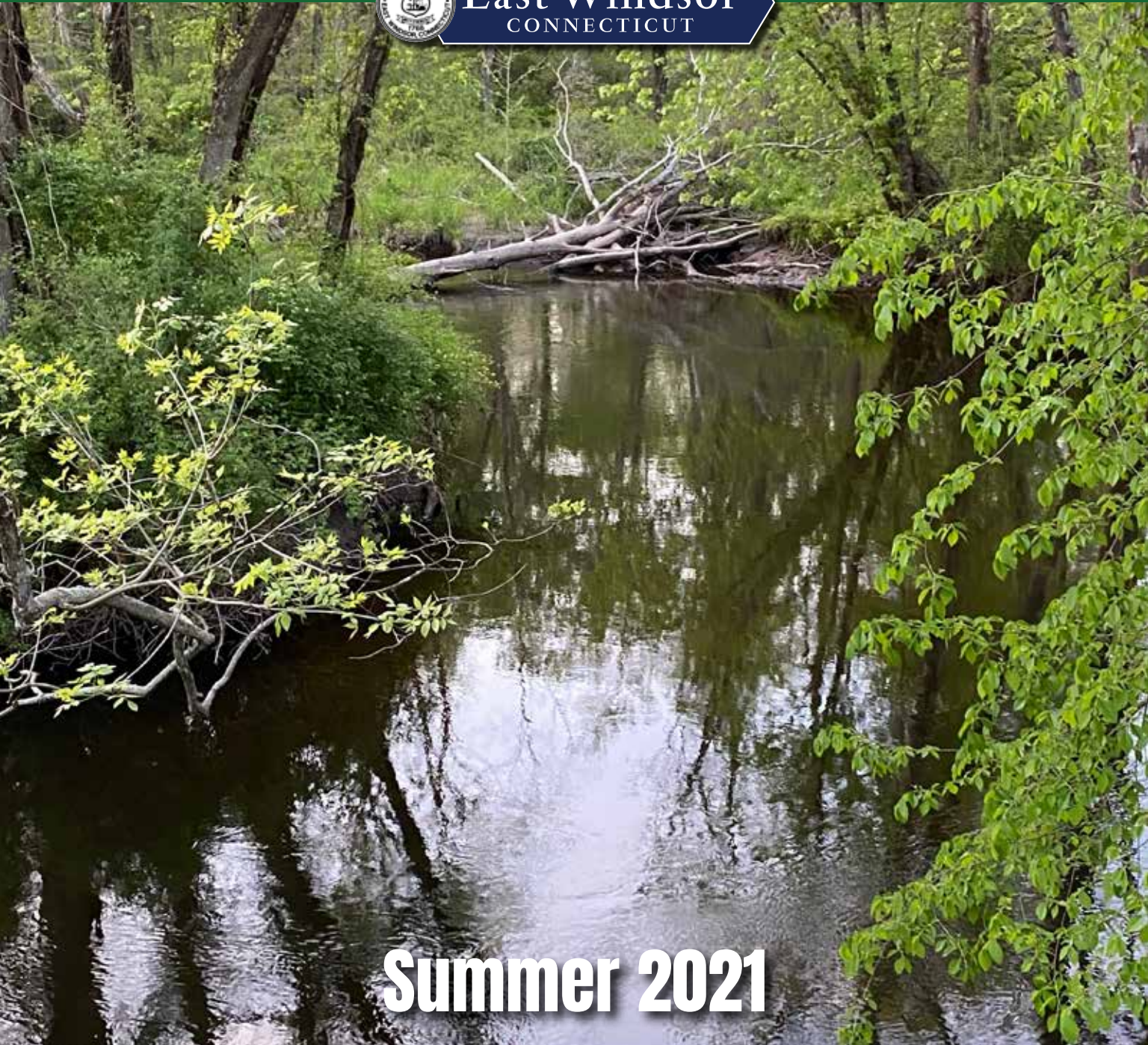


the FIVE VILLAGE VOICE



East Windsor
CONNECTICUT



Summer 2021

First Selectman

As we move into May, the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance have completed their budget work for the year, and now wait for approval of the voters at our annual budget referendum, the first of which will be held on May 11, 2021.

The ballot will look a little bit different than it has in previous years, and there are three things that I want to point out: voters will be asked whether to approve an added appropriation in the amount of \$3.5 million to pay down existing debt faster; the Town's General Fund budget will show a tax and mill rate decrease; and the Broad Brook Fire Department budget, which will be voted on separately (and only by those voters who live within its territorial jurisdiction).

Added Appropriation

I would like to explain the justification for the \$3.5 million added appropriation. The Town has a long-established Fund Balance policy that says we should have between ten percent and twenty percent of our operating budget in the Undesignated Fund Balance (which is essentially our Rainy Day Fund). As of this writing, we are in excess of the maximum proscribed by the policy. The proposal is to appropriate the funds to pay off existing lease purchases, pay off a Clean Water Loan through USDA, and defease recent bonded projects. The upshot would be that we would forego incurring \$750,000 in interest over the life of the Clean Water Loan, reduce our existing debt, free up additional bond capacity for needed projects – all without increasing our Town's debt service budget.

Town Budget

The budget as approved by the Board of Finance for Town expenditures is a spending increase of 1.3% over the current year's approved budget, and a mill rate decrease of -0.22 mills, or a tax cut of -0.64%. The decrease is largely made possible because of growth in the Town's Grand List of 2.39% over the current year. The Town's budget is proposed to increase by 0.65%, and the Board of Education's budget is proposed to increase by 1.74%. The proposed budget by category is as follows:

See First Selectman, page 6

East Windsor Parks & Recreation

Office Info & Hours:

25 School Street, East Windsor CT 06088

Monday-Wednesday: 8:30am-4:30pm

Thursday: 8:30am-7:00pm

Friday: 8:30am-1:00pm

Mailing Address: 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06016

Registration Website: www.EastWindsorRec.com

Recreation Staff:

Director of Recreation & Community Services:

Melissa Maltese, mmaltese@eastwindsorct.com

Recreation Lead: Samantha Charette, scharette@eastwindsorct.com

Administrative Assistant: Irene Mosher, imosher@eastwindsorct.com

Office/Program Assistant:

Debbie Williams, dwilliams@eastwindsorct.com

General Info

Age Requirement:

For programs with age requirements, children must meet the minimum age before the program starts.

