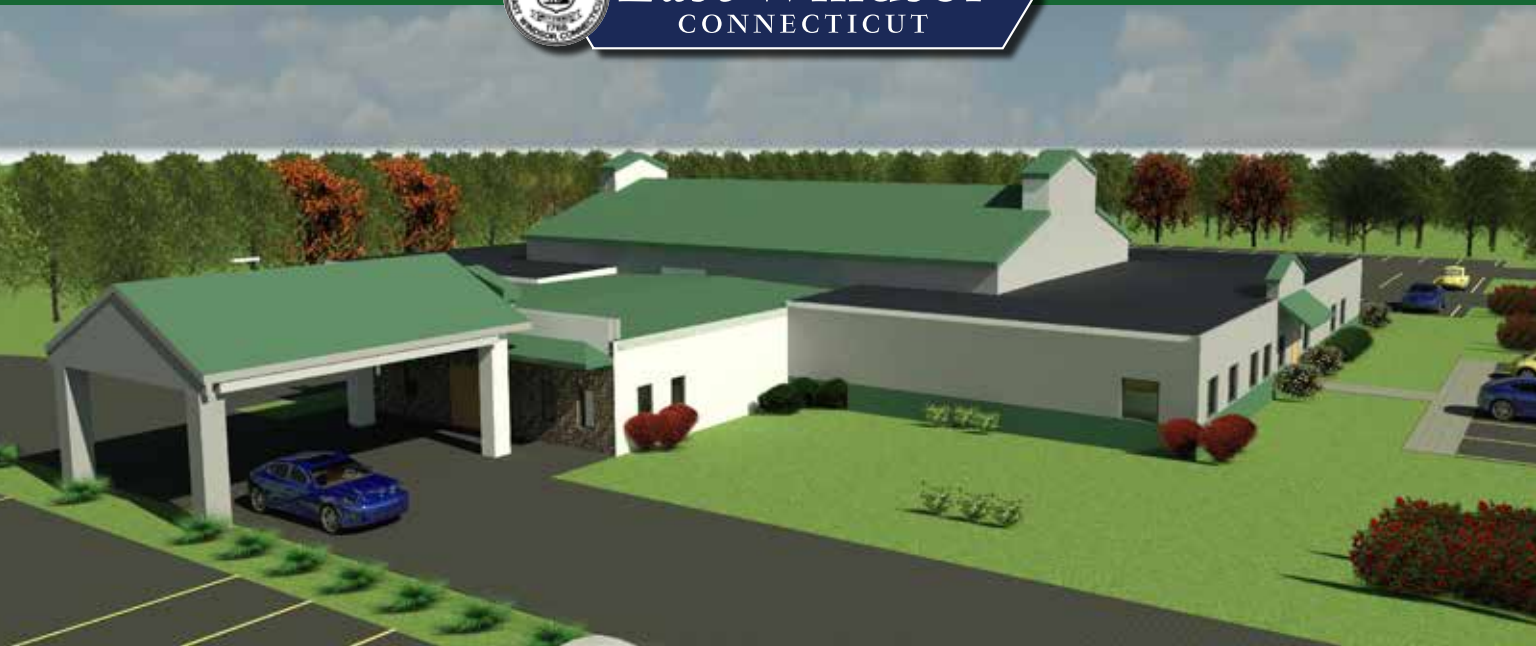


the FIVE VILLAGE VOICE



East Windsor
CONNECTICUT



Winter 2023

On November 8th, voters in East Windsor will have an opportunity to decide whether the Town should move forward with the renovation and construction of an addition onto Scout Hall, which would be repurposed as the Town's Community Center. I strongly encourage voters of the town to voice their opinion on that question when you vote on November 8th.

If the plan is approved, the newly renovated facility would house all three of our Community Services departments in one location (Social Services, Senior Services, and Parks and Recreation.) Currently, they are located in two different facilities on opposite sides of town. This creates a clear hardship for constituents who need access to programs like renters' rebate and Medicare, which requires multiple trips to multiple sites. At the Senior Center alone, currently located above the Broad Brook Fire Department, there is not sufficient space for seniors to have confidential tax or medical conversations without program participants overhearing them. The approval of the proposed project will allow better customer service to people who are in need of social service intervention and will allow for a more expansive utilization of the Scout Hall location.

