASHFORD CITIZEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD CT 06278

Volume 55

Issue 3

March 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



Ashford's 54th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30th—10AM

**Ashford Senior Center—Earl W. Smith Building
25 Tremko Lane, Ashford**

**Invited—All children who reside in Ashford
Pre-K to 4th Grade**

**Come Visit, take photos with the
Easter Bunny, And receive an
Easter Basket
(Egg Hunt-weather permitting)**

Please bring a bag or basket to collect plastic eggs !

Sponsored by the Ashford Easter Bunny Committee

Donations Welcome

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

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



Questions, please contact—ashfordeasterbunny@gmail.com OR on Facebook—@Ashford Easter Bunny

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, 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.

CLOSINGS

The Ashford Town Offices will be closed on Friday,
March 29th to observe Good Friday.

The Tax Collector’s will be closed on
Wednesday, March 20th & Friday, March 22nd.
The Tax Collector will be attending the
Annual CTX Training Seminars as required to keep
up CEU’s. Email and phone calls will be available and
answered during break time.

The Tax Assessor’s Office will be closed
3/12/24—3/19/2024.

VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths

Felicia E. Edwards	January 13, 2024
Carlton E. Beyor, Jr.	January 13, 2024
Gennaddi Burtsev	January 20, 2024
Shannon Robbins	January 21, 2024
Pauline F. Powers	February 7, 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

5TH & 6TH
Coach Justin Cheney,
Cammy Cheney,
Emmalyn Grant,
Alicia Kirdzik,
Ashlyn Sargenti,
Finley Champagne,
Lottie O’Donovan,
Harmony Zaler,
Jade Vaszquez,
Samantha Cantrell,
Lexi Crane,
Camilla Sanon,
Jamie Lynn King,
(not pictured Assistant
Coach Meg Champagne)



A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS IS IN ORDER TO BOTH OUR
5TH & 6TH GRADE GIRLS AND OUR 7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS
BOTH TEAMS COMPETED IN LAKES LEAGUE REC. PLAY & HAD
UNDEFEATED SEASONS
AND EACH WON THEIR DIVISION TOURNAMENTS!



7TH & 8TH Assistant Coach Justin Rossi, June Bowersett, Mikayla Rossi, Abby Gordon, Riley Fusco,
Coach Kurt van Heiningen, Hailey Krukoff, Alma van Heiningen, Sophia Welply

Recreation Reminders!

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



Free Ice Skating

Ashford residents I hope you all enjoyed skating in Bolton on Sun. Feb. 4th. **We had 84 people!** That exhausted our ice skating budget for the year. We will cancel the 3/17/24 session at UConn.

YOGA

Come experience **YOGA CLASS** with Karrie Kirchner! Reawaken your body, mind, and spirit!

Be Fit & Flexible in 2024

Class meets **Tuesday Mornings 8:15-9:15 a.m.** or **Wednesday Evenings 5:30-6:30 p.m.** in Knowlton Memorial Hall \$50 for each 6 week session or (drop in \$10 a class)

BasketBall



Get into March Madness!

Adult Pick Up Play!

Monday Nights 7:00-8:30 at Ashford School
6 weeks for \$30 per player
Monday Feb.26th thru April 1st
Contact Kieran at 530-448-4113 with questions.

INDOOR PICKLEBALL AT ASHFORD SCHOOL!

Brush up on the basics, Keep active in the winter and get ready for the spring outdoor season! **\$30 for 6 weeks of pick up play.** Nets, balls and paddles provided!

All levels welcome!

Tuesday Evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m.
March 5th through April 9th.

We will set up 2 courts in the gymnasium (minimum 4 players, maximum 12 players)



ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

1 Sunday a month, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center!
No dance in March, April 28, & May 19,
Led by Barbara Renna, Barbararena0012@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Friday afternoons 3:30-4:30 at Knowlton Memorial Hall
Contact Veronica at veronicacraig@cox.net

AFTER SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

For Boys and Girls in Grades K-4!

Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, School Gym,
6 weeks, March 20th to April 24th, Fee: \$60



First Selectwoman's Update January 16, 2024 - February 15, 2024

KEY GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES – (JAN 16 – FEB 15)

- **2024-2025 General Government Budget:** Board of Selectmen (BOS) reviews of individual department requests started. Final BOS reviews/recommendations are due to Board of Finance (BOF) Mar. 1
- **2024-2025 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP):** The CIP Committee started their review of capital requests submitted by Public Works, Ashford Volunteer Fire Department, Ashford Board of Education, Ashford Senior Center, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the town's website team.
 - CIP Committee recommendations are due to the BOS Feb. 24
 - BOS recommendations are due to the BOF Mar. 1
- **Ashford School Roof:** The Architecture Plan was submitted to the state for approval. An RFP was issued for the project's Clerk of Works.
- **Public Works:** The Jan. 16 winter storm created persistent ice, deep ruts, and extremely slippery conditions on our town's dirt roads. Public Works is continuing their efforts to fully repair those roads. Also of note, our salt shed is too small to hold adequate materials to cover closely occurring major storm events and the 7 days lead time required for delivery can make it difficult to ensure that we have enough on hand. In addition, suppliers of those materials often need to close during a major storm event.

PLAN FOR NEXT MONTH (FEB 16 – MAR 15)

- The BOS will present the following to the Board of Finance Mar. 7 for their consideration:
 - Proposed 2024-2025 General Government Budget
 - Proposed 2025-2025 Capital Improvement Projects/Purchases

COMMUNICATIONS

The CT Department of Transportation will hold a **Virtual Public Information Meeting Wed., Mar. 13 at 6:30 PM** to present the **Replacement of Bridge No. 00848 (Route 89 over Interstate 84) project** to Ashford and Union residents. The anticipated start date for the project is the summer of 2025.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

Registration is required to participate in the meeting. To register go to:

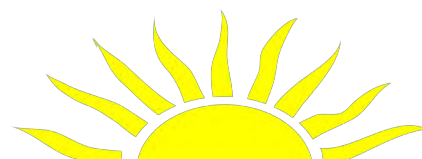
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1vFYQsr3RSKQyE9QG6G8yQ

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting. The meeting will also be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@ctdotofficial/streams>. If you do not have access to a computer, feel free to join me at the Town Office Building for the meeting.