Inclement Weather:

Program cancellations due to inclement weather are announced via email blasts through the Recreation Department's registration system as well as posted on our Facebook page. We also broadcast on Channel 3's Early Warning Announcement system. For programs located within the schools, we follow the school's weather cancellations.

Program Scholarships:

Those requiring assistance to participate in programs may speak with the Director regarding financial assistance and scholarship opportunities.

Registration Info

Mail-In:

Registrations are accepted on a first come-first serve basis. Printable registration forms are available at www.EastWindsorRec.com. Paper copies are also available in the Parks & Recreation Office and Town Hall.

Mail your completed form with payment to:

East Windsor Parks & Recreation

11 Rye Street

Broad Brook, CT 06016

Consider yourself registered if you do not hear from us.

Drop-Boxes:

Drop-Boxes are conveniently located at four locations around town to place registrations and payments in. Drop Boxes are locked and checked frequently by Parks & Recreation Staff. Locations are as follows

Broad Brook School – Outside of Main Office

East Windsor Middle School – Outside of Main Office

Town Hall – Outside Main Entrance

Police Station – Inside Lobby

Online:

Conveniently register for most programs at www.EastWindsorRec.com. Upon registering for the first time, create a family account prior to registering for programs.

After registration, you will immediately receive an email confirmation.

Payment:

Payment in full must be accepted before registration is considered valid. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards.

Refund Policy:

No refunds will be given after a program begins unless extenuating circumstances prevents you from participating in the program. The Director of Recreation and Community Services has final say in all matters concerning refunds.

We encourage early registration because often we are forced to cancel programs if a minimum enrollment number is not reached prior to the start of class.

Keep an eye out for information on our Summer Programs coming soon!

Summer Fun Camp – Open to Campers Ages 4-13; Regular and Extended Day Options Available

Swim Lessons – Morning & Evening Options Available

Counselor-In-Training Program – Open to Teens Ages 14-16

We are also now hiring for Summer Positions at East Windsor Park! Visit www.EastWindsorRec.com for more information or to print an application today.

We want to acknowledge all the hard work of our staff throughout this year. They have been the heart of an amazing team here at East Windsor Public Schools, and their tenacity has helped our schools thrive this year.

Broad Brook School Reads as a Community

Broad Brook School read *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* as part of their One School One Book celebration in March. The East Windsor PTO generously purchased a book for every family, which allowed the entire school community to participate in fun and engaging in learning activities related to this classic. As part of these Wizard of Oz themed activities, BBS students learned new vocabulary, graphed their opinions, went on treasure hunts, made emerald green glasses, participated in virtual family events and made a point to acknowledge when they used their hearts, brains and courage, the important characteristics embodied by the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion.

East Windsor Middle School Shows Incredible School Spirit



This year, the East Windsor Middle School staff shared positive office referrals or, as EWMS calls them, the PAWSITIVITY Award. We took this program up a notch, and the referrals are now in the form of an actual PAW with the student's name on it. These paws are displayed in the main foyer bulletin board for all to be inspired. In addition to seeing the awards each week, students' names, and the reason they are being recognized are read during morning announcements every Friday.

In sports news, our middle school basketball teams had a great season. We were able to live stream all of our home games using Zoom or YouTube, and student volunteers were a huge help with the camera work and running the

clock. We are gearing up for softball and baseball in the spring, followed by boys and girls' soccer in the fall of 2021.



In February, the EWMS student council held a virtual pep rally and students had a great time competing in trivia contests, a puzzle challenge, and finding the differences. In March, students are competing in a "Nail It" competition where students create a 3D version of the Rabbit Cake using whatever materials they have. They can make a cake, use paper, clay, or whatever is available. Students and staff are participating in a half-court challenge.

Also, in March, students participated in Read Across America week. Students dressed in silly socks, hats, and pajamas throughout the week. 90 students took out library books on one day, which might be a new school record!

EWMS has two clubs working at this time, the EWMS Newspaper Club and the Yearbook Club. Currently, the Newspaper Club has published two editions, and students have reviewed lunches, interviewed staff, shared recipes, horoscopes, and much more. The Yearbook club is working on creating the 2020-2021 yearbook.

Students and staff have done an outstanding job with technology. They have become masters at live streaming daily lessons with Microsoft Teams with smart televisions or smartboards.

East Windsor High School Looks to the Future

High school students participated in College and Career Readiness Week during the week of March 15th. The week was titled "Think about your future week" - Each day had a dress up theme and college/career activity:

- Your Future Starts Here Monday - Everyone wore black and gold to show their school spirit, and we watched a video of East Windsor Alumni reflecting on their college experiences.
- Your Future is So Bright Tuesday - Everyone wore neon colors and sunglasses and students participated in a career cruising activity that day.
- Dress for Success Wednesday - Students dressed up as if they were going to an interview and dedicated their advisory classes to working on resumes and practicing mock interviews.
- Oh, the Places You'll Go Thursday - Students wore clothing that represented the college, technical school, or military of their choice and attended virtual college visits.
- Future Self Friday - Students wore outfits that represented their future careers. Students also participated in a virtual meet and greet with people who are working in the career they want to pursue. More than 20 careers were represented - A special thanks to Mrs. Whalen, Mr. Kaplan, and their committee on College and Career readiness who organized the week of events.