The Scout Hall Building Committee has been strongly in favor of this idea since its inception, and I want to thank them and recognize their partnership here. The Town and the Committee share a commitment to offering quality opportunities for youth, seniors and socially disadvantaged people in our community, and this project will go a long way towards meeting those shared goals.

The new arrangement to use the Scout Hall space for multi-generational programming and service delivery makes sense from both a financial position and an organizational one. By streamlining these services, we can position our town services to best address the needs of the community.

If approved, the project will renovate the existing Scout Hall building and effectively double its size to approximately 15,000 square feet, including the addition of office space and significant programming space. The total project cost is expected to be \$5 million, roughly one third the cost of the project approved in Windsor Locks for the same purpose. I should also note that Windsor Locks is planning to spend at least \$14 million on a senior center, whereas our proposal would spend \$5 million for a Community Center. The cost difference in East Windsor's favor is largely due to the facts that the Town already owns the building and the property, and most of the infrastructure is in place at the location already. That is not true in Windsor Locks.

Voter approval will authorize local construction dollars for the Community Center, without securing any state or federal funding (both of which remain possibilities), and exclusive of \$1.2 million in local dollars already designated for the project.

To further enhance the location for younger families in East Windsor, we have been awarded state bond funding to install lighting on the full-size Abbe Road Soccer Field. This has been a project on the Town's improvement list for quite some time, but funding constraints have always delayed it. Special thanks to our state legislative delegation (Senator Saud Anwar, Representative Jaime Foster, and Representative Carol Hall) for their advocacy on behalf of the Town to secure these funds. Combined with the Community Center project, the lighting will be transformative for the entire venue.

Assuming local approval is forthcoming on November 8th, the construction project would start very shortly thereafter, with a target date of opening the new facility at or about Labor Day of 2023. Please remember to cast your vote for this project on Election Day.

Jason E. Bawzya, First Selectman

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 in which to place registrations and payments. 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 prevent 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.

Check our website or Facebook page for updated programming.

Department of Public Works

Fall 2022 – Our paving projects are winding down. When completed, we will have milled and/or reclaimed and paved over six miles of roads in Town, more than 8% of all roads in a single year! Catch basin tops have been replaced and several catch basins have been repaired or replaced.

The crew has prepared and is maintaining all parks and school fields for fall sports. We continue to mow and maintain our roadsides as long as the vegetation continues to grow.

As an added service, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will pick up bulk items from residents on the Fridays of Recycle week. We also accept bulk items at our facility daily, Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 3:00pm. Fees are associated with each service and available on the website.

Our winter equipment is being checked, serviced, and readied for the first snow of the season. DPW Staff is on call 24/7/365 and prepared to keep the roads passable during snow events. If snow fall rates exceed that which the Department can handle Town wide, we prioritize keeping the major roads cleared and work with all Emergency Services, Police, Fire, Ambulance, to clear roads necessary to complete their call for service. If at all possible, stay off the roads during storms to allow us to do our jobs.

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

ATTENTION East Windsor Residents

Fall 2022
Yard Waste Collection
Monday, November 14th



Please call the Department of Public Works (860) 292-7073 **the week before** to schedule pickup. If there is no answer or it is after hours, please leave message including your street address.

Items (including bagged grass clippings, and bagged leaves bundled tree limbs, brush, sticks, and branches)

Must be left curbside by 7:00 a.m. Monday morning

Yard Waste

Yard Waste - Grass clippings, and leaves must be in biodegradable paper bags, (no plastic bags accepted).

Please do not place sticks in bags as sticks in bags will NOT be picked up.

Bundled Items Include

Brush (tree limbs, branches, small brush) must be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled less than 6" in diameter.

If you miss this collection, you have the option to bring debris to:

WeCare Denali located at: 235 Sadds Mill Road, Ellington

Please call (860) 871-7442 for their fee

Hours of operation: M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sat 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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East Windsor Schools Commitment to Student Success Paying Off

With test scores improving, interest in school system growing

This school year kicked off with news that student achievement in East Windsor is soaring. Superintendent Pat Tudryn said the dramatic improvement in academic performance in both reading and math is due in large part to the intense focus on teaching and instructional approach.

