

the FIVE VILLAGE VOICE



East Windsor
CONNECTICUT



Cover photo by: Heidi Vane

— ❄️ — **WINTER 2024** — ❄️ —



Elderly And Disabled Homeowner Benefit Deadline

The Assessor reminds any residents eligible for homeowner benefits that the deadline to apply is **May 15th**. Eligibility is determined by age (over 65 years old) or the existence of a permanent disability and income.

The maximum income limit for a single person is \$43,800 and for a married couple it is \$53,400. If an income tax return has been filed with the IRS, a copy must be presented at the 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 February 1st and May 15th each year. Existing applicants due to refile this year have been notified. We will also be accepting Veteran's, blind and totally disabled applications.

A new local option program was enacted in 2023 allowing eligible applicants an additional \$250 off their tax bill, in addition to the State program.

Board Of Assessment Appeals Deadline

The Board of Assessment appeals will be meeting in the month of March, if the Grand List is filed by January 31st and will meet in April if the Grand List is filed

by February 28th. Appeal applications are available online on the Town website, under the Assessor's page. Applications for a hearing with the Board must be submitted in writing at 11 Rye Street in Broad Brook, CT 06016. Applications for the hearings in March must be received by February 20th and for hearings in April, by March 20th. Please call the Assessor's Office to determine which date will be in effect. **A POSTMARK DATE IS NOT CONSIDERED TIMELY;** the application must be in the Assessor's office by the deadline date. Please contact the Assessor's Office with any questions.

Helen Totz, CCMA II

Assessor

Assessor's Office 860 623-8878

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.

The East Windsor Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee

The East Windsor Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is pleased to announce the Grantees for 2023. Twelve non-profit organizations in East Windsor were awarded a total of \$28,230.62 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Greater Together Project:

- American Legion Post 40 Barry Poulter - \$1,800 for repair and maintenance
- Broad Brook Elementary School STEM Program - \$2,250 for Sphero Coding Robots
- Connecticut Antique Fire Apparatus Association - \$3,000 for Main display

improvement project

- East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee - \$4,000 Adirondack chairs, bench, and ADA compliant picnic tables, painted by local artists
- East Windsor Housing Authority - \$1,870 Fitness and personal well-being technology
- East Windsor Parks and Recreation - \$2,000 for after-school Enrichment Scholarships
- East Windsor Public Schools - \$1,800 for movable tables for high school library
- East Windsor Social Services - \$1,000 for emergency food and clothing gift cards During a housing emergency a resident is experiencing
- First Congregational Church of East

Windsor - \$5,000 to restore and preserve the historical tower clock

- Nutmeg Senior Rides, Inc - \$1,810.62 for a volunteer recruitment project
- Operation Fuel, Inc - \$2,000 for emergency energy assistance for East Windsor resident
- Shag Bark Hickory Farm - \$2,000 for a run-in shed

To find out more information about the East Windsor Greater Together Committee, please contact us via email: ewcommunityfund@gmail.com

Or visit our Town landing page at the Hartford Foundation of Public Giving: <https://www.hfpg.org/donors/ways-to-give/community-funds/east-windsor>

Debbie Talamini

Tax Department

The Tax Department has just completed the second installment of the real estate, personal property taxes, and motor vehicle supplemental taxes, due each year in January.

Under state law, the Town is also required to collect delinquencies on back due taxes. We are now preparing the required delinquent statements for mailing, and preparing motor vehicle accounts to be sent to the collection agency. Certain delinquent real estate accounts that meet the criteria have already been sent to the attorney for tax sale. In the next couple of months, we will begin the process of placing liens on real estate and businesses.

We understand and acknowledge that the process for collecting back taxes can be an unpleasant one. As always, we stand ready to provide any assistance to taxpayers who may be interested in resolving any delinquency issues ahead of the commencement of the moral formal process.

Tax Department staff will progress with our continuing education and legislative updates over the next couple of months.

Patricia Kratochvil, CCMC
Tax Collector



88 Bridge St. East Windsor in Geissler's plaza.



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We're from here.