From March 21st through March 24th, East Windsor High School had their decennial NEASC visit. The visit was held virtually with educators from various towns in New England. The school was asked to report out and provide evidence that they had grown in 5 priority areas that were identified in 2018. The written report of the visiting team's overall findings will be given at a later date, however, the team did meet with the full faculty on Wednesday, March 24th to elaborate on some of their findings. The presentation was overwhelmingly positive, with many commendations in all 5 growth areas. The team also found the relationship between staff, students, and the community all to be positive and commendable.

School Budget News

On March 17, the Board of Education Chair, Cathy Simonelli, presented the BOE proposed FY22 budget to the Board of Finance. The budget as approved by the Board of Finance reflects a 1.74% increase to the local appropriation. As shared in the budget presentation, the district budget currently supports instructional supports and other resources for the stu-

Schools, page 10

Planning & Development Department

Now that winter is finally behind us, we head towards summer with renewed optimism here in the East Windsor Planning and Development Department. Despite some of the challenges we have all experienced due to COVID-19, land use activity continues to be brisk. Whether residents are considering new additions, decks, or pools, or entrepreneurs are finally mustering up the courage to start that business, our Department is here to help.

Since January, we have received applications for three new businesses in the Route 140 Corridor. There have also been new applications for businesses on Route 5, including United Ag and Turf Northeast which is planning an expansion just to the south of their current operation. As part of our outreach efforts to see how the Town of East Windsor can help our local businesses continue to rebound and thrive, we have also begun visiting with some relatively new businesses.

Soto Optical, having recently re-located to their new address at 35 South Main Street (Route 5), is scheduling appointments - not only to follow COVID-19 safety protocols, but to offer personal one-on-one service. While some larger chains which sell eyewear may not accept Husky insurance, Soto Optical does accept it which is refreshing when some providers seem to shy away from certain government-funded programs.

Golden Dog Grooming Company, located at 98 Main Street in Broad Brook, is another new business which recently opened. They offer a wide range of services and offer a discount for multiple pet households.

In addition to our focus on businesses in the community, the Planning and Development Department, in conjunction with the Planning and Zoning Commission, is undertaking a review of its current Planning and Zoning Regulations. While changes to the regulations do happen periodically, the goal of a comprehensive review is to determine areas of the regulations that may be outdated, confusing or ambiguous. We look forward to coming up with proposed changes that bring clarity to questions like which activities are allowed where and to have a set of regulations that serves the current and future needs of the Town of East Windsor.

Another project we have been working on is to achieve voluntary certification through *Sustainable CT*. The Sustainable CT mission is to *provide municipalities with a menu of coordinated, voluntary actions, to continually become more sustainable; to provide resources and tools to assist municipalities in implementing sustainability actions and advancing their programs for the benefit of all residents; and to certify and recognize municipalities for their ongoing sustainability achievements.*

One of the benefits of participation in the program is the opportunity for matching grants to *help communities promote economic well-being and enhance equity, all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. Anyone in a Sustainable CT registered municipality can participate in this program to implement highly visible projects to improve their communities. Municipalities, nonprofits, community groups, schools, libraries, and individual residents can all propose projects and double their impact with match funding.* For more information, please visit sustainablect.org/funding/

As the Planning and Development Department continues to serve East Windsor residents, property owners, and businesses, we welcome suggestions on how we can improve our services. Suggestions may be submitted by either email at rcalabrese@eastwindsorct.com or calling the office at (860) 623-6030.

Clark J. Chapin, *Director of Planning and Community Development/Town Planner*

Curbside Trash & Single Stream Recycling Collection

Trash will be collected on your scheduled pick up day. Please have your barrel out no later than 6:00 a.m. Recycling is every other week.

Recycling Collected on White Week

Holidays Observed - No Collection

Collection schedule is delayed one day after the holiday for the remainder of the week. The delay does not extend into the week after a holiday.

- Fri, Jan. 1, **New Years Day**
- Mon, May 24, **Memorial Day**
- Sun, July 4, **Independence Day, No delay in collection**
- Mon, Sept. 6, **Labor Day**
- Thurs, Nov. 25, **Thanksgiving**
- Satur, Dec. 25, **Christmas, No delay in collection**
- Satur, Jan. , 2021, **New Years Day, No delay in collection**

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DECEMBER						
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2021

East Windsor Electronic Waste Program

Public Works Department, 6 Woolam Road,
East Windsor | 860.292.7073 | Monday
through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Computer Items

Laptops
Monitors
Peripherals (wires, mice, cables, other
computer components)
Mainframes
Modems/Routers/Switches/Hubs

Office

Copiers
Scanners
Fax Machines
Printers
Toner & Inkjet Cartridges



Kitchen

Small appliances
Refrigerators & Freezers
Microwaves
Vacuum Cleaners

Entertainment

DVD & CD Players
iPods/Walkmans/PDAS
Stereos & Radios
Televisions & VCRs
Video Games & Consoles

Other

Telephones
Cell Phones
Air Conditioners
Batteries
LED Bulbs
Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes

Items NOT Accepted

Car Batteries
Battery operated toys
Smoke Detectors
Hazardous Liquids (motor oil, oil paint)
Propane Tanks
Stoves
Washer/Dryers
Dishwashers



For further information, please visit:

CT DEEP Recycling Information at
[https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/
Waste-Management-and-Disposal/
What-Do-I-Do-With](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Waste-Management-and-Disposal/What-Do-I-Do-With)

Water Pollution Control Facility

The East Windsor WPCF would like to introduce you to the East Windsor Water Pollution Control Facility and provide a glimpse into what we do. We are considered essential frontline workers. We are responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the 2.5 Million Gallon per day Wastewater treatment facility, 37 miles of gravity sewer and force main, as well as 10 remote sewage pumping stations.

The Department is staffed by a Superintendent, Chief Operator, Laboratory Technician, Office Manager, Operator III, Solids Handling Chief, two Mechanic/Operators, and two Plant Operators. The staff are all required to be licensed and/or certified in Wastewater Operations, Collection Systems, and Laboratory Analysis. With the exception of our two recent hires the WPCF staff has an average of 25 years' experience. The staff's wastewater experience ranges from 8 years to 42 years.