For more information about the project, please go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTUnion145-106>.

REMINDER

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS ON
MARCH 10TH AT 2:00AM**



Warm Regards,
Cathryn

Carpentry

10% Discount For Ashford Residents



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All Carpentry Projects
No Project Too Small
Fourth Generation Carpenter!
Quality Workmanship
Clean and Reliable

Call or Text Christian @
860-712-8624
christian@lofcarpentryct.com

860-712-8624

christian@lofcarpentryct.com

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ASHFORD

Notice is given that the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Regional School District #19, Edwin O. Smith High School, Storrs, CT, for the year ended June 30, 2023 as prepared by the E.O. Smith Finance Department and audited by Clifton Larson Allen LLP, West Hartford, CT, is on file in the Ashford Town Clerk's Office for public viewing during regular business hours.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, this 29th day of January, 2024.

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

TOWN OF ASHFORD OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN 5 TOWN HALL ROAD ASHFORD, CONNECTICUT 06278 (860) 487-4400 FAX (860) 487-4430

INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Ashford is seeking bids for mowing, trim work and spring cleanup of the following Town cemeteries for the contract year 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025:

- A. Knowlton Cemetery (10 mowings)
- B. Snow Cemetery (10 mowings)
- C. Warrenville Cemetery (10 mowings)
- D. Babcock Cemetery (10 mowings)
- E. Woodward Cemetery (10 mowings)
- F. South Cemetery (10 mowings)
- G. Dow Cemetery (5 mowings)
- H. Phillips Cemetery (5 mowings)
- I. Swamp Cemetery (5 mowings)

The minimum number of mowings, as shown above, should be bid. Additional mowings will be considered on an as needed basis. It has been determined that some areas will require hand mowing. Please specify cost of additional incurred mowings per location. Cleanup must be performed prior to the first mowing which will be performed, as closely as possible, prior to the Memorial Day celebration (last Monday of May, 2025).

Location maps and additional information are available from the Selectmen's Office, Town of Ashford.

Completed bids should be submitted to the Selectmen's Office, 5 Town Hall Road, Ashford, Connecticut 06278, no later than Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Please note that the mowing contract will be for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. A certificate of insurance will be required of the bid recipient.

The Town reserves the right to inspect equipment that will be used in performance of the bid task.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

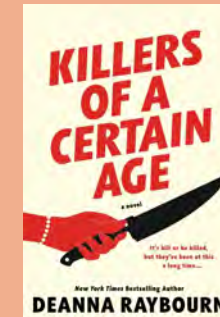


MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION!

TUES, MARCH 5, 2024 @ 1PM

KILLERS OF A CERTAIN AGE

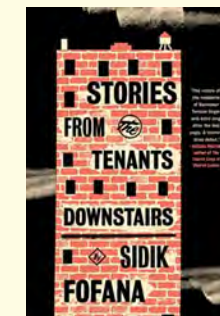
BY Deanna Raybourn



LITERARY BOOK DISCUSSION!

TUES, MARCH 26, 2024 @ 1PM

STORIES FROM THE TENANTS DOWNSTAIRS BY SIDIK FOFANA



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Pint Size Paint & Sip!

Create a Work of Art on a
Mini Canvas!

Saturday, March 2 @ 10am

Program is for children
ages 4 to 8

Please Register in Advance
@ 860-487-4420

LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS



COOKING CLUB!

THE THEME FOR
MARCH 2024 IS

NIK SHARMA
(COOKBOOK AUTHOR)

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

APRIL LIBRARY EVENTS PREVIEW

- Mystery Book Discussion Tuesday April 2 @ 1pm
- Percy Jackson Camp Half-blood Program Saturday April 6 @10am
- Cookbook Club Wednesday April 10 @ 6:30pm
- Literary Book Discussion Tuesday April 23 @ 1pm
- YA Book Club Friday April 26 @ 1pm
- Columbian Culture Spectacular Saturday April 27 @ 10am





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

March 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!

OFFERS E-BOOKS &
AUDIOBOOKS - ACCESSIBLE
ON MOBILE DEVICES!

The Library will be
closed Good Friday,
March 29

Please Check Our
Website and
Facebook Pages for
Additions & Updates!



Pysanka Ukrainian Eggs

Learn about this folk art form and create your own beautiful egg in this hands-on workshop. Pysanka Ukrainian decorative eggs are created by using a written wax batik method.

The workshop will be run by the 'Egg Lady', Sharon Leonard on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 10am.

All materials (including eggs) will be provided.

Registration is limited to 20 people. Pre-registration is required by March 12 @ phone 860-487-4420

NEW YA* Book

DISCUSSION GROUP!

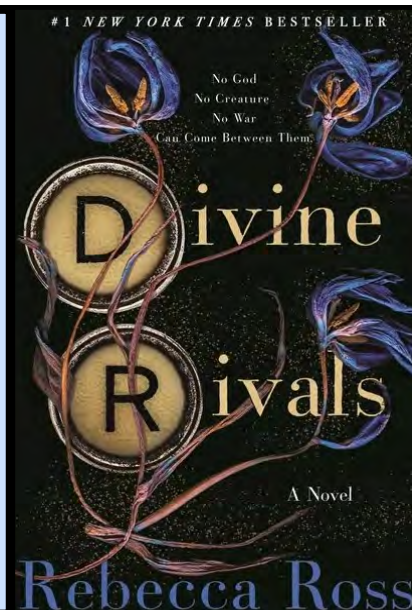
CURATED BY EMMA

FRIDAY MARCH 22 @ 1PM

DIVINE RIVALS

BY REBECCA ROSS

*YOUNG ADULT BOOKS—OPEN TO ALL
READERS OF YA



Important information from the Ashford Registrars of Voters

Lauren Olson / Democratic

Colleen DePercio / Republican



The Presidential Preference Primary will be held on April 2, 2024 from 6:00am-8:0pm.

