

**Ellington**

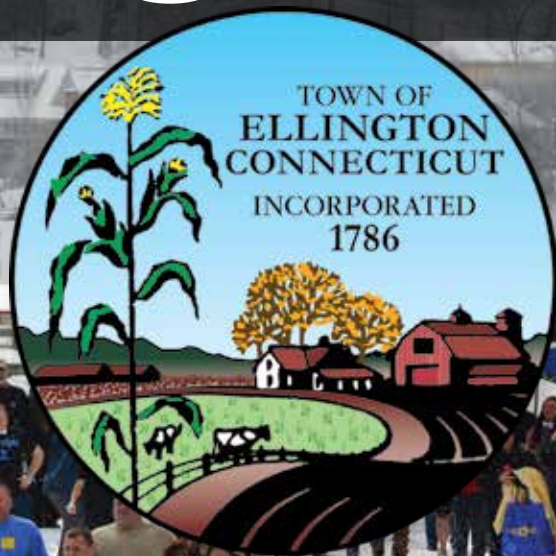
# CONNECTION

SPRING  
2019

**TOWN HALL NEWS**



ANDRE GARANT  
LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**PARKS & REC  
PROGRAMS**

**YOUTH SERVICES  
PROGRAMS**

**SENIOR CENTER  
ACTIVITIES**

**FARMERS' MARKET**

**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

**HALL MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY**



Contact: **Lori Spielman, First Selectman**  
860-870-3100 | Email: [lspielman@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:lspielman@ellington-ct.gov)



**Courtesy of Wicked Good News**

# FIRST SELECTMAN'S CORNER



2019 has arrived with very little snow, which I don't mind, but I will bet some folks who rely on snow for income or recreation are missing it. Mother Nature will make up for it somehow. Be prepared!

2018 was another busy year. I was lucky enough to attend the inauguration of newly-elected Governor Lamont, and I wish him much luck as he takes the reins of Connecticut and navigates through some very difficult times.

For those of you who visit Hall Memorial Library, perhaps you have noticed the new carpeting, which looks terrific. We are fortunate to have such a great resource. Not only is the Library in a beautiful, historical building, but the programs are exceptional and serve young and old alike. Check them out!

The Ellington Trails Committee worked hard to clean up and open the Kimball Forest Trail, located on Hopkins Road, as part of the trails system. There was a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony on December 1, 2018, which was documented by local news outlets including the North Central News. Congratulations to the volunteers who keep working to expand the walking trails in Ellington.

However, the fun of that day was accompanied by great sadness and heavy hearts. The loss of Robert Tedford, Director of Recreation, a



few months before was felt by all in Town and his absence leaves a great void. Parents, kids, co-workers and volunteers knew that Bob was devoted to the health and well-being of all our residents, and he was a huge supporter of this new project.

Two weddings were held at Town Hall, which I performed as a Justice of the Peace; these were very enjoyable events to be a part of. I also attended the 44th Annual Pancake Breakfast at Crystal Lake School, which was a lot of fun!

December brought Wreaths Across America to Ellington. Residents of Ellington were very generous and helped the Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee reach their goal of 450 wreaths.

Winterfest was a delight with so many families standing on Main Street cheering on Santa, Mrs. Claus, community floats and decorated fire trucks. It takes a lot of work to put this celebration together with Winterfest Chairman Ellen Karadimas and her committee, volunteers from Hall Memorial Library, Ellington Congregational Church, the Nellie McKnight Museum and so many others working with a core group of individuals who make this event happen. And let's not forget the volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel who wash, shine and decorate their vehicles along with the other groups who participated in the parade. Thank you to all. What a great start to the holiday season.

The Holiday Lighting Contest saw 10 entries this year. It really is fun to travel through the neighborhoods and see all of the lights. Judging can be difficult because everyone does such a great job. It is wonderful to get the chance to ride around and see all of the wonderful Christmas lights, and we wish there could be a prize to all because all of the entries were very good. For more information on the winners, check out the Ad Hoc Ellington Beautification Committee page on the Town's website.

So far, it looks like 2019 will be as busy as 2018. January has begun with work on the Town budget.

This year, we will not have the guidance of our long-time Finance Officer/Treasurer, as Nicholas J. DiCorleto,

Jr. has retired after many years of dedicated service.

We will be looking for someone to fill this vital position. I, for one, will miss Nick. He helped me transition into my new



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position as First Selectman in 2016 and I have great respect for his genuine commitment to the fiscal health of Ellington. I will miss his smile and his guidance; his are big shoes to fill. My Community Voice Channel TV show is entering its 4th year and I have enjoyed getting to know people and businesses alike through my interviews. Thank you to all of you who let me know you are watching and if anyone has an idea or would like to be interviewed about something going on here in Town, stop by or give my office a call at 860-870-3100. Our doors are open!

Respectfully,

Lori Spielman  
First Selectman



**911** is the Connecticut statewide emergency call number. If you have an emergency, call 911 if you can, text if you can't.

If you are unable to reach a 911 operator, dial **860-872-7333**. This is a direct 7-digit emergency line direct into the regional communications center.



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#### Ellington Town Hall Hours

**Monday 8:30 am - 6:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Town Offices will be **CLOSED** on the following dates:

**Monday, February 18, 2019**  
**Presidents' Day**

**Friday, April 19, 2019**  
**Good Friday**

**Monday, May 27, 2019**  
**Memorial Day\***

\*There will be a one day delay in trash collection for this holiday.

Check the Hall Memorial Library website for closing dates at [library.ellington-ct.gov](http://library.ellington-ct.gov)

ELLINGTON RESIDENT TRUCKPENS OFFICE  
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(860) 875-3522

## WELCOME THE NEW DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

We are pleased to introduce our new Director of Recreation, Dustin Huguenin! Mr. Huguenin will be starting on Monday, February 11, 2019. He is a highly qualified individual with years of experience in the Parks and Recreation field, including serving as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Southbury, CT and as Program Coordinator for the Town of Guilford and the Easton Community Center. In addition, Mr. Huguenin holds a Bachelor of Science in Sport and Fitness Management and is currently enrolled in the Master of Science Business Administration program at the University of Connecticut. Please join us in welcoming Dustin Huguenin to the Town of Ellington!



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~ Your Wicked Good News team



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# HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

The Hall Memorial Library stands prominently at the head of the Town Green and proudly serves as the public library for Ellington. This beautiful building, opened in 1903, was a gift to the Town from Francis Hall and was the Town's first dedicated library building. Ellington citizens have long had a love of books and reading, and created a number of shared collections throughout the years. The Ellington Library Association was incorporated on February 7, 1887 as the first general-access collection. This was a subscription library, where users were required to pay an annual fee of \$1.00 to borrow books. As there was no official library building at the time, the books were housed in the homes of the librarians, the last being the Kibbe home while Miss Lizzie Kibbe served as the librarian, from 1885 to 1903. It was the job of the librarian and the officers of the Association to raise funds in excess of the subscription fees to buy books, and strawberry and oyster festivals were held, as well as educational events such as speakers and concerts. At some point in 1895, the officers of the Association, who were also Town officials and prominent businessmen, began to explore the idea of a Town-supported, free public library and an official library building. At a Town meeting, on October 5, 1896, the people of Ellington voted to establish a free public library, establish an elected Board of Directors and allot a tax appropriation of \$200 a year to run said library and buy books. Shortly thereafter, Francis Hall presented his idea of building a dedicated library building for the Town. The building would honor his father and brother. The Halls—father John and subsequently son Edward, were the headmasters of a private school located here in Ellington in the late 1800s. Francis, another son, grew up in Ellington and then moved to Elmira, NY, where he opened a bookstore and became an international businessman and Town official. Being in the import business, he travelled to Japan in the late 1860s, soon after that country opened its borders to foreigners, serving as

an emissary for the United States. While there, he developed relationships with important businessmen, including the Iwasaki family who owned the Mitsubishi Company. As a result of this connection, Yanosuke Iwasaki, a son of the family, traveled to Ellington in 1872 to attend the Edward Hall Family School for

Boys, to improve his English and to experience American life and culture. Yanosuke returned home and became the second president of Mitsubishi and later the Governor of the Bank of Japan. In 1900, Francis Hall purchased land adjacent to the church green and set about designing a state-of-the-art library. Construction began in spring of 1902. Sadly, a short time later Francis fell ill and died before the building was complete. His will provided for the completion of building and the park-like grounds surrounding it. Additional funds were provided by other family members in memory of Francis, and so the building became a memorial to three Hall men. These handsome gentlemen are immortalized in the stained glass windows at the top of the staircase in the original section of the library. These windows, as well as the other stained glass around the building, were a gift of Yanosuke Iwasaki.

Over time, changes and improvements were made—electric lights in 1905, parking lot, handicapped access and fire stairs in the 1970s, and finally the addition project, completed in 1992. Recent improvements include the restroom renovations and beautiful new carpeting.