Family owned and operated since 1974, we have always cared about the communities we serve—because we live, work, and play here, just like you. Inspired by future generations, we continue to adapt and innovate—embracing new technologies to meet the ever-evolving recycling landscape.

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**Our communities
count on us.**

Recently, the Town hosted United States Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and State Representative Jaime Foster for what could be a last of its kind event – a ceremony to award a Purple Heart to a World War I veteran.

The honoree, Anthony Boutanis, received the award posthumously for his service in the Great War, where he sustained multiple injuries in the line of duty and during a time when emergency medical care on the field of battle was virtually non-existent, severely complicating care for the wounded.

Private Boutanis returned home and lived out his days in the Warehouse Point Village, working on the farm where Geissler's Supermarket is now located. Private Boutanis is fondly remembered by some in town, but his service and sacrifice have gone unrecognized.

Although he was injured in combat, Private Boutanis was not awarded his Purple Heart because a fire destroyed his military records housed by the U.S. Army. As a result, his service went uncelebrated. That is, until his grandson, Joe Janesczko, also of Warehouse Point, became an advocate for his grandfather. Working with family



and friends, Mr. Janesczko was able to provide authenticating documentation to Senator Blumenthal's office, who worked with the Department of the Army to recognize Private Boutanis' injuries – more than one hundred years after the end of World War I.

We're grateful to Mr. Janesczko and to

Senator Blumenthal for making this recognition possible. It is an honor that the potentially last Purple Heart presented to a World War I veteran was to a resident of East Windsor.

Jason E. Bowsza
First Selectman

Park Hill Community

During this past November, our residents had a very successful Holiday Bazaar in the Park Hill community building. They had homemade baked goods, crafts, a tag sale and they raffled several gift baskets. It was nice to see people from the community come and do some holiday shopping.

Many thanks to the East Windsor Greater Together Community Fund for approving our application to purchase technology equipment such as a laptop top computer and a large TV monitor for our residents to access on-line organizations that focus on health and wellness for older adults and disabled persons. With appropriate

software residents can actively participate in on-line exercise classes and other programs on maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The application process for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) is underway. We are currently procuring for an architect and consultant. Our intent is to apply for funds to cover the cost of several much-needed capital improvements. For example, new energy efficient windows and storm doors for all of our apartments, upgrade our accessible units and create a new one. Other planned projects include replacing all wiring and outlets in the apartments along with installing range hoods.

This past November we were fortunate to have staff from the North Central District Health Department administer flu shots at Park Hill. Approximately 20 residents participated. Most were able to come to the community but for those who have mobility issues, they received the flu shot in their apartment.

Many thanks to the entire East Windsor community for your never-ending support. The residents, commissioners and staff extend our sincere appreciation.

Linda Collins
Executive Director

Panther Plunge

“Freezin’ for a Reason”

East Windsor Community Services will once again hold the Panther Plunge at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 17, 2024! Day of registration will begin at 12:00 pm. During this event, daring individuals and teams will brave the frigid waters of East Windsor Reservoir (27 Reservoir Avenue in Broad Brook) for charity. The money raised by participants will benefit the East Windsor Fuel Bank, ensuring that we can successfully help local families heat their homes during the cold winter months. The 2023 event was a tremendous success, raising more than \$15,000 for this worthy cause!

Participants can register now at: https://eastwindsorct.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30021

Sign up as an individual (\$25) or grab some coworkers, employees, friends, or family members to form a

team (\$100). Awards will be presented at the event for the largest donation as well as for the best costumes. After the event participants and spectators can also enjoy warming up by the fire, grooving with our DJ, refreshments, and even a special visit or two from some local mascots! T-Shirts will be guaranteed to all participants who register by February 1st!

Local businesses and organizations are encouraged to become a Panther Sponsor. Sponsorships will help us provide the essentials needed to run a successful event, including emergency services, warming essentials and more!

For more information about sponsorship, or the event please call East Windsor Parks and Recreation at (860) 627-6662. We hope to see you there!