The State of Connecticut has implemented Early Voting starting this year for the Presidential Preference Primary. The Early Voting Period is March 26-28 and March 30. NOTE: It does NOT include Good Friday, March 29 or Easter Sunday, March 31. The hours are between 10 AM and 6 PM and will be held in the Registrar's of Voters Office, 5 Town Hall Road, Room 306. Please bring identification. NOTE: A vote cast during Early Voting is considered "voted" and cannot be pulled or changed.

If you are interested in voting in the Presidential Preference Primary, you must be a registered voter in that party. If you are an unaffiliated voter and plan to vote on April 2, 2024, you must join either party by noon on April 1, 2024. If you are an unaffiliated voter and plan to vote during Early Voting, you must join either party by noon on March 25, 2024. The date has already passed for those wanting to transfer from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary of the new party (January 2).

PLEASE NOTE: The Registrars of Voters will hold office hours on March 15, 2024, from 1:00-3:00PM to hear requests by persons who have been removed from the official voting lists, to have their names added back to the registry list.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Registrar of Voters office at 860-487-4410.

To register to vote online: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do>

To check your voter registration, please visit: <https://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/lookup.aspx>

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: March 26, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. at Ashford Town Hall, Lower level, Room 104, 5 Town Hall Road, Ashford, CT 06278 to **Endorse Delegates to State and District Conventions** and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Dated at Ashford, Connecticut, on the 12th day of February, 2024

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 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. Please contact AshfordDTC@gmail.com for questions, further information about joining on Zoom or in person when that is possible. Follow us on Facebook @AshfordDemocrats.



PRESS RELEASE – February 8, 2024
Rep. Pat Boyd Receives COST’s Town Crier Award

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 115 smaller communities throughout Connecticut, presented four lawmakers with Town Crier Awards at its annual meeting on February 8 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, Connecticut. COST’s Town Crier Award was established to recognize and honor state lawmakers and public officials who have distinguished themselves as outstanding advocates on issues affecting Connecticut’s small towns.

“This is an amazing award that is being bestowed upon me,” Rep. Pat Boyd said. “There are many in the CT legislature that deserve this award, and the fact that it has been given to me shows us why we continue the great work we do at Hartford. I cannot begin to say how thankful I am.”

“We are honored to present Rep. Pat Boyd with COST’s Town Crier Award,” said Betsy Gara, COST’s Executive Director. Rep. Boyd represents the small towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Mansfield, Pomfret, and Woodstock. “Rep. Boyd was selected to receive COST’s Town Crier Award in recognition of his leadership role in passing legislation to address accreditation issues affecting small towns with constabularies and resident troopers. He has also been instrumental in supporting efforts to address the shortage of police, fire, and emergency services personnel,” said Gara. “Rep. Boyd has proven to be a staunch advocate for the state’s small towns, championing efforts to address the concerns of the state’s rural towns and other smaller communities,” she added.

This year’s other recipients are:

- **State Senator Cathy Osten** (*D - Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague*)
- **State Senator Ryan Fazio** (*R - Greenwich, Stamford, and New Canaan*)
- **State Representative Devin Carney** (*R-Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook*)

Founded in 1975, The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 35,000.



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Call Donald Roy 860-874-8396

Ashford Senior Center



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30 Walking Group 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes	2 9:30 Casino Trip
3	4 9:30 Walking Group 10:00 COA	5 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 10:00 Aging Cooperative Committee meeting	6 11:00 Lunch Bunch (1) 6:00 Big Bingo	7 12:00 Dime Bingo	8 9:30 Walking Group 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 12:00 St Patrick's Day lunch with entertainment 1:00 Hearing Clinic	9
10 Daylight Savings Starts	11 9:30 Walking Group	12 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 10:00 Aqua Turf	13 9:30 Easter Egg Craft 6:00 Big Bingo 6:15 Arts Council	14 10:00 Trader Joe's 12:00 Dime Bingo	15 9:30 Walking Group 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Dominoes	16
17 	18 9:30 Walking Group 1:00 Tech Support	19 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 1:00 Birthday Party	20 10:00 Aldi's Trip 11:00 ASCO Meting 6:00 Big Bingo	21 12:00 Dime Bingo	22 9:30 Walking Group 9:30 Tai Chi (KH) 11:00 Lunch Bunch (2) 1:00 Dominoes	23
24	25 9:30 Walking Group	26 9:30 Tai Chi (KH)	27 9:30 Easter Egg Craft 6:00 Big Bingo	28 10:00 Chair Yoga 12:00 Dime Bingo	29 Holiday Good Friday Easter Bunny Committee Set-up	30 Ashford Easter Egg Hunt

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



Need: Volunteer Van driver with public service license to provide senior trips. The Senior Center pays for the public service 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.

THINKING OF YOU: Do you know of someone who is hospitalized, convalescing, ill or has lost a loved one? The Senior Center tries to send cheer, get well, and sympathy cards to members who are going through a difficult time. If you know of someone please call or email me so I can start the cards for signatures.

MOVIES: A generous community member has offered to let us borrow his extensive movie collection. I have available at the Center a list of his movies. Please come into the Center and check the list out. Let me know what movies you would like to see and the best day of the week, morning, or afternoon, for this activity.

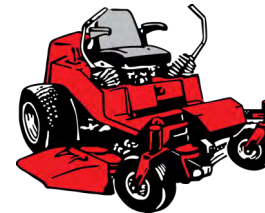
I am afraid that I will be out again for the last two weeks in March and most of April. I am having another surgery to replace my left hip this time. Tess Grous will be covering the center in my absence as she did quite ably last year.

