

Ellington Town Report

2003-2004



Hall Memorial Library

100 Years of Service

Ellington Town Report 2003-2004

Hall Memorial Library - Honoring 100 Years of Service



Ellington celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Hall Memorial Library on November 9, 2003. The open house and tea on Sunday featured speeches by local and state dignitaries, including First Selectman Michael Stupinski, Representative Ted Graziani, and Senator Gary LeBeau. Mr. Stupinski presented a proclamation and Mr. Graziani and Mr. LeBeau presented a General Assembly Official Citation to Library Board Chair Beverley Lewis, Library Director Susan Phillips, and Friends of the Library President Gary Duckett.



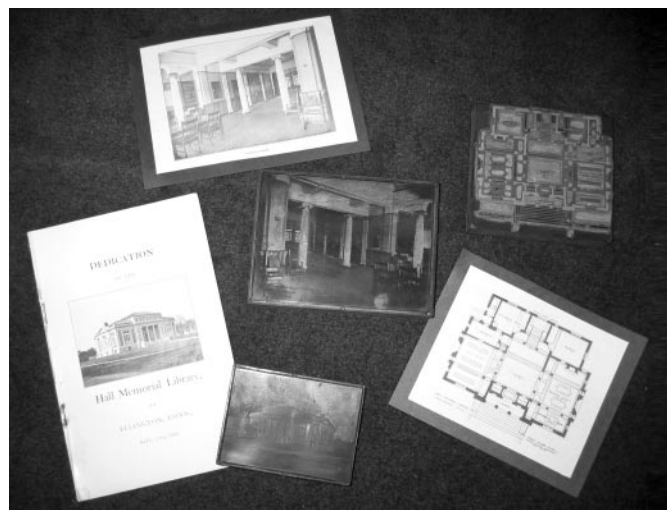
The celebration was truly a community effort, with flower arrangements provided by the Women's Club; refreshments from the Historical Society, the Friends of the Library, the Women's Club and the Girl Scouts; and support from the Cultural Arts Commission. Cookies and punch recipes were gathered from cookbooks used at the turn of the century to prepare refreshments for the day.



Musical entertainment was provided by the Silk City Barbershop Chorus and mandolin player Bill Wallach.



The library staff got into the spirit of the day by dressing in their 1903 finest!



The Library received an unexpected gift from James Hackett of Horseheads, New York. At a yard sale in Elmira some 20 years ago, Mr. Hackett purchased a set of printing plates. Recently, he did some research and found out where the Hall Memorial Library was located and contacted. The plates are of pictures that illustrate the original dedication booklet from 1903. The Library has copies of this booklet as well as pictures printed from these plates, showing the library as it appeared when it first opened.



To permanently mark the occasion, the Library Board and Friends of the Library placed a hand-wrought armillary in the planter at the new entrance. The quote on the dedication plaque reads "Anyone who has a library and a garden wants for nothing."



2004 Wall of Honor Recipients

CHARLES BATZ
1894-1992

EMMA BATZ
1907-1996

Gift of Nature Preserve - 45 Acres, Public Servants



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

Dear Ellington Residents:

The Board of Finance encourages you to review the Annual Town Report for fiscal 2003-2004. Contained within these pages is the result of the combined efforts of your elected officials, dedicated employees, and the many volunteers who strive to provide you with the highest degree of public service. In addition, you will find this report to be a valuable guide to understanding the operation of your town.

During this past year, Ellington continued to experience growth in our residential tax base - although at a lesser rate than in the previous year. Our commercial tax base has also begun to grow, with expansion of several current businesses and increased interest in development along the Route 83 corridor. Nevertheless, the burden of the town's operating expenses will continue to fall mainly upon residential taxpayers for many years to come.

In planning for fiscal 2003-04, town officials proposed budgets providing modest increases needed to fund General Government, Capital Projects and the Board of Education. The Board of Finance scheduled a series of departmental hearings during March, and the preliminary budget was presented to residents at the annual budget hearing in early April. The Board of Finance then made substantial reductions to each proposed budget and capital project at its two budget deliberations during April, and on May 13, 2003, the board presented a recommendation of \$34,232,535 - a budget requiring a 1.4mill increase.

In a referendum held on May 20, 2003, the budget recommendation was defeated. An interim reduced budget recommendation was also defeated. A final budget of \$34,039,035 was approved in a third referendum on June 18, 2003. During the ensuing fiscal year ended June 30, 2004, the mill rate was 31.4 mills, an increase of 1 mill over the previous year.

During fiscal 2003-04, members of the Board of Finance represented your interests as liaisons and members of several boards and commissions - including the Permanent Building Committee, which completed the Center School renovation and is nearing completion on the High School renovation. To support these projects, in October 2003, we again presented the town's strong financial position to credit analysts for phase II of the bonding package - and upon issue, the interest rate for these bonds came in at 3.87% - one of the lowest rates in decades.

As a result of previous actions by the Board of Finance, the town closed its fiscal year in a strong and secure financial position. The Board continued to strengthen town reserves by again transferring \$125,000 into the Capital Reserve Account. After this transfer, the balance of this reserve account was \$1,817,806.

The Board of Finance wishes to thank the many individuals who are serving on or have served on boards, commissions or agencies, and the many volunteers who serve our community by giving of their time and talents so that Ellington might be a better place to live.

Michael P. Scudieri
Chairman

August 4, 2004

Robert J. Clements
Vaughn E. Gerber
Robert K. Pagani
Barry C. Pinto
Albert S. Wachsman

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General Government Administration

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Board of Selectmen is collectively responsible for the administration of the town offices, the maintenance of the town highways and parks, the public safety of its citizens, the keeping of financial accounts and the appointment of administrative officers, boards and commissions.

The First Selectman is the chief administrative and executive officer of the town, and as such is directly responsible to the Board of Selectmen for the administration and supervision of all town departments, agencies and officers appointed by the board. The First Selectman is also responsible for the enforcement of all the laws and ordinances governing the town.



Board of Selectmen:

*Standing left to right: Peter J. Charter, Michael P. Stupinski, Mark D. Leighton, A. Leo Miller
Seated left to right: Nancy O. Way, Dennis C. Milanovich - First Selectman,
Dennis W. Frawley - Deputy First Selectman*

HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Selectmen met at least once each month in the Town Hall. There were a total of fifteen regular meetings and four special meetings. The Board of Selectmen met in joint session with the Board of Finance on two occasions. Four public hearings were held. The Board of Selectmen called seven town meetings including the annual budget town meeting. Per Town Charter, two additional subsequent annual town budget meetings were held. All these meetings were duly warned and tape recorded with the minutes being filed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Law. The following are some of the primary items addressed by the Board of Selectmen during fiscal year 2003-04:

AGREEMENTS

- Renewed agreement with Visiting Nurse & Health Services of CT, Inc. for 2003-04.
- Approved Intertown Agreement between Town of Ellington WPCA and Vernon WPCA.
- Accepted proposal by Fuss & O'Neill Technologies for the service and maintenance of the Town's computer system.
- Approved Tax Abatement Agreement for R&S Gerber Construction, also approved at Town Meeting.
- Approved revisions to Emergency Services Incentive Program.
- Approved License Agreement for D. Lortie to install drainage and utility lines.
- Approved License Agreement for B. Gerber to install drainage and utility lines.
- Approve Tax Abatement Agreement for Truebro, also approved at Town Meeting.

- Accepted proposal from Analytical Consulting Technology to conduct Phase II Environment Assessment – Crystal Lake School Renovation Project.

- Authorized First Selectmen to sign Letter of Commitment between CIRMA & Town of Ellington.

- Renewed agreement with Visiting Nurse & Health Services of CT, Inc. for 2004-05.

CONTRACTS

- Awarded contract to General Code Publishers Corporation for the codification of Town laws.
- Awarded Snipsic Village Renovation Project contract to The Nutmeg Companies, Inc. of Norwich, CT.
- Awarded contract to conduct the Town's 2004 Revaluation to Vision Appraisal Technology of Northboro, MA.

EQUIPMENT

- Awarded bid for the purchase of Crystal Lake Rescue Boat to Eagle Marine, Inc. in the amount of \$11,000.
- Approved request to sell 1993 ambulance to ambunet.com in the amount of \$6,200

FINANCES

- Increased cost of Crystal Lake Cemetery Burial Plots to \$400.
- Set trash collection fee at \$81.
- Approved \$5 fee to delinquent motor vehicle taxpayers, also approved at Town Meeting.
- Approved 2002-2003 Year-end Transfers, also approved at Town Meeting.
- Recommended additional appropriation of \$20,000 for EVAC Replacement Ambulance R643 which was approved by Board of Finance and Town Meeting.
- Recommended additional appropriation of \$20,963 for vault shelving project, which was approved by Board of Finance and Town Meeting.
- Recommended appropriation of \$26,000 for Crystal Lake Fire House renovations, which was approved by Board of Finance and Town Meeting.
- Sent 2004-05 budget sum of \$36,220,883 to Annual Town Budget Meeting on May 11, 2004 which was adjourned to and failed at referendum held on May 18, 2004.
- Per Town Charter, Subsequent Annual Town Budget Meeting was held on May 26, 2004 to consider a budget sum of \$35,955,383 which was adjourned to and failed at referendum held on June 2, 2004.
- Per Town Charter, Subsequent Annual Town Budget Meeting was held on June 9, 2004 to consider a budget sum of \$35,581,483 which was adjourned to and approved at referendum held on June 16, 2004.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Approved filing application with State Library for historic document preservation grant.
- Accepted State grant in amount of \$33,000 for DUI Enforcement Vehicle Program.
- Endorsed the Northern CT Land Trust Open Space Grant Application.

ORDINANCES

- Recommended new ordinance for additional tax exemption for low-income veterans which was approved at Town Meeting.
- Recommended revision of State Building Code fees for demolition which was approved at Town Meeting.

POLICY

- Adopted Affirmative Action Plan.

PROPERTY

- Recommended purchase of 82 Maple Street, Assessor Map 072-022 in amount of \$158,000 for municipal purposes which was approved by Board of Finance and Town Meeting.
- Approved purchase of land located off Porter Road, Assessor map 124, Lot 1, as open space in amount of \$9,540.

ROADS

- Accepted Elderberry Lane as Town Road.

STAFF

- Acknowledged retirement of Ronald Edwards, Maintainer II for Public Works Department.
- Recognized Gail Avino, Library Technical Assistant for 10 years of service.
- Recognized Ronald Edwards, Maintainer II, DPW, for 20 years of service.
- Recognized Peter Michaud, Director of DPW, for 25 years of service.
- Recognized Robert Willis, Foreman, DPW, for 30 years of service.
- Recognized Jack Rich, Crew Chief/Special Projects Supervisor, DPW for 30 years of service.
- Hired Thomas Descheneaux as Laborer II for the DPW.
- Accepted resignation from Cherie Halleran, Registrar of Voters.
- Hired Richard Kalva as Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- Granted permanent status to Reanna Goodreau, Land Use Assistant.
- Reclassified Sheila Bailey from Administrative Assistant to Town Clerk to Assistant Town Clerk.
- Appointed Kevin Regan (former Fire Inspector) to Deputy Fire Marshal.
- Granted permanent status to Thomas Descheneaux as Laborer II.
- Granted permanent status to Sheila Bailey as Assistant Town Clerk.
- Granted permanent status to Richard Kalva as Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- Approved the hiring of summer day camp and waterfront staff.
- Accepted resignation from Timothy Cohen, Maintainer 1, DPW.
- Reclassified Kristin Michaud from Administrative Secretary I to Administrative Secretary II, Planning Department.

OTHER ACTIONS

- Inducted John G. Turner as the Wall of Honor Recipient for 2003.
- Approved Town's participation in mutual financing of CCM's amicus curiae intervention in Andover v. Ryan & Wyman.
- Re-established Ad Hoc Youth Advisory Board, Ad Hoc Drug Abuse Prevention Council and Ad Hoc Substance Free Graduation Party Committee.
- Approved the Town's participation in the mutual financing of CCM's amicus curiae intervention in DPUC rate-setting.
- Approved the Town's participation in a joint defense against AFSCME's lawsuit.
- Approved Town's participation in coordinated defense in Anthem Demutualization lawsuit.
- Appointed Susan Boyan as Town Counsel.
- Appointed Patrick McHale as Special Counsel for labor matters.
- Appointed Day, Berry & Howard for bonding matters.
- Accepted resignation of Patricia Dimock – Hall Memorial Library Board of Directors.
- Appointed Henry Szemplinski to the Hall Memorial Library Board of Directors to 12/5/05.
- Approved new hours for Town Hall Offices.
- Accepted final report of the Build-out Analysis Committee.
- Created Ad Hoc Design Review Board.
- Approved Football League's Request to Build Storage Building at Brookside Park.

BOARD OF FINANCE

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Board of Finance is Financial Authority of the town. The Board of Finance represents the taxpayer on all matters concerning the receipt or expenditure of taxpayer funds. The Board also represents taxpayer interests in other policy or operational matters which would affect the tax base or impact the future receipt of taxpayer funds. While the Board of Finance's principal responsibility is in the preparation of annual budget, the Board works closely with the Finance Director to establish and enforce fiscal policy, and implement the recommendations of the town auditors. The Board also directs fiscal policy such as the establishment of Reserve Funds, and the allocation of funds among sectors such as departmental budgets, capital expenditures and debt service.

The Board of Finance meets monthly, except during the period of January through April, when it meets weekly toward assembling the annual budget.



*Board of Finance:
Standing left to right: Robert Clements, Michael Scudieri - Chairman, Mark Joyce
Seated left to right: Barry Pinto, Vaughn Gerber, Robert Pagani*

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold public hearings from January through March on submitted departmental budgets.
- Hold the annual Budget hearing in April.
- Deliberate and approve a completed budget for taxpayer approval.
- Upon budget approval by taxpayers, the Board sets the mill rate.
- Authorize/deny expenditures in excess of budgeted amounts.
- Authorize/deny the issuance of Municipal Bonds.
- Monitor town revenues and expenditures on monthly basis.
- Interview and engage the outside auditing firm.
- Prepare the Annual Town Report.
- Provide fiscal expertise to other town boards and agencies.
- Observe and consult in labor contract negotiations.
- Represent the town's financial position in contract arbitration hearings.

The Board of Finance wishes to dedicate this town report to former Chairman Michael Scudieri. Michael retired from the board in August 2004 after serving for fourteen years.

TOWN ASSESSOR

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The primary responsibility of the Assessor's Office is to compile the Grand List, the record of all taxable and tax-exempt property. This is accomplished by identifying and placing value on all of the property located in the Town of Ellington as of October 1st of each year. Our objective is to ensure that all property is assessed equitably in accordance with applicable law so that every property owner bears the appropriate share of the total property tax burden. Accomplishment of this requires uniform assessments within each category of property. Real Estate assessments are 70% of the market value as established by the October 1, 2000 revaluation. Motor Vehicle assessments are 70% of retail market value as of October 1st of each year. Business Personal Property assessments are 70% of original cost less depreciation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Implementation of the October 1, 2003 Grand List
- Updated the GIS parcel base layer and property maps
- Migrated to a Windows based Administrative software package
- Streamlined office procedures

ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

The Assessor's Office is also responsible for administering various exemptions and tax relief programs. These programs are targeted to benefit active military servicemen and veterans, the totally disabled, the blind, senior citizens, manufacturers, charitable organizations, farmers and owners of land classified as farm, forest and open space.