“It is really about making sure our students are being taught by quality teachers, making sure we know our students well on a personal level, and helping them reach their potential,” Dr. Tudryn said. “I am proud of the commitment demonstrated by our teachers and staff. The results speak for themselves.”

More than 350 families showed up at Broad Brook Elementary School’s Open House, where kindergarten registration is up from last year. East Windsor Middle School had a record crowd for its open house as well.

“I think the word is getting out about our school system, and that’s a good thing for our community,” Dr. Tudryn said. “We are focused on encouraging

students to be curious and open-minded but also critical thinkers who are self-aware and reflective, and we encourage this at every grade level.”

To that end, Dr. Tudryn said the middle school is expanding its talented and gifted program. The school recently hired a new talented and gifted teacher and already has 90 students enrolled in the enrichment activities this semester.

At the high school, one of the new courses is the American Sign Language class, being taught by Brittany Simpson. Ms. Simpson, who is deaf, brings 18 years of teaching experience, including at private, public, and college level. It is part of a new partnership with the Willie Ross School of the Deaf.

“We are always looking at new and different ways to expand our course offerings for students and strengthen community partnerships such as this one,” Dr. Tudryn said.

School officials say there is a strong emphasis on making sure students are civic minded and responsible citizens.

At East Windsor High School, the number of students demonstrating college-level proficiency doubled in one year. The school also made headlines for winning a \$20,000 grant as part of a statewide civic project competition.

“Last year, our high school students participated in a program called Voice-4Change,” explained East Windsor High School Principal Allison Anderson. “Students created proposals for the changes they wanted to implement in our building. Once proposals were submitted and approved, all of EWHS students voted on the proposal they wanted to see win. Students chose a study lounge, and the state is providing \$20,000 to fund the project.”

Dr. Tudryn said he is not surprised by the momentum and success he is seeing in the schools. “We have a really talented staff that cares about our students, we have quality leaders in our building principals, and we have a knowledgeable and supportive Board of Education. That’s the recipe for success.”

Transportation Services

The East Windsor Senior Center provides transportation services for seniors 60 years of age and older, and for community members with disabilities who are 18 years of age and older and receiving Social Security Disability. The service takes clients to medical appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies or other prescription pickup locations, hair salons or barbers, and to all activities and events at the Senior Center. This is a vital service for our clients that can no longer drive themselves to errands, appointments, or social gatherings; it has been highly successful thus far and much appreciated by those who use it.

During the summer, the Senior Center witnessed an increase in the number of clients coming in for activities and lunch, largely due to the transportation



service. Several new clients have also registered for rides recently, which confirms the necessity and value of the service. We anticipate this need will only increase with winter around the corner.

The transportation service area is quite large, and this is a huge benefit to our clients who are restricted to driving locally. They are surprised, and pleased, when they learn

that they can continue to see physicians and keep appointments farther away than they are comfortable driving themselves.

This critical service facilitates travel for those clients that need it and eases their minds by doing so. Please feel free to contact us at the East Windsor Senior Center at 860-292-8261.

Teresa Hill, Senior Transportation Coordinator

Tax Office

The Tax Office has collected the first installment of taxes and it has been a successful tax season despite having to overcome some obstacles. The Town is in good financial shape and the Tax Office is getting ready for the second installment of taxes and the budget season.

Some taxpayers have expressed concerns regarding their taxes. The budget season is the perfect time to have your concerns heard by attending budget workshops and participating in the budget process.

Patricia Kratochvil,
Tax Collector

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels Program supports homebound seniors (age 60 and older) by providing healthy, nutritious lunches and/or dinners, to extend their health and independence as they age. In addition to combatting hunger, this service allows the opportunity for a wellness check and a quick, friendly visit to seniors living in isolation.

Currently, the East Windsor Meals on Wheels Program serves more than 25 seniors in our community. The meals are delivered by ten amazing volunteers who give their time and compassion to ensure that the elderly in our community can remain safe and self-sufficient.

Meals are delivered Monday-Friday between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, with weekend meals delivered on Thursday and Fridays. There is a suggested donation of \$3 per meal, however; no one is denied a meal if unable to pay. Special diets and textures are available.

The application process is simple and can be done over the phone. To sign up for the Meals on Wheels Program, please call the nutrition manager, Debra Nordell-Austin at 860-292-8279.