CASINO: We are changing up the day the van will be going on its monthly drive to the Casino. We will be going on the first Saturday each month. The van ride is free to all ages 18 and older. You must sign up in advance as seating is limited. The van leaves at 9:30 for Mohegan Sun and returns around 4:30.

HANK'S LAWNMOWER REPAIR & SERVICE SPRING TUNE-UPS STARTING NOW !!!



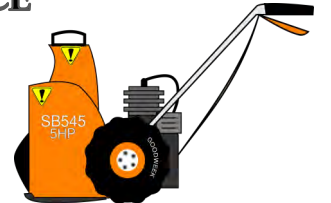
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758 HARTFORD TPK (RTE 44)
EASTFORD, CT 06242



MARCH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Let us celebrate each of our seniors who were born
in the month of March.

March 19th, Tuesday at 1:00

Our event will be:

Students from the Psychology of Aging Class at
Eastern CT. State University

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

YOU MUST SIGN-UP IN ADVANCE

THE PUBLIC AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF
CELEBRANTS ARE WELCOME

PRESENTED BY THE ASHFORD SENIOR CENTER

25 TREMKO LANE

860-487-5122

St Patrick's Day Luncheon

Catered by Renee's

Friday March 8th 11:45

\$11.00 paid in advance by March 1st

Entertainment by Bruce John



Reservations required

Brought to you by the Ashford Senior Center

25 Tremko Lane

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Ashford Agriculture Commission

The 9th Annual Know Your Farmer

Contact:
Becca Toms
Communications Coordinator
Grown ConNECTed, a program of UConn Extension
Rebecca.Toms@UConn.edu
203.526.4549
www.grownconnected.org



Know Your Farmer Fair Back in Willimantic

The sun isn't the only thing waking up from its winter slumber this March! In Willimantic over the last 8 years, a local favorite event, Know Your Farmer Fair, returns to Willimantic on March 9th from 11am-2pm at the Windham Community Center: 1 Jillson Sq. Each year, before the full spring frenzy whisks away our local farmers to the tasks of fields and crops, a group of farmers set up tables in a community area and get ready to say "hello". Get ready to fill your basket with fresh goodies and your heart with warm connections.

The 9th Annual Know Your Farmer Fair is meant to do just that- help you know your farmer. Many farmers bring something to sell (whether it be jarred items, frozen meat, cold weather crops, or CSA subscriptions to purchase), the offerings are slimmed down and the moment relaxed. This isn't a mid-summer farmers market with people scrambling for the last pint of blueberries, but rather an opportunity to walk table by table and say hello to a person that has invested their time and energy into producing food for you and your family. This event is a unique opportunity for the community to meet and build relationships with the farmers behind the local flavors of Eastern CT.

With close to 20 farms already signed up (and more joining!) this year's event there will be plenty for folks to take home and experiment with. The event is set up similar to a farmers market, where visitors can walk from table to table getting to know the farmers and the different ways they serve the community. Beyond chatting with your favorite farmers, the Know Your Farmer Fair lets you peek into upcoming CSAs (or Community Supported Agriculture shares): learn about share options, add-ons like eggs or flowers, and farm-specific practices. Even garden gurus can score hidden treasures like local honey, maple syrup, teas, and soaps! And for the food-conscious, farmers happily answer questions about their methods, whether you seek organic produce, GMO-free options, or soy-free meat. Dive into local flavors and farming philosophies, all in one delightful day!

Food trucks? Check. Kids' activities to unleash their inner farmer? You betcha! A seed swap to plant the seeds of future feasts? Absolutely! This fair is a smorgasbord of fun for the whole family and something that will make you linger as you explore the farms that make this region, the Quiet Corner, so unique and a reflection of the agricultural history and heritage of our state.

To learn more about this event and farms that will be involved, visit www.grownconNECTed.org/knowyourfarmerfair for more information, or visit the Know Your Farmer Fair Facebook page.

Know Your Farmer Fair is a project of Windham Community Food Network and is put on with the assistance of multiple other community organizations and businesses.

Ashford School News and Happenings



The Ashford 1st Graders celebrate Groundhog Day !



The Ashford Wolves boys' basketball team finished their season competing in the Quinebaug Valley Junior Conference. The wolves ended their season 3-9 led by 8th graders Santi Alfaro, Adam Tatro, Dom Marocchini, Nick Kirdzik, Nate O'Donovan, Mason Beaulieu, Cooper Ferrington and Jayden Baillageron.



The Ashford Girls Basketball Team finished the season with 8 wins and 4 losses. They were led by their co-captains Haley Krukoff and June Bosersett. The Ashford team made it to the semi-finals of the QVJC tournament where they lost to Putman.

UPCOMING DATES

Board of Ed Meeting	March 7, 2024 at 7 p.m.
Board of Ed Meeting	March 21, 2024 at 7 p.m.
NO SCHOOL	March 29, 2024



Update to the Ashford Community
From Cynthia Ford, Superintendent:



Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, children need to turn 5 years old on or before September 1 in order to be automatically eligible for kindergarten. Ashford School will be allowing all students that are currently enrolled in preschool and have turned 4 prior to January 1, 2024 to move onto the full day blended K classroom. The children who turned 5 after September 1, 2024 will be divided among all three Kindergarten classrooms.

Parents with 4-year-olds that are affected by this change of start date will have a choice between staying in the half day preschool program or to move into the full day blended kindergarten classroom and remaining in K for two years unless there is an exception decided between parents and teachers. Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, only students who turn 3 prior to September 1, 2024 will be admitted. The only exception will be for students who are transitioning from the Birth to Three program.