TAX BASE

Grand List Totals	10/01/01	10/01/02	10/01/03
Real Estate	570,838,130	595,557,980	620,742,350
Personal Property	22,815,754	24,539,456	26,213,885
Motor Vehicle	78,090,442	81,360,531	80,683,395
TOTAL	\$671,744,362	\$701,457,967	\$727,639,630

LAND RECORDS INSPECTOR

In accordance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut (Inspection Sec. 7-14) "an inspection of the Land Records of each municipality in this state must be done annually." The Land Records Inspector is appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a term of one year, which commences in September.

The Land Records documents prepared by the Town Clerk's office have been inspected for the period from January 2003 through December 2003. The corrections and certification has been completed and sent to the Public Records Administrator.

TOWN ENGINEER

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

By resolution of the Board of Selectmen in 1963, James Thompson of the firm of Buck & Buck Engineering in Hartford was appointed as the Town Engineer. In November 1980, the Ellington Board of Selectmen established the policy that the Town Engineer shall be utilized by all town boards and commissions. Upon the request of a town agency, designation of a temporary town engineer for a particular function to be performed may be approved by the Board of Selectmen when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the town.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Reviewed subdivisions and made recommendations to various land use commissions.
- Reviewed and issued recommendations to land use commissions regarding proposed commercial, industrial, and residential site plans and permits.

FINANCE OFFICER/TREASURER

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Finance Officer is responsible for the accounting and reporting of all financial transactions for the Town of Ellington. Other duties are: investment of Town funds, preparation of financial statements, submission of annual budget to the Board of Finance, preparation of bid documents, purchasing agent, and serving as financial advisor to all boards and agencies. The Finance Officer oversees operations in Tax Collector and Tax Assessor's offices.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Finance Office accomplished or assisted in the following projects:

- Continue implementation of new accounting system
- Assisted in administration of Small Cities grants
- Bonding Resolutions - Airport Area Sewers
- Bond Anticipation Notes - \$5,700,000
Ellington High School and Center School
- Prepare Official Statement for Bond Issue \$6,640,000 -
December 15, 2003
- Prepare for Moody's presentation for credit rating
- Bond Issue sale \$6,640,000, 20 year bond issue, net interest cost 3.87%
\$6,482,000 Ellington High School/Center School
Additions/Renovations
\$158,000 82 Maple Street
- Continue implementation of GASB34
Purchase of new accounting system
- Redesign Capital Improvement book and Budget book
- Oversee Information Technology
 - Upgrading operating systems
 - Windows 98 to Windows XPRO
 - Microsoft Office 2000 to Office 2003

The Finance Office requested and awarded bids on the following projects:

- RFP - Service and Maintenance of towns computer system
- Bid - Crystal Lake School Roof Repair (9/11/03)
- RFP - Complete Reappraisal and Revaluation of all Real Property (9/19/03)
- Bid - EVAC 2003 - Ambulance
- Bid - EHS Storage Building
- Bid - Center School Playscape
- Bid - Audit Services for FY 2004, 2005, 2006
- RFP - Complete Reappraisal and Revaluation of all Real Property (4/06/04)
- Bid-Crystal Lake School Roof Repair (7/01/04)

The Finance Office assisted the Board of Finance in the following areas:

- Budget preparation (tables and books) and capital improvement books
- Provided historical statistics for maintaining reserve and contingency funds
- Interim budget expenditures/revenue projections

The Finance Office assisted the Permanent Building Committee in the following areas:

- Ellington High School and Center School projects
- Windermere School Addition project
- Project accounting
- Grant reimbursements

TAX COLLECTOR

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Tax Collector is responsible for the billing and collection of the real estate, motor vehicle, personal property taxes, water assessments, trash collection fees, sewer assessments, and sewer use charges. The fundamental objective is to achieve the highest collection rate efficiently.

HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Current Collections	\$18,830,755	\$20,444,622	\$21,985,718
Back Collections	387,035	204,266	183,735
Interest & Liens	304,033	149,702	176,675
Collection Rate	98.4%	98.5%	98.6%

During the month of June 2003, 19,695 bills were mailed for the October 2002 Grand List. In December of 2003, 2,608 supplemental motor vehicle bills were sent to people who purchased cars between October 2, 2002 and August 1, 2003.

At the Town Meeting for the FY 2003-2004 Budget Year, it was approved to continue to split the tax bills in excess of \$600 into two payments. Having the split at \$600 has decreased delinquencies, especially individuals who move away before they pay the second half, and leasing companies. This increase will further reduce delinquencies and will also avoid confusion on the supplemental bills when taxpayers assume they do not have to pay the second half. Delinquent motor vehicles taxes are reported to the State of Connecticut's Motor Vehicles Department, which prevents residents from renewing their registration. The State is considering adding an additional charge to individuals with delinquent motor vehicle taxes to reimburse them for their cost of flagging registrations.

Once you are delinquent, you lose the privilege of two installments and must pay in full to receive motor vehicle clearance. Bad checks are charged \$20, and only cash is acceptable in the future. If you do not receive a tax bill, it is your responsibility to inquire and obtain your information.

We have also filed UCC Liens with the State of Connecticut for unpaid personal property taxes. Tax Liens have been filed for unpaid real estate and sewer user charges, which secures the Town's interest.

In addition to tax revenues, the Tax Department also collects sewer user charges, trash user fees, sewer assessments, and water assessments. This results in six separate monthly cycles of preparation, billing and collection.

Delinquent collections require additional staff time and resources. Other venues of collection are being used, such as tax sales, foreclosures, withholding of building permits and tax warrants.

We provide ongoing technical information and assistance to taxpayers, attorneys, bankers, appraisers, and leasing companies. This past year has been exceptionally busy due to new construction and refinancing of mortgages.

TOWN CLERK

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk's Office are numerous and varied, most of which are governed by State Statute, others by Town Charter and the Board of Selectmen. The State Statute governs duties and responsibilities of the Office of Vital Statistics.

Responsibilities and duties include (but are not limited to) the following.

- Recording documents related to real estate transactions
- Collection of conveyance taxes
- Filing and maintaining maps, trade names, liquor permits, military discharges, and Notary Public Certificates
- Posting notices of meetings and for filing minutes and notices received from various Boards and Commissions, as required by the Freedom of Information Laws
- Preparation of all election material including ballots for all elections, primaries, referenda and the issuing of all absentee ballots
- Registration of voters and accepts applications for voters wishing to change their party affiliation
- Issuance of marriage licenses, burial, cremation and transit permits and certifies copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates.
- Annual registration of dogs
- Sale of Sportsman Licenses
- Aircraft Registration Official
- Records and prepares minutes of Town Meetings

All Town Meeting Minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Clerk also serves as accepting agent for civil actions brought against the Town and is responsible for processing claims and suits submitting them to the Town Attorney, Selectmen, insurance carrier, and the department involved.

SUMMARY	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Births	160	132	120
Marriages	100	106	92
Deaths	79	68	66
Land Record Recordings	4178	5098	5094
Map Filings	107	84	86
Trade Names	27	39	46
Dog Licenses	1805	1939	1975
Kennel Licenses	5	6	5
Sportsman Licenses	1461 (2001)	1273 (2003)	1121(2003)
Liquor Permits	17	18	16
Veterans Discharges	37	41	43
Cemetery Deeds	58	53	30

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The planning department services five permanent "land use" commissions. In addition, the department provided staff for the Build Out Project Steering Committee, an ad hoc committee established to provide overall project management for that planning initiative. The five permanent commissions include the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Inland Wetlands Agency, the Economic Development Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Conservation Commission. Department staff consists of a full time Town Planner, a full time Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer, a full time Land Use Assistant and a full time Secretary.

In addition to carrying out our planning, permitting and enforcement duties, department staff also provides assistance to members of the development community and to the general public. We also coordinate closely with other town, state and federal agencies and their staff. Land use policies are created by the five commissions, and are then incorporated into local planning documents. Related policy objectives are then translated into land use regulations and related procedures. Department staff help elected and appointed officials achieve the objectives by administering these regulations and procedures.

Ad Hoc Steering Committee for the "Build Out" Study

The Build Out Study was completed this year. The steering committee forwarded the final report to the Board of Selectman for their review and recommendations.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

The Registrars of Voters are elected officials of the town and serve for a four- year term. The current Democratic registrar is Susan Luginbuhl and the Republican registrar is Margaret Weekes.

The registrars are responsible for conducting all elections, primaries and referenda. They are also responsible for maintaining the town's voter records.

There are currently 7,778 registered voters. The breakdown is as follows: District 1 has 1,425 Democrats, 1,407 Republicans, 3,281 Unaffiliated and 10 others that include Independent, Green and Libertarian. District 2 has 369 Democrats, 385 Republicans, 898 Unaffiliated and 3 others.

Advertised voter making sessions were held in October and April. The Municipal Election was held on November 4th, 2003 and the budget referendums were held on May 18th, 2004, June 2nd, 2004 and June 16th, 2004. A special town pension referendum was held on January 13th, 2004.

All upcoming Primaries or Elections held in District 1 will continue to be held at the Ellington Middle School located on Upper Butcher Road until further notice. This is as a result of the school renovations occurring at Ellington High School. District 2 (Crystal Lake) will remain the same.

Any eligible person wishing to become a registered voter or anyone needing to make corrections to their voter status can do so by mail or in person during regular business hours. Any questions can be directed to the registrar's office at (860) 870-3107.

TOWN ATTORNEY

The Town Charter states that the Town Attorney "shall appear for and protect the rights of the town in all actions, suits, or procedures brought by or against it" and "shall serve as the legal advisor of the Board of Selectmen, First Selectman and all town officers, agencies, boards or commissions in all matters affecting the town".

In connection with these duties I have, upon request of the various boards, commissions, and staff, drafted and reviewed contracts, bid packages, agreements, deeds, resolutions and easements. Legal opinions regarding various matters which affect the Town have been rendered, including but not limited to procedural questions from Town Boards and questions regarding land use issues.

I have filed appearances in court representing the Town in all pending litigation affecting the Town either as a Plaintiff or Defendant, except for those matters which have been assigned to other attorneys. The cases presently pending in Tolland Superior Court consist of appeals of land use and tax issues and foreclosure cases initiated by the Town to collect past due taxes and fees.

A federal court case filed against the Town has been assigned by the Town's insurance carrier to an outside legal firm. All labor and employment issues are assigned to special counsel. The Town has also engaged special counsel with expertise in construction law in connection with a construction contract for the High School.

As Town Attorney, I have received outstanding cooperation and assistance from the Town staff in all legal matters in which I have become involved. The litigation and legal issues facing the Town seem appropriate for the size of the municipality and there are no pending liability claims which in my opinion will adversely affect the financial position of the Town.

MUNICIPAL AGENT

The role of the Municipal Agent is to advocate the needs of residents age 60 and older in the community. The Municipal Agent for the Town of Ellington is currently the same person who has been hired by the town to be the Elderly Outreach Worker.

Boards, Agencies and Commissions

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The PZC is responsible to keep and update the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, as well as process subdivision, site plan, special permit and other development applications. These applications are processed in accordance with regulations such as the zoning and subdivision regulations. In addition, the PZC reviews proposed public improvements for consistency with land use goals and objectives and makes recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the acceptance of proposed public streets and open space areas. Through its staff, the PZC is obligated by law to ensure that developments comply with applicable regulations and approved plans through the issuance of zoning permits and certificates of zoning compliance.

INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

The IWA is responsible by state law to protect our inland wetlands and watercourses. Wetlands are defined by state law, and include certain soils that are poorly or very poorly drained, alluvial (found along a watercourse or water body) or are floodplain soils. Depending upon the location of the resource, the IWA regulates areas either 100 feet or 250 feet "upland" of these resources, as well as "direct" impacts to wetlands and watercourses. The IWA does this via permits for "regulated activities" and through enforcement of the regulations by field inspections, cease and desist orders, and if necessary, by fines.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The EDC plans for and promotes business development within the community, in order to increase the grand list and balance the tax burden between commercial, industrial and residential land uses. This is essential in that due to certain limitations, such as not having direct highway access, and our limited public sewer capacity and service area, Ellington does not have the range and extent of economic development options that might be available to other "cohort" communities, all of whom are competing for "clean" industry and high wage employers.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The ZBA is essentially a "court" consisting of local volunteers who "judge" applicant's claims that they cannot comply with the zoning regulations because the regulations affect their land in some unique way. This "land based hardship" can be the basis for a "variance" to be granted to the zoning regulations. If a variance is granted, the applicant does not have to comply with a specific provision of the zoning regulations. The ZBA also hears appeals from people who feel staff has made an error in interpreting and applying a provision of the zoning regulations, or if they have been denied a zoning permit from the zoning enforcement officer (the "ZEO").

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The CC was created by Charter amendment by splitting certain functions off from the inland wetland agency. By doing so, the Town created a single board that can focus on conservation planning. This includes planning for open space. The commission is advisory, and does not issue "permits" for development, rather its members make recommendations to the PZC, Board of Selectmen and others regarding planned open spaces, greenways, and similar subjects.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Snipsic Village provides safe, clean, and affordable housing primarily for the elderly.

Many thanks to the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance personnel for their promptness, efficiency and compassion in responding to the needs of residents.

The Housing Authority office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to noon.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Water Pollution Control Authority is a five-member board presently comprised of five volunteer members including Mark Spurling, Chairman, Daniel Parisi, Co-Chairman, Edward Duell, Rex Myers and Stacie Mikol.

They are responsible for the administration and maintenance of the Hockanum Sewer System, the Crystal Lake Sewer System and providing direction for the future of the sewer service areas.

The Public Works Department oversees the operation and maintenance of the sewage collection system with one WPCA dedicated employee.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority is waiting for the distribution of the STEAP Grant approved from the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic & Community Development Division, in the amount of \$500,000, to extend the public sewer to the Ellington Airport Industrial Area. The extension of the public sewer will provide the essential infrastructure to 175 acres of vacant industrially zoned land for development. This project will significantly aid the development of Ellington's economic base. Last year we worked concurrently with Yankee Gas installing their gas line. This allowed for some savings in sewer construction and kept traffic inconveniences to a minimum.

The \$500,000 STEAP Grant Ellington received was a result of the endorsement and support of Senator LeBeau, Senator Guglielmo, and our Representative Graziani. Ellington was very fortunate to have them work in our behalf. The Ellington Airport Industrial Area public sewer extension is vital for equitable growth and the development of Ellington's tax base in the future.

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Permanent Building Committee has eleven members who are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The duties of this board are to investigate sites for future public building and to make recommendations as requested by the Town Meeting for acquisition and construction of all building projects and/or work with construction costs of over \$20,000. The Committee may investigate sites and make recommendations of acquisition and construction of building projects and/or work with construction costs of less than \$20,000 if requested to do so by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee undertakes such functions as: surveying sites, recommending acquisition, preparation and disposition of sites and buildings, engaging architects and engineers through quality base selection, approving plans, procuring bids and entering into contracts for construction, supervising construction and accepting work as authorized and delegated by the Town Meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed Projects: The Windermere School Project has been completed, however, there are a few final items that are being worked on with the remaining funds.
- The Committee has spent most of this fiscal year with the Center School and High School Projects. The Center School project is completed. The High School project is currently in Phase IV and the majority of the work should be completed by Fall of 2004.
- The Playscape at Center School is being installed and will be ready for use when school opens in August 2004.
- The High School storage building was awarded to Enfield Builders and construction began in June, 2004. This project is progressing on schedule and on budget.