Today the Hall Memorial Library houses a collection of over 73,000 items including the expected things—books for all ages, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, magazines and newspaper, along with some unexpected things, like puzzles, board games, puppets and toys, and novelty cakepans. To provide you with titles not owned we offer interlibrary loan service, a cooperative service that allows borrowing of materials from other Connecticut libraries. You may initiate the loan yourself through the Evergreen online catalog or we can do it for you. Items generally arrive at the library in about a week. For The many book clubs in town, we arrange for the multiple copies of the titles you need. If you have a suggestion for an item for the collection, just let us know.



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**No matter how you choose to use your library we hope you visit often and leave with a smile on your face!**

**LIBRARY STAFF**

**Susan J. Phillips**, Library Director  
**Patricia W. Grundman**, Children's Librarian  
**Francie Berger**, Reference/Program Librarian  
**Linda Callahan**,  
**Susan Slaga-Metivier**,  
**Mary Jo El-Hachem**

Reference Librarians

**Cheryl Chamberlin, Debra Cormier, Lisa Giaquinto, Lisa Kuraska** - Library Assistants II  
**Kathy Boop, Tara Clynych, Heidi Hoffman, Linda Judd, Lhama Lkhagvaa, Lindsay McKeegan, Kristyn Stauffer, Gay Szumyk, Laurie Wormstedt**  
 Library Assistants I  
**Marcia Downs**, Bookkeeper  
**Caitlin Coonan**,  
**Ben Lipman** - Pages

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**John Halloran**, Chair  
**Mary Blanchette**, Secretary  
**Janet Wielicka**, Treasurer  
**Gabby Mendelsohn**  
**Judy Stomberg**

# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of Hall Memorial Library will be holding our Spring Bag of Books Sale on Friday, April 26, Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28. On Friday and Saturday, books will be \$9.00 per bag and the Book Cellar is included. On Sunday only the second floor room is included, but books will be \$5.00 per bag. We supply the paper bag or you can purchase one of our branded totes for an additional \$2.50. If you bring a tote you purchased from a previous sale, you can fill it for \$9.00. This is a great event to support our library, clear our inventory of books and pick up some bargains to put aside for summer reading.

Also, remember that our Book Cellar is open year round – Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00; Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30; Saturdays from 10:00 to noon; and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 (when the Library is open). Our Cellar is well organized with adult fiction arranged alphabetically, plus sections for large print, newly published, classic literature, poetry, gay/lesbian and more. Within the non-fiction section we have history, art, biographies, sports, self-care, politics, business and many more options. We also have a large selection of children and young adult books, plus an assortment of games, puzzles, CDs and DVDs

**Come check us out!**

We are always looking for new members, especially those who would like to be involved with our Executive Committee. Pick up a brochure at the Library Front Desk and see what we do and how you can join.




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# VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Ellington Veterans Representative Office is initiating a program to enhance our Military Memorials.

The Memorials are located on Sandy Beach Road in the Crystal Lake area, at the Town Green and at the Five Corners rotary.

These memorials, are dedicated to those residents who served in the military, past or present, and recognize those residents who gave their life for our freedom.

Bronze statues with a military theme have been selected to enhance the memorials; bronze was selected because of its strength and durability in all-weather conditions. Due to the durability of the material, there is a cost factor.

Any donations to this project would be greatly appreciated.

Donations should be forwarded to:

**Ellington Town Hall**  
**Finance Department, Attn: Veterans Project Fund**  
**55 Main St. Ellington, CT 06029**

Thank you for your time, effort and generosity.

**Our Veterans deserve it.**

Please call the Emergency Management / Veterans Representative Office at 860-870-3182 with any questions.



# FARMERS' MARKET

The winter season of the Ellington Farmers' Market, held at the Indian Valley YMCA at 11 Pinney Street, has three remaining dates planned, as farmers scour seed catalogs and start their seedlings for summer crops. The winter market, held every other Saturday, has established a dedicated following of customers who are now embracing clean eating and have made a commitment to support local food growers and entrepreneurs.

Locally-produced foods including dairy, beef, seafood, pork, poultry, lamb, a wide variety of baked goods, cheeses, greens, honey, jams, pickles, relishes, specialty sauces and foods, ready to eat items, body and home products along with

selected artisan wares are available for purchase from 25 vendors each market.

The Ellington Farmers' Market continues to match SNAP dollars throughout the winter market. Visit the market's website at [www.ellingtonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.ellingtonfarmersmarket.com) for information on educational programs, newsletter signup and vendor information. The final three winter markets will be held on February 16th, March 2nd and March 16th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The market then takes a seven-week break before the start of the summer market, beginning Saturday, May 11th in Arbor Park.



# CUB SCOUTS PACK 96

We are Ellington's oldest Cub Scout Pack, celebrating our 62nd year! Our pack welcomes boys and girls ages 5-11 (kindergarten through fifth grade) from all over Ellington and surrounding towns. Our leaders, scouts, and their families are proud to be a close-knit organization, where we teach our scouts about citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through educational, fun, engaging activities. We focus a lot on community service. This past fall, with the generosity of the Ellington community, we were able to provide 1,300 food items to the Ellington Food Pantry. During the holidays, our scouts adopted a local family and a senior citizen through the Ellington Human Services holiday program, providing gifts to make the season a little brighter. In January, we went out to the races and held our annual Pinewood Derby, where we showcased several small local businesses. Our scouts have also been out this year cleaning up Ellington trails, creating artwork, and writing letters that were sent to veterans thanking them for our freedom. Our scouts are looking forward to our



spring campout and our annual pack trip. This year we will be staying overnight at Battleship Cove in MA.

New scouts are always welcome to join. We invite your family to attend an upcoming meeting on March 12, April 16, or our Open House on May 9 to see what we're all about. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. in the social room at Ellington Congregational Church, 72 Main Street. You may also contact Mark Schneider at marks79@comcast.net for further information or find us on Facebook - Cub Scouts Pack 96 Ellington.



**Photo Credit: Kecia Shaw**



## SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE:

There will be a special election for **State Senator** in the 3rd Senatorial District held at the **Ellington Senior Center** for REGISTERED VOTERS OF DISTRICT 1 on

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019.**

Please check the Town website and social media pages for more information.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All Town Hall meetings take place in the Meeting Hall on the third floor, 55 Main Street, unless otherwise noted. Check the Town website ([www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)) prior to attending, as dates and times may change.

|             |                                       |                       |         |          |                                       |                       |         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| February 18 | Presidents' Day                       | All Town Offices      | Closed  | March 26 | Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee            | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| February 19 | BOS Capital Improvements Presentation | Town Hall             | 8:00 pm | March 27 | Housing Authority                     | Snipsic Village       | 6:00 pm |
| February 20 | Water Pollution Control Authority     | Public Works          | 7:00 pm | April 1  | Zoning Board of Appeals               | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| February 25 | Board of Selectmen Budget Meeting     | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm | April 2  | Conservation Commission               | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| February 25 | Planning and Zoning Commission        | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | April 3  | Trails Committee                      | Town Hall             | 6:00 pm |
| February 26 | Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee            | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm | April 4  | Plan of Conservation/Development      | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| February 27 | Housing Authority                     | Snipsic Village       | 6:00 pm | April 8  | Human Services Commission             | Arbor Commons         | 6:00 pm |
| March 4     | Zoning Board of Appeals               | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | April 8  | Inland Wetlands Agency                | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 5     | Board of Assessment Appeals           | Commission Room B     | 6:00 pm | April 9  | Library Board of Trustees             | Hall Memorial Library | 7:00 pm |
| March 5     | Conservation Commission               | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | April 9  | Budget Public Hearing                 | Ellington High School | 8:00 pm |
| March 5     | Ethics Commission                     | Commission Room A     | 7:00 pm | April 10 | Economic Development Commission       | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 5     | Board of Finance                      | Town Hall             | 8:00 pm | April 10 | Parks and Recreation Commission       | Arbor Commons         | 7:00 pm |
| March 6     | Trails Committee                      | Town Hall             | 6:00 pm | April 10 | Permanent Building Committee          | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm |
| March 7     | Board of Assessment Appeals           | Commission Room B     | 6:00 pm | April 11 | Board of Finance Budget Deliberations | Town Hall             | 7:30 pm |
| March 7     | Plan of Conservation/Development      | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | April 15 | Board of Selectmen                    | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm |
| March 11    | Human Services Commission             | Arbor Commons         | 6:00 pm | April 16 | Board of Finance Budget Deliberations | Town Hall             | 7:30 pm |
| March 11    | Board of Selectmen                    | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm | April 17 | Water Pollution Control Authority     | Public Works          | 7:00 pm |
| March 11    | Inland Wetlands Agency                | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | April 19 | Good Friday                           | All Town Offices      | Closed  |
| March 12    | Board of Assessment Appeals           | Commission Room B     | 6:00 pm | April 22 | Planning and Zoning Commission        | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 12    | Library Board of Trustees             | Hall Memorial Library | 7:00 pm | April 23 | Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee            | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 12    | Permanent Building Committee          | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm | April 24 | Housing Authority                     | Snipsic Village       | 6:00 pm |
| March 13    | Economic Development Commission       | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | May 1    | Trails Committee                      | Town Hall             | 6:00 pm |
| March 14    | Parks and Recreation Commission       | Arbor Commons         | 7:00 pm | May 2    | Plan of Conservation/Development      | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 19    | Developing Positive Youth Culture     | Arbor Commons         | 6:00 pm | May 6    | Zoning Board of Appeals               | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 19    | Board of Finance Budget Hearing       | Town Hall             | 7:30 pm | May 7    | Conservation Commission               | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 20    | Water Pollution Control Authority     | Public Works          | 7:00 pm | May 7    | Library Board of Trustees             | Hall Memorial Library | 7:00 pm |
| March 21    | Design Review Board                   | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | May 7    | Permanent Building Committee          | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm |
| March 25    | Planning and Zoning Commission        | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm | May 8    | Economic Development Commission       | Town Hall Annex       | 7:00 pm |
| March 26    | Board of Finance Budget Hearings      | Town Hall             | 7:00 pm | May 8    | Parks and Recreation Commission       | Arbor Commons         | 7:00 pm |