The facility, collection system and pump stations operate 24/7/365. The facility is staffed 7 days per week. Staff rotate being on standby call a week at a time. We maintain assets valued at many tens of millions of dollars. Sewage is pumped from as far as Perri Lane and the East

Windsor/South Windsor line on Route 5 to the WPCF at 192 South Water Street. Each year we remove hundreds of tons of sludge that otherwise would be deposited in the Connecticut River. The WPCF acts as the last defense between the flush and the river.

Water is a finite resource. We have all we are going to have; it just gets recycled over and over. A well-run Wastewater Treatment facility is critical to the health of a community. The facility was last upgraded in 1995. Currently the facility operates at less than 50% capacity which puts East Windsor in a very good position as we have excess capacity to handle any growth within the sewer service area. In recent years, the staff of the WPCF have taken on large capitol projects from the rebuilding of entire pump stations to the overhaul and upgrade of the facility Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA). This has resulted in substantial savings which translates into a great value to the ratepayer.

The WPCF staff report to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA). The WPCA oversees the operation of the WPCF.

E.Arthur Enderle III, Superintendent WPCF

East Windsor Conservation Commission

We in East Windsor value our open views, picturesque barns, and farm fields. We have some of the best prime soil in the world. Still, we need to recognize that much of what we see is private property and it is necessary for farmers and landowners to pay their taxes and make a living. The land and barns are not just attractive but are also places of business. If the value of the land outweighs the incentive to keep it then it will be rented or sold.

Purchasing open space or farms outright to preserve them is very costly and for the most part out of reach for most towns. Also, towns do not need to own farmland and be landlords. A much better way is to make use of a Purchase of Development Rights program which compensates owners of agricultural property for their willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction (through a conservation easement) on their land. The land can never be developed but may continue to be farmed. This restriction remains on the property through subsequent owners. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has a PDR program with which towns can partner.

East Windsor partnered with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to purchase the development rights from the owner of a 117-acre farm on Rye Street that was subsequently sold to the farmer who had been renting it. The own-

er received full compensation for the property - the deed restriction money and the money from the sale of the farm. The farmer that bought it paid only the reduced price because of the deed restriction. The open land was preserved and both buyer and seller were happy. The property will continue to be used and cared for by the new owner and it will remain on the tax rolls. This agreement also allows public access to the wooded Scantic riverbank which abuts town owned property south of Old Plantation Road.

What this accomplished is that the Town was able to preserve this farmland worth over \$1,500,000 and only had to contribute \$235,000 from the Open Space Fund. However, the Town used most of its Open Space Fund to achieve this transaction. We are currently feeling the pressure of several new residential developments and large solar fields. Large farmable tracts are becoming less available.

Land on Windsorville Road, Rye Street, Norton Road and Chamberlain Road already used for farming or nurseries should be preserved.

East Windsor needs to build up its Open Space Fund in order to respond to opportunities when they arise. We want to preserve this precious resource and the landscape and rural character that we so greatly value.

Albert Grant, Chairman

First Selectman, continued from page 2

General Government	\$	2,243,682	2,270,377	26,695	1.19%
Public Safety	\$	4,397,168	4,051,529	(345,639)	-7.86%
Public Works	\$	3,491,401	3,702,954	211,553	6.06%
Community Services	\$	1,016,928	1,041,130	24,202	2.38%
EE Benefits & Contingency	\$	3,416,347	3,588,023	171,676	5.03%
Capitol Improvement	\$	1,014,668	1,014,668	-	0.00%
Debt Service	\$	1,007,865	1,028,023	20,158	2.00%
TOTAL TOWN	\$	16,588,059	16,696,704	108,645	0.65%
Board of Education	\$	24,700,000	25,130,075	430,075	1.74%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	41,288,059	41,826,779	538,720	1.30%

There are a few key provisions in the budget that merit highlighting. The first is the creation of a mental health team within the East Windsor Police Department. The team would be led by a sworn police officer who also holds a Masters of Social Work degree as well as the necessary state license, and who would be supported by two part-time, grant-funded social workers. It would also integrate social service needs and truancy services associated with the school district, the East Windsor Youth Services Bureau, and the School Resource Officer Program. This initiative, which will foster continued collaboration between the school system, the East Windsor Community Services Department, and the East Windsor Police Department, will cost the Town a modest \$56,250.

The budget proposal also includes \$100,000 in funding for long-term planning projects, so that the Town will be positioned to capitalize on the potential for federal or state infrastructure projects. Having "turn key" plans will allow us to make well-considered requests for

future funding, and we have for many years neglected the urgency of having plans in place before we need them. This would allow us to be proactive and seize opportunities, rather than be reactive and miss those opportunities.

Broad Brook Fire Department

Another problem that has lingered without resolution for years is the disparate means of funding fire protection between Warehouse Point and Broad Brook. Last year, voters in East Windsor overwhelmingly approved the creation of the Town of East Windsor – Broad Brook Fire Department (BBFD), including allowing a separate tax be levied to support the Broad Brook Fire Department. This new tax will only be borne by property owners who live within the territorial jurisdiction of BBFD. Warehouse Point Fire District residents will be taxed to support the fire service within the district. By having residents of each district support only the department that services their homes, we have effectively eliminated

the disparity that has existed between the two departments.

Existing expenses supporting BBFD in the current budget have been removed from the budget as proposed total \$547,601 and came from the following existing lines:

Broad Brook Fire Services	
BBFD	(\$467,000)
FM	(\$20,780)
Tolland Dispatch	(\$22,000)
27th Payroll	(\$5,472)
FICA	(\$20,349)
WC	(\$12,000)

The final BBFD budget final submission requests \$957,327 for FY21/22. The increase is almost entirely attributable to capital requests in the amount of \$200,000 and staffing increases of \$162,496.