Anyone interested in joining the Committee may do so by contacting the First Selectman's office.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

The purpose of the Board of Assessment Appeals is to hear the appeals of taxpayers who believe they have been unfairly assessed on the valuation of their real estate, personal property, or motor vehicles. The three member board, appointed by the Board of Selectman, conducts appeal hearings, researches property records relative to the complaint and reviews them for errors, and adjusts assessments.

The Board conducts hearings for real estate and personal property in March, and hearings for motor vehicles are held in September.

Appeal hearing on the 2003 Grand List for real estate and personal property were conducted on March 3, 6, 10, 2004. By the February 20, 2004, the Board received 16 appeals.

Motor Vehicle appeal hearings were conducted on September 3 and September 6, 2003. The board received 32 appeals during the month of August.

Board member Fran Yost resigned his position after seven years of service and was replaced by Kimberly Bechard.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Office of Emergency Management (Civil Preparedness) is responsible for the constant review of and adjustments to the town emergency plan as filed with the State Office of Emergency Management. This office receives and disseminates information from the State Office of Emergency Management concerning impending emergencies, such as severe weather, terrorism alerts and other situations that may affect the Town of Ellington and its citizens.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Emergency Management is an independent department of the town. We had an incident in town last fall that tested the town's emergency operations plan. On October 14, 2003 at approximately 0130 hours the Ellington Fire Department was summoned to COUNTRY PURE FOODS on West Road for some type of leak. Upon arrival of the fire department, there was a visible cloud of ANHYDROS AMMONIA around the north end of the plant where the compressor room is located. First arriving fire department units were able to determine that everyone was out of the building, but the source of the leak had not been determined. Because of the possibility of a prolonged incident we had to invoke the town's Emergency Operations Plan. This included the opening of the town's Emergency Operations Center and the use of the Windermere School as a shelter for evacuated residents in the affected area. The plan worked well proving the town's emergency operations plan does work. By noon on October 14, 2003 the incident had been contained and the situation was returned to normal. People, who had been evacuated, were allowed to return to their homes. This incident also tested the resources that are available to the town in an emergency. Because of the wind direction the cloud moved toward Vernon and they had to open and emergency shelter as well. I would like to commend all the different town departments on their spirit of cooperation and professionalism while performing their duties during this incident.

Plans for a Bio terrorism clinic are still being fine-tuned. The North Central Health District has started train the trainer sessions for those medical personnel that have already volunteered to participate at the clinic, however there are still plenty of positions we have to fill. We have had many people volunteer to help at the clinic, and we need more people with medical and clerical backgrounds to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering please call the First Selectman's Office at (860) 870-3100. For those people who have already volunteered we will be contacting you for training and identification photos in the fall of this year.

The Office of Emergency Management maintains and operates the Town of Ellington Emergency Operations Center from which critical town government functions are conducted during any large-scale emergency situation, maintenance of an emergency shelter of record, administration of the federally mandated Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act (SARA), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and the provision of numerous additional services as necessary. With the completion of the renovations at Ellington High School we will have another emergency shelter of record for our citizens.

Public Safety

RESIDENT STATE TROOPER

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The principal function of the State Police personnel is to protect life and property. This is done by a team consisting of a Sergeant and 4 Resident State Troopers, 9 Town Officers, 2 Marine Officers and troopers from the State Police Barracks, Troop "C" in Tolland.

The team is backed up by the entire State Police Department and its specialists which include: Major Crime Squad, Detective Division, Forensic Laboratory, Fire Marshals Division, Emergency Services Division, Narcotics Division, Canine Corps, Bomb Squad, Traffic and Truck Squads.

HIGHLIGHTS

In an effort to reduce serious fatal and motor vehicle accidents Resident Troopers and Town Officers are continuing their strict enforcement policies and periodic DWI saturation patrols. Once again, the Resident Trooper's office applied for and received grants from the Department of Transportation under the Federal Highway Safety Program, which allowed for extra DWI patrols during Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Memorial Day and July 4th weekends.

The Resident Trooper's office applied for and received a DUI Enforcement Vehicle Program grant for \$33,000 from the State Department of Transportation - Division of Highway Safety. This money was used to purchase the new 2004 Ford Explorer for the police department to help in our fight against drunk drivers.

The Town wide Crime Prevention Program continues in the community this year. We welcome new neighborhoods to contact our office for help in setting up a Neighborhood Watch program.

During the past year the Resident Troopers and Town Officers made numerous presentations to schools and civic groups regarding drug abuse, drunk driving, seatbelt safety, home and business security, careers in law enforcement and various other issues concerning public safety.

The Ellington Marine Officers continue to administer vessel safety inspections and enforcement on Crystal Lake enforcing both State Statutes and Town Ordinances that promote water safety.

Ellington's Resident Troopers and Town Officers will continue to give the citizens of Ellington the most professional service possible.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Criminal Cases Investigated	282	295	270
Motor Vehicle Investigations	201	265	252
Motor Vehicle Arrests/Warnings	2,701	3,109	3,513
DWI's	54	59	63
Marine Safety Inspections	929	515	551

BUILDING OFFICIAL

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Building Official is responsible for the public safety, health and welfare, as it relates to the use and occupancy of all town buildings and structures.

The Building Official's office is located in the Town Hall Annex Building inspections are generally done the next day after notification is given to the Building Official.

ACTIVITY REPORT

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
New Single Family Homes	94	117	79
New Commercial Buildings	2	5	3
New Multi-Family Buildings	0	6	4
Residential Alterations & Additions	118	85	94
Repairs/Replacements to Existing	197	181	186
Mechanical/Electrical	788	982	731
Other	242	286	255
Totals	1,441	1,662	1,352
Field Inspections	1,712	2,106	1,633

FIRE MARSHALL

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Office of Town Fire Marshal has both an investigative and a code enforcement role within our community with townwide responsibility for the investigation of all fires, explosions and hazardous materials incidents and annual code compliance inspections of all buildings and occupancies except single and two-family homes are mandated by state statute. This requires enforcement of Connecticut's Fire Safety Code, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, Hazardous Chemicals Codes, Explosives Code, Liquid Petroleum Gas and Liquid Natural Gas Code, Gas Equipment Code, Fireworks and Special Effects Code, Oil Burner Equipment Code, and the Tent and Portable Shelter Code. Orders are prepared and issued for the abatement of violations of the referenced codes and arrest and search warrant applications are filed when appropriate. In the course of this inspection work liquor licenses are approved and day care centers, group day care homes, blasting operations, all trucks transporting flammable or combustible liquids or hazardous materials are permitted. Construction plans for buildings and occupancies regulated by the Connecticut Fire Safety Code are reviewed prior to the issuance of building permits, all open burning is permitted, all underground and above ground flammable and combustible liquids storage tank installations and removals are approved, the town's portion of the statewide annual fire prevention poster contest is administered, and numerous additional services are provided as necessary.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Investigations	56	53	64
Criminal	13	19	24
Non-criminal	42	27	40
Suspicious	0	0	0
Undetermined	1	6	0
Fire Casualties	1	4	4
Fatal	0	0	0
Non-fatal	1	4	4
Building Fires	24	20	26
Motor Vehicle Fires	8	5	8
All Other Fires	17	16	23
Hazardous Materials Incidents	7	8	7
Fire Losses, Total (X 1000)	\$200.3	\$168.1	\$411.2
Criminal	\$2.0	\$35.0	\$19.0
Non-criminal	\$198.3	\$130.0	\$392.2
Suspicious	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	\$3,550	0
Value of All Properties			
Exposed to Loss (X 1000)	\$3,855.5	\$1,434.6	\$2,679.4
Enforcement Inspections	189	337	528

Commercial	8	27	99
Public Assembly	17	19	51
Educational	11	20	13
Residential (Multi-family)	102	238	310
Hazardous Materials	17	10	24
Other	34	24	31
State Licenses and Permits Approved	37	52	44
Open Burning Permits			
Processed/Approved	59/50	30/24	26/25
Enforcement Citations Issued	270	272	690
Arrests and/or Referrals	4	6	6

ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

CHIEF: Michael D. Varney

ASSISTANT CHIEF: Gary T. Feldman, Sr.

DEPUTY CHIEFS: John W. Turner, Frederica Weeks

CAPTAINS: Vincent L. Gambacorta, Robert Levandoski

LIEUTENANTS: Dominick Cristelli, Jack Rich II, Robert Smith

SECRETARY: Jonathan H. Allen

TREASURER: Dennis C. Varney

MEMBERS

Thomas B. Adams	Jonathan H. Allen	Paul Bigelow
Duane Boston	Fred Bird	Bryan Blotniski
Steven Breault, Sr.	Brendan Burke*	John Carpenter
Kimberly Casey	Stephen Chase	Daniel Connors
Jerry Connors	Jessica Crickmore	Dominick Cristelli
Richard Daugherty	Donald Davis	Leonard Descheneaux, Sr.
Thomas Descheneaux	Kevin Dunn	Elizabeth Feldman
Gary T. Feldman, Sr.	Kevin Gambacorta	Vincent Gambacorta
Peter Gomez	Mitchell Griswold	Peter Hany, Jr.
Dan Hoffman	Luke Hoffman	Gary Knybel
Robert Levandoski	Tammy Lucey	Anthony Manfre
Robert Morganson	Karl Neubecker	David O'Hagan
Daniel Parisi	Robert Parlante	David Rice
Jack Rich	Jack Rich II	Robert Sandberg, Sr.
Jason Schall	Paul Secker	Allen Smith
Randall Smith	Robert Smith	Adam Starvish
Susan Trisler	William Trisler	John W. Turner
Dennis C. Varney	Michael D. Varney	Frederica Weeks

*2003 Firefighter of the Year

LIFE MEMBERS

Leonard Aronson	Arthur Caldwell	Clyde Cordtsen, Jr.
Luis DeCarli	Ralph Edwards	Allan Lawrence, Jr.
William Preston, Sr.		Frederick Randall

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was organized in 1928. This year we are proud to celebrate our 76-year history of providing the Town of Ellington and its citizens with the finest possible volunteer emergency fire and rescue services.

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department's mission is the protection and preservation of life and property during fire and other emergencies in the Town of Ellington; to honor all emergency calls, and to support fire prevention education activities. During the past several years the types of incidents, their added frequency and growth of the town has demanded increased levels of training, equipment and expertise in new technologies by our volunteers.

The greatest care and concern are given to those who become injured. The most up to date rescue tools and techniques are used to extricate those who have become injured as the result of a motor vehicle or industrial accidents. Our rescue personnel work with the Ellington Ambulance to provide the best possible care for the injured. For those patients in need of advanced life support or trauma team services, the Rockville General Hospital Paramedic Unit or the LifeStar Helicopter rescue team are requested.

During these last few years there has been a greater need for additional volunteers. Every volunteer fire department across the state is experiencing shortages of manpower. It is not easy with today's employment and family commitments to be a volunteer firefighter. Many hours of training are required to be a part of the emergency service delivery team. For information about how you can become a volunteer or if you wish to learn more about your local emergency services you can pick up information at the Town Hall, the Ellington Center Fire House on Main St., visit our award winning website www.ellingtonfire.org or leave us a message at 870-3190, someone will get back to you.

GRANTS

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department received a grant of \$39,150 from the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award will be used by the department to upgrade their radio communications equipment increasing their capability to communicate with other emergency response agencies. This is the second year in a row that the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department was a recipient of this grant program. In 2002 \$162,180 was received and used to replace their self-contained breathing apparatus, upgrade existing air operated rescue tools and purchase fire prevention education equipment.

Over 19,900 fire departments applied for grant awards this year. The request of The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department has been through a national peer review process as a part of \$750 million being distributed to over 7,000 fire departments.

INCIDENT REPORT SUMMARY

This is the fifth full fiscal year that our department has been responding to life threatening medical emergencies with the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The purpose of this is to increase the emergency service delivery system to the community and to support cross training of our participating members.

Below is a compilation of our emergency response statistics for the time period of July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. During this period of time our department responded to 623 emergency calls. There were a total of over 453 hours of emergency services provided. This accumulates to over 5147 man-hours donated to provide these emergency services.

To report an emergency enhanced 911 telephone service is available throughout our community. Persons reporting emergencies are able to communicate directly with our regional emergency dispatch center.

Fire, Explosion	46
Structural fire	26
Vehicle fire	9
Trees, brush, grass fires	5
Refuse, dumpster fire	3
Fire, other	3
Rescue Call	258
Emergency medical call	211
Lock In	1
Search land or water	5
Vehicle Accident, Extrication	36
Extrication other than motor vehicle	2
Water, Ice Rescue	3
Hazardous Condition Standby	108
Flammable/Combustible liquid Spill	11
Gas leak	2
Chemical spill or leak	2
Carbon monoxide incident	3
Power line down	17
Electrical wiring/equipment problem	7
Arching, shorted electrical equipment	3
Accident other	5

Vehicle accident no extrication	56
Aircraft Standby	2
Service Call	69
Service call, other	3
Lock out	6
Water evacuation, leak	3
Smoke, odor removal	3
Animal rescue	2
Police or other govt. agency assist	34
Public service.....	5
Assist invalid.....	1
Cover assignment, standby, move up	12
Good Intent Call	36
Good intent call, other	13
Cancelled en route, wrong location	15
Authorized controlled burning	2
Odor of smoke, steam or vapor.....	5
Hazmat investigation	1
False Call	104
False call, other	4
Malicious false alarm	2
Alarm system malfunction.....	22
Unintentional alarm.....	60
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	13
Wind storm assessment	2
Lightning strike.....	1
Other Type of Incident.....	3

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Country Pure Farm's juice packaging company plant in Ellington sent an approximate cloud of 6000 pounds of ammonia over town early Tuesday morning October 15th, leading to the evacuation of about 2500 people. The leak from a tank was reported about 2 a.m. but wasn't plugged until about six hours later. The leak developed after a 2-inch pipe flange came loose in an area where 8,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia, used as a refrigerant, is stored. Crews in chemical protection suits were sent in to stop the leak. This incident incorporated the use of over seventy emergency response agencies from local, regional, state and federal agencies. It serves as example of regional leadership and cooperation by Ellington in emergency response planning.

MEMBERSHIP TRAINING & ACTIVITIES

A significant milestone was achieved during this past year. The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department was the first all volunteer fire department in Connecticut and one of the first in the country to have all of their fire officers certified to National Fire Protection Association Standards. We are very proud of the dedicated members who spent their time to achieve this goal as volunteers.

During the past year Ellington firefighters spent over 7000 hours in departmental training activities. Several officer drills were conducted in the area of management skills, interoperable communications, and regional response plans. Drills were also conducted throughout the year with surrounding Mutual Aid fire and rescue departments. The Ellington Fire Department also sponsored and hosted several courses this past year including: Pump Operator Certification, Emergency Medical Technician, Confined Space Rescue, Training from DEP on wildland firefighting, Emergency Vehicle Operations, EMT/MRT refresher training, Automatic External Defibrillation program, Emergency Scene Photography, Firefighting and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and OSHA reviews. Several regional response team and association meetings were also held at our station throughout the year.

Attendance at regionally sponsored training programs included classes in the following skills: firefighting, hazardous materials, emergency medical training, incident command, live burn exercises, response to weapons of mass destruction, decontamination, management and planning, water rescue, and several areas of technical rescue. The Connecticut Fire Academy, Department of Environmental

Protection, Office of Emergency Medical Services, National Fire Academy, Office of Domestic Preparedness or some other recognized organization or agency accredited all courses attended.