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# RECYCLING TRASH DISPOSAL MIRA

Dear Residents of Ellington,

As you may have heard via news articles in the papers and news reports on television, the trash and recycling disposal facility in Hartford operated by MIRA, (Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority) has experienced some problems with their operation for burning the trash delivered to their facility. This situation is due to the turbines used to burn the trash having undergone mechanical failures.

Although there were strong efforts by MIRA, it appears the turbines will not be up and running until early February. As you may know, we are one of the communities that sends our trash to the facility in Hartford. All trash that is delivered is now being shipped out of State with the increased cost of doing so being passed back to the communities that send their trash there.

In order to continue to deliver our recycling and trash to Hartford via our contractor, All American Waste, without any additional fees, the Public Works Department is asking all residents to be proactive in their disposal practices and be diligent in how you recycle and fill your trash containers.

Noted below is an email received today from MIRA informing all contractors that deliver material to the Hartford facility that their loads will be inspected and if deemed contaminated, those loads will not be accepted. This in turn will cause our contractor to clean the load of contamination and those charges will be borne upon the Town.

The Ellington Public Works Department is requesting all of its residents to support proper disposal practices when disposing of household trash and recyclables.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Office at 860-870-3140.

**To: Customers Delivering Recyclables to MIRA's Regional Recycling Center and Transfer Stations:** Starting tomorrow MIRA will be inspecting recycling loads to determine compliance with our Permitting, Disposal and Billing Procedures Delivery Standards (attached). Please pay particular attention to Section 4.10 (b) which states:

Haulers may not deliver loads containing Acceptable Recyclables that originate from more than one municipality. Loads from municipalities not participating in MIRA's recycling program will not be accepted unless MIRA has authorized such delivery. Loads containing single stream from non-MIRA municipalities that have not been authorized will be turned away.

MIRA will also be inspecting for unacceptable recyclables and unacceptable waste that will damage our equipment. Loads containing such will be turned away or reloaded for appropriate disposal.

Best Regards,

**Mary Anne Bergenty, MIRA Field Manager**

x - 57 Main Street

s - 31 Arbor Way

21 Main Street

- 20 Main Street

ding - 47 Main Street

ary - 93 Main Street

## RV Service & Repair

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# WOMEN'S CLUB ON THE MOVE

The Ellington Women's Club started their 2018-2019 year off with a great bang of excitement with new members Elisa Bartlett, Sara Landon, Jennifer Mullin, Carolyn Henkel, and Arva Mengold along with a little bit of country line dancing.

This past October we held a Dining for a Cause at Red Robin in Manchester along with our annual raffle, which raised over \$1,200. November we had Sherry Suber from End Hunger CT provide us with great education on the SNAP program in CT. The Ellington Middle School Vocal Ensemble entertained us at our December club meeting with the joyous sounds of Christmas!

We are currently preparing for our 125th Anniversary in 2020. We continue to collect non-perishable food items for our two food pantries in Ellington. As of February, we have collected over 300 pounds of food and a wide variety of non-food items.

Our next club meeting is on March 6th held at the Ellington Senior Center from 7-9 pm. Our guest presenters are from the Faithful Friends Therapy Dogs/Service Dog Training. All adult women are invited to our meetings.

Don't miss out on all of the exciting events planned this year. Contact us via the website or call Joan at 860-463-4251. Please leave a message.



## ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

High schools across the country are grappling with what is being described as "an epidemic" in teen use of nicotine-loaded electronic cigarettes (or "e-cigarettes")-a practice known as "vaping." According to an annual federal survey of teen smoking, drinking, and drug use, twice as many high school students used e-cigarettes this year compared with last year; this 100% jump in usage is the largest single-year increase of substance abuse in the survey's 44-year history, far surpassing the previous record, a mid-1970s surge in marijuana use.

Multiple factors contribute to this rapid increase in vaping:

- Vaping is widely misperceived as a "benign" vice (when, in reality, e-cigarette supplies almost always contain nicotine and/or THC and, according to recent research, expose users to significant carcinogens)
  - E-cigarettes and supplies are relatively inexpensive and easy to acquire
  - Vaping is difficult to detect, producing little odor in the air or on clothes and failing to trigger smoke detectors.
- In line with the national trend, administrators at Ellington High



## SAFESITTER

**Safe Sitter®** is a class designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.



**CPR Training Professionals**  
(860) 474-5525  
cprtrainpro.com



School (EHS) have also reported a surge in vaping by EHS students, with the use most often occurring in student lavatories. Several anti-vaping measures were quickly implemented at the start of this school year and are already yielding positive results. These measure include:

- Consistent (and incrementally increasing) disciplinary consequences for vaping
- Procedures to control student traffic in the hallways during classes
- The creation of the "DATT" Committee (Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Team), where EHS faculty and administration work together, focusing solely on addressing the issues of drug, alcohol, tobacco, and e-cigarette use at EHS
- A detailed presentation by the DATT Committee at the December Board of Education meeting
- Coordination with Ellington Middle School on the creation of a Grade 6-12 unified educational approach for parents, students, and faculty

Looking ahead, EHS administration and staff are pursuing a broader solution, most likely to be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year, which may incorporate the following elements:

- Enhancement of the EMS / EHS educational programs outlined above
- Implementation of bar-code technology to track student lavatory usage (this technology could also be used for attendance, emergency drills, building safety, etc.)
- Enforcement of a recently approved State Statute against vaping in public places, resulting in citation and \$50 fine for students over 16 years of age who vape in public
- Evaluation of state-of-the-art "FlySense" technology to alert administration when

vaping is occurring in a lavatory (<https://www.sotertechnologies.com/flysense>)

- Creation of a "vaping cessation" support protocol for teen e-cigarette users, who are struggling to overcome the addictive nature of nicotine and vaping.

The hope is that, through the implementation of this broad approach-incorporating education, smart technology, deterrence, and support--EHS can continue to see significant decreases in e-cigarette use.

~ John Guidry, Principal

# WEATHER CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS

Weather-related notices, such as...

- **Town office closings**
- **Delayed openings**
- **Meeting cancellations**
- **Program cancellations**

...will be posted on the following:

**Website:** [www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/townofellington](https://www.facebook.com/townofellington)

**Twitter:** [@townofellington](https://twitter.com/townofellington)

Also, check **WFSB Channel 3** for cancellation notifications.

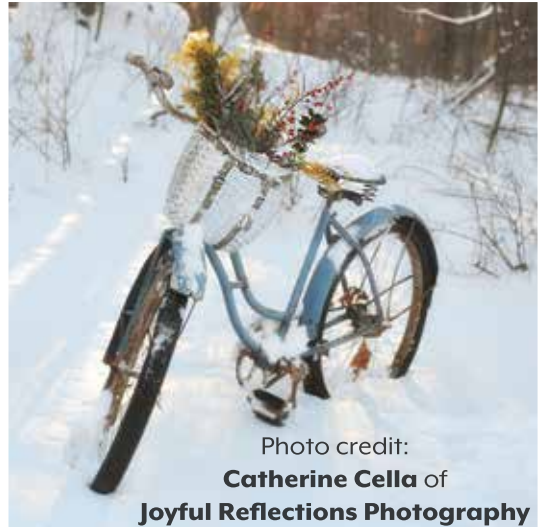


Photo credit:  
**Catherine Cella of Joyful Reflections Photography**

*Find out how you can build a vacation getaway in your backyard!*



## VERNON POOLMAN - INGROUND POOL INSTALLATION SERVICES

Vernon Poolman offers a number of pool installation and support services to help you create the perfect backyard getaway. In addition we provide services such as pool openings, closings, repairs and renovations.