Conclusion

The foregoing is a summary of the three questions voters will be asked to consider at the budget referendum on May 11th. The added appropriation will prevent incurring interest and allow us to address needed infrastructure improvements while staying within the confines of our existing debt service. The Town budget presents modest, reasonable budget improvements that will help the Town address timely and emergent needs. The BBFD budget proposal puts forward an honest assessment of what the new Broad Brook Fire Commissioners consider to be the needs of the community.

Please remember to vote on May 11th.

Department of Public Works & Engineering

The 61st annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association will be celebrated May 16 – 23, 2021. The activities, events and ceremonies are designed to pay tribute to all public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life. The employees of the East Windsor Public Works & Engineering Department take great pride in our efforts to maintain the infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to our community.

A little-known fact among most communities is that Public Works personnel are considered First Responders for emergencies and disasters. President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), Management of Domestic Incidents, in 2003, in which a public works response to emergencies and disasters is recognized as an absolute

necessity, and the federal government is directed to include public works in all planning and response efforts. In May of 2018, the American Public Works Association (APWA) adopted a national Public Works First Responder symbol. It is expected that this symbol will increase recognition of public works as first responders throughout North America.

On the local front, the DPW has finished with winter operations and has started our spring/summer projects. Residents will see our crews filling potholes, fixing catch basins and guide rails, installing culverts, mowing fields and roadsides. For work within the roadways, traffic patterns will be set up with signage and cones and flaggers will be utilized, as necessary. It is imperative that all motorists are observant of these conditions and obey the signage and flaggers. "OBEY THE ORANGE"!!

Respectfully Submitted, **Leonard J. Norton, P.E.**, *Director of Public Works/Town Engineer/Tree Warden*

Town of East Windsor- Broad Brook Fire Department: FY 2021-2022 Budget

DESCRIPTION	FY 20-21 BUDGET	FY 21-22 PROPOSED	INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT INC (DEC)
TAXES				
Current Levy (RE + PP)		957,327	957,327	100.00%
EXPENDITURES				
Parttime Salary	130,000	292,496	162,496	125.00%
FM Stipend	17,867	25,000	7,133	39.92%
FF Incentive	120,000	125,000	5,000	4.17%
27th PR	5,472	11,096	5,624	102.78%
FICA ER Share	20,349	32,405	12,056	59.25%
FF Annuity	30,000	20,000	(10,000)	-33.33%
Worker's Comp	12,000	12,000	-	0.00%
Professional Services	10,000	3,800	(6,200)	-62.00%
Physicals	14,000	15,000	1,000	7.14%
Phone		8,200	8,200	100.00%
FM Phone		750	750	100.00%
Repairs & Maintenance	45,500	45,000	(500)	-1.10%
Building Maintenance	500	-	(500)	-100.00%
Tolland Dispatch	22,000	23,000	1,000	4.55%
LAP Insurance	28,000	25,000	(3,000)	-10.71%
Postage			-	0.00%
Travel	500	650	150	30.00%
Supplies	60,500	86,000	25,500	42.15%
FM Supplies	2,413	4,100	1,687	69.91%
Gasoline	6,500	6,000	(500)	-7.69%
Dues & Fees	22,000	21,830	(170)	-0.77%
CIP Allocation		200,000	200,000	100.00%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	547,601	957,327	409,726	74.82
TOWN BUDGET FY 21-22	957,327		TOWN MILL RATE: FY 21-22	2.48
			Taxes on home value of:	
GRAND LIST (RE+PP)	392,095,330		250,000	\$ 435
			350,000	\$ 610
GL X 98.5% COLLECTION FACTOR	386,213,900		425,000	\$ 735

Broad Brook- Fire Department



There will be changes to some of the bills beginning this July 2021 for the 2020 Grand List.

As of November 3, 2020, the Town established a Town Fire Department to be known as the "Town of East Windsor – Broad Brook Fire Department" under Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-301 and a Town Ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing the Town of East Windsor – Broad Brook Fire Department".

The legislation states the Town shall make appropriations and lay taxes for the purpose of defraying the cost of maintaining and operating the Fire Department and any Fire Department Tax levied for such purpose shall be levied solely on all taxable real and personal property (excluding motor vehicles) within the Territorial Jurisdiction (Broad Brook section).

All taxes will be itemized on your real estate bill(s) and personal property bill(s). This tax will go through the same processes as any other levy. It must go through the budget cycle and be voted.

Patricia Kratochvil, CCMC, Tax Collector

Bunnies “Popping” Up Throughout East Windsor

With COVID restrictions limiting our typical Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, the East Windsor Parks and Recreation Department brainstormed a unique and fun way to continue the tradition of highlighting local businesses and organizations while still maintaining an element of fun!

This year, we partnered with husband-and-wife duo Erica and Mike Giroux of Giroux Woodworking and the Playful Peacock to bring our idea to life. Mike was able to cre-



Stoecker Family Farm Bunny

ate four-foot wooden bunnies, complete with stands to make the bunnies easier to display.

Businesses and organizations were invited to “sponsor” bunnies, and in doing so all sponsorship funds will benefit our Summer Camp Scholarship Program. Each sponsor was given a bunny to decorate how they wished, and a map was set up for the community to hunt for all the bunnies!

We were overwhelmed with the response from local businesses new and old! The creativity put into the bunnies far exceeded our expectations and we had such a great time driving around town each day and seeing the bunnies proudly displayed.

Many of our businesses and organizations also donated gift cards and other various raffle items to further increase participation within the community. All those who sent us a selfie with at least one bunny were entered to



Action Glass Bunny

win a prize!

We hope East Windsor enjoyed “hopping” around town on the hunt for bunnies and we look forward to continuing the tradition next year!

A huge thank you again to all of our sponsors: Action Glass LLC, Max Analytical Technologies, Crossroads Community Cathedral, At the Dam Restaurant, Shag Bark Hickory Farm, Stoecker Family Farm, Harken's Market LLC, East Windsor Rotary Club,

Windsor Federal Savings, Sunny House Restaurant, Aqua Pool & Patio, Bake Craft & Create LLC, Dunkin' Donuts and the East Windsor Community Services Department.