Members of our department also attended specialty courses held at the Fire Leadership Summit in Washington D. C., Volunteer Chief Officers Symposium in Orlando, Florida, International Fire Chiefs Conference in Dallas, the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, New England State Training Conference in Amherst Massachusetts and the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

We are very proud of our high levels of training and certifications held by our members in Ellington. Several of our members are adjunct faculty for many of the area regional fire schools as well as the State Fire and Emergency Medical

Current Levels of members' certifications include:

Fire Fighter I	16
Fire Fighter II/III	25
Fire Service Instructor I	16
Fire Service Instructor II	1
Fire Officer I	8
Fire Officer II	5
Safety Officer	6
Pump Operator	4
Truck Operator	1
Hazardous Materials Operational.....	31
Hazardous Materials Technician	5
Emergency Medical Technician	19
Medical Response Technician	12
Emergency Medical Services Instructor.....	3

AWARDS RECEIVED AND REGIONAL OFFICES

During this last fiscal year the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, in addition to the many thank you's which we receive, we were awarded a certificate of appreciation from the state legislature commemorating our seventy-five years of service.

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department was also honored to have its Chief, Michael Varney, recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Fire Chief Magazine as one of the top four volunteer fire chiefs in the country.

Several of our ranking officers are also very active within regional and state organizations. The officers listed held the following leadership positions in these organizations: Jack Turner, Treasurer of Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service, and Michael Varney, President of the CT Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Varney also serves on the Governors Homeland Security Steering Council and Working Groups, the State Urban Search and Rescue Steering Committee, and the Statewide Radio System Interoperability Committee among several other regional workgroups. These again show the dedication of our members and the respect they receive through the state with their training and leadership.

EQUIPMENT

All safety inspections for apparatus and equipment were conducted as required by DOT, DMV, OSHA and NFPA. It should be noted that extensive efforts are necessary to meet these regulations. Examples of specific annual tests include: Ladder, Hose, Pump, SCBA, SCBA Cylinders, and all Fire Extinguishers.

New self-contained compressed air (SCBA) units, rescue airbags and upgrades to our existing compressor and air cascade systems were completed.

Six new sets of firefighting gear were purchased as part of our annual replacement program. All members are issued their own SCBA facemask and protective carry bag. The fire department continues to develop the UHF radio system for operational use with the apparatus and officers. This past year we were able to purchase items such as forestry rakes, hose and firefighting gear at reduced rates using CCROG and the State of Connecticut bids.

Due to our increase in emergency medical responses and training levels we placed additional emergency medical service equipment, portable oxygen units and first responder medical kits in service.

Emergency communications and interoperability with other first responders is a concern that a plan has been developed to address. This year we started to implement an upgrade program to correct several deficiencies. Communications equipment at the Fire Station was upgraded. In addition 800 MHz radio equipment was received through a grant program and placed in service on our rescue truck, which will enable our incident commander to communicate with any responding state or federal agencies.

FACILITY

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department currently operates from one facility at 29 Main Street which houses 8 vehicles, several trailers and all department offices, equipment and records. Department meeting and training sessions are also conducted at this facility, which is currently very cramped for space. During this year we continued with our regular maintenance and safety inspections, and made badly needed roof repairs. This year capital improvement funds were allocated to address asbestos issues within the Fire Station. During 2001 we completed the work on a feasibility study for an additional Fire Station in the southern end of town. This station would solve our space issues while reducing response time to other areas of town, in turn increasing the ability for our organization to better save lives and property. This report was completed and approved by the Board of Selectman and the Permanent Building Committee. It is still waiting action by the Board of Finance.

JUNIOR FIRE FIGHTER PROGRAM

The Junior Program is open to Ellington youths between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. Junior program members participate in the same programs and training as the regular membership, and they also engage in their own training and activities. Their participation at emergency incidents is restricted as not to expose them to hazardous activities. The insights and support they bring to the fire department represents a valuable part of our organization. As they grow in experience and age they are brought into the organization as fully training members.

FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Team had another busy year. Over 25 public education presentations were conducted along with two open houses at our station. The majority of emphasis is placed on the younger children trying to build a comprehensive understanding about fire and mind a safety presence. These included visiting the Elementary schools, K through Grade 2, the area nursery schools, Pre-K programs, Ellington Junior Women's Club sponsored Safety Town, Senior Center and several other events where our members demonstrated the fire escape trailer from the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. During the year we also gave numerous tours to groups of our firehouse and spoke to other organizations on fire and safety related issues. Please contact us if you would like to set up an appointment for us to host or speak to your organization. Through a federal grant program this past year we were able to acquire a talking robot, this unit will be used in our fire prevention programs throughout the year.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM

It is essential that we continue to support the volunteer character of the emergency services that protect our community. To aid in this effort the Town of Ellington's emergency services instituted an incentive program. This program provides funds to run a volunteer incentive program in an attempt to attract new volunteers as well as increase the activity of the current members. Members are paid a monetary stipend based on their activity levels. Since its inception, we believe the program has benefited the town by attracting more members and increasing the activity of the existing staff.

FUTURE PLANNING

The town is experiencing an increased growth rate and we are planning now to meet the needs of our community in the years to come. The need for apparatus replacement and relocation are areas of immediate concern. The town has secured the work of an emergency service consultant to review the services provided to the town by the emergency service agencies. Options for the replacement of the 1975 pumper and 1970 tanker are being explored.

Thank you for your continued support, respect and help in making this the 75th year of our service to the community a safe and successful year for everyone.

For more information on our department's activities and programs please visit us on the internet at www.ellingtonfire.org.

E911 MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR

This office has several key functions that help to deliver efficient emergency services to the citizens of Ellington. John W. Turner was appointed Ellington's E911 Municipal Coordinator in July of 1985 by the Board of Selectmen. Since the start of the statewide E911 emergency network your local coordinator has maintained a Master Street Address Guide, MSAG, for the telephone computer database. This insures that all streets and all numbers assigned to properties on those streets are within the parameters of the E911 database guide. In the past year, with Ellington's surge of growth and building, several new streets were added to the database. Several existing streets were adjusted for extensions or additional lots. Several times during the course of a year conflicts will arise and need to be reviewed by this office. I also consult with the Planning Department and Building Official concerning street names and house numbering.

In cooperation with the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Connecticut State Police Resident Troopers Office, this office insures the efficient handling of all 911 calls for assistance. As a member of a regional dispatch center, the Town of Ellington is able to provide a professional answering and dispatch service at a very economical rate.

Legislated financial support for regional dispatch centers and 911 PSAPs is in place and is distributing funds for the continued operation of these vital communication centers. Funds collected from telephone user fees are equitably distributed to all eligible dispatch centers. Currently and into next fiscal year the formula for distribution of these revenues is under review for revisions. We seek the support of our State Legislators and Senators to favorably act on this revision. User towns continue to subsidize the operating costs of these communication centers.

During the past year the dispatch center was relocated into a modern facility, compliant with many of the NFPA codes. New console equipment was installed along with software for dispatching. Security for the center improved. A grant was obtained by the dispatch center to assist with several other capital improvements projects. Those projects are expected to be completed in FY 04-05. The mapping and computer aided dispatch program are undergoing construction and testing as the fiscal year closes. Implementation is expected in the next several months..

All dispatchers were trained and software was purchased to implement the State of Connecticut mandated Emergency Medical Dispatch on July 1, 2004. Additional dispatchers have been placed on duty during the heavy call periods. Johnson Memorial Hospital agreed to serve as medical control and oversight of the program. Pre-arrival medical instructions can be delivered to the caller as emergency responders are dispatched to the location.

CRYSTAL LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF: Charles Pippin
ASSISTANT CHIEF: Bryan Harvell
DEPUTY CHIEF: Christopher Marks
CAPTAIN: Brian Pippin
LIEUTENANT: John Wrynn
LIEUTENANT: Doug Rogala
LIEUTENANT: William Trisler
SECRETARY: Ashley Thompson
TREASURER: Susan Trisler

MEMBERS

Michael Allen	Richard Edwards	Jessica Schillinger
Robert Bonin	Tony Hamm	Timothy Seitz
Larry Booth	Allen Harvell	Hilary Somers
Cindy Bregoli	Bryan Harvell	Ashley Thompson
David Bregoli	Gerry MacFeat	Bruce Thompson
Jason Carroll	Greg Manner	Gretchen Thompson
Theresa Chidester	Christopher Marks	William Trisler
Bruce Coles	Geralyn Merrill	Susan Trisler
Jennifer Coles	Anna Meyer	Jeremy Webber
Kurt Dermody	Brian Pippin	David Wright
Tom Descheneaux	Charles Pippin	John Wrynn
David Dragan	Doug Rogala	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Gretchen Harvell	Brian Lagear	Reka Wrynn
Jessica Harvell	Beverly Smith	

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN: Joseph Willis
CO-CHAIRMEN: John Wrynn, Kurt Dermody, Chuck Christman
CLERK: Tonya Glomboske

SUMMARY OF CALLS

Structure Fires.....	7
Brush Fires.....	5
Vehicle Fires	0
Fire/Wires Down/Other	20
Mutual Aid	10
Station Coverage	10
Fire Alarms	24
CO Detectors.....	4
Motor Vehicle Accident w/Injuries.....	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents w/o Injuries	29
Medical Emergencies	59
Medical Emergencies w/Paramedic.....	25
Search and Rescue	3
Tolland County Dives.....	3
Water Rescues.....	2
Life Star	3
Fatalities	1
Chimney Fires.....	2
Miscellaneous	15

The Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department proudly continues to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Crystal Lake community while providing assistance to surrounding communities. The department is staffed by state certified firefighters, emergency medical technicians and medical response technicians. We are proud of the dedication and commitment of the members that makes the success of the department possible.

With the responsibility of responding to a variety of emergencies, members maintained or advanced required skills through in-house training drills and by attending courses offered by the Connecticut Fire Academy, Hartford County Fire Academy, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Attendance at these courses included classes in the following skills: firefighting, hazardous materials, emergency medical training, incident command, live burn exercise,

thermal imaging camera technology, water rescue, and ice rescue. This year five members attended dive classes to become certified open water divers. As a member of the Tolland County Dive Team, department members attend dive drills and planning meetings each month.

Our medically trained personnel, consisting of Emergency Medical Technicians and Medical Response Technicians, work side-by-side with Ellington Ambulance to ensure the best pre-hospital medical possible. In addition, they work the RGH Paramedic and the Life-Star Helicopter for serious medical emergencies. All medical personnel are trained in use of a defibrillator, in case of cardiac arrest. Our members train diligently to make sure our patient receives optimal care.

Each October, our department visits the Crystal Lake School to teach the students the importance of fire prevention and fire safety. All students K-4 are given the chance to talk with a firefighter about the importance of fire safety, how to properly use 9-1-1, and most importantly fire prevention. The department also visits the area day care centers and pre-schools teaching younger children the importance of fire safety and prevention.

The Crystal Lake community is steadily growing and we are planning now to meet the needs of community in the future. The replacement of aging equipment is of an immediate concern. Replacement options for our 1978 Engine Tanker are being explored.

We would like to thank our families, friends and the Town of Ellington for their continued support of our efforts as we strive to make our community a safe and happy place.

ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

PRESIDENT: John Streiber
VICE PRESIDENT: Corinne Sandberg
SECRETARY: Karen Violette
TREASURER: Krista Schultz
SUPPLY: Donald Lanier
SCHEDULER: Corinne Sandberg
TRAINING: Paul Vining
MAINTENANCE: Pete Hany, Sr.
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Angie Sandberg

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Sharon Breault	Donald Lanier	Corinne Sandberg
Ray Close	Natasha Livermore	Krista Schultz
Renee Cyr	Anna Meyer	John Streiber
Katie Dzicek	Denise Rioux	Diane Turner
Dawn Gerber	Cindy Rivard	Karen Violette
Pete Hany, Sr.	Dennis Roggi	Paul Vining
Bruce Hoffman	Angie Sandberg	Becky York

PROBATIONARY MEMBERS

Carrie Caron	Jennifer Hayes	Sara Volsdal
Katie Dunn	Heather Heldman	Chris Weidner
Nancy Gagne	Terry Shook	Greg York
	Joshua Spooner	

AFFILIATED MEMBERS

Jean-Marie Currier	Pete Hany, Jr.	Bob Parlante
Tom Dzicek	Debbie Messier	Adam Starvish
Bryan Goulet	Cindy Munro	

PAID STAFF

Denver Ahrens	Tonya Glomboske	Beth Rounds
Leslie Crossen	Luke Hoffman	John Tennant
Erin Crowley	Roy Minton	John Watts
	David Murray	

HONORARY MEMBERS

Art Aubin	Steve Kratzke	Fred Randall
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SUMMARY OF CALLS

Total Calls	655
Trauma	298
Medical.....	357

The Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC) provides emergency medical services to the Town of Ellington 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Corps is staffed by state certified EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS who volunteer their time and undergo continuous training to keep their skills up to date with current medical practices within the State of Connecticut Guidelines.

All members are encouraged to participate in instructional programs on patient care given at local hospitals. Qualified members have the option to ride along with the Hartford Hospital based Life Star helicopter program. All EVAC members are provided with a formalized course to improve their emergency driving skills and are provided with mandatory training on the handling of blood/air borne pathogens, TB and hazardous materials to comply with current OSHA regulations.

EVAC sponsors the Ellington Explorer Rescue Post 512. Members of the Ellington Explorer Rescue Post 512 supplement the paid staff during the weekdays in providing emergency medical coverage to the town residents. The Rescue Post is comprised of young adults that respond from the Ellington High School when medical emergencies arise.

EVAC regularly sponsors classes in CPR to certify townspeople in this important lifesaving skill. These classes are conducted at the ambulance building and everyone is encouraged to participate.

EVAC works side-by-side with paramedics from Rockville General Hospital. Paramedics provide the community advanced life support when critically ill or injured patients are being treated. The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department and the Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department partner together with EVAC to provide first responder care prior to the ambulance arrival at an emergency.

Project Adam is a national program designed to place defibrillators in schools. The need arose when a teenager in the Midwest lost his life due to ventricular fibrillation during a sporting event. A defibrillator, if available, could have shocked his heart and probably saved his life. EVAC initiated a fundraiser designed to purchase defibrillators for the Ellington school system. The community donated approximately \$10,000 and three defibrillators and a training unit were purchased. In the spring of 2004, the defibrillators were placed into service and distributed to the Ellington High School and the Ellington Middle School.

EVAC also procured six defibrillators for EVAC emergency medical first responders who carry the units in their personal vehicles when responding to cardiac emergencies. Two additional defibrillators were given to the Town of Ellington. One was placed in the Ellington Town Hall and the other was placed in the Ellington Senior Center. EVAC trained two town employees in CPR and the use of the defibrillator.

EVAC has two modular type ambulances that serve the Town of Ellington and any mutual aid response to the surrounding towns. During the fiscal year, EVAC replaced the Rescue 543 ambulance through the capital expense account. The new ambulance was funded completely without any expense to the taxpayers.

The Corps is always seeking energetic, compassionate and enthusiastic people who would like to contribute their time to the Town of Ellington. All emergency medical training and equipment required is provided by EVAC to all members. Anyone interested in joining EVAC should contact the ambulance building.

The Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps would like to thank everyone who supported our organization during the past year. Your continued support helps provide the Town of Ellington with quality emergency medical service.

ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Animal Control Department is responsible for the enforcement of the Connecticut State Laws pertaining to animals. This department responds to complaints of violations of Animal Control Laws by telephone or by police dispatch. The officers also investigate complaints of vicious, diseased or neglected and abused animals as well as picking up stray and roaming dogs. Impounded animals are cared for at the shelter by the officers. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption. Following the month of June, when all dog owners must renew their dog licenses, a search for delinquent owners begins as well as an ongoing search for unlicensed dogs. The Officers are available to assist the police or the public with any animal emergency. The Animal Control Department makes every effort to insure that all functions of this department and the operation of the shelter are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople.