Samantha Charette
Recreation Lead



East Windsor Social Services

East Windsor Social Services had a successful 2023 year with the Holiday Meals and Gift Programs. The support we received was overwhelming. Social Services was overflowing with donations of food, gift cards, toys, and gifts because of events like the Stuff A Cruiser event held at Walmart with the East Windsor Police and various toy drives by local organizations, Connecticut Valley Brewing, IEC of New England, Parksite, Library Association of Warehouse Point, USA Hauling,

Deuces Wild MC East Windsor/Enfield, Swedes Jewelers, plus generous contributions from sponsors, local businesses, and East Windsor residents.

The Holiday Meals Program, a collaboration between East Windsor Social Services, Five Corner Cupboard, and the Community Wellness Association, provided hams or turkeys and gift cards to 201 families at Thanksgiving and 272 families at Christmas. The Holiday Gift program assisted 69 East Windsor families consisting of 151 children ranging from newborns to 17-year-olds.

As ever, Social Services is grateful for the consistent support and generosity of the East Windsor Community during the holiday season.

Lori Butenas
Human Services Aide



Spotlight on The East Windsor Public Schools Teacher Residency Program

Innovative program bringing new talent to the classrooms

A few years ago, Sophia Sundar Raj approached Broad Brook Principal Laura Foxx curious to know how she could transition from tutor to teacher at the school.

Ms. Foxx had just come from a meeting with Superintendent Patrick Tudryn where the two had discussed the possibility of participating in a new program, the Teacher in Residency Program.

"I encouraged Sophia to apply in the hope she could complete her residency here at Broad Brook," Ms. Foxx said. "The superintendent met with teachers who were qualified to be mentors to determine their interest. Michelle Wylie expressed interest and once she learned she would be working with Sophia, she was excited to help her reach her goal."

The Teacher Residency program is rigorous: Candidates complete a year of teaching under their mentor's direct supervision and guidance. In order to gain teacher certification, they must also complete state mandated assessments, coursework, and a portfolio-based assessment.

"I like the program for its rigor and the fact that it gives the resident teachers a complete year to gain 'student-teaching' experience, working beside a mentor teacher," Ms. Sundar Raj said. "The 'no cost' tuition for the program since the district sponsors the resident, is an added benefit."

More importantly, the program is designed to help di-

versify the teacher ranks. Nationally, statewide, and in East Windsor, the teacher workforce does not reflect the student population. According to a report in Kappan - a news site dedicated to K-12 educational research, practice, and policy - the number of people graduating from traditional teacher preparation programs has been steadily declining.

"National Center for Education Statistics (NCES, 2021) data indicate that the number of students graduating from college with bachelor's degrees in education shrank from 176,307 graduates in 1970-71 to 85,058 in 2019-20. At the same time, the teacher workforce is significantly less diverse than the population of students attending public schools. In the 2020-21 school year, about 80% of U.S. K-12 public school teachers were non-Hispanic white, while the number of white students in public schools is less than 47%. In Connecticut, that disparity is even starker, as nearly 90% of teachers are white and more than 51% of students identify as people of color," Kappan reported.

Ms. Wylie, who was East Windsor Public Schools Teacher of the Year in 2023-24, says all schools need to build and grow a staff that is reflective of the community's diverse population. "It is important for students to see themselves in the people standing in front of them in the classroom," Mrs. Wylie said. "We have so many kids from different backgrounds and cultures, I think it is important that our teaching staff be reflective of our com-



Michelle Wylie, East Windsor's Teacher of the Year, is a mentor in East Windsor's Teacher Residency Program.

munity."

School officials say the program, now in its second year in East Windsor, is also a great way for people interested in a career change. It's particularly useful to those looking to be a teacher but want an alternative pathway, rather than a traditional college program, to pursue their dream.

Ms. Sundar Raj's first career was as an associate professor teaching applied electronics to graduate students. She left to raise two children, and eight years later, she wanted to focus her next job on something that would suit her at this point in her life.