Call the store at 860-872-1926 for more information.

Come and visit our store at **540 Talcottville Road, Vernon, CT 06066** or visit us at [www.vernonpoolman.com](http://www.vernonpoolman.com)

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## of the Spring Thyme!



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Gift Cards or Prior Purchases.

Valid Thru April 30, 2019 with this ad.

Garden's Dream Farm 2019

## ts next week!

# SENIOR CENTER

**Winter Weather Policy Reminder:** If the Ellington Public Schools are closed or delayed due to weather, so is the Senior Center. If there is a delay, lunch for that day is cancelled. If you'd like to subscribe to receive email or text alerts, visit our website and click the "Notify Me" button on the homepage.

Stop in to get your copy of our monthly newsletter, **The Maple Street Monthly**; Follow us on Facebook or check out our website <http://seniorcenter.ellington-ct.gov> to see what is offered!

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

Below is a list of special events that have been planned so far! Additional information is available at the Senior Center and online. Please sign up in advance so we can plan proper seating:

- **AARP Tax Aide:** Trained volunteers will complete federal and state income tax returns at no charge for those 50 and older. Limited slots are available on Thursdays between 9:00 am-1:00 pm through April 11. Call Alisha to schedule an appointment: 860-870-3133.
- **"Ragtime"**, a multimedia presentation with Jan Chaplin will be held on Wednesday, February 13 at 1:00 pm. Free.

- Join **Joe Ouellette** on the 3rd Wednesday each month at 1:00 pm for "History for Fun". February 20 "Disney", March 20 "Theodore Roosevelt", April 17 "The Babe"
- **State Representative, Christopher Davis**, will be at the Center on Tuesday, March 19, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm for a Legislative Update.
- The annual **St. Patty's Day Celebration** will be held Thursday, March 21 at 12:30 pm. Residents \$15, No-Residents \$16. Ticket includes a traditional corned beef cabbage dinner, followed by entertainment with Pierce Campbell.
- **Monday, March 25** from 4pm-5pm attend a free workshop



**"Intro to Journaling"** with Sam. Bring your own notepad and pen.

• **The Happy Wanderers Hiking Club** will have a welcome back planning meeting on Monday, April 1 at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

• **Garden Thyme** is looking for some help with possibly expanding our perennial gardens this year. Join Jan, Leslie and Sam for an informational meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 9:00 am

• Thursday, April 25 at 1:00 pm **The Ellington Singers** invite you to the Annual Spring Musicale. This will be a performance you won't want to miss! Free. Donations will be accepted for the Ellington Food Pantry.

- **AARP Smart Driver classes** will be offered on select Thursdays from 9am-1pm once a month beginning on April 18. Call to register; space is limited.
- Check out the monthly calendar for weekly **TED Talks with Sam**. Watch a brief video, followed by a discussion afterwards.

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- Also check out the monthly calendar for **Monthly Music with Ellington High School**. Students entertain and delight with their musical talents!
- We celebrate **National Volunteers' Week** in April. Thank you to all of our many, wonderful volunteers! Stay tuned for a schedule of events.
- Save the date: Thursday, May 9, 2019 for our **Health & Wellness Fair**. Volunteers needed. See Sam for details.

**ELLINGTON SENIOR CENTER WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

Ellington residents age 55+ are welcome to join us for the following programs. \*Call or visit our website for additional details, including schedule and/or fees. Subject to change.

**MONDAYS 8:30 am – 6:00 pm**

10:00 am-1:00 pm Chess Mates  
 10:00 am-11:30 am Canasta  
 11:30 am-12:30 pm Intermediate Line Dancing with Nicole\*  
 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Needle Crafts  
 1:15 pm-2:45 pm Board Games  
 3:00 pm-3:30pm Mindful Meditation

**TUESDAYS 8:30 am– 4:00 pm**

9:00 am-12:00 pm Bridge  
 10:00 am-10:45 am Chair Exercises\*  
 11:00 am-12:30 pm Maple Street Café\*  
 11:00 am-11:45 am Simple Circuit Fitness\*  
 12:30 pm-2:00 pm Blood Pressure & Diabetic Screening\*  
 1:00 pm-4:00 pm Dominoes  
 5:30 pm-6:30 pm CrosSculpting\*  
 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Setback

**WEDNESDAYS 8:30 am – 4:00 pm**

9:00 am-3:00 pm Podiatry Clinic\* (3/6, 4/3, 5/1)  
 9:00 am-10:00 am Ellington Men's Club\*  
 9:30 am-12:00 pm Cut Ups Carving Club  
 11:00 am-12:30 pm Maple Street Café\*  
 1:00 pm-2:30 pm Musical Insights\*  
 2:00 pm-3:30 pm Shuffleboard

**THURSDAYS 8:30 am – 4:00 pm**

9:30 am-11:45 am Sew and So  
 10:00 am-10:45 am Chair Exercises\*  
 11:00 am-11:45 am  
 Simple Circuit Fitness\*  
 11:00 am-12:30 pm  
 Maple Street Café\*  
 1:00 pm-2:45pm  
 Ballroom/Polka Dancing  
 5:30 pm-6:30 pm CrosSculpting\*

**FRIDAYS 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

9:00 am-10:00 am Yoga\*  
 9:00 am-12:00 pm Wii Bowling  
 NEW: 10:30am-11:15am Chair Yoga

**SATURDAYS**

7:00 pm-10:00 pm Setback  
 6:30 pm-10:00 pm Open Billiards

**DAILY PROGRAMS**

Open Billiards, Library, Le Petite Café\*, Just Visiting. Weather Permitting: Weekday Walking Club

**LUNCHES:**

The Maple Street Cafe (MSC) offers a variety of made-to-order options to choose from, including soups, salads, sandwiches and daily specials. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 11:00 am and 12:30 pm, unless noted otherwise. Suggested donation will range from \$1.50-5.00. Menu is subject to change. Also keep an eye out for our famous lunch bars and other special events. MSC is partially funded by a grant received by North Central Area Agency on Aging Inc., "Funded in part by the Older Americans Act".

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:**

Transportation is available to Ellington residents 5 days a week for social activities and medical appointments. Please call the Transportation Line at 860-870-3137 to request a transportation packet that provides you with the program's rules and regulations. EMATS is partially funded by a grant received by North Central Area Agency on Aging Inc., "Funded in part by the Older Americans Act".

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Senior Center Van Driver  
 We are looking for someone to join our team to drive the bus, van or car to transport elderly and disabled residents. Must have a Commercial Driver's License with passenger endorsement. For full job description, or to apply, visit: [www.ellington-ct.gov/jobs.aspx](http://www.ellington-ct.gov/jobs.aspx) Note: Applications are not accepted at the Senior Center. All applicants must apply online. For questions, contact Human Resources: 860-870-3100.

Chances are, we have it!  
 ... and we're closer!

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 7 DAYS A  
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 PAINTING, WALL PAPERING, POWER SUPPLY.**

# SENIOR CENTER ... continued

## TRIPS & CRUISES:

New trips are always being planned! Flyers with full details will be posted on our website and in the Information Center as they become available:

- 4/13/19:** MGM Springfield Casino & show at Majestic Theater. Cost: \$50 pp
- 4/26/19** Rapids & Rafts, White Water Rafting, Charlemont, MA. Cost: \$163 pp.
- 5/1/19:** Walkabout Brewery Tour of the Bronx, NY. Cost: \$118 pp.
- 6/19/19:** Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Essex, CT. Cost: \$101 pp.
- 6/25/19-6/27/19:** The Fabulous Finger Lakes, Canandaigua, NY. Erie Canal cruise, New York Wine & Culinary Center Demo, Corning Museum of Glass and more. \$535 pp.
- 7/18/19:** Block Island, RI. Cost: \$101 pp.
- 8/20/19:** Portsmouth Harbor & Isles of Shoals, NH. Cost: \$112 pp.
- 10/8/19:** Scenic Vermont (Grafton Village Cheese, Green Mountain Flyer, Castle Hill Resort & Spa. Cost: \$114 pp.
- 10/20/19:** Barry Manilow Tribute at the Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA. Cost: \$83 pp.
- 11/9/19-11/24/19:** Escorted cruise from New York to the Panama Canal aboard NCL's Norwegian Dawn. Itinerary: Curacao, Aruba, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Bay Islands, Harvest Caye, Costa Maya, Tampa. Includes flight. Starts at \$1999/pp.