STAFF

The Animal Control Department consists of Animal Control Officer Barbara Murdach and Assistant, David Yoho. The Shelter is open seven days a week between 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. The Shelter, which is located on Main St. behind the Fire Station, is the holding quarters for stray, roaming and relinquished dogs and also quarantined dogs and cats. The Animal Control Officers are available for emergency calls by calling the Ellington Resident Troopers Office and the Animal Control Officer on-call will be contacted by beeper. Emergency calls consist of: animal bites, dog damage to livestock or personal property, injured animals or wildlife that has had contact with people or pets or is suspected of having rabies. Nuisance wildlife calls are handled through the State D.E.P. Wildlife Department and they can be reached at: 424-3011. Routine calls will be handled during the normal shelter hours. Ellington Animal Control Officers provide assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully. Contact the Ellington Animal Control Department at: 870-3155 with any questions or problems pertaining to animals. An important role of this department is to work closely with the public to educate on the laws, solve problems and offer advice on the care and concerns of pet ownership.

HIGHLIGHTS

A Door-to-Door Survey for unlicensed dogs was successfully completed for the fiscal year 2003 - 2004 as recommended by the State Agriculture Department. By completing this survey the Town of Ellington qualifies for an additional 10% of the license fee collected during the license year. In addition to identification and revenue, the dog license is a means of verifying compliance with the requirements for current rabies vaccinations, as the dog owner must present a copy of the pet's rabies certificate when obtaining a license. All dogs six months and over must be licensed each year during the month of June. The dog licenses are issued in the town clerk's office in the town hall. The Animal Control Officers are responsible for enforcing the dog licensing laws.

Our volunteer program continues to be very successful. This program offers the community an opportunity to assist in giving the homeless shelter pets a chance to find new homes. The volunteers help out by grooming, exercising and training the shelter animals and making them more adoptable as well as assisting with designing flyers to advertise the shelter pets in need of new homes. All volunteers must be at least 16 years old and have some experience with dog care.

Ellington Animal Control has a web page to view adoptable shelter pets. This site is located at www.ellingtonaco.petfinder.com or through petfinder.com search by zip code. This free website has greatly increased our ability to find our homeless pets new homes. The adoptable animals are spending less time in the shelter waiting to be adopted and many have been adopted from distant areas such as Tennessee, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Vermont and Rhode Island. The Internet has offered us greater exposure for

advertising these homeless pets for adoption.

The Connecticut Animal Population Control Program is once again in effect. This program is for any dog or cat adopted from a Connecticut municipal shelter and provides low-cost vaccination and sterilization. The Animal Population Control Program intends to reduce the overpopulation of unwanted dogs and cats and to also reduce the cost and burden to the towns coping with pet overpopulation. The fee for adopting a pet from a pound in Connecticut is \$50 that includes a voucher for vaccinations and sterilization.

A Rabies Clinic was held on June 19, 2004 at the Ellington Ambulance Building. The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association sponsored this clinic along with Ellington Animal Control. The Rabies Clinic is set up to offer low-cost rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs to protect pets from the deadly virus and also to help maintain a barrier between humans and possible rabid wildlife.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Complaints Investigated	913	833	882
Impounded pets			
redeemed by owners	81	65	57
Animals Adopted	73	48	66
Dogs/Cats Euthanized	9	12	9
Animal Bites	25	32	21
Dogs/Cats picked up Dead	15	10	8
Infractions/Summons Issued	12	28	16
Total Impounded Animals	168	136	134

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

It is the duty of the Department of Public Works to maintain, repair, clean, and remove snow from all public streets and ways; maintain and operate storm sewers and other drains; care for and maintain all town buildings other than those under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education; prepare or supervise the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction or reconstruction of streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, drains, public buildings and other structures and construct or supervise the construction of the same; to care for parks, grassed areas in streets and public grounds, including athletic fields under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education and the Parks and Recreation Commission; to plant and care for trees within the street line; to enforce ordinances imposing on owners of property obligations to construct and maintain sidewalks, curbs, gutters, storm sewers and drains; contract with the Water Pollution Control Authority for the maintenance of the facilities and grounds which come under the jurisdiction of the Water Pollution Control Authority.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Public Works Department has had another good year, with funds expended to get the most out of them. The men of the Public Works Department put in an all-out effort to accomplish the day-to-day demands put on the Department and still be able to accomplish other jobs over and above their daily duties.

NEW EQUIPMENT: The Public Works Dept. purchased no capital equipment.

ROAD WORK: The following streets were chipsealed this year: Cider Mill Road, East Cider Mill Road, Webster Road, Muddy Brook Road, Middle Road, Jobs Hill Road, Kibbe Road, Porter Road, Hopkins Road, Crane Road, Frog Hollow Road, Broad Brook Road, Tripp Road, Abbott Road, Reeves Road, Kreyssig Road and Windermere Avenue. Griswold Road was paved.

BUILDING PROJECTS: This year's building projects consisted of the renovation of Town Hall vault. This renovation resulted in the tripling of storage space.

SNOW REMOVAL: The crews went out 20 times for sanding, salting or plowing. We purchased 1,573 tons of salt, 2,978 yards of sand, and 19,014 gallons of Liquid Calcium Chloride.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING: We had another very successful Household Hazardous Waste Day on September 29, 2003. 411 cars, which is equivalent to 377 households, dropped off hazardous waste on this day. This is equal to 11.9% of our residents who took advantage of this program. Ellington is one of the top towns for overall usage of this program since 1996. Over the last 12 months and including the September collection day, residents dropped off 4,000 gallons on waste oil. Ellington is the only town that accepts latex paint from its residents at the hazardous waste collection. We picked up 574 Christmas trees in January.

The following items can now be dropped off at the Town Garage at 21 Main Street: batteries, propane tanks, computer components, fluorescent light bulbs, waste oil, filters and antifreeze. These items must be dropped off during the hours of 7 am - 3:30 pm or may be brought on Household Hazardous Waste day.

During this fiscal year, Waste Management purchased Tobacco Valley Sanitation. We have been in transition period with them and they have assured us that they will work to accommodate us to resolve all service related problems.

ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

1. Continued commitment of the four-year road-resurfacing program.
2. Continued equipment replacement as per Capital Improvements Program.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

The objective of the Public Safety Commission is to maintain an advisory role with the Board of Selectmen and all branches of the town's Public Safety to ensure a high level of safety. The Commission also acts as a liaison to town residents to help direct any complaints, suggestions, etc. to the proper authorities that concern Public Safety issues. The past year has seen the Commission attempt to recommend safety changes in the areas of Town Hall Employee Identification, School Security, Routes 83/140, Fire Hydrants and to help address the increasing needs of emergency services. The Public Safety Commission is comprised of dedicated members who bring forth a collective wealth of knowledge and expertise in the areas of law enforcement and emergency services.

HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Hall Memorial Library serves as the principal public library for the Town of Ellington, providing free and equal access to a variety of materials and programs for all residents. The library plays an active role in the community as a popular materials library, a preschoolers' door to learning, a formal education support center and a community reference source.

SERVICES

The Hall Memorial Library provides the residents of Ellington with materials and opportunities for entertainment and education. The collection consists of items in several formats, including books, periodicals, records, audiotapes, videotapes, compact discs, DVDs, online reference materials, and equipment such as tape players and Polaroid cameras. These materials are categorized into the adult circulating collection, young adult circulating collection, juvenile circulating collection, and Reference non-circulating collection. Also available are computers for word processing and access to the Internet. The friendly, well-trained staff is available to help find information, answer questions, and recommend reading materials using this collection.

The library also provides a variety of programs for both adults and children. Storyhour sessions are run by the Children's Librarian for children from 9 months to 2 1/2 years old, 2 1/2 year-olds, and 3-5 year-olds. Seasonal events for children include the annual summer reading program, movies, craft workshops, and various entertaining and educational speakers and performers. Young adults may participate in book discussions, contests, and their own summer reading program. For adults, there are book discussion series, craft programs, concerts, and speakers on a range of topics, both informative and entertaining.

For those patrons who aren't able to come to the Library, two outreach services are provided. At Snipsic Village, the senior housing complex, a rotating collection of library books is made available on a monthly basis. And, in conjunction with the Friends of the Library, the Library runs a "carry-van service" to deliver materials to home-bound patrons.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Hall Memorial Library experienced another busy year, serving 94,585 patrons, circulating 124,335 items and answering 3,816 reference questions. Programs included summer reading programs for school-aged children and young adults; the holiday ornament workshop; the ever-popular story hour sessions for preschoolers, concerts and family programs funded by the Cultural Arts Commission, including an afternoon of story telling as part of the international storytelling festival; an evening of poetry readings; the second installment of our own rendition of selections from *The Spoon River Anthology*; several art exhibits by local artists, including students from Ellington High School; and a wonderful exhibit of model planes by the North Central Radio Control Club in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers.

Services to young adults were expanded this year, with the addition of a summer reading program, an ever-changing interactive display area, and several contests and programs.

These services are designed to encourage pleasure reading and continued library use by middle-school-aged patrons. The circulation of materials from the young adult area doubled by the end of the fiscal year.

The highlight of 2003 was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Hall Memorial Library building. The building was built by Francis Hall, as a gift to the town, in memory of his father Judge John Hall and his brother Edward Hall, prominent educators of the 19th century, and dedicated on November 11, 1903. Mr. Hall was an Ellington native who moved to Elmira, New York and became an international businessman and community leader. A gala open house was held on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9, 2003. Events included historical displays throughout the library, family activities and crafts from the turn of the century, musical entertainment, speeches by local and state dignitaries, and refreshments reminiscent of those that would have been served in 1903. The staff got into the spirit of the day by dressing in period costume. To permanently mark the anniversary, the Library Board of Directors placed a handcrafted armillary at the entrance of the library.

All in all, the library has been busy, inside and out, once again illustrating it's importance in the lives of the citizens of Ellington.

CIRCULATION

Adult Books and Periodicals.....	47,373
Young Adult Books and Periodicals	3,172
Children's Books and Periodicals	35,330
Audiovisual and Miscellaneous Materials	<u>42,378</u>
TOTAL	129,335

COLLECTION

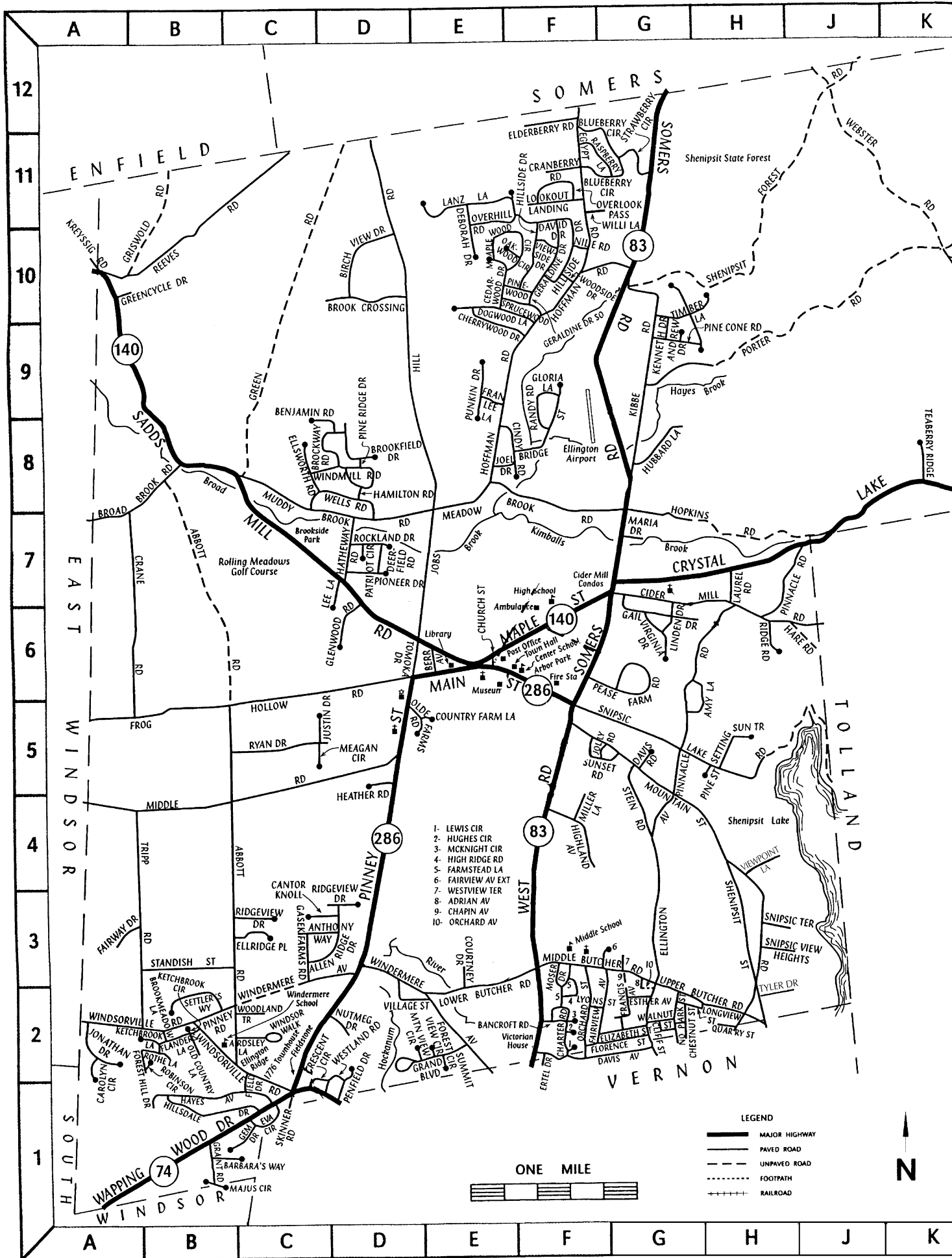
Adult Books and Periodicals.....	36,686
Young Adult Books and Periodicals	1,799
Children's Books and Periodicals.....	14,434
Audiovisual and Miscellaneous Materials	<u>6,787</u>
TOTAL	59,706