Debra Nordell-Austin, Senior Center Nutrition Site Manager

Planning & Development

Recent Zoning Regulation Amendments Aim to Support Economic Development Large and Small

The Planning and Zoning Commission (Commission) has approved regulation amendments crafted to foster and support economic development.

Most recently, the Commission lightened the permitting requirements for new businesses moving into multi-tenant commercial buildings in the R-3 Zone (along North Road). Under certain conditions, such as no exterior changes to the building or parking, new businesses will no longer be required to seek a Special Use Permit but instead will require a Zoning Permit that will be issued by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

A new section entitled *Alternative Energy Infrastructure* gives special consideration to electric vehicle (EV) chargers when being installed at existing businesses and multi-family establishments. Zoning setbacks will not apply to the EV chargers; provided a clear line of sight is maintained for traffic safety.

Food trucks are now allowed in Town as an accessory use to any lawfully allowed existing commercial establishment by way of a Zoning Permit. Requirements can be found under the *Temporary or Seasonal Outdoor Dining* provisions of the zoning regulations.

The Commission has established a new overlay-zone that offers property owners and developers of property greater than 4 acres located within areas designated as "Route 5 Corridor, Industrial Core, and Northern Business Corridor in the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development. This new overlay-zone is referred to as a Planned Commercial Development District. It offers an alternative approach to development; allowing for flexibility, provided minimum design standards are met. A master plan can be approved up front to show the potential use for a given parcel. This could enhance marketing of the parcel and ultimately streamline the permitting process for a prospective buyer.

These changes are intended to benefit businesses large and small and in turn, East Windsor as whole. If you have an interest in supporting business growth in Town and are an East Windsor resident, please consider volunteering to serve on the East Windsor Economic Development Commission.

Ruthanne Calabrese, Director of Planning & Community Development

Revaluation Update

The Assessor and the revaluation company, Vision Government Services Inc, are in the fourth step of the revaluation: analysis. A variety of resources are used to analyze the current real estate market. While the physical data has been collected by the Listers, experienced appraisers will be analyzing recent sales as well as lease information to determine which market factors influenced property values in Town.

Once all the data is collected and reviewed for accuracy, the appraisers will begin to set values using information gathered from recent real estate market activity.

Valuation is done using one of the three accepted valuation methods which are known as market, cost or income approach (in some cases, a combination of the three methods will be used).

While the analysis phase is going on, field review is being conducted. This involves checking and re-checking both the values that have been determined and the data that has been collected. During this review, properties are viewed in the field by experienced appraisers who double check uniformity and accuracy of information.

This typically involves a visual view from the street as opposed to a physical inspection of the property.

Once the field review is completed, a Notice of New Value will be mailed to each property owner. Notices will be mailed in mid-November. At this time, anyone with questions concerning their value, the revaluation process or about the data collected on their property has an opportunity to meet with a representative of the revaluation company to discuss their property value. Instructions on how to schedule a hearing will be provided in the valuation notice letter.

Helen Totz, CCMA II, Assessor

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Arts and Culture Committee

Over the summer, the East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee (A&C) held three successful Arts and Crafts Showcases at the Summer Concert Series in East Windsor Park. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department for giving us this wonderful opportunity! During the third Showcase, concertgoers helped create a Community Art project (pictured), which was displayed for the month of August in the Warehouse Point Library, and which now resides at the East Windsor Police Station. We hope to create more collaborative pieces in the future!

Several projects the Arts and Culture Committee is currently working on include collaborating with the American Heritage River Commission to have a chainsaw artist create a piece for display at the head of the Scantic River State Park trailhead, collaborating with Broad Brook Elementary School and East Windsor High School on several projects at each school, and bringing a mural to the side of the Broad Brook Garage.

In the Spring of 2023, A&C will hold an Arts and Culture Festival. We are looking for local artists to support in a variety of art styles: visual art, photography, architecture, music, dance, theater, sculpture, and film. If you are an artist or know of one who would like to participate in our festival, please contact us at ewartsandculture@gmail.com.

Like us on Facebook at East Windsor Arts and Culture or on Instagram at [ewartsandculture](#).

Debra Williams, *Chairperson*

Finance Office

At the end of the last fiscal year, the Board of Finance approved a transfer of \$1,200,000 from Town operations to begin the funding of a much-needed Community Center, while staying within the approved budget.