## HUMAN SERVICES

**Joy Hollister, Director**

[jhollister@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:jhollister@ellington-ct.gov)

**Rebecca Stack,**

**Elderly Outreach/Social Worker**

[rstack@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:rstack@ellington-ct.gov)

Elderly Outreach/Social Worker – Ellington Human Services welcomes Rebecca Stack as our new Elderly Outreach/Social Worker. Rebecca comes to us with years of experience working with people of all ages. She recently worked for Barkan Management as a

Resident Services Coordinator in West

Hartford. Rebecca is CHOICES certified and can assist residents with any questions or applications for local, State and Federal programs. Please call to set up an appointment - (860) 870-3128 or email [rstack@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:rstack@ellington-ct.gov)



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) – Human Services offers free tax preparation for individuals and families that make below \$55,000. Staff and volunteers have been certified by the IRS. Please call our office to schedule an appointment.

Food Bank –Residents in need of food assistance are encouraged to contact our office for more information. Human Services welcomes donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products to help support this program.

What we do – The Human Services Department provides programs and services to assist residents with their basic needs. The Department is an intake site for Energy Assistance, Operation Fuel and Renters Rebate. We also assist residents with applying for SNAP (food stamps), HUSKY, Medicare (including Part D and supplements), Medicaid, Social Security, etc. If we cannot directly assist you we will refer you to who can, if applicable. Please call us to discuss what you or a loved one could be eligible for, or to discuss what is out there for services for your situation. Some programs we offer have income and asset tests.



# REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Election Day 2018 was November 6th and nearly three quarters of Ellington voters showed up to cast their votes. This unusually large number of voters—7,522 (74.08%) came to the polls to select candidates for federal, state and local offices, and to engage in direct democracy by answering thirteen referenda questions also on the ballot. In addition to the two polling locations, Ellington High School for those residing in district one, and Crystal Lake School for those in district two, Election Day voter registration was held at Town Hall, where 88 new voters exercised their right to vote. Between July 1 and Election Day, Ellington welcomed nearly 700 new registered voters. The Town has 10,278 voters, 8,003 in the first district and 2,275 in district two. Wanda DeLand and Lois Timms-Ferrara are the registrars and they hold public office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays during the winter and spring months. Feel free to stop in to register or update your file.

Remember: if you are turning 18 you are eligible to vote, so register ahead of Election Day and become part of the democratic process. Brenda Draghi and her granddaughter Gianna Paseka visited us on Monday, January 7th. Gianna had just turned 18 years old and was registering as an Ellington voter. Her grandmother, glowing with pride, joined her to celebrate the occasion with a bouquet of flowers! Brenda did the same thing with her older granddaughter, Gwen, in 2015. That's the kind of combination of love and patriotism we grow here in Ellington!



Welcome young voters! Ellington resident Brenda Draghi congratulating granddaughters Gwen (top) and Gianna (bottom) for registering to vote at Ellington Town Hall.



## COLD CREEK TAVERN

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Weekly Specials - Open 11am Daily

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# YOUTH SERVICES

**Diane Lasher-Penti, Director**

**31 Arbor Way | (860) 870-3130 | [dpenti@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:dpenti@ellington-ct.gov)**

Youth Services supports and assists children from birth to 18 years of age. We provide programs and services that encourage our youth to create positive bonds with their families, peers, and community. We partner with schools, community organizations, and parents, to give our youth the tools they need to become confident young adults. We are here to help and hope you'll take advantage of the services we provide.

Please go to our website at [youth.ellington-ct.gov/](http://youth.ellington-ct.gov/) and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/EllingtonYouthServ/](http://www.facebook.com/EllingtonYouthServ/) to see our complete list of programs and services.

**Teens, Anxiety and Depression Workshop:** February 25th, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at 31 Arbor Way. Email [dpenti@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:dpenti@ellington-ct.gov) or call the office to register.

**Anxiety Night Workshop:** March 25th, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at 31 Arbor Way. Email [dpenti@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:dpenti@ellington-ct.gov) or call the office to register.

**QPR for Suicide Prevention:** April 4th, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at 31 Arbor Way. Email [dpenti@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:dpenti@ellington-ct.gov) or call the office to register.

**Community Connections:** Parents and community members are invited to attend and gather important resources on issues affecting our teens and pre-teens. Thursday, March 28th, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Ellington Senior Center

**Troop C Tours:** Middle School Students are invited to have tour of Troop C led by CT State Troopers, February 21st, 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm; register on ActiveNet

**Inside and Out** playgroups and play time: 6 months to age 4. See website for dates and times.

**Spirit Karate:** Children with special needs and their parents are invited to spend an afternoon learning Karate in a safe and fun environment. The clinic is held and hosted by American Karate. Sunday, February 24th, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, ages 5-14

**Spirit Art:** Children with special needs and their parents are

invited to spend an afternoon creating art. Sunday March 10th, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, ages 5-14 at Ellington Middle School  
**Pete the CAT:** In a partnership with Hall Memorial Library and the School Readiness Council, we are thrilled to host Michael Levine, musical producer of the "Pete the Cat" books, to launch the "1000 Books before Kindergarten" campaign. Saturday, March 16th, 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm at Center School Gym.

**Gallery Night:** Come and see local artists on February 23rd, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Ellington Senior Center  
**Small Town Big Talent Show Auditions** April 15th and 18th with a show date of May 18th.

**Rugged Farmer Family Obstacle Course:** Saturday, April 27th



## RECREATION NEWS

**Mary M. Bartley, Acting Recreation Director**  
[mbartley@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:mbartley@ellington-ct.gov)

The Ellington Parks & Recreation Department offers a varied number of programs to select from for ages ranging from pre-school to adult. Information regarding spring soccer, lacrosse, softball and baseball registrations are a few of the programs included in this edition. Please visit our website at: [parkrec.ellington-ct.gov](http://parkrec.ellington-ct.gov) for a complete list of programs along with dates, times and fees.

### Program Registration Process

Program registration is through the ActiveNet online system. In order to register for a program you must have an ActiveNet account. Accounts can be created at the parks & recreation website under "Activenet Registration". Registration is not considered valid until the program fee is paid. Requests for refunds must be made in writing prior to the start of the program.

**REMINDER:** In the event of inclement weather, the Parks and Recreation Department will list program cancellations on television. Tune in to Channels 3, 30 and 8 to check if there is a cancellation. Cancellations will be listed under "Ellington Recreation Department".

**ADA:** The Town of Ellington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in provision of programs and services. If you or a family member need special assistance, please make us

aware of your needs at the time of registration.

**Scholarship Programs:** If a need arises, please make a confidential inquiry to Mary M. Bartley, Acting Recreation Director at [mbartley@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:mbartley@ellington-ct.gov).

## **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION FA/CPR/AED/BBP COACHES CERTIFICATION**

New classes have been scheduled that will allow all Ellington coaches, athletic officials, program instructors, and staff of Ellington Recreation sponsored sports and activities to get certified. Please understand that each coach is required to complete this training. Register on the Adult Programs page at [parkrec.ellington-ct.gov](http://parkrec.ellington-ct.gov)

## **YOUTH PROGRAMS/SPORTS**

### **2019 SPRING SOCCER**

In-House Spring Soccer Program – Ages 4-8, Boys & Girls  
The Recreation Department will be offering a Spring Soccer Clinic for Children in April 2019. Due to the growing number of children interested in the sport of soccer, **WE NEED YOUR HELP**, as your participation is vital to this program! This program cannot be successful without your help and volunteer time. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Recreation Department at [recreationstaff@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:recreationstaff@ellington-ct.gov) or [mbartley@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:mbartley@ellington-ct.gov). Please note: The quantity of volunteers will determine how many children will be accepted into this program. Ages 4-6 will be coached on one night; Ages 7 and 8 will be coached on a different night. Depending on how many teams are formed, there will be a “Soccer Match” night where one team plays another team in a scrimmage/match. Check website for dates and times.

**Spring Outdoor Youth Soccer** – Fee: \$35 (U8 – U15)  
The Recreation Department will offer an Outdoor Soccer Program for boys and girls based on current CT Junior Soccer Association age/birth date guidelines. Based on enrollment and evaluation submittals of the respective coaches, teams may be formed in the following age groups: U8 through U15. The deadline for players to register in order to retain his/her Fall 2018 roster placement is April 10, 2019. Check website for evaluation dates and details.

### **SPRING LACROSSE**

Girls & Boys Spring Lacrosse Outdoor Program  
March 18 to June 15, 2019  
The Recreation Department will be offering Spring Travel Teams for grades 1st through 8th. Registration must be received by January 31, 2019 so that the number of teams and roster size can be determined. Check website for details.

Coaching Positions: Those individuals interested in applying for coaching positions must do so by January 25, 2019. Questions, please email Mary M. Bartley at [mbartley@ellington-ct.gov](mailto:mbartley@ellington-ct.gov).

## **CO-ED YOUTH INFORMAL VOLLEYBALL**

Grades: 4-6 & 7-8, Wednesdays  
Location: Ellington Middle School  
Dates: March 20, 27, April 3, 17  
Time: Check website for time frames.  
Fee: \$25

## **INDOOR YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAM**

Ages 4-13 Instructor: Gary Marquez  
March 4, 11, 18, Crystal Lake School  
Fee: \$40  
Check website for time frames.