Melissa Maltese, Director of Recreation and Community Services

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Parks & Rec Bunny



Transportation, Meals, and Programs are always evolving at the East Windsor Senior Center, especially during a pandemic. In the beginning weeks and months due to restrictions, our services which usually included transporting groups of seniors on trips and preparing lunches at the Senior Center shifted to transporting groceries to senior's homes, taking one or two people to an important medical appointment, or delivering a hot meal to a Meals on Wheels Client.

Fast forward to this year, and the everchanging needs of transportation shifted back to bringing our wonderful clients to regular activities such as banking, hair appointments and shopping at the grocery store. This small return to normalcy allowed for social interaction for both staff and seniors, that will never be taken for granted again. The people we transport are more than clients and they feel the same about our staff. We are always there for them and, even if they do not know it, they are there for us.

Due to the pandemic, we have offered additional services including assistance navigating the online vaccine clinic sign up system, providing rides to vaccine clinics, and delivering special holiday treats in order to meet the personal and professional needs of our community.

They say it takes a village, but it does not always pertain to raising a child. I am convinced it takes a village or FIVE to see that we are all in this together and we as Town staff are in it until the end!

Melissa Maltese, *Director of Recreation and Community Services*



At the Dam Bunny

Assessor's Office

At right is a comparison of the final Grand List figures for the 2020 Grand List and the 2019 Grand List. The largest increase is in Personal Property, due to construction equipment temporarily located in town. In addition, several companies had sizable acquisitions.

The Motor Vehicle list also showed an increase, although there are fewer vehicles than last year. This is most likely due to the Governor's executive orders extending time for registration renewals. I believe the value increase is due in part to large new trucks being added to the Grand List. In addition, newer vehicles with higher values have been registered and the market for used vehicles has shown a decrease in supply and an increase in demand, keeping those vehicle values from depreciating very much and in some cases, increasing values.

Elderly and Disabled Homeowner Benefit Deadline

The application deadline for residents eligible for homeowner benefits is May 14, 2021. Eligibility is determined by age or the existence of a permanent disability and income. Taxpayers are required to submit proof of their last year's income. The maximum income limit for a single person is \$37,600 and for a married couple it is \$45,800. If an income tax return has been filed with the IRS, a copy must be presented at the

CATEGORY	2019 GL NET TOTALS AFTER BAA	2020 GL NET TOTALS AFTER BAA	%AGE OF DIFFERENCE
Real Estate	\$784,548,810	\$792,474,592	1.00%
Motor Vehicle	\$99,907,460	\$103,977,015	4.07%
Pers Property	\$82,855,173	\$93,281,207	12.58%
TOTALS	\$967,311,443	\$989,732,814	2.39%

time of application, along with statements of any untaxable income such as Social Security or Railroad Retirement payments. If an income tax return is not filed, statements of all income must be presented. These include statements of wages, lottery winnings, taxable pensions, IRA's, interest, dividends, rental income, Social Security earnings, Railroad Retirement, veteran's payments, etc. This is a two-year program, with refile applications, as well as new applications, due between Feb. 1 and May 15 each year, unless that deadline falls on a weekend. This year they are due Friday, May 14.

Veterans, Blind and Totally Disabled Programs

Veterans or members of the military who have not yet filed a copy of their discharge papers, documentation of current active duty or deployment with the Town Clerk may do so by September 30, 2021 to receive an exemption.

Due to revised state statutes, any former military member who had been denied benefits and exemptions in the past due to an "other than honorable" or "dishonorable discharge" MAY now be qualified to receive an exemption. Active-duty military (including members of a National Guard unit) may also file an application for total exemption from property taxes on a single motor vehicle by December 31, 2021. Additional income-based veterans', blind and totally disabled benefit programs have an October 1, 2021 deadline for qualified taxpayers to file new applications this year. Taxpayers already on any of these programs need not reapply this year due to COVID restrictions and the Governor's Executive Order affecting the programs. Contact the Assessor's Office at (860) 623-8878 for further details on any of these programs.

Helen Totz, *CCMA II, Assessor*

Schools, continued from page 3

dents in East Windsor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff continued to provide a high-quality instructional program, both in person and remotely. Throughout the changes in school schedule, our staff delivered grade level and intervention services. This has resulted in positive growth with more students performing at or close to grade level and fewer students significantly below grade level in both reading and math on our interim assessment, iReady.

Our staff provided social work counseling services to 125 students and also conducted more than 30 home visits since November. We continue to utilize restorative practices and deliver a research based social emotional learning curriculum – both of which are to help students feel safe and supported in school. Feeling safe and supported is the first step to our students being ready to learn.

We have provided a safe, clean, and well-maintained learning environment and adhered to COVID 19 cleaning and disinfecting guidelines. We supported our students through more than 6500 nursing office visits through March 8 and provided more than

12,000 meals to go for our remote students through the end of February. Our students have engaged in winter athletics both at EWHS and EWMS and our spring sports season is beginning.

Passage of the BOE budget as approved by the Board of Finance will allow the EWPS to retain this level of support for our students in the next school year when academic supports and social/emotional services will be more critical than ever. In addition, the 1.74% budget reflects the change from a math tutor to a certified math teacher for intervention at EWMS, an increase back to full time for our EWHS Family and Consumer Science teacher and the addition of a Planning and Placement Team facilitator to help us better meet the needs of our students with special education services and the state and federal mandates related to special education. Additional interventions for academic and emotional needs will be provided through playful use of COVID relief and recovery grant funds.

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

East Windsor Agricultural Commission

The Town of East Windsor purchased the 152-acre Kogut Farm in 2004. It is bounded by Reservoir, Windsorville and Chamberlain Roads. It was intended for passive recreation and future use as a school or other municipal need. It has been used in the interim for the Community Garden, Dog Park and the Skate Park. The farm fields have been restored and are rented as cropland to an East Windsor resident farmer.