BOE Meetings:

March 7, 2024 and March 21, 2024 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 will be offered in the year 2024/2025 through ARP ESSER funding. There was an extension on the use of these funds and we have allocated money to offer this next year. More information will come out for the 2024/2025 school year in June for planning purposes. 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:

2023-2024 BOE approved budget	\$8,578,536	
2024-2025 Superintendent proposed budget	\$8,836,649	
\$ Increase		\$258,113
% Increase		3.01%

Developmental Budget Assumptions/Costs

Medical insurance premiums will increase 20%
Heating oil based on 34,000 gallons @ \$2.9188/gal. plus tax
Diesel fuel based on 30,000 gallons @ \$2.9755/gal. plus tax minus contributions from the DPW, Fire/Ambulance Service, and Region 19 Transportation contract.
Gasoline based on 10,000 gallons @ \$2.5920/gal. plus tax
Electricity increases by approximately 5%
There is 1 special education out-of-district placement included in the budget
This budget maintains the current staffing levels. It does not increase staffing on any level. Increases with staffing costs are due to contract obligations.



Ashford residents for over 35 years!



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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

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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.

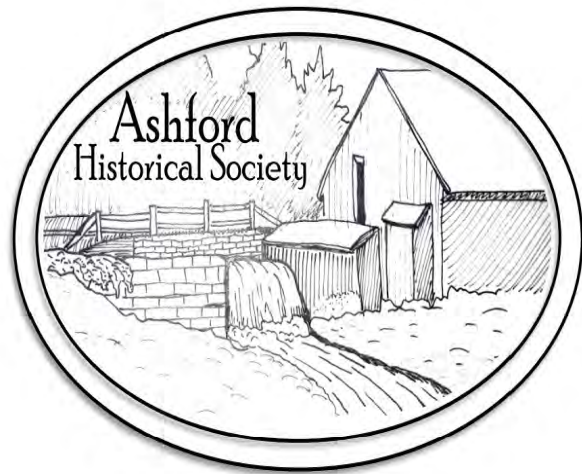
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help with your veteran issues:

Garry.brown71@aim.com and/or 860-928-2309.

Always no cost ever for veterans
and always confidential.

VETERAN NOTES

Did you know that if you have a service-connected disability for a heart condition, your surviving spouse would be entitled to \$2500.00 a month benefit?



Next Meeting: 7PM Tuesday, March 26th at Knowlton Hall
Please join us!

Conservation Commission News

March 2024

Now that spring is approaching, CC is planning another roadside cleanup for April. Look for the exact date and time in the April Citizen and on the town website as the time gets closer. Contact us if you are interested in participating or taking responsibility for maintaining your road.



Waste Tip for March

Skip the plastic or paper and get yourself some reusable and refillable kitchenware. Skip on individually wrapped items, specifically food in snack packs or single-serving containers.

Farmers Winter Market Thriving

The winter market runs from 10am-1pm on the first and third Sundays of the month. The market is located downstairs at Knowlton Memorial Hall. We have new vendors and many of the longtime vendors are a part of the winter market. The winter market will run from December-April 2024. The market is thrilled to be operating during the winter months. Stop by on the first and third Sundays of the month to view the selection of goods available. Check out our Facebook page to make sure market is on during inclement weather.



Presently the Conservation Commission is working on reviewing the 2015 POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) to provide input for the updated 2025 POCD. If you are interested in helping update this important document join us on the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm. We have been meeting in the small conference room downstairs at the town hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Loretta, email lorettaw886@gmail.com



Joshua's Trust

Wednesday Walk at Tower Hill Preserve

3/6/24 9:00-10:30 AM

Tower Hill Preserve, between 96 & 154 Tower Hill Road, Chaplin, CT
Join us at Tower Hill Preserve in Chaplin, CT for an ~ 1.4-mile hike. We will be walking on long-abandoned farm roads through an oak forest that provides important habitat for nesting birds and mammals. Visit <https://joshuustrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations

Wednesday Walk at Utley Hill Preserve

3/20/24 9:00 -10:30 AM

Utley Hill Preserve, 60 Hennequin Rd, Columbia, CT
Join us at Utley Hill Preserve in Columbia, CT for a multi-habitat adventure and a little history, too. The loop is approximately 2.5 miles long Visit <https://joshuustrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.

Long Distance Hike at Bradley-Buchanan Woods

3/23/24 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Join volunteer Dawn Heasley at Bradley-Buchanan Woods in Mansfield, CT for a 4.7 mile hike that will take us into Mansfield Hollow State Park and back. Park on the south side of the Mansfield Public Library, 54 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center. Visit <https://joshuustrust.org/events/> for details, changes and cancellations.

Houses of Worship

Weekly Services



Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship Service - 10:30 AM

368 Westford Hill Road, Ashford
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www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org

*The Church of Jesus Christ
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All Places of Worship in Ashford
are welcome to submit their
Events and Happenings
Weekly Service Schedule
Free of charge
Please e-mail:

Ashfordcitizen@ashfordtownhall.org

Sunday Meeting Schedule

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

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Pat Kenney, Northeast Division Coordinator
Tess Grous, CT Group Leader

To Register For This FREE Event & For More Information Contact:
ClerkWCC@gmail.com | www.WestfordCongregationalChurch.org | 959.995.1705
Light Refreshments to Follow

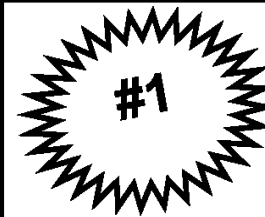
EASTER SERVICE

6:30AM
Westford Hill Cemetery
Westford Hill Road, Ashford



Hosted by
Westford Congregational Church
& Living Proof Church
Breakfast to Follow at WCC

COMMUNITY
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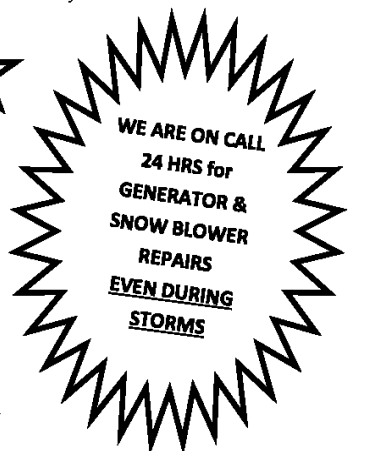
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THANK YOU!