## **JUKIDO** - All skill levels welcome

Ages: 6 Years and up Instructor: Paul Ward  
Fee: \$42  
Check website for dates and time frames

## **VACATION CAMP**

April Break Vacation Camp Grades: K -8th grade  
Dates: April 8-12 (Registration Deadline: 3/25/19)  
Time: 7:00 am-5:00 pm, Ellington Middle School  
Check website for an updated schedule and fee structure.

## **ADULT SPORTS/PROGRAMS** – (Ages 18 and Over)

**ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL** (Informal Program)  
Wednesday evenings. Check website for time and location.

**ADULT CO-ED BADMINTON** (Informal Program)  
Thursday evenings. Pending gym availability.

**ADULT INFORMAL BASKETBALL**  
Monday evenings through June 3, 2019.  
OVER 30: 5:15 pm-7:15 pm; UNDER 30: 7:15 pm-9:15 pm  
Location: Windermere School  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY BEFORE PARTICIPATING.

## **PICKLEBALL**

Tuesdays, January 8-April 4, pending gym availability  
Register online through Activenet.  
Time: 7:15-9:15 pm  
Location: Windermere School  
Fee: \$5 Residents/\$10 Non-Residents

# RECREATION NEWS

## ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS

Ginny's Fitness for Longevity Ages 18 and up  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Center School  
Fee: \$40 Pre-paid Punch Cards/8 classes available at location site or \$7 walk-in fee.

Email: [fitnessforlongevity@gmail.com](mailto:fitnessforlongevity@gmail.com) or call  
**860-463-3238** for more information.

Classes will follow the Ellington Public School Calendar.  
NO classes on vacation or school cancellation days.

## ZUMBA®

Ages: 16 and up. Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Ellington Senior Center. Fee: \$40 for a Pre-Paid Punch Card/8 classes available at location site or \$8 Walk-in fee  
Instructors contact:

[joannebritton@zumba.com](mailto:joannebritton@zumba.com) or [tressag@zumba.com](mailto:tressag@zumba.com)

Classes will follow the Ellington Public School Calendar.  
NO classes on vacation or school cancellation days.

## ELLINGTON GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Register online at [ellingtongirlssoftball.org](http://ellingtongirlssoftball.org)  
Online registration begins December 1st. Check the website for details.

## ELLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

2019 Spring Registration | Players ages 6 – 15  
Registration open from 1/20/19 – 2/28/19. On-line registration requested. For details and to register go to the little league website at: [www.ellingtonctl.com](http://www.ellingtonctl.com).

## DAY TRIP

### Boston's Little Italy / Sam Adams Italian Food Tour

Friday, April 12, 2019  
Cost: \$139 per person  
Registration Deadline: March 1st  
See website for more information.

## ZUMBA®

Ages: 16 and up. Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, Ellington Senior Center. Fee: \$40 for a Pre-Paid Punch Card/8 classes available at location site or \$8 Walk-in fee  
Instructors contact:

[joannebritton@zumba.com](mailto:joannebritton@zumba.com) or [tressag@zumba.com](mailto:tressag@zumba.com)

Classes will follow the Ellington Public School Calendar.  
NO classes on vacation or school cancellation days.

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# FOUR TOWN FAIR

Even though we are at the beginning of the new year, the volunteers of the Four Town Fair are already planning our 181st annual fair which is happening Thursday, September 12 through Sunday, September 15, 2019.

This year we are excited to have Ellington as the host town. What does that mean to the Town of Ellington? The Four Town Fair incorporates Ellington, East Windsor, Somers and Enfield. Every year, one town becomes the “host.” During that year, the host town has a chance to highlight some of its features to the other towns in the area. One way to do this is through community involvement. For instance, a local business may want to set up a booth and hand out information or solicit new customers. A local bakery, restaurant or brewery may want to sell products at the fair.

Local crafters are always welcome to showcase and sell their creations in our craft building.

We are excited because the “host” town has the opportunity to shine. We always welcome people to participate in our parade on Saturday. This is a free event to enter or to watch.

We also love to encourage children of all ages to enter our

contests, which includes showing their livestock, corn or pie eating contests, frog jumping, skillet tossing or showing their talents with a photo or a baked good.

We have so many ways for everyone to be involved and we are always looking for volunteers. You can email [4tfpresident@gmail.com](mailto:4tfpresident@gmail.com) to learn more about being part of the fair or volunteering. We are asking you, our Ellington residents and business owners, to help us show off this great community at this year's Four Town Fair. For more information, visit our website [www.fourtownfair.com](http://www.fourtownfair.com) and don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



## PUBLIC WORKS

The State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection has adopted the Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy. The goal is to reduce the total municipal solid waste disposed of by 10% by 2024. Based on Ellington's 2017 disposal rates and population, residents are asked to do their due diligence to reduce their trash and increase their recycling habits. Ellington's rate is 556.16 pounds per person. If Ellington can reduce its solid waste rate to 500 pounds per person, it will be in compliance. This equates to roughly 1.5 lbs per week.



Congratulations to our Public Works Dept. staff whom have graduated from various Connecticut Transportation Institute Road Programs.

2018 Transportation Leadership Program – **Taylor Olson**  
2018 Road Master Program – **Joshua Hebert**  
Public Works Academy  
**Phillip Kidney and Spencer Hutchinson**

The months of February and March can still bring snow to our region and sometimes are the snowiest times. Please continue to be diligent in the follow areas:

**SECURE YOUR MAILBOX** – Residents are asked to make sure their mailboxes are secured and sturdy before the winter snow begins. Mailboxes damaged by snow load will not be repaired by the Town.

**SNOW REMOVAL** - Continue to remove snow from around fire hydrants and from sidewalks and remember that parking bans go into effect when the snow falls.

**WINTER SAND** – Sand will still be available to residents throughout the winter months. The pile is located at the Town Garage, 21 Main Street on the Firehouse house. This is for residents only; no contractors.

**HOFFMAN ROAD BRUSH DROP OFF** – The brush drop off center will be reopen on Saturday, April 6, 2019. The schedule will be Saturdays 9-4 and Tuesday and Thursday 1-4. Items accepted are leaves, brush, firewood and tree trunks. You may call Harvest New England at 860-871-7442 for items not accepted at this drop off center. Grass clippings are not accepted.

**RECYCLE SHED AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** - Currently the MIDNEROC collection center in Willington is scheduled to reopen on April 20. It will be open the first and third Saturdays of the month beginning on that date. The Town's recycling shed at 21 Main Street continues to be open during working hours Monday-Friday 7AM – 3:30 PM. It will also be open on the same Saturdays that the MidNEROC center is open from 9 am – noon. The following items are accepted at the Public Works shed: batteries, waste oil, antifreeze, motor oil, oil filters, propane tanks, fluorescent light bulbs, computer components, and miscellaneous electronics. Paint is NOT accepted at this location.

**TEXTILE RECYCLING** – The Town has a box for textile recycling located at the Town Garage. Usable as well as non-usable clothing items are accepted. Also accepted are shoes, belts, handbags, stuffed animals; all must be bagged and put into the container.

**STORM DRAINS** – Do not dump motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, or dirty soapy water down the storm drain. These storm drains lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Keep our water clean! If you see something, say something.

**ROAD WORK PERMITS** – If you or your contractor is planning

# PUBLIC WORKS

to work in the Town's right of way, a permit is required. They are available on the Town's website and through the Building Department; the fee is \$35.



## 2019-20 BUDGET

In early January, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance members joined to begin the months-long budget process. In Ellington, the method used to determine the budget is an open process. Every citizen who is registered to vote (property owners and those who rent) is welcome to participate. Your involvement is very important. Please take the time to become familiar with Ellington's proposed budget once it becomes available. All of the meetings held in this process are open to the public. Town departments, commissions and agencies will review programs and services in order to determine how much it will cost to operate the Town for the next fiscal year. This includes the Board of Education, which will estimate how much it will cost to operate the schools and school-related services.

In accordance with the Town Charter Section 1103, the Finance Officer/Treasurer compiles the Budget Book for the Board of Finance on or before March 15. The compilation of the Budget Book includes the submitted budgets from the Board of Selectmen on General Government, Board of Education, and Capital Improvements. It also includes the estimated projection of revenues for the current fiscal year and the following fiscal year. All budget documents are posted on the Finance page of the Town website <https://www.ellington-ct.gov/504/Budget-2019-2020> so that the citizens of Ellington have complete information at their disposal to increase their knowledge and to assist them in participating in the budget process.