One field, however, remains uncleared of its former shade tobacco tent poles and wires. The poles are rotting and the wires are becoming entangled in the underbrush. The area is unofficially used by hikers and is somewhat of a hazard. The Agricultural Commission has been pursuing a grant opportunity to restore the field and make it rentable as cropland. It is a reimbursement grant which means that the work would have to be done and paid for first, then be reimbursed up to 90% of the cost. The Commission will be seeking Town support.

Albert Grant, Chairman



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Senior Services



♥ Valentine's Day Drive-Thru ♥

Highlights from January-March

We have been able to successfully continue Book Club via ZOOM once the weather became too cold to hold it outside. We are hoping to bring it back in person in April, either outside or inside depending on the re-opening guidelines. We have begun dropping off themed crafts to our seniors who are interested. Supplies and directions are dropped off to them and they can complete them at home. We received over 100 new blanket donations for our Cuddle a Senior program

from East Windsor residents as well as from surrounding towns. We delivered them to seniors all over town. We hosted two drive-thrus for Valentine's Day and Saint Patrick's Day. Seniors received goodie bags for Valentine's Day sponsored by Comfort Keepers and a Dunkin Donuts gift card sponsored by Stateline Senior Services. Our St. Paddy's Day goodie bags were sponsored by The Residence at South Windsor Farms. We delivered the treats to all our homebound and transportation clients.

♥ Valentine's Day Craft ♥



Community Services

The Town of East Windsor's Community Service Department is partnering with RiseUP for Arts to paint a large-scale mural, tentatively planned for a stretch of I-91 at Exit 45, visible to thousands of people each day. When finished, this project will be one of the longest murals in New England. The mural is meant to celebrate East Windsor's history and the 5 Villages that make up the town. Community members and local businesses will be asked

to submit suggestions for images to include in the mural, as well as participate in fundraising for the project. The first \$7,500 raised will be matched dollar-for-dollar by SustainableCT. More information and a link to the survey for mural suggestions is on the fundraising page: www.Patronicity.com/eastwindsormural. Early this summer, the community will be invited to help during a "Paint-by-Numbers" volunteer day to kick off the project. Next, profes-

sional Connecticut artist Ben Keller, along with youth from the community, will complete the mural. The project will commence with an unveiling celebration to thank all those that contributed and memorialize the historical mural installation.

Melissa Maltese, *Director of Recreation and Community Services*



Ben Keller in action.



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2021 DOG LICENSE INFORMATION

Dog licenses are due from June 1st through June 30th for all dogs six months old or older.

Licenses may be obtained in person, or by mail. Per Connecticut General Statutes 22-338(b) and 22-338, you must provide us with a current valid rabies certificate and a spay/neuter certificate (if applicable).

If you want to license your dog through the mail, please mail the following items to: Town Clerk, 11 Rye St., Broad Brook, CT 06016.

1. Check made out to: "Town of East Windsor" for the applicable fee.
2. Late fees included in check (if applicable).
3. Current valid rabies certificate.
4. Spay/Neuter certificate (if applicable).

Self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the dog license, dog tag, rabies certificate and spay/neuter certificate.

The Town Clerk's office hours are Mon.-Wed. 8:30-4:30, Thurs. 8:30-7:00 and Fri. 8:30-1:00. For more information about dog licenses, call the Town Clerk's Office at (860) 292-8255.

Dog License Fees:

Neutered Male or Spayed Female	\$8.00
Male or Female (not spayed or neutered)	\$19.00
Kennel (10 tags)	\$51.00
Guide Dogs	FREE
Lost Tags	\$50
Transfer from another CT town	\$50
Transfer of ownership within town (if already licensed)	\$1.00
Late Penalty	\$1.00 per month or fraction thereof- starting in July

TAX OFFICE

The Governor's second executive order for tax collection has ended and the taxpayers of East Windsor should be proud of their participation in this past year's very different collection process. Taxpayers that could pay on time did so, and those taxpayers that needed extra time allowed by the executive order paid their taxes shortly after the regular due date. Thank you everyone!!

The next step is the budget process. The town budget is an important factor when determining tax bills. Each year, town residents have the opportunity to vote for the town budget that includes the General Government budget, which pays for police, public works, the library, park and recreations, elderly services and municipal offices, the Board of Education budget, and the bonded debt budget, which covers large expenditures voted on and approved by townspeople. Once the budget is passed by the townspeople, the Board of Finance computes the mill rate. Check out the town website for meeting dates and participate in the budget process for your town. This is where it all begins.

Patricia Kratochvil, CCMC, Tax Collector

IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

May 11, 2021 - 1st Budget Referendum

May 12, 2021 - Public Hearing, if needed, or BOF to set mill rate

May 25, 2021 - 2nd Budget Referendum (if needed)

May 26, 2021 - Public Hearing, if needed, or BOF to set mill rate

June 8, 2021 - 3rd Budget Referendum (if needed)

June 9, 2021 - BOF to set mill rate

LAND RECORDS

Our Land Records provider New Visions is now online. Please go to <https://www.eastwindsor-ct.gov/> on the left land side and click on the link "Land Records Online Access".

FISHING & HUNTING



Springtime is in the air and that means fishing! Please be advised to still use social distancing when you are out. Fishing and Hunting Guides are in the office! The Governor signed executive order 10B which opened fishing season as of March 4th, 2021. The Trout and Salmon Stamp is now required for fishing in any waters where they stock trout and salmon. The cost is \$5.00.

You can contact DEEP by phone (860) 424-3105 with any additional questions. Any Connecticut Residents 65 years of age or older are entitled to a free license.

If you have any questions, please call our office 860-292-8255.

Amy R. Lam, Town Clerk

Lynn K. Lemieux, Assistant Town Clerk

Larissa Hiti, Assistant Town Clerk



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More than 50 degrees and certificates available, including Business, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare Careers, Human Services, Communications, Early Childhood Education and Criminal Justice.