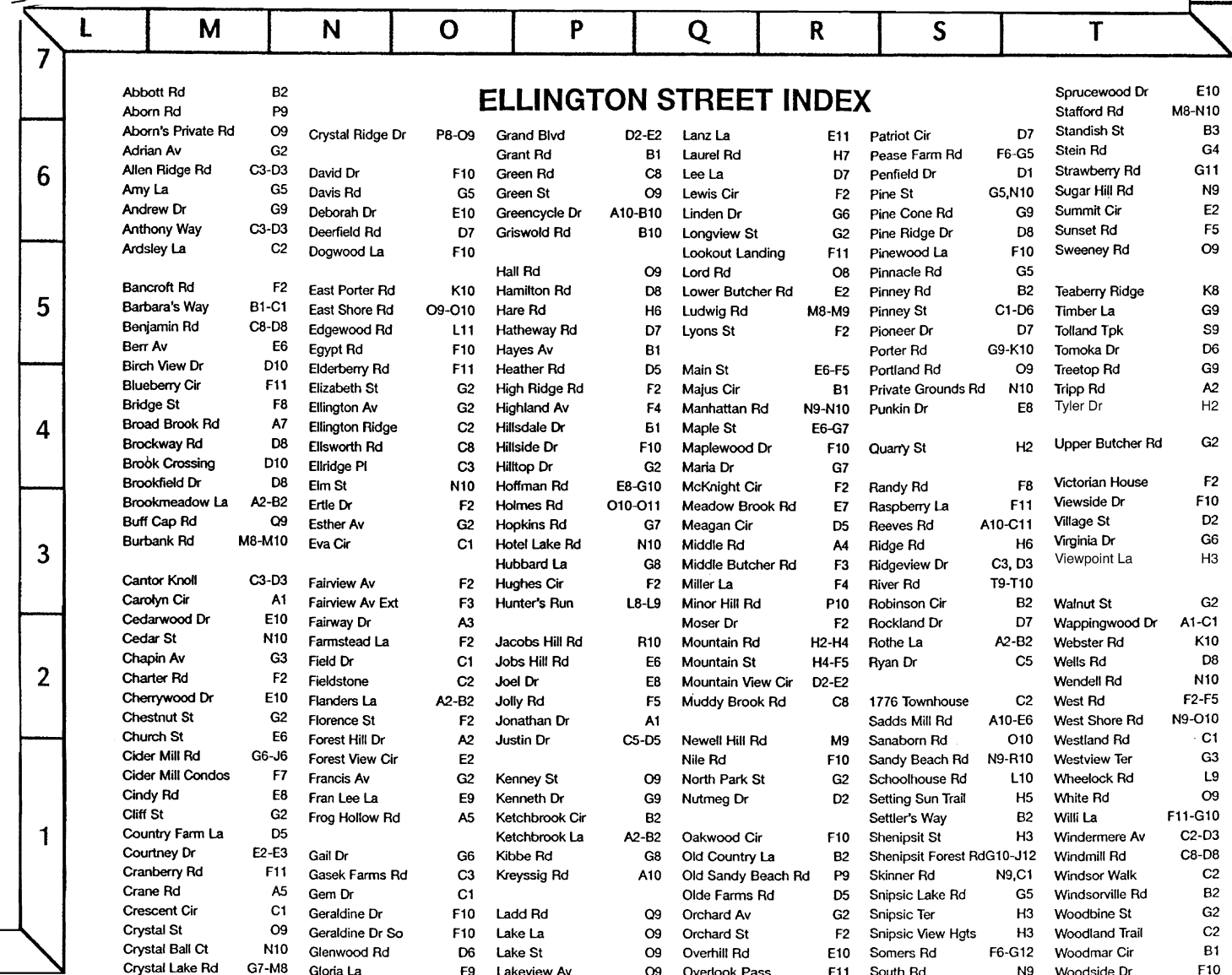
REGISTERED BORROWERS

Adults	6,220
Young Adults	582
Children	<u>1,576</u>
TOTAL	7,378



Hall Memorial Library





Information Guide

AREA

Ellington is located 16 miles, northeast of Hartford with 34.8 square miles of area.

ALTITUDE

The altitude ranges from 200 feet to 950 feet above sea level. Most of the town is approximately 450 feet above sea level.

CLIMATE

The average temperatures in the town are 74 degrees during the summer months and 25 degrees during the winter months. Wind directions are south to southwest in the summer, and north to west in the winter.

POPULATION

The population of the town has remained moderately stable over the past ten years. As of 2001, the population was approximately 13,248.

GOVERNMENT

The Town has a Selectman form of government, which operates under a charter adopted in 1975. The Town Meeting serves as the legislative arm of the government. The Board of Finance recommends the annual budget to the Town Meeting for approval and sets the tax rate.

STREETS

The Town has 87.34 miles of municipally maintained roads. The State of Connecticut maintains 24.62 miles of state roads which intersect the town. These are Routes 140, 286, 83, 30, 32 and 74.

TAXES

The Town currently has a tax rate of 32.7 mills applied to the 2001 Grand List at 70% of Fair Market Value of property. A townwide revaluation of real estate and personal property was completed in 2000.

SEWERS

The Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority manages three major sewer systems: Longview, Hockanum River and Crystal Lake. Approximately 90% of the commercially zoned land has direct access to the sewer system. Windermere Industrial Park has either direct or reasonable access to the sewer system.

WATER

The Town is serviced by two water companies which have the capacity of accommodating approximately 70% of the commercial and industrial zoned land. Shenipsit Lake is the largest local water source which spans the borders of two adjoining towns. Crystal Lake is located in Ellington and stretches over an area of 175 acres. The Hockanum River runs north-south and is located in the southern part of town.

SCHOOLS

The Ellington school system includes five schools which provide public education for grade levels kindergarten through 12th grade inclusive. Total enrollment as of February 2004 is 2,400 students. Within a 20-mile radius the Town has access to the University of Connecticut, Manchester Community Technical College, Eastern Connecticut State College, Trinity College and Asnuntuck Community Technical College.

INCOME

The Mean income per household was \$62,414 as of the 2000 Census.

HOUSING

As of the 2000 Census, the Town of Ellington had 5,285 housing units, including 365 condominiums. There are 11 apartment complexes (846 dwelling units), one of which provides subsidized housing.

AIRPORT

The Town has a privately-owned airport that is centrally located to provide air carrier service to both New York and Boston. The airport can accommodate both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

RECREATION

The Town provides beach facilities at Crystal Lake during the summer months. The State of Connecticut maintains a public boat launch at Crystal Lake. The Town maintains sports facilities at each school, Brookside Park and the High School Athletic Field, providing manicured playing fields. In 2004, a new playscape was constructed for elementary children at Center School. Brookside Park Pavilion was completed in 1991. The building, equipped with restrooms and a concession stand, is available to local groups by obtaining a permit from the Parks and Recreation Office. Arbor Park, located on Main Street, contains a walking course and 2 gazebos, picnic tables, and Sunday evening concerts sponsored by the Cultural Arts Commission.

LOCAL BUSINESS

The Ellington business community is currently a blend of agriculture and small commercial and industrial enterprises. The dairy industry has long been the major producer of goods, but Ellington also provides products in the fields of packaging, pharmaceuticals, sporting goods, automobiles, industrial designs and printing.

SENIOR CENTER

The Ellington Senior Center is located in the Center Plaza, 16 Church Street. The hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Parks and Recreation Commission and recreation staff continues to make a concentrated effort to provide a cross-section of quality programming on a year-round basis. An earnest effort has been made to create and offer programs, both on a passive and non-passive basis, for all age groups within the community.

Programs are provided on a cost-affordable basis with financial assistance (scholarships) available to individuals/families based on income guidelines.

The recreation department office is located at 31 Arbor Way (located in Arbor Park, next to the Ellington Center Fire Department). The office phone number is 870-3118, and the fax number is 870-3198. A voice mail system is available. The Sandy Beach pay phone number is 875-9520, and the Brookside Park pay phone number is 871-9856. Normal business hours are Monday 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 - 4:00 pm, and Friday 8:30 - 1:30 pm. Our general email address is: recreation@ellington-ct.gov. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, either via a phone call to a staff member, fax, email or written form.

STAFFING

The recreation department is staffed with two full-time recreation professionals and an administrative assistant who also works with Human Services. The department offers contractual employment to individuals possessing specific skills: officials, special skill instructors, lifeguards, day camp counselors, program supervisors. Applications may be obtained at the recreation office during normal business hours.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Those who volunteer are a vital component of the department. We are always indebted to those who have the time, talent, and ability in providing assistance with coaching, transportation, and encouragement.

The Recreation Department makes every attempt to review and process each coaching application, requiring a potential volunteer to complete a volunteer disclosure form in addition to providing references. In addition to the National Youth Sports Coaches Association certification program, which is a requirement, the department has formulated a non-certified coaching seminar that stresses the current aspects of coaching today's youth. A program of this nature has the ability to encourage interested individuals to step forward and become part of the program and become more comfortable in their role. The department does provide technical assistance to all sports coaches as well as certification for all town athletic officials: ASA (softball), IAABO (basketball), and USSF (soccer).

PROGRAMS

Some programs stay the same...some come, some go. We strive to improve the old programs and are always on the lookout for the new.

The department has had the opportunity to provide outdoor programs at Brookside Park, Sandy Beach (Crystal Lake), and all public school outdoor and indoor sites. As the community continues to grow in population, the need for diversified programming becomes more necessary.

Classes/programs include but are not limited to: youth and adult athletic team sports, special skills classes, health classes, and special events.

Considerable time and effort goes into organizing the summer offerings, including the town's spacious Sandy Beach and the summer day camp for children ages 4 to 12. This year we were able to expand the summer day camp to include the hours of 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Residents had made a request for longer hours as well as have the availability of "drop in" times. We managed to provide both!

COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Recreation Department offers a three tier format: travel teams, recreational teams, and instructional leagues. The approach of the Recreation Commission staff is that everyone should be encouraged to compete in the athletic arena regardless of age or ability. We advertise this through implementing athletic programming for ages 4 through adult. Competition can be healthy if kept in check! The Recreation Commission staff is very proud that coaches, players and spectators in general are well versed in their roles regarding their sport and promoting good sportsmanship.

To become eligible for selection to a travel team a player must attend a minimum of two evaluation clinics, based on evaluations submitted by the head coach and an independent evaluator. Travel teams compete versus surrounding communities while the recreation division teams participate in an in-house program only.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Parks and Recreation Commission provides policy and sub-committee support to the recreation department staff on a year-round basis. The nine resident members come from varied professional backgrounds and help to determine the pulse of the community.

We are looking forward to the future. The need for an approved, long-term athletic field plan is being worked on by several departments/commissions. The goal is to upgrade our current facilities to keep them safe and useable, while maintaining use rotation so as to not damage what we have. If these goals are not achieved, we very well could end up with maintenance issues and a financial dilemma.

All residents are encouraged to attend commission meetings or seek updated information from us which is being updated as this report is being submitted.

The past two winters (November through March of 2003 and 2004) have been extremely difficult in regard to scheduling available gymnasium space for all programs, including middle and high school athletic teams. The recreation staff would like to thank the parents, participants, coaches and school officials for their understanding during the start up and completion of one of the largest school building renovations ever undertaken by the Town of Ellington.

The Recreation Department has had the good fortune over the past two years to publish our seasonal program outlines within the context of the Ellington Connection which usually comes through the mail to every residential and business address within the community.

The Town of Ellington is currently in the process of creating a website. The Recreation Department is very much anticipating the new outlet for the publication of our programs and services for the community. Our goal is to be able to furnish answers to frequently asked questions as well as to continually update programming information. This will assist us in answering questions at the public's fingertips and giving our staff more time to be working on projects to better serve the community.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES: TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Summer Day Camp (7 week program)	190	222	48 (avg./day)
Beach Passes	290	248	197
Swim Lessons	248	319	316
Open Swim	67 days	67 days	64 days
Boys Basketball	280	229	253
Girl's Basketball	178	177	200
Men's Basketball	140	110	125
Summer Basketball	50	30	35
Instructional Basketball	125	175	189

Men's Volleyball	40	20	15
Co-Ed Volleyball	50	25	25
Women's Volleyball	30	30	21
Girls Softball	145	140	117
Instructional T-Ball	165	154	143
Women's Softball	15	18	17
Men's Softball	25	20	20
Junior Soccer	755	680	639
Indoor Soccer	70	63	68
Letters to Santa	80	60	79
Tennis Lessons/Camp	70	65	73
Sports Coaches Clinics	65	70	57
Senior Citizens Exercise	25	15	17
Mini Programs	700	900	1,145
Women's Basketball	10	10	13
Basketball Camps	45	48	73
Red Cross Courses	80	100	110
Integrative Programs	100	55	50
Teen Activities	95	150	130
Track & Field	95	94	110
Adult Fitness	35	25	48
Yoga	45	55	30
Jukido		30	33
Little League Baseball		325	325
Football League		125	125
Lacrosse		30	20
Soccer Camps		65	73



HIGHLIGHTS

- Support for Simsbury Light Opera program at the Senior Center.
- Three concerts for children at Hall Memorial Library. Ballybeags concert at the library in March.
- The commission for an arrangement of traditional New England dance tunes for high school band by Vernon musician, Bill Walach was delayed due to construction at the high school. The performance premiere is tentatively set for fall, 2004 at Ellington High School.

The summer series provided a wide variety of musical styles:

- Junior Holt (Reggae/Calypso)
- Tirebiter (Rock)
- Dennis Polisky & the Maestro's Men (Polka)
- PV O'Donnell & Friends (Irish Music & Dance)
- Steppin' Out (Dance Band)
- Little Big Band (Big Band Music)
- Berkshire Samba Group (Latin/Salsa)
- The Al Meixner Trio (German Band)



Over 2700 people attended the summer concerts in 2004. All the concerts were held outdoors this year. Average attendance was nearly 350 for each night.

We would like to thank the following for donations to Ellington Cultural Arts:

- Ellington Junior Women's Club
- 2004 Concertgoers, who donated \$1,308 to be used for next summer's concerts.

We would also like to thank our business sponsors:

- Sole Sponsor- Junior Holt Concert, NewAlliance Bank
- Friend: New World Classics
- Patron Sponsors: Bolles Motors, Inc., Campbell-Keune Realty, NewAlliance Bank

Money received from donations and sponsorships help pay for the summer concerts and allows us to fund additional programs and projects throughout the year. For information on how to become a concert sponsor contact Paul Recker at 614-9506 or at ECAC, P.O. Box 208, Ellington, CT 06029.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Cultural Arts Commission is a nine member appointed body. The Commission normally meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The Cultural Arts Commission is charged with facilitating and encouraging cultural activities in the community. The Commission accomplishes these goals through planning and developing a series of culturally diverse programs and activities, which it makes available to the community. Examples of these activities are:

- Summer Concert Series: Sunday evening concerts through July and August in Arbor Park. Rain location, Ellington Center School.
- Performances and workshops for children produced in cooperation with Hall Memorial Library.
- Concerts and other programs throughout the year.



Cultural Arts Commission:

Standing left to right: Denise Archibald, Patricia Wassey-Stoughton, Dr. Julius P. Williams, Pamela Amodio, Ellen Karadimas

Seated left to right: Ronald Small, Paul Recker, Jeanne Gessay

Social Services

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The principal function of the Human Services Commission is to identify and provide programs that meet the social services needs of the community. The Commission strives to provide programs and services that will improve the quality of life for all residents.

PROGRAMS

The Human Services Commission monitors the social service, health care, and transportation needs of the community. It reviews funding requests from various service providers to determine the most cost effective way to provide the best possible services. Residents are provided direct service or referred to community-based programs. Listed below is a summary of programs and services available.

DIRECT SERVICES

BENEFIT COUNSELING: Assistance provided to individuals and families in applying for state and federal programs. Staff will advise applicants of the appropriate program and its guidelines. Programs include Social Security Benefits, Title XIX, Food Stamps, Veterans Benefits, ConnPACE, Renters Rebate, and the HUSKY program.

DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM FUNDS: Limited funds are available to assist residents with non-recurring emergency needs. Households must meet certain income guidelines. Maximum benefit: \$300 per calendar year. Funds are used to provide rental assistance, heating and utility cost, and prescriptions.

FOOD BANK: Non-perishable food items and food vouchers are available to individuals and families in need. Referral and assistance is available to apply for WIC and Food Stamps. Participants are required to register and provide income verification.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: These programs assist eligible households to pay their winter heating bills. Households must meet income guidelines based on the Federal Poverty Level. This program annually accepts applications from October through March. Limited financial assistance is available from the Tri-Town Fuel Bank and Operation Fuel. Similar eligibility guidelines apply.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING: Holiday food baskets and toys are collected and distributed to individuals and families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Households must meet Federal Poverty Level guidelines. Individuals, churches, and community groups participate in an adopt-a-family program for the holidays.

HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM: Funds are available to make no interest loans for the rehabilitation of residential properties. Funds for the program come from a Small Cities Grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development. To be eligible, low and moderate-income residents must live in the housing units. Landlords owning buildings in Ellington with up to seven units whose tenants meet the income guidelines are eligible for assistance. Typical repair work addresses building code and serious maintenance problems. These no-interest loans do not have to be repaid as long as the applicant lives in the home. When the home is sold in the future the loan must be repaid to the Town. Community Opportunities Group (COG) manages this program for the Town.

SALVATION ARMY: Funds are available through the Salvation Army Service Unit to meet emergency and supplemental needs of individuals and families. Funds are used to provide food, clothing vouchers, rental / mortgage assistance, heating and utility costs, and prescription costs. The Salvation Army offers a week of fun-filled activities and swimming for children ages 7 to 11 at Camp Connri in Ashford, CT. A teen camp is also available for youth 12 and 13 years of age. Applications can be obtained from Human Services. Boots N' Shoes is a back to school program that provides shoes and boots to school age children from a national retail store. Parents/guardians are given gift cards to purchase shoes.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES: Health care services are provided by local agencies. Home health care is available through the Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut. VNHSC offers a comprehensive range of in-home health services. Services are available on a fee for service basis. Programs promoting good health, public education, and community awareness of early prevention and detection of diseases are sponsored by the home health care agency and the North Central District Health Department.

COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY: Counseling is available for individuals and families through local mental health providers in the area. In times of crisis or stress there are 24-hour hot lines available to the caller. Limited counseling for youth is available through Ellington Youth Services Bureau.

TRANSPORTATION: Dial-A-Ride service is available to elderly and disabled residents for employment, medical appointments, and local recreation and socialization within Tolland, Vernon, and Ellington. Vans are wheel-chair accessible. Advance reservation is required. For rides outside of the Tri-Town area, ADA Transit service is available. Rides are available Monday through Friday from Hockanum Valley Community Council's Transit Program.

HIGHLIGHTS

The summary of services reflect the increase request for basic needs assistance: housing, heating costs and food. Down turns in the national economy, high cost of rental housing in Connecticut, climatic changes that affected food prices all had a ripple effect at the local level. We were able to respond to these needs with increased donations from the community for our discretionary fund and the food bank.

The community also rallied to support our third annual Ellington Earth Day Clean-Up. 75 participants registered for this event including the Ellington Fire Department. Some residents picked up trash on the sides of town roads and streets; while others planted flowers to beautify the neighborhood. Earth Day Coordinator, Donna M. Sullivan applied for and received a \$500.00 grant from a national retail chain store to purchase supplies for the day. Local businesses also donated refreshments, supplies, and prizes.

The year ended on a very positive note as the Human Services Commission undertook the task of requesting proposals to create a Needs Assessment for Senior Housing and Social Services.

The Human Services Commission will continue to respond to the needs of the community to seek out more affordable housing for the elderly, enhance social services programming for families, elderly, and youth. We are striving to identify and provide the programs and services that will improve the community's quality of life.

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and donors who support and participate in our programs.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES:

APPLICATIONS	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Tri-Town Fuel Bank	49	19	27
Operation Fuel	8	3	1
ACCESS Fuel Program	118	114	125
Salvation Army Vouchers	14	7	3
Salvation Army Boots N Shoes	29	35	40
Salvation Army Camp Connri	0	0	6
Thanksgiving	43	41	41
Christmas	38	50	46
Renters' Rebate	53	69	73
AARP Tax Program	63	59	68
Discretionary: Utility/Housing	42	42	41
Food Pantry	31	33	42
Notary Services	-	28	38

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The North Central District Health Department provides Ellington with full-time health department services and is on call seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day for emergencies.

The Department is governed by a Board of Directors (Board of Health) in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut. John Golon and Donald Weeks serve as Ellington's representatives to the Board. The Health Department is staffed by a Director of Public Health, a Chief of Environmental Services (both registered sanitarians), a part-time Health Educator, seven sanitarians, a full time public health bioterrorism response coordinator (funded by federal grant), and a support staff of two full time and two part time clerical workers. The Department has a Medical Advisor and contracts for bookkeeping, auditing and legal services.

THE PRIMARY MISSION

The primary mission of the NCDHD is disease prevention and surveillance and health promotion in the district's population. The District is responsible for programs in a number of areas including:

- Preventing epidemics and outbreaks of diseases; undertaking epidemiological investigations, follow-up and working to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and the like.
- Assisting private physicians in obtaining free vaccine from the state for childhood immunizations.
- Inspection of restaurants, other food service establishments and facilities and the epidemiological investigations follow-up and prevention of the spread of food borne diseases.
- Safety inspections of schools, convalescent homes and other institutions.
- Water quality testing of bathing areas.
- Review, testing and approval of new septic systems, as well as the review and approval of plans for system repairs and/or expansion.
- Provision of laboratory testing of drinking water, paint samples for lead, blood, stool and other samples such as insects and birds as may be necessary in the investigation of outbreaks and illnesses.
- Investigation of complaints in regard to public health hazards, nuisances, rodent or insect control.
- The provision and support of health education and prevention programs.
- Monitoring the health status of the population.
- Assistance to the Department of Environmental Protection upon request for help in collection of samples or for follow-up or investigation of specific problems.
- Development and implementation (if ever needed) of Regional Post-Exposure Smallpox Mass Vaccination Plan, as well as a regional bioterrorism plan to immunize or in other ways protect the population of the District from a bioterrorism event or outbreak.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Director of Public Health this past year continued to work on emergency preparedness, credentializing town employees and training volunteers as vaccinators and support personnel. This is in addition to the Director's regular duties.

The 2003-2004 year saw Ellington again as one of the most active towns in the District in the area of new construction of single family homes with septic systems and/or wells.

There was a slight decrease in the number of new septic permits issued. However, the number of applications for new lots to be tested increased over last year and more plans for septic system and wells were submitted for review—a sign of future potential house sites.

New subdivisions to be serviced by septic systems that are in preliminary stages of planning or construction include Grant Road - 9 lots; Eagle Estates, Tripp Road - 7 lots; Ladd Road - 7 lots; Overhill Road - 3 lots; Angel Trace, Crystal Lake Road - 25 lots; Rye Hill, Crane Road - 16 lots; Benjamin Drive Ext. - 20 lots; Pinney Street - 10 lots. Also, there were a number of smaller two or three lots subdivisions.

Crystal Lake and the town beach are tested frequently by our department and continue to have generally good water quality for swimming.

You can now view the latest information on health education, West Nile virus and other important issues as well as print application forms for permits from our web site at www.NCDHD.org.

The Director of Public Health reviewed all reportable cases of disease received from physicians and laboratories and where warranted performed follow-up in the interest of stopping the spread of communicable disease.

We continue to see a number of cases of Lyme Disease. In addition, we continue surveillance and testing of birds and particularly the crow population related to West Nile Virus.

We are now working with the State Department of Public Health, the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health organization and first responders in the area of bioterrorism. A grant from CDC has allowed us to hire a full time public health bioterrorism response coordinator to provide deliverables to the state and federal government and work with the director on mass clinic development and preparedness issues.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The following inspections and investigations are listed. It should be noted that raw numbers are no indication of time spent or the relative complexity of inspections, therefore a comparison is only possible in the most general sense.

	2002-2003	2003-2004
Soil Tests (Total)	92	153
New	75	137
Repair	17	16
Septic Permits		
New	27	18
Repair	17	22
Septic Inspections	149	172
Well Permits	33	37
Additions Reviews (on well/septic)	172	191
Plans Reviewed		
Subdivisions (Total Lots)	30	57
New Plot Plans	51	63
Repairs	18	23
Wells Only	14	42
Well Water Test Reviews	26	26
Permits to Discharge	30	26
Food Licenses Issued	31	34
Temporary Food Permits	25	22
Food Service Inspections	87	50
Plans Reviewed for Food	5	1
Food Orders Issued	4	3
Complaints (Total)	19	30
Garbage & Refuse	2	8
Housing	7	8
Rodents & Insects	1	7
Sewage Overflow	5	3
Water Quality	-	-
Food Complaints	1	1
Miscellaneous	3	3
Complaint Orders Sent	4	4

HOCKANUM VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL, INC.

Each year the work of both the staff and the Board of Directors of Hockanum Valley Community Council, Inc., (HVCC) is more effective because of their hard effort and loyal support to our communities. As we reflect upon some of what the Board accomplished in the recently concluded fiscal year, we share a deep appreciation for the staff dedication and the volunteer spirit of all who continue to ensure that the agency remains a vital force in our communities, carrying out our mission to our clients.

Firstly, the Board hired several new employees to expand the Pantry, Counseling and Elder Care programs. HVCC has been getting its presence out in the communities and had a very successful fund/friend raiser event on February 29, 2004. Very appropriately, the spotlight shines upon the following programs themselves, upon the deserving people who are benefited by them, and upon the community need that is fulfilled.

Our dial-a-ride program provides service to the following towns: East Hartford, Ellington, Manchester, Tolland and Vernon. Dial-a-Ride logged in an average month 2,500 trips to provide the necessary medical, shopping and other related personal business that our clients required but had no way of getting there.

Our thrift store, Good Cents, is open Monday through Saturday, and has evening hours on Wednesday and Thursday.

Elder Care serves approximately 225 individuals, where 50% of them are over the age of 80 and who live independently.

The Tri-Town Pantry is one busy place. On an average month, we serve approximately 859 families representing 2548 individuals.

The Counseling Department of HVCC saw in a typical month approximately 600-750 clients. This number keeps growing as the pressures in our daily lives keep mounting. To meet this need we welcomed four interns from area colleges, one of which was hired in May of 2004.

Hopefully, success in the steps that we have taken this year will serve as a guide for even better things to come for HVCC. On behalf of the Board and staff, let me thank everyone who supported our causes this past year. I encourage others to come join us in volunteering to see that the mission of HVCC is accomplished as we go forward.

As always, I extend my gratitude to our financial supporters; United Way of the Capital Area, DCF, The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, HealthWise, NCAAA, and Greater Hartford Transit District, the towns of East Hartford, Ellington, Manchester, Tolland and Vernon. I truly would be remiss if I didn't thank our local supporters, which include local businesses, individuals, religious organizations, charitable foundations and social service organizations. Without everyone's financial help, we could not exist.

VISITING NURSE & HEALTH SERVICES OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut, Inc. offers Home Health, Hospice and Wellness Services to residents of twenty-five communities in Eastern and North Central Connecticut. VNHSC is part of the continuum of care that communities depend on to provide services to their elderly, frail and disabled residents.

AGENCY SERVICES

I. HOME HEALTH

Skilled Nursing Care
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy
Medical Social Work
Home Health Aide
Homemaker
Companion
Choreperson

II. MEDICARE CERTIFIED HOSPICE

Routine Hospice Home Care
Inpatient Hospice Care
Respite Hospice Care
Continuous Hospice Care

III. SPECIALTY SERVICES

Bereavement Support Groups
Cardiac Rehabilitation
Diabetic Nursing
Enterostomal Therapist
HIV/AIDS Program
Nutritional Counseling
Palliative Care
Pastoral Care
Psychiatric Nursing
Rehabilitative Nursing
In-Home Tele-Health

IV. WELLNESS SERVICES

Adult Day Center
Alzheimer's Support Groups
Corporate Wellness
Elder Wellness
Flu Immunization
LifeLine Partnership with ECHN
Meals-On-Wheels
Stroke Support Groups

V. ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES AGENCY

SERVICES PROVIDED

HOME HEALTH CARE	VISITS
Skilled Nursing	3,354
Physical Therapy	601
Occupational Therapy	92
Speech Therapy	22
Medical Social Work	75
Home Health Aide	2,488
Homemaker/Companion	504
Hospice Chaplin	15
	7,151

HOSPICE	302 days
ADULT DAY CARE	659 days
MEALS-ON-WHEELS	2,487 (2 meal packets)
ELDER WELLNESS PROGRAMS	184 (participants)
FLU VACCINE PROGRAM	241 (participants)

TRI-TOWN SHELTER SERVICES

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

Our mission is to provide safe and secure temporary housing, address the contributing factors resulting in homelessness, offer compassionate and competent case management, and to ensure a smooth reentry into the community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Tri-Town Shelter Services temporarily houses fifteen residents, either families or adults and is staffed twenty-four hours a day. Given our 15 bed capacity x 364 days in a fiscal year, we can provide shelter for a total of 5,460 evenings. During the past year we provided housing for 264 adults, plus 39 children, making 303 clients served.

According to the CT Coalition to End Homelessness, 33,000 people in CT experience homelessness in a 12 month period; 13,000 of these are children and this equates to 20,000 households in need of housing over the course of a year. Their most recent publication (Spring 2004) entitled, A Social Barometer for CT, states that "Over the past five years the number of housing related requests handled by 2-1-1 Specialists increased by 120%, compared with the overall number of service requests which increased by 53%. During the same time period the number of calls from homeless individuals increased by an astounding 357%. This trend, along with the factors contributing to homelessness, further widens the gap between supply and demand. Locally, we are here to serve the undesirable plight of those who have become overcome by "life's curves." It is our pleasure, along with those in partnership with us, to come along side those less fortunate and to empower and equip them to regain their self-esteem and to regain responsible control over their own lives.

Since being in our newly acquired and remodeled facility we have been able to transition from an emergency shelter to a working shelter. While there is a place for emergency shelters, we want to provide more than just a safe and serene place to sleep. During the intake process the contributing factors resulting in a person being homeless are identified and addressed through intentional case management and effective collaboration with other providers. Residents meet weekly with the Service Coordinator to ensure that they are complying with the rules and regulations of the shelter as well as ensure compliance to their Service Plans. By addressing these contributing factors and adopting an empowerment and equipping model, we decrease recidivism.

PROGRAMS

Since this spring we have been laying the groundwork for three new programs. Along with providing temporary housing, we have a multi-function room from which we run a Computer Lab, Life-Skills Lab and Learning Lab. Each of these programs is intended to promote personal awareness and growth, as well as skills development and a healthier work ethic.

In recognition that our residents have not had positive role models at critical times in their lives, we have designed a Mentoring Program. Members of the Board, staff and community volunteers have recently completed a two-day, in-service sponsored by the Governor's Office of Prevention. Our target date for matching mentors with residents is this fall. As you think of your own life, picture those people who have come along side you during difficult times and have left an impact. Healthy models and intentional mentoring are vital elements for optimal personal growth and productivity.

In light of launching these new programs, our success depends on maintaining relationships with community businesses, agencies and individuals. In an effort to grow partnerships and nurture existing relationships with our funding sources, we intend to become more active and visible members of the Tolland Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you for your continued financial support and on a more personal note, I would be delighted to give your readers a tour of our new facility. Given our program expansion, your growing financial

contribution is welcomed. On behalf of the staff and program participants, thank you for your partnership. In light of the ever changing economic and employment landscape, we recognize that many of us are only a paycheck away from being residents of a shelter ourselves. Consequently our service will be characterized by grace, humility, empathy and supportive care.

YOUTH SERVICES

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

Youth Services provides youth programs that strengthen and develop essential life skills. Youth Services is here to support and assist children birth to 18 years old through the many life transitions of growing up. Part of youth services mission is creating a positive link between families, school and community.