Board of Finance Recommended Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget

### Important Dates to Remember!

**Annual Budget Public Hearing - April 9, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.**

Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street

**Annual Budget Meeting - May 14, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.**

Ellington High School, 37 Maple Street

# ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

## HOMEOWNER'S TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

The Homeowner's Tax Relief Program allows a tax credit for qualifying individuals. To qualify, the homeowner (or spouse, if domiciled together) must have been 65 years of age by the end of 2018, reside at the property. 2018 income is \$43,900 if married, and \$36,000 unmarried; and defined as adjusted gross income and tax exempt interest, plus any other income not included in the adjusted gross income. Totally disabled persons, regardless of age, are eligible provided they have a Social Security Award letter or SSA-1099 with Medicare premiums. The filing period for the Homeowner's program is February 1 through May 15, 2019.

## ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S EXEMPTIONS

An additional exemption may be available for those veterans who meet the above income requirements. Applications for this program must be filed between February 1 and October 1, 2019.

Both of these programs require applications to be filed every two years. If you are currently on one or both of these programs and it is your year to refile, applications will be mailed to you February 1. Forms will be available after February 1 in the Assessor's Office. For questions or help completing the forms, contact the Assessor's Office at 860-870-3109.

## CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS

The Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company, LLC (CFSIC) officially launched on January 10, 2019; it began accepting applications for foundation replacements and reimbursements at that time. The following link will provide you with more information regarding CFSIC.

**<https://crumblingfoundations.org/>**

**Kim Bechard, Assessor | (860) 870-3109**



# HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

## Does your home need repair?

If you own and live in a single or multi-family residential property in Ellington that is occupied by low- or moderate-income households, you may be eligible for financial assistance to make repairs to your property.

The Town manages the Ellington Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program, which offers financial and technical assistance to property owners in Ellington, Somers, Suffield, and Windsor Locks. The Program's purposes are to correct building code deficiencies, improve energy efficiency and improve housing conditions. The program currently has no waiting list for Ellington residents.

The types of work that the Program assists with include upgrades to electrical, plumbing, heating systems and insulation, energy conservation improvements, roofing and window replacement, septic system repair, asbestos and lead-paint abatement, and accessibility modifications.

Funding assistance is provided in the form of a 0% interest "deferred payment loan" (DPL). The DPL is only repaid when the property is sold. If the property is transferred to an heir, the loan does not need to be repaid but it remains in effect until a sale at a future date. Financial assistance is limited to \$30,000 per housing unit.

Low income property owners may qualify for 100% of the cost of repairs. Moderate income property owners may qualify for 75% of the cost of repairs.

| Income Category | Household Size |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                 | 1              | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5        | 6        | 7        | 8        |
| Low             | \$33,900       | \$38,750 | \$43,600 | \$48,400 | \$52,300 | \$56,150 | \$60,050 | \$63,900 |
| Moderate        | \$50,350       | \$57,550 | \$64,750 | \$71,900 | \$77,700 | \$83,450 | \$89,200 | \$94,950 |

\* Income limits change periodically.

If you have any questions, need more information about the Program or want an application, call or drop by the Community Development Office. Office hours are Tuesdays, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The Town of Ellington is committed to promoting open access to its housing programs to all persons.

# HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## LIBRARY KNITTING GROUP

We are very proud of our Tuesday morning knitting group. They knitted 46 baby hats for the American Heart Association "Little Hats, Big Hearts" program. This group has been meeting at the Library for over 5 years and welcomes all handcrafters, newbies or old pros, any time.

## WINTER/SPRING EVENTS

Mathew Wilkinson: Maple Sugaring in Connecticut

**Tuesday, February 19 at 6:30pm**

Coffeehouse: David Reed-Brown - Meaningful Magic

**Friday, February 22 at 7:00pm**

Cheryl Jones: Intro to Sewing-Make a Pillow\*

**Monday, February 25 at 6:00pm**

Connecticut Historical Society: Katherine Hepburn-From Hartford to Hollywood

**Thursday, February 28 at 7:00pm**

Coffeehouse: The Jolly Beggars

**Friday, March 1 at 7:00pm**

Eliud Sanchez: Self-Defense for Women

**Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30pm**

Cheryl Jones: Intro to Sewing-Make a Pillow\*

**Monday, March 11 at 6:00pm**

Cheryl Jones: Sewing Project- Chef's Apron\*

**Saturday, March 16 at 1:00pm**

Angelina Fleury: Make a Felted Wool Mushroom (ages 16 and up only)\*\*

**Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00pm**

Coffeehouse: Bedlam Brothers String Band

**Friday, March 22 at 7:00pm**

Cheryl Jones: Sewing Project TBD\*

**Saturday, March 16 at 1:00pm**

Mariann Millard: The Canadian Maritimes-Kinship, Connections & Kitchen Parties

**Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm**

Coffeehouse: Keely Baisden- Broadway Revue

**Friday, April 12 at 7:00pm**

Jan Holland: Spring Bonnet Cupcakes (ages 14 and up only)\*\*

**Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30pm**

Register for all programs online at [www.library.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.library.ellington-ct.gov) or call us at 860-870-3160 for assistance.

\* Program has limited seating, so register early! We will be collecting a \$5 per person deposit payable within 7 days of registration to hold your seat for sewing classes; if deposit is not paid within that period your name will be removed from the list in order to accommodate those on the waiting list. Your deposit will be refunded when you arrive at class. Anyone under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

\*\*There is a \$5 per person non-refundable materials fee payable within 7 days of registration for these classes. If fee is not paid within that period your name will be removed from the list. Please note age restrictions on these classes.

# HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

## MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

The Front Runner (rated R, 113 minutes) – February 20 & 21  
A Star is Born (rated R, 136 minutes)- February 27 & 28  
Movies will be shown weekly, on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm and Thursday afternoons at 1:00pm. Please check the library's website [www.library.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.library.ellington-ct.gov) or call us at 860-870-3160 for schedule changes and future film announcements.

## WATER BOTTLES AT PROGRAMS

If you have attended a movie or coffeehouse here over the past few months you will have noticed that we now offer pitchers of ice cold water along with drinking cups. We have decided to do our part for the environment by doing away with plastic water bottles. Please be aware that we have installed a water bottle filling station on our upstairs fountain, so please feel free to bring your own bottles to events and fill 'em up!

## BOARD GAMES FOR LOAN

Through a combination of community and manufacturer donations bolstered by funding from the Friends of Hall Memorial Library, we are thrilled to let you know that we now have over 200 board games available for you to check out! Games range from simple challenges for toddlers to familiar classics such as Monopoly and Scrabble to giant games to more challenging Euro-style games for the whole family to enjoy. Board games go out for two weeks and you may check out as many as you'd like. Please come in and peruse our collection and feel free to ask for a demo if something catches your eye. If there is enough interest we will consider starting a board game night; please see the Reference Librarian to discuss.

## SEWING CLASSES

Our new Sewing Machines have been getting plenty of use- we have held 6 Introduction to Sewing classes for adults/adults with children, 6 sewing project classes and 4 children's classes! Every class has been full to capacity with a long waiting list; we will continue to add sessions to ensure that everyone gets a chance to work on our machines. Due to high demand and limited seating we now request a \$5 refundable deposit, payable with 7 days of registration, to hold your space. This deposit will be fully refunded when you attend your class. You will receive a supply list upon registration, so please be sure to include your email when signing up.

## EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP

Would you like notification of upcoming adult events sent right to your home? If so, please see the Reference Librarian and ask to be added to the email list. You will receive no more than 2 emails per month and your information will not be shared with anyone.

## THANK YOU TO OUR MINIGOLF AT THE LIBRARY SPONSORS!

Our 4th annual Mini-Golf at the Library fundraiser for the Friends of Hall Memorial Library held on February 2 was a rousing success! We want to thank our co-Flagship Sponsors,

Kloter Farms and Merrill Industries, for bringing in this wonderful event and all of our other incredible local businesses who sponsored holes, contributed food and donated prizes for the Teacup Raffle. A huge thank you to Ellington Dental Associates, Advanced Eyecare, Five Corners Wine & Spirits, New England Lean Consulting, Ellington Printery, Zahner Dental, Earthlight Technologies, The Ivy, Luann's Bakery, Green Meadow Lawn Care, CD Builders, Dzen Garden Market, Integrated Rehabilitation Services, First Student, United Bank, Cold Creek Tavern, Kloter's Ice Cream Barn, Johnny Appleseed's Farm, Homestead Comfort, The Hidden Still, Barber Utilities, Schneider's Flooring, Thrivent Financial, Eastern CT Physician's Associates, Manchester Pediatric Associates, WordCom, Mitch Wolff & Associates, New England Mechanical Systems, Craig's Kitchen, Subway of Ellington, Aldi, Big Y and Country Pure Foods for sponsoring the holes and food court. And our deepest appreciation for our Raffle Prize donors: Angellino's, Between Rounds, Chuck Wagon, Clear Mountain Alpacas, Cold Creek tavern, CT Hair Design, CT Science Center, Ellington Farmer's Market, Highland Park Market, Johnny Appleseed's Farm, Jorgensen Theatre, K-Rockets, Kloter's Ice Cream Barn, Luann's Bakery, Misiko Tax Services, New England Pizza, Pizzeria DaVinci, PumpkinCraft, The Hidden Still, The Y, Topnotch Twisted Wood, Travelers, Traveling Vineyard and Wood-n-Tap. Thank you all for supporting the library at this terrific community event; we hope to see you back for year 5 in 2020!!