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Fall classes begin on August 26th.

Online, in-person and hybrid class formats are available.

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Renters Rebate

The Town of East Windsor Department of Community Services will begin taking applications for the State of Connecticut Renters Rebate Program which runs from April 1 to October 1. This program provides a one-time payment to renters based on income, rent and utilities that were paid in the year (2020). Applicants must be 65 years old by December 31, 2020 or be permanently disabled as defined by Social Security and be at least 18 years of age by December 31, 2020. The income limits (including Social Security) are as follows: Single-\$37,600.00; Married-\$45,800.00. To make an appointment or any questions please call (860) 623-2430.

Applicants Must Provide:

- Social Security Benefit Statement (2020 Form SSA 1099) Required
- Dividends, Interest and Annuities
- All Taxable IRA Accounts
- Copy of your 2020 Federal Income Tax Return (If you are required to file)
- Copies of your non-taxable income must also be provided (For example: Veteran's Disability Payments, Pensions, Federal SSI, Alimony, Unemployment, and Workers Comp. ETC.)
- Proof of your expenses - Calendar year 2020 for the following:
 - Rent, Electric, Gas, Water, and Deliverable Fuel Expenses
Need Rent Receipts from January-December 2020 or Letter by Landlord stating what you paid the entire year of 2020.
 - Electric, Gas, Water, and Deliverable Fuels, you should call each vendor and request a payment history for the year 2020 and they will mail it to you.

Agnes Eisler celebrates her 101st birthday with her second Covid vaccination.



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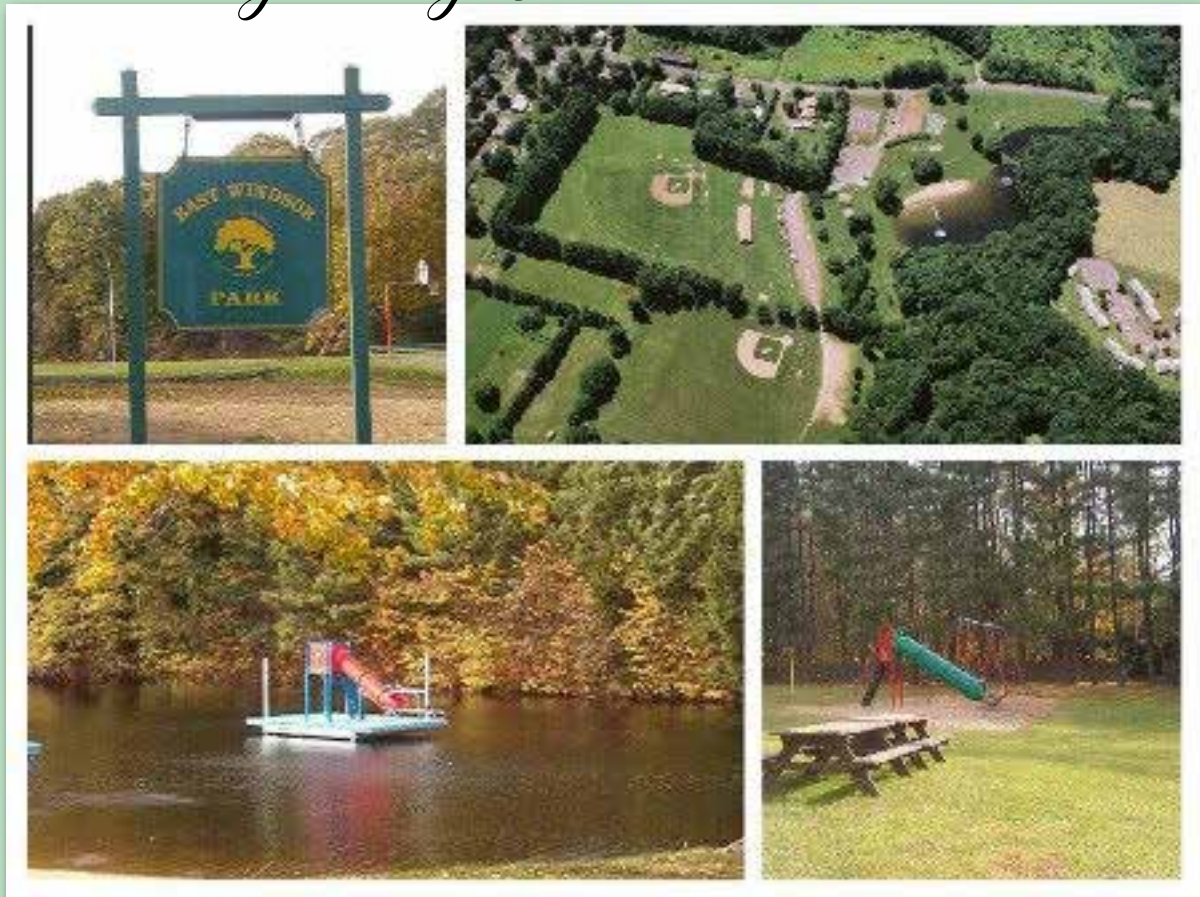
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Directions to Park

From I-91 North or South, Exit 45, from northbound turn right onto Route 140, from Southbound turn left onto Route A140. Continue east on Route 140 for 4 miles. Turn right at light at top of hill onto Route 191. Continue on Route 191 through traffic light to first stop sign. Bear left at stop sign onto Windsorville Road. At next stop sign turn left onto Reservoir Avenue. East Windsor Park is about ¼ mile ahead on the left.

For more information:

For more information, contact Irene Mosher at East Windsor Parks and Recreation, 860-698-1511, imosher@eastwindsorct.com. Registrations can be completed online by going to the Park and Rec website: Eastwindsorrec.com

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Our experience has taught us that when losing a loved one, those left behind feel lost and alone. Many do not know where to turn to or how to cope. Our grief support programs in place are dedicated to helping you during your difficult time and making each day a little easier for you when a loved one is lost.

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