"I wanted something that would resonate with my values, something which is both interesting and rewarding at the same time, and also something which I am good at," she said. "I chose teaching as a profession because I love the impact one can have on individual children, especially here at the elementary level."

Ms. Sundar Raj is now completing her second year in third

grade. "She is teaching on her own and has the support of a sponsor teacher, who is the grade level team leader," Ms. Foxx said. "Sophia is doing well as a beginning teacher. The rigor of the program helped prepare her for her new role. We look forward to her continued growth."

Superintendent Tudryn said the program is extremely beneficial for the district.

"Number one, people in our community have a viable opportunity to earn teacher certification and be part of their own community's school system. Number two, our teachers who serve as mentors develop their own coaching and leadership skills. And number three, we as an organization are able to develop internally viable teaching candidates for our open positions."

Interested in participating in East Windsor Public Schools Teacher in Residency Program, email info@ewct.org



TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

Planning & Development Department
11 RYE STREET, BROAD BROOK, CT 06016
TEL.: (860) 623-6030

The Planning and Zoning Commission to Begin Revisions to the Plan of Conservation and Development

Every 10 years the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is required by state statute to revisit the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) to assess the current state of the Town; refresh our vision for the future and to map out goals and actions necessary to attain that vision. All of which will be documented in a revised Plan of Conservation and Development.

What is the Plan of Conservation and Development?

The Town's POCD is an advisory document which serves as a planning tool for the future of the Town. It is essentially a road map to our future growth and prescribes goals and actions for the next ten years and beyond. The POCD offers guidance for the overall conservation, preservation and growth

of our Town. It covers many focus areas including economic development, natural resource protection, transportation, infrastructure, housing development, sustainability, and resiliency. All of which supports our vision for the future.

Our current vision for the future has three pillars that address the character of East Windsor, guiding development, and economic growth. Below is the overall vision for East Windsor's future as presented in the 2016 POCD.

- *The rural, village, agricultural and business character that define East Windsor must be preserved to keep the Town an attractive place to live, work, and play.*
- *Residential and village area development must be carefully guided to ensure compatibility with community character and allow East Windsor to prepare for the impacts of future growth and an aging population.*
- *Economic development must be retained and expanded to support the*

community with services, jobs, and taxes, while remaining sensitive to the community's environment and quality of life.

Seeking Your Input

To ensure this guidance document reflects the consensus of our citizens and those who do business in town, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) will be seeking input from the residents and businesses during this review and revision process. The Commission will collect your opinions and thoughts through a community survey and public workshops to be held during PZC meetings as they address the results of the community survey, issues facing the Town, and necessary revisions to the POCD.

A POCD webpage will allow for easy access to information, linking to the community survey, and tracking revision progress.

Ruthanne Calabrese

Director of Planning and Community Development, Town Planner



♥ Give More Love to Your Heart ♥

February is American Heart Month. The goal of American Heart Month is to promote awareness and prevention of heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. Every 34 seconds someone dies of heart disease in the United States, and it continues to grow as a public health issue nationally. Now is a critical time to prioritize healthy habits for a sustainable life. The North Central District Health Department wants to encourage you to make small changes that can promote heart health including a healthy diet, exercise, and increased water intake.

Perhaps one of the most overlooked components of maintaining heart health is family history. Some people may be more at risk for heart disease, so learning if the condition runs in your family can be a great help in the early detection and prevention.

Eating a healthy diet may seem obvious, but it becomes even more relevant in association with heart disease. Eating more fruits, vegetables, whole foods, etc. are all great choices to uphold heart health. In addition, monitoring water intake and prioritizing exercise are key to incorporate along with healthy eating. The CDC suggests consuming

enough water adjusted for personal health status and 30 minutes of exercise daily are key in maintaining and building a healthy heart.

These are only a few recommendations for reducing the risk of heart disease. Consulting your doctor regularly and routine medical care are also essential to ensuring your health plan is personalized to your needs. Please visit the CDC site at <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/> for more resources.