## FROM THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

**STORY HOURS** for children from 9 months to five years old are on the way beginning in February. Babies & Book for babies 9 months to 2 ½ years, will run for four weeks, on Mondays. Children who are already 2 ½ years old, along with an adult, have a program all their own each Friday morning February to April. And each Tuesday there will be a story hour for 3 to 5 year olds, who are ready for an independent experience. This program is held on Tuesday mornings, February to April. Online registration is required for each of these children's programs. Check out the library Event Calendar for more information and to register. All children's programs are FREE and open to the public.

**HEALERS WITH HALOS THERAPY DOGS** will continue to visit the Hall Memorial Library once or twice a month hoping to locate children ages 5 to 12 to read them a good story. These dogs are well trained and certified for this program which gives children a lot of good practice reading and a positive experience with these very friendly canines. Check the library's website and Event Calendar to find upcoming dates and to register. Beginning in March Hall Memorial Library will launch a new early literacy program, **1000 Books Before Kindergarten**. This program is designed to encourage parents to read to their child from the very beginning and to continue that pattern as long as possible. Reading together with your child is one of

the best ways to develop pre-reading skills that provide a solid reading foundation, not to mention that reading together and sharing stories is just plain fun! Parents will need to register for this program at the Children's Circulation Desk. Then, it's just a matter of reading together. Books read will be recorded on a record sheet which will be brought back to the library after each 100 books. Part of this program is receiving incentives along the way at particular milestones. Books can be read more than once and recorded more than once. Also, books read at Story Hour, or by others, may also be counted and recorded. When 1000 books have been read, your child will receive a certificate and will also have a bookplate placed in a new library book, in their honor. A special "kick off" for this program is being planned through cooperation with Ellington Public Schools, Ellington Youth Services, and Ellington School Readiness Council. A tentative date for the kick-off is March 16. For more information and updates call the library at 860-870-3160.



## FIRE MARSHAL

Spring Cleaning or Spring Clearing?  
Open Burning in the Town of Ellington

In coming months, the melting snow yields to new spring growth and the almost inevitable spring cleaning of both home and yard. Trees, branches, brush, and debris brought down by winter storms or spring landscaping endeavors can cause a build-up of brush on your property. A frequent question as the seasons change is: how can property owners dispose of this brush?

The primary means to remove brush from your property should be by either chipping, or by hauling the brush to the Ellington Brush Drop-Off Area on Hoffman Road. In the event that neither of these options are practical, Ellington Town Ordinances allow regulated open burning of brush on residential property with an approved permit from the Department of Town Fire Marshal.

Open burning, or the burning of brush as a means of disposal, is regulated by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and has restrictions on what types/sizes of brush that can be burned, weather conditions, fire danger, and wind/air quality conditions. In Ellington, an Open Burning Ordinance, along with DEEP regulations, govern the burning of brush. Such burning is overseen by the Department of Town Fire Marshal which includes the Ellington open Burning Officials. More information on the regulations and permit process can be found at <http://www.ellington-ct.gov/179/Fire-Marshal>

To burn brush on your property you will need to submit a

completed permit and \$15.00 permit fee, in-person, at the Town Hall Annex. All permits will be evaluated by an Ellington Open Burning Official and shall include a site inspection of your proposed burn area, materials, and extinguishment methods. Open burning shall only be permitted after a permit is approved.

Failure to comply with local and state open burning permits, statutes, and regulations can result in severe penalties.

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

We are looking for help from all residents and business owners in the Town of Ellington.

The Town of Ellington is contracted with the Everbridge Alert System. During any emergency situation, this system is activated. Messages that are sent out contain information about the emergency incident, steps to take regarding the incident, or both. The information is distributed to businesses and residents via landlines, cell phones, text or email.

We are attempting to update our Everbridge Emergency Contact data files.

In 2018, the Everbridge System was activated on three occasions. Two occasions involved testing of the system. The third occasion dealt with an issue at Crystal Lake involving bacteria found in the water.

If you did not receive a call, email, or text regarding the above scenarios, you are not in our Everbridge Emergency Alert Database. This could pose a risk to you, your family or your business.

Please contact the Office of Emergency Management 860-870-3182 to have your contact information added to our database

If you have changed phone numbers, dropped your landline service or have recently moved to Ellington, please contact us to have your information added or updated.

Thank you for your help in making Ellington a safe and secure place to live.

# SPRING GARDEN CHECK LIST

Once the weather becomes more dependable, the snow has finally gone, and you just can't wait to start your gardening, be sure to tackle these tasks:

Rake leaves out of your garden beds and do a final clean up of debris and expired plants. Prune non-spring flowering shrubs. If your fall clean up has you ahead of the game, you can dig up and separate hosta and bleeding hearts at this time.

Remember the old gardening adage: "one year's seeds, seven years weeds". Pull out those weeds before they are your arch nemesis. You may want to consider one of the many great products on the market for weed suppression. Early application is your best tool.

Now is the time to fertilize. Be sure to choose the appropriate fertilizer for the type of plant material you have. Evergreens and early flowering shrubs, such as azaleas and rhododendrons, are acid loving plants. An organic fertilizer such as Holly Tone is a great choice for those plants. Amend your soil by adding organic compost or composted manure. Don't forget the roses, they love to be fed in the spring!

If your perennial gardens are still holding upright stems that you left for the birds, it's time for them to go! Cut back all herbaceous perennials to the ground. Woody perennials should be left to green up some before they are trimmed. If you're not sure which is a woody perennial, our gardening experts are ready and waiting to help you out.

Apply fresh mulch. A depth of 4" is great for weed suppression and consistent moisture control.

If you're tired and confused just reading this list, come see the experts at Garden's Dream Farm for help tackling your gardening tasks



## Garden's Dream Farm

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**ENFIELD**

**355 TAYLOR ROAD**

4 miles off I-91 / Exit 47E, 1 mile N. on Taylor Rd.

**CROMWELL**

**610 MAIN STREET**

Just 4 miles South of I-91 / Exit 24

# ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT., INC.

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1928. We are proud to continue serving the Town of Ellington and its citizens with the finest possible volunteer emergency fire and rescue services.



**Photo credit – Jim Michaud**

## RECRUITMENT

Men and women all across America serve as volunteer firefighters; roughly 85% of all fire departments are either all or mostly volunteer departments. These are folks who have answered a call to serve a greater purpose in their local community. Have you ever felt this call? Maybe you've felt that you've wanted to give back to the community but weren't sure how?

Joining your local volunteer fire department is a great way to give back to your local community while also being a part of a



**Photo credit – Fred Bird**

worldwide team with the common goal of assisting our neighbor in their time of need. The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) is always looking for new members to join our ranks.

We are a group of highly motivated and trained volunteer professionals. Our purpose is to respond for fire suppression, rescue, medical, and hazardous materials incidents, as well as provide fire prevention and education programs for the citizens of our response area located in the Town of Ellington, Connecticut. No prior education is required.



**Photo credit - Andre Garant**

If you feel you are interested in joining your local fire department, take action and join! The EVFD has a membership committee that is willing to field any recruitment questions you may have and can lay out the process for you to become a member of the EVFD. The membership committee chair (FF Jordan Chamberlin) can be reached through email at [membership@ellingtonfire.org](mailto:membership@ellingtonfire.org), or by phone at 860-836-2995. Our application for membership can be found in our "Join the EVFD" section of our department's website, [www.ellingtonfire.org](http://www.ellingtonfire.org). Answer the call to helping your community by joining your local fire department!

## UPCOMING TRAINING

Over the next several months, the EVFD will be hosting multiple Tactical Emergency Casualty Care classes (TECC), our new active shooter response training. The first sessions will be in February. This training is required to treat patients inside the "warm zone" of an active assailant incident and is part of a county-wide initiative to have all area departments coordinated in their response to an active assailant incident. Deputy Chief

Neubecker and Past Chief Feldman recently participated in this training in Tolland. The fire department will be offering this training to members of EVAC and Crystal Lake as well. While we hope to never utilize this training, we are working on joint policies for response to an incident such as this as well.

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|           |        |                    |
|-----------|--------|--------------------|
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| 10x12 Reg | \$4125 | <b>Sale \$3495</b> |
| 10x16 Reg | \$4985 | <b>Sale \$4225</b> |
| 12x16 Reg | \$5610 | <b>Sale \$4765</b> |
| 12x20 Reg | \$6810 | <b>Sale \$5785</b> |

SHEDS • GARAGES  
PERGOLAS • PAVILIONS  
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PATIO FURNITURE & MORE

*Presidents' Day Sale ends 2/23*