A big "THANK YOU" to the gentleman that
so graciously donated the
admission fee and the food for ASCO's
50's Rock and Roll Night that was
held on Sat., Feb. 3rd
at the Senior Center.
Also, a "THANK YOU" to the
volunteers who gave their time
to coordinate the event.
A good time was had by all that attended
and the special
surprise of the evening was
a visit from "ELVIS"

Sincerely,

Ray M. Warren



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Windham-Tolland 4-H



As we start a new year at the Windham County 4-H Foundation, we take time at our annual meeting to recognize a few special community partners who have provided special support in the past year. This year's Community Spirit Awards were: **Eastford Building Supply, Big Boys Toys (and the Huff family) and The Sunshine Shop.**

Eastford Building Supply has been a Foundation business partner for many years. This past fall they generously donated all new windows towards the remodeling of Mesquite cabin, helping us to make it viable to continue as an off season rental.

For the past few years **Big Boy's Toys** has made especially generous donations to our auction. This fall they made a bonus donation of a brand new UTV to use at camp. It will be put to very good use next summer as Heather covers the campus on her appointed rounds, moving people and supplies as needed. We are also fortunate to have Carolyn Huff on our board and benefit from Huff "boy power" throughout the year at work day events.

The Sunshine Shop has supported our fundraisers with live plants and event sponsorships for over Forty-five years under the ownership of Gene and Betty Merow. New owners Mark and Jessica LaMountain have continued that tradition and for the second year will be providing support for our floral night dam fund fundraiser.

We are grateful to these businesses and appreciate the opportunity to acknowledge their support.

We will be hosting our March Open House on Sunday, March 24 from 1 – 3 PM.

You can take a tour, meet some of the staff and register for camp.

Book early to save a space for the week you want.

Also in March, it's time to register for our **Camper Scamper 5K Race/Walk and One Mile Kid Run** scheduled for April 20 at 9:30 AM. Register by March 31 to receive discount and free t-shirt. Adults \$30/Kids \$10. Professionally timed by Last Mile Race Management. All proceeds go to the Jim Logee Campership Fund to offer financial support to campers who wouldn't be able to have a camp experience otherwise. Go to www.4hcampct.org or call 860-974-1122 for more details and registration forms.

Register for the Race using the QR Code here.



Contact information....

Heather Logee
Camp Director
Windham-Tolland 4H Camp
Office: 860-974-1122
www.4hcampct.org

Margaret Varga
860-985-7687
Ashford, CT



Scout Troop 92 March Newsletter



Klondike report: This Klondike was a warm one. No snow on the ground and temperatures into the mid 50's in the afternoon. Five Scouts from Troop 92 participated. The total counts this time was 240 Scouts, 352 with adults total participants.

They all liked the different format that had them "on the Trail" for an overnight, carrying on their backs or in their sled everything they needed, food, water, and shelter. They competed in 6 different stations that they had to find by a list of distances and compass bearings. Much of this Klondike was coed. Some Troops were all girls, and some were mixed. We are seeing more of this trend all the time.

Upcoming: Following the Klondike, the Troop plans to have a "Tropical Vacation." This will be a visit on Friday evening, March 1st to the Mansfield Community Center, to use their warm swimming pool and Game room. Tropical Vacation is open to siblings and Webelos Scouts as well.

Owen Gratton's Special Court of Honor to advance him to the rank of Eagle Scout will be on Sunday, April 14. Afterwards there will be a BBQ. Details TBD

Cub Scouts: Using parts found around the house, parents and Cub Scouts worked together at the January Pack Meeting to build their own ice fishing "tip-ups." Now there needs to be some cold weather to test out their work.

March 9 is the annual Pinewood Derby. This is one of Cub Scouts' most popular activities. It is a competition using gravity powered race cars.

Scout Troop 92 BSA
Ashford/Eastford/Pomfret

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

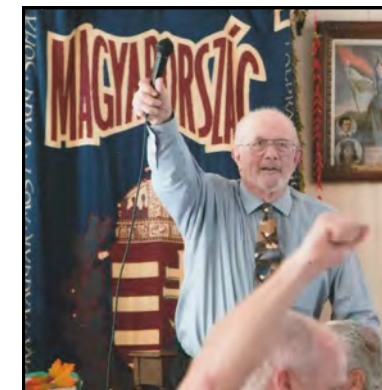


News From the Hungarian Club

The Hungarian Club annual Stuffed Cabbage Dinner is scheduled for

Sunday, April 28th at noon.

The dinner celebrates Freedom from the Austrian Empire.



To top off our stuffed cabbage dinner, we will have homemade prune cookies and other apricot, nutmeat, and poppyseed killing.

In addition to the dinner there will be a charity raffle to raise funds for program and building costs. The raffle is organized by Mrs. Eva Makray Annatti.



THANK YOU

The talk around town is that people enjoyed the 50s Dance that was held February 3rd at the Ashford Senior Center. Thank you to all who attended and made it a good time! ASCO plans on having another 50s Dance in the future and hosting other fun events we hope people will enjoy.



ASCO



ANNOUNCEMENT

The ASCO sponsored Tuesday Evening Bingo at the Senior Center, will move to Wednesday Evenings starting March 6th, 2024

Still held at the Ashford Senior Center. Doors open at 5pm, game starts at 6pm. This is a permanent move. We will not have to chage dates when the Summer music in the park happens.