Patrice A. Sulik, MPH, RS

Director of Health
North Central District
Health Department

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO DRIVE SENIORS

Help Needed 365 days per year from 6 am to 6 pm. Drivers must have a clean driving record and pass a background check. Use their own cars and are reimbursed for mileage roundtrip from their house and back home. \$.40 a mile.

Volunteers go online and choose the rides that fit their schedule. There are no set schedules just sign up for what you can do.

EXCESS LIABILITY INSURANCE OF \$500,000 IS PROVIDED.



Nutmeg Senior Rides

online www.nutmegseniorrides.org or

**Call Margaret Smith Hale
860-758-7833**



Arts And Culture Committee

Gaia found her perch just in time for the annual New Year's Day hike! The carved barred owl was a collaboration between the Arts and Culture (A+C) Committee and the American Heritage River Commission. She is located to the right of the Braille trail and has her own descriptive sign in English and in Braille.

In the fall, the A+C Committee received two grants! The first was a Supporting Arts Grant from the Connecticut Office of the Arts in the amount of \$1,000. We will use the money to fund our 2024 Art and Culture Day, to be held on May 18th, 2024. The second grant was awarded by the East Windsor Greater Together Community Fund through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The \$4,000 grant will be used to pay for the construction of two ADA-compliant picnic tables and two Adirondack chairs. One pic-

nic table will be painted by the East Windsor community on Arts and Culture Day and placed in East Windsor Park. The second picnic table will be painted by a local artist and placed at the Warehouse Point Library. The two chairs will be painted by high school students and placed at East Windsor High School.

Save the Date! Our second annual Arts and Culture Day will be held on Saturday, May 18th, 2024. There will be artist vendors, live demonstrations, and make and take activities (and more!) for kids and kids at heart. This FREE event will take place from 12pm - 4pm at East Windsor Park.

To stay up to date with all of our projects, please visit our Facebook Page: East Windsor Arts and Culture. If you have a suggestion or question for the committee, please email us at ewartsandculture@gmail.com.



Debbie Williams
Chair, Arts and Culture Committee

Senior Services

During the month of November, East Windsor Seniors in cooperation with the Girl Scouts made blankets to be donated to the cancer center in Enfield for those going through chemotherapy and other forms of treatment. We made a total of eight blankets and plan to do this every November going forward!

Shawna Tustin - *Program Coordinator/Senior Outreach Coordinator*



Important Election Dates



March 12, 2024 – Absentee ballots available for primary

March 26,27,28,30, 2024 – Early Voting

April 2, 2024 – Presidential Preference Primary

April 12, 2024 – Absentee ballots become available

May 14, 2024 - 1st Budget Referendum

May 14, 2024 – Broad Brook Fire Commission Election

May 15, 2024 - Public Hearing, if needed, or BOF to set mill rate

May 28, 2024 – 2nd Budget Referendum (if needed)

May 29, 2024 – Public Hearing, if needed, or BOF to set mill rate

June 11, 2024 – 3rd Budget Referendum (if needed)

June 11, 2024 - BOF to set mill rate

Please contact the registrars for more information on early voting. **860-292-5915**.

Vitals Information

A Connecticut birth certificate is available from the Town Clerk of the hospital town & in the town in which the child's mother was living at the time. Birth certificates from 2003-present are on a statewide database which allows you to go to any town to get a certified copy. If you are living in town and need your child's birth certificate but you moved from a different town, we will be able to help you in the office here!

A Connecticut death certificate is available certified from the Town Clerk's Office in the town in which the death occurred and in the town in which the individual resided at the time of death.

A Connecticut marriage certificate is available from the Town Clerk's Office in the town which the marriage occurred and the in the town in which the individuals resided in at the time of marriage.

All vital records requests must be made in person or by postal mail. The cost of a certified copy is \$20.00. The Town Clerk accepts cash or check.

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".

Hunting And Fishing



We offer hunting and fishing licenses in the office. 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*

Larisa Hiti, *Assistant Town Clerk*

Town of East Windsor
11 Rye Street
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