The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approved \$910,000 in additional appropriations in August to fund the following projects:

\$200,000 - Roof Engineering at the high school

\$300,000 - Loader for the Department of Public Works

\$260,000 - Gas pumps for townwide fuel storage and distribution

\$150,000 - Open Space funds to be available if an opportunity for preservation comes along.

This leaves the Fund Balance just below the 20% cap.

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee has begun its process for Fiscal Year 23-24 project recommendations.

The Finance Office is currently preparing audit information for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Audit that will take place in the Fall of 2022.

The Fiscal Year 23-24 Budget process will begin in mid-December with Department submissions.

Amy O'Toole, *Finance Director*

Farmland Preservation: Open Space

East Windsor has a long and continuing history as a rural, farming town. The town character has always been one aspect residents cherish about living here; it nurtures their spirits and souls. The highly productive soils and the scenic vistas are an important part of the fabric of life here. However, the open space and farmland are being lost at a rapid rate. Our opportunities for conservation are diminishing with the passage of time.

Anyone who has lived or farmed in a town with rocks, ledge, and steep slopes can see how East Windsor's flat, virtually rock-less, and deep agricultural soil is a treasure worth preserving for future generations. Our town's river valley soil, carved out by glaciers with deposits of rich sediment cannot be duplicated - only preserved. When it is gone it is permanently gone.

Conservation of open spaces provides benefits for residents for years to come. Improved quality of life and increased property values result when we act to preserve the health of our watersheds and aquifers. Preservation of open spaces provides room for local agriculture and diverse wildlife habitats - enriching the lives of town residents. Preserved open space and farmland are also less expensive to taxpayers as they demand few public services such as police protection, schools, public utilities, and road maintenance, etc.

Many property owners in East Windsor have legacy farms or property that has been passed down to them for generations. There may be a sentimental connection to the property and the family may wish to preserve it - not sell it for development. Some local farms could use an infusion of money to keep going. Selling the property's development rights can provide a solution to these issues. The owner is still free to sell the

property at any time while assuring it can't be developed. Several farms in town have been protected from development in just such a way. This process used funds from the Town's Open Space Fund. We are grateful the Town recently allocated \$150,000 for those purposes, the largest single deposit ever.

In the last 18 months, many acres of open space in town have been committed by private property owners to solar installations. Due to Connecticut law, the Town has no control in where these installations go. By choosing to commit some of our tax dollars to the Open Space Fund, we may be able to preserve these resources before they get developed.

If you are interested in learning more about preserving open space in town, the East Windsor Conservation Commission can help point you in the right direction. The Connecticut Farmland Trust has identified East Windsor as having some of the best farmland in the state. The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has several preservation programs. The Town of East Windsor, using its Open Space Fund, can partner with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to purchase properties for preservation. The Northern Connecticut Land Trust can also be consulted. The property could be sold to the Trust to preserve it. The land could also be donated and with the right mechanism, tax deductions can be achieved.

In as short a time period as one more generation we may lose most of the open space and farmland we have left. Together, residents and Town leaders need to encourage ways to aid landowners to preserve the best of East Windsor.

Donna Grant, *Conservation Commission*

Back-to-School Program

We had another successful year with the Back-To-School Program! Every household that qualified was able to provide their children with a new backpack, school supplies, and a gift card from the Salvation Army for a new pair of shoes. We can't do this program without the generous support from our community. During the months of July and August we received donations from residents, groups, and organizations. East Windsor Social Services would like to thank everyone for their continued help with this program that provides children in our community the opportunity to start their first day of school with a new backpack, school supplies and a new pair of shoes.

Lori Butenas and Bridget Joy, *Social Services*

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East Windsor Parks and Recreation along with the Broad Brook Fire Department presents the annual

Torchlight Parade and Carol Sing



Saturday, December 17th

The Torchlight Parade will begin at 5:30 PM on Main Street, ending at the Broad Brook Fire House

After the parade there will be hay rides, tattoos, refreshments and arts & crafts activities for the kids!

Join us for the Carol Sing and a special visit from Santa!

Raffle tickets will also be sold during this event

Please bring a non-perishable food donation to benefit the Five Corner Cupboard & East Windsor Power Pack Program

For more information call
Parks and Rec at (860) 627-6662
or the
BBFD at (860) 623-5940



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