The AAAC Corner

March 2024

ASHFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL in collaboration with Windham Arts
OUR NEXT MEETING: MAR 13th, 7 pm, Ashford Senior Center

These incredibly talented AAAC artist members will have a booth at the indoor Ashford Farmers Market 10am-1pm at the Knowlton Hall (in the Babcock Library, Ashford)



March 3rd
Alison Ciarlante of Innersassa. Alison uses bold rainbow spectrum colors to create dot paintings on rocks, clocks and canvas.



March 17
Bob Johnson, Caning repurposed chairs. Bob is a meticulous craftsman who reclaims and repurposes chairs with a fresh coat of paint and newly caned seats.



March 17
Kathy Weigold, weaver. A well-loved, long-time weaver from Mansfield will display woven bags, rugs, towels, scarves, and placemats



THE ASHFORD AREA ARTS COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for volunteers for several positions and for some one-day helpers on event days!

1. Summer's Palette - We're planning for our third "A Summer's Palette" at Westford Hill Distillers. Forms will be available soon for artists to sign up for a booth. We are looking for people who would be willing to help for a few hours during the event. Contact Darcie at boiano.darcie@gmail.com

2. Our Holiday Artist Market is in need of a Chairperson to steer the event. Someone who can contact the artists and is good at organization - you don't need to be an artist to help out! Contact StaceyTheAAAC@Outlook.com

3. Council Chairperson or Co-Chair - Again, you don't need to be an artist! We're looking for someone who can delegate tasks and has great organization and people skills. Contact StaceyTheAAAC@Outlook.com

We have an active artist community from all over Northeastern 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 or come to our next meeting!

Vanilla Bean Café Show will be in September

Our artist members at the Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret will be held in September this year. The month-long show presents an opportunity to shop ahead for the holidays. Plan on a beautiful gift to give or a treasure for yourself.

photography by Dot Drobney, Monarch Butterfly at Aisling Farm



FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFO ON THESE STORIES - 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
• teach • perform • poetry readings
Bus. Name: • take workshops
Website:
Mailing Address:

FOR MEMBERSHIP CONTACT:
AAAC Membership Director
StaceyTheAAAC@outlook.com
PO Box 313
Ashford, CT 06278
Check Payable To:
WINDHAM ARTS ORGANIZATION
MEMO Line: AAAC MEMBERSHIP

Upcoming Events:

- ONGOING ONLINE SALES - via our website, <https://ashfordarts.org>
- ASHFORD FARMER'S MARKET various artists each month
- SUMMER'S PALETTE, June 29 (raindate 6/30)
- VANILLA BEAN SHOW, month of September

How to PAY Your Taxes Online

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



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

Ex. Name: John Smith

Enter the search criteria below:

Smith J | Search

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



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

0 BILL(S) - \$0.00

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

- Especially if You Have Past Due Taxes

Pay Now

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

- Treat All Debit Cards As Credit Cards

Continue to Payment Information

8. Enter Payment information, Review, and Submit.

- There is a 2.99% 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)

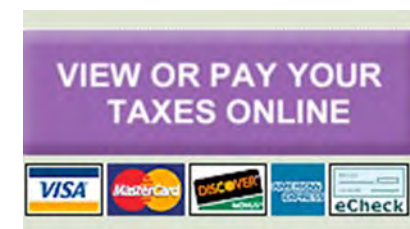


Go Green: Pay your bills online

All Tax Bills that are payable are posted online. The new supplemental motor vehicle tax bills were available on the website as of December 13, 2023 and 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 March 2024, the Collector's office will be **closed** to the public on **Wed. March 20th** and **Friday, March 22nd** in order to attend the annual required professional training. All Town Offices are closed on Thursdays and legal holidays including. Friday, March 29th, .

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





Interested in Saving Money?

New Series on Reducing Waste: Let's Talk about Composting

Transfer Station Budget for 2023-24 = \$380,360. That's a lot of money for our trash disposal. If you have been to the transfer station recently, you know that we are throwing away a lot of trash. Can we reduce that trash and reduce the budget for the transfer station and thus, our taxes? As I throw away my own, I notice that it seems more of it is going into the landfill area than into the recycling area. So, I'm interested, what is in that trash?

Though I haven't been through the many plastic bags I see flung into the trash area, others have and much of the waste is food. According to the EPA, in 2018, 35 million tons of food waste went into landfills. About 30-40% of all available food in the US is lost or wasted every year. All that food thrown into landfills creates methane as it decomposes, which produces greenhouse gas emissions. Why waste your food, when you can compost it and create a soil amendment that allows your garden to flourish as well as your soil's ability to store carbon and make the environment all that much better? Out of those millions of tons of food waste, only 2.6 million tons of food scraps were composted. We at the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force want to encourage Ashford to start a composting service at the transfer station, but, in the meantime, let's discuss how you can start or do more with your composting at home.

Other than eliminating wasted food going into the landfill, why else go to the trouble of composting? Are you buying soil amendments/compost/fertilizer/pesticides each year for your gardens, indoor plants, containers? Have you been having trouble with disease, insects, run-off, brown patches in your lawn or garden? Compost will help solve all these issues and save you money in the long run; we at Henrietta House B&B have saved as much as \$700 in a year.

For those who have never composted, it is accelerating the natural process of breaking down organic waste and turning it into a more nutritious soil for all of our plants. There are multiple ways to compost and one that we used to practice at our small farm was just to have a bucket in the house that we filled with our fruit and vegetable scraps and spoiled food and that we then piled in a corner of the garden, layering it with twigs, leaves, soil, hay, manure. We sometimes turned it and sometimes didn't. That is called, a cold compost, and will break down in a year or two.

A faster method is to hot compost. Establishing at least a 3'X3' bin/box/area and methodically layering with green (grass clippings, food waste, manure) and brown (wood chips, leaves, straw, hay) materials and turning the compost every so often encourages hot composting, which breaks down more difficult materials, such as eggshells, meat scraps, dairy, and bones. Place this in a shaded area away from the house. If you have a hot compost, you are less likely to attract animals.

Jasmine recently discovered Bokashi composting, which is an anaerobic (no-air) fermentation process. In a 5 pound air-tight container with a spigot, we layer food scraps, including egg shells, meat, dairy, bones every 2 inches with the Bokashi inoculant. This is pressed down until the container is full and then the lid is left on for two weeks for the food to break down. There are several options on how to utilize it: put it in your outside compost; in late summer and fall months it can be buried in your garden bed; and from the spigot, you can use the diluted compost tea for your containers and indoor plants. Though you can buy the Bokashi containers and inoculants, you can also make your own with a 5 gallon bucket and some sawdust with microbes added.

Composting is not reserved for large amounts—take a moment to reflect on what food products you throw away that can all be turned into a resource for your plants—whether they be your garden or house plants. The more you use compost, the less you have to buy fertilizer and other amendments. We have the ability to create soil and improve our land. There is no fertilizer, soil, or compost you can buy that is as good as what you create on your own property. The nutrient density is amazing in what we create ourselves.

The ACETF will be tabling at the Ashford Farmer's Market on March 3, 2024. Come see Jasmine Lewis of Moonbeam Bouquets and Henrietta House B&B for conversations about her composting techniques.

*Submitted by Marian Matthews with information from Jasmine Lewis
The ACETF thanks you for your interest in our work and welcomes your input. If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Susan Eastwood at sceastwood@yahoo.com*

ASHFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Who are the Volunteers of the AVFD?

For more than 74 years, people just like you decided that they wanted to make a difference in their community and help those during their time of greatest need. They stepped forward, reached out their hand and became a Hometown Hero, an Ashford Volunteer Firefighter and/or EMT. As it has been that way since 1950 and continues that tradition to this day.



Who are the Volunteers of the AVFD?

You already know us. We're your friends and neighbors. We're mothers, fathers, husbands, and wives; sons, and daughters, sisters, and brothers. We come from every profession and every walk of life. We are company executives, students, contractors, craftsman, truck drivers, and pilots. We are medical professionals, correction officers, farmers, business owners and VETERANS from every branch of service.

**Simply put, we are Neighbors
Helping Neighbors.**

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME AN ASHFORD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER?

Firefighters across the country are held to extremely high ethical standards. Terms such as, Honor, Duty, Integrity, and Responsibility means something in the Ashford Volunteer Fire Department and all personal are expected to uphold our long and rich dedication to those guiding principles.

- Must be 18 years or older (ask about our Explorer program for 16-17-year-olds)
- Live or work within the Town of Ashford
- Able to pass a criminal background check.
- Able to pass medical physical.

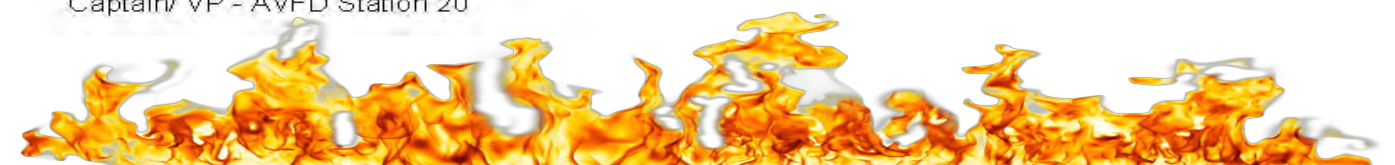
See our website for an application or stop by the station on the 2nd Tuesday night of the month for more information.

The call count for January was 8 Fire/Rescue and 50 EMS. Our fiscal year total is 356.

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
Captain/ VP - AVFD Station 20

Wonder what its like
to be on the fire dept?
Scan code to watch
this PSA about
becoming a volunteer
in your community.



Assessment News

The Assessor's office will be closed from March 12, 2024 to March 19, 2024

Motor Vehicle Bills

If you have disposed of a vehicle since 10/1/2023 and want your July 2024 tax bill to be pro-rated, you must provide **Proof of Disposal** to the Assessor. It's best to provide proof prior to paying your bill.

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:



3. Print a copy of the completed cancellation as your receipt.

The deadline to receive a credit for a vehicle on the 2022 Grand List is 12/31/2024.

The deadline to receive a credit for a vehicle on the 2023 Grand List is 12/31/2025.

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

- Email: 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



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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

From the Tax Collector's Office:

Motor Vehicle Taxes Need to Be Paid in Order To Register With DMV

Please make sure that your motor vehicle taxes are up to date. Many people are experiencing challenges in renewing registrations or registering new registrations because they have unpaid motor vehicle taxes. Since many registrations are now active for three years, this has become more of a problem. You can check your tax status online on the Town of Ashford website, and pay those outstanding taxes on the same website.

Allow enough time so that you will not be hindered when it is time to renew.

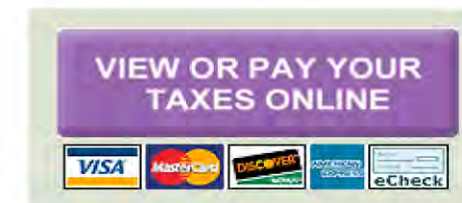
www.ashfordtownhall.org

Looking Up Payments for IRS Reporting Purposes

Go to the Town's Website at:

www.ashfordtownhall.org

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



When the box comes up to search by name,

SEARCH BY
Name
See Example

Enter the search criteria below:
Search

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

☒ All ☐ Due Now ☐ Balance Due ☐ IRS Payment Records for Year 2021

Type in last name, a space, and then the first letter of the first name. Also, check off the bubble that says IRS Payment Records for the year 2023, and hit search. When the page comes up, there will be a box on the right side of the page in the second blue bar that says IRS. "Check it, and a View IRS button will appear.



Click on it, your information should be there.

This site is available 24/7.