SERVICES

Counseling: A family therapist is employed by the town to provide sliding fee scale counseling services to the youth (under the age of 18) and their families. Referrals and advocacy are also provided. All services are confidential and evening hours available by appointment. Through out the year, 17 children and families were provided this service

Querks: A six week in-school program for kindergarteners and 1st graders which teaches the students social skills and self-esteem. This program was provided to Center and Crystal Lake Schools.

Groups: In a partnership with Windermere School, Youth Services co-led discussion groups on topics of grief and divorce working with 16 5th and 6th grade students. Also an after-school group called In-Between ran with 11 pre-teen girls discussing issues of relationships, body images, parents and friendships.

ROPE: A total of 56 6th grade students participated in Right of Passage Experience, a 10 session after-school community initiative which guides the students in developing decision making and leadership skills. For facilitators we had a total of 11 high school students and adults.

Journey: An after-school program for 6th grade students that teaches responsibility, respect for self, others and surroundings. Meditations and lifesaving techniques are also taught to the students. A total of 22 students experienced this new program.

Homework Club: A tutoring program for 5th and 6th graders was created this year. We had 11 high school volunteer tutors and 14 5th and 6th grade students once week for the 10 weeks.

Safety Zone: In collaboration with Recreation Department and Board of Education a total of 74 5th and 6th grade students participated in this 5 week after-school program. These students are given opportunity to experience a wide range of activities.

Munchkins: In partnership with Recreation Department a two day a week pre-school program was created and total 12 children participated in the program.

Ice Cream Social: As part of Middle school end of the year celebrations Youth Services served ice cream sundaes to 402 7th and 8th graders.

Beach Blast: Good Weather was on our side this year so we held a beach party at Crystal Lake for 5th and 6th grade students. We had 150 students come to the beach for swimming, music and food.

Middle School Movie Night: Youth Services held our first movie night at the Middle School. We had 38 students attend the event.

Assemblies – Youth Services sponsored two assemblies, one at Middle School and other at Windermere Intermediate School. The assemblies were done by Pulse Integrations with themes of diversity and respect.

Community Activities: In August 2004, 1st annual Community Picnic was held at Brookside Park, 110 adults and children came out for music, games and BBQ. With the help of 15 high school volunteers the 2nd annual Halloween Party was a success. We had about 100 2nd graders and younger come out for a night of trick and

treating, games and crafts. Bike Safety Day held at the Recreation Summer Camp gave out 66 free bike helmets to the campers. Youth Services and Recreation Department held two holiday ornament workshop and a total of 73 children participated in the event.

If you are interested in any of the programs or volunteering please call Youth Services at 870-3130.

ELDERLY OUTREACH

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Elderly Outreach worker serves as a link between the elderly and programs, services, and agencies that enable the elder to remain independent in their home environment, and can assist them in finding other housing or short/long term care options as needed. The Outreach Worker serves as an advocate for Ellington elderly and their families to provide information and counseling on service options/interventions and educational information.

SERVICES

- Conducts home visits and individual needs assessments for programs and services.
- Make appropriate referrals and provides follow up contact/case management.
- Assists clients and/or family in completing applications for various programs and services including, but not limited to, ConnPACE, Medicare, Medicaid/Title 19, Foodstamps, Veteran's Health Services, Energy Assistance, Elderly Homeowner's tax credit, Basic & Additional Veteran's tax credit, Renter's Rebate, Connecticut National Family Caregiver Support Grant, the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, Alzheimer's Respite Grant, the Geropsychiatric Day treatment program, visiting nurse services, adult day care, housing applications, and legal aid services.
- Works with the Protective Services for the Elderly Program to assist elders who have concerns or issues of neglect, abuse or fraud.
- Works with the Tax Assessor's office on tax credit programs for elders and veterans.
- Works with the Ellington Senior Center to provide informational programs and clinics to the senior public.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaborated with the Ellington Senior Center Director for the annual Flu clinic and had 179 attendants this year.
- Assisted 39 elders in completing their Homeowner's Tax credit applications, and 20 elders in completing the Additional Tax credit applications.
- Responded to 103 contacts about ConnPACE, and assisted 74 clients in completing the application.
- Assisted 7 clients in completing "Living Wills", and addressed other legal issues for 21 clients.
- Assisted 47 clients with Medicaid/Title 19 issues and applications.
- Responded to 75 contacts regarding the Energy Assistance program.
- Monthly home deliveries of Food Bank items to 7 homebound clients.
- Hosted a Veteran's Benefits Information program at the Senior Center, attended by 32 veterans.
- Held 2 programs on the Medicare Approved Drug Discount cards.
- Ongoing recruitment for "Friendly Visitors" for isolated elders, and currently has 6 dedicated volunteers who gave 316 hours of friendly visiting hours this year.
- Provided information on housing options to 27 calls this year. Assisted 4 clients with Section 8 applications, and 4 clients with relocating to new apartments.
- Arranged for 10 Lifeline installations.
- Assisted 15 clients in applying for the SBC telephone discount program.

ELLINGTON SENIOR CENTER

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Ellington Senior Center is located at 16 Church Street in the Center Plaza. We are fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who help us achieve our goal. Our goal is to create an environment that welcomes individuals to join our many activities and programs designed to meet the social and health well being of individuals age 60 years and older.

STAFFING

The Senior Center is staffed with a full-time Director and part-time employees that includes the Assistant to the Director and three Van Drivers. The Town participates in a federally funded program that allows for a receptionist to work 20 hours per week. Our volunteers assist in providing activities and fundraising endeavors throughout the year.

HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to having a very active volunteer program, we have our Van transportation service. This service has allowed us to reach individuals who perhaps could not attend the Senior Center because of no transportation. We are going into our fourth year with our Senior Center Van. During 2004, the Director submitted a grant through North Central Area on Agency to seek funding for 20 transportation hours per week for medical services. Grants are awarded in the Fall. At the time, this Town Report is written it is too early to know if we will receive any funding. The Senior Center staff and the Municipal Agent continue to work together to provide some co-sponsored programs held at the Center or off-site; such as, insurance information, entitlement programs, and a health fair/flu clinic. The Elder Wellness Program is contracted through two health agencies; Home & Community Health Services and The Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut, Inc., blood pressure and diabetic screenings are done weekly. An exercise program was held two times per week, but due to budget reductions this class is now held once per week.

The Senior Center offers its facility to civic and community organizations that need a place to meet in the evening when the Center does not have scheduled events.

The staff would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers for all the time they give us to help make the Center so successful.

The Town Crier News is our monthly newsletter that contains a detailed description of programs and a calendar of events. For further information or to obtain a newsletter call the Senior Center at 870-3133.

Hours: Monday 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 16 Church Street in the Center Plaza.

Ellington Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

Overall, the 2003-2004 school year was another successful one despite ongoing major building projects at Center School and the high school. The Center School building project was completed and the high school project, while fraught with unexpected delays and problems, neared completion. The completion of Center School allowed 126 students to be redistricted from Windermere School and Crystal Lake School to alleviate overcrowding in those schools for the 2004-05 school year.



Board of Education Members (left to right): Maurice Blanchette, Kathleen Perrier, Dan Keune, Kim Cleverdon, Gary Blanchette, Louise Gerber and Dale Roberson. Missing are: Howard Friedman, Sean Millane and Rachel Wheeler-Rossow

It was a year of follow up for two major reports at the middle school and the high school with staff addressing recommendations for improvement by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) at the high school and the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) at the middle school. It was a year of continued student success on State tests, as well as, curriculum initiatives which focused on improving the monitoring and development of the curricula in all areas and to improve instruction through the implementation of a new teacher evaluation and professional growth plan. It was also a year in which the Board of Education formed a School Facilities Study Committee (SFSC) to investigate the future growth of the Town in order to plan for future school facilities needs.

Each year, the Board of Education identifies two "focus goals." This year's goals were: 1) to improve student learning by involving all Ellington professional staff in curriculum initiatives with an emphasis on curriculum mapping and *Understanding by Design (UbD)*, and 2) to promote effective communication between our schools and the community. Throughout this report efforts on meeting these goals are documented.

Once again, Ellington students performed competitively on State and National tests when compared with state averages and with other towns in the same Education Reference Group (ERG). On the Connecticut Mastery Tests given to all students in grades 4, 6 and 8 in the areas of language arts and mathematics, Ellington students did extremely well. The results indicated that Ellington students are significantly above the state average on all tests and scored above the ERG for the percentage of students meeting goal on all tests combined. Combining data

from all three grade levels and subject areas, 79% of Ellington students scored at, or above, state goal compared to the 75% ERG average and the 61% state average. Similarly, tenth graders at Ellington High School did well on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) and scored higher on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) than State or National averages. While there is still room for growth and improvement, these results are a credit to the excellent effort of our students, staff and school administrators.

In summary, the 2003-04 school year was highly successful despite the obstacles created by the building projects. In the report which follows, we hope to inform residents of our successes and accomplishments as well as identify some areas of needs and potential growth.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Ellington's twin curriculum initiatives of *Understanding by Design (UbD)* and curriculum mapping are beginning to develop some substantial "roots" in the district. *UbD* is a curriculum process that helps teachers design more effective units of instruction to ensure deeper student understanding and longer retention of major concepts. *UbD* is a reverse design concept that starts with either an essential question or an understanding and has become the district standard for curriculum design. Nearly 100 *UbD* instructional units have been developed and many are already in use by trained teachers. In addition, the revised K-8 language arts curriculum and the revised grades 7-8 science curriculum are written to incorporate *UbD* language and thinking. The K-6 science curriculum is currently being revised from a *UbD* perspective, as well.

In the fall of 2003, virtually all staff was trained in the use of the Tech Paths online curriculum mapping program. Curriculum mapping is an inter-related initiative that is being used to help teachers trace the teaching of concepts and topics from kindergarten through high school. It provides a framework that includes content, skills and assessments all revolving around essential questions that are clearly tied to the Connecticut Frameworks. Initial frustrations included problematic software and adjustments needed to make Ellington's computer networks respond properly. Technological difficulties have been largely overcome and teachers' experiences have been much more positive of late. Approximately half of Ellington's curricula has been mapped and placed on the Tech Paths website.



Preschool lesson

The district's significant attention to the process of curriculum mapping and its relationship to the *UbD* model should ensure that key concepts and skills are carefully sequenced and well articulated from kindergarten through graduation.



2nd graders working on a math project

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is being used to help emphasize the importance of home/school communication. The district's website continues to grow and is being well utilized by parents and the community. Each school has a site on which monthly school newsletters, calendars, menus, sports schedules and PTO information can be found. Each classroom teacher also puts news and/or student work on the website. This year, high school teachers posted their course objectives and grading policies on the website. They were encouraged to use their teacher pages during the year for a variety of purposes from class activities and field trips to long term assignments requiring research on specific sites.

STRONG ONGOING PROGRAMS

In addition to the ongoing curriculum and professional development, 2003-04 saw the introduction of the Kindergarten Early Intervention program. This program, funded primarily through Title I, is designed to reveal pre-reading and mathematics skill deficiencies at an early age and provide extra support to the students determined to be at-risk. Early indications are that this program will reduce the percentage of students who will fail later in reading or mathematics.

The Kindergarten Early Intervention program is part of an overall effort to provide more support to students performing below proficiency on the Connecticut Mastery Tests, or those at risk of performing below proficiency by the time they reach grade three. In Ellington, the percentage of students performing below proficiency is very small. However, under the No Child Left Behind federal act, Ellington will be cited as "in need of improvement" unless the percentage for all students can be reduced in specified stages to 0% in less than a decade. Increased collaboration between the Educational Services and Special Services departments is occurring in this effort.

There has been an expanded focus this year on character education and the importance of respecting others. There is no doubt that a safe and orderly environment enhances student learning opportunities. A variety of programs were presented ranging from *Don't Laugh at Me* units, to DARE instruction and *Kids Character Curriculum* anti-bullying workshops. These

programs all teach the need for respect for oneself and others. Avoidance behaviors are taught, as well as, student training in how to be proactive in avoiding trouble.

Character Counts completed its second successful year at the middle school. Positive behavior traits were read as part of the morning announcements and students were recognized for good behavior with a Character Cash Certificate when they were "caught" being good to their peers. At the end of each marking period, students were able to use the certificates to purchase items in the school store.

Elementary schools collaborated with the Town's Youth Services department this year to teach a program in kindergarten and first grade on individual differences and conflict resolution. The Youth Services coordinator, Diane Lasher-Penti, and classroom teachers shared teaching lessons on self esteem and social skills building.

Center School students participated in the *Kind Kids Count* program. Various students are recognized each month for a special deed they did for another student, academic effort or excellence. Their picture is posted on the main bulletin board, as well as, a description of their special "kindness."

Crystal Lake students decided to hold a food drive for Make a Difference Day in October. Students set, and exceeded, a goal to collect 420 nonperishable food items in the week. A graph in the hall showed how much food had been collected and how close they were to the goal. At the end of the week, kindergarten classes sorted the food by category, tallied it, and boxed it for delivery to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry.

Three outstanding programs, Career Day, Immigration Day and the Civil War Encampment, have become traditional parts of Windermere's curriculum. These programs are managed by committees which include parents, teachers and volunteers. Career Day planning involves educating and assessing fifth grade students in order to enable them to select a career choice of interest. The committee selects at least 20 individuals representing a desired variety of vocations. The program provides opportunities for students to experience a wide range of career possibilities.

Immigration Day was designed to deal with the restrictions placed on Ellis Island after 9/11. After three years, the program is still well received and continues to further develop. EHS drama students designed and performed a multi-cultural play for Windermere's students. The closing ceremony, where immigrants (students) are sworn in and become citizens, was presided over by a local judge.



Preschool student working on a "hands-on" project

Windermere's Civil War Encampment is a very real experience that caps our U.S. History program and has been enjoyed for the past seven years. The day includes period food, dress, marching, letter writing, a singing minstrel who teaches and demonstrates the songs of the Civil War, a field hospital that is complete with actual surgical tools of the time and several volunteers from the Rockville Historical Society dressed as Union soldiers who describe battlefield tactics and strategies. Students are divided into Confederate and Union camps and are led through a series of activities that soldiers had to endure.

Extra-curricular offerings continued at the middle school. Six students participated in the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) leadership conference at Quinnipiac College. Twenty peer leaders participated in a day-long Peers are Wonderful Support (PAWS) conference. Several grade 8 art students participated in an art workshop sponsored by CAS and six students displayed their artwork during Art at the Capitol. Eighteen grade 8 girls participated in Multiply Your Options, an annual seminar offered by the math and science department at UCONN to encourage young females to pursue careers in the math and science areas.

Center School students also collected canned goods for the Governor's Food Share and the Town of Ellington during the holiday seasons.

Fourth grade students at Crystal Lake School participated in a year-long exchange with Evergreen. Students corresponded with their senior partners at the home and made monthly visits for activities. This has been beneficial to both students and residents. The program was organized by fourth grade teacher, Christine Marshall, with transportation funded by the PTO.

Middle school staff continued working to implement improvements recommended during the school evaluation by the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS). Staff concentrated on teaming fundamentals, effective communication between home and school, interdisciplinary teaching and collaborative instruction between special and regular education teachers.

The PRIDE program continued at Crystal Lake School this year. PRIDE is a way for teachers and staff to recognize and reward students for excellence in five categories: politeness, respect, initiative, discipline and excellence. Throughout the year, staff complete a PRIDE nomination form when a student excels in one of the areas. Every Tuesday, PRIDE award recipients are announced to the school and receive pins and certificates. The names of PRIDE students are posted in the front hallway. This program has been in place for ten years and is very important to students. It was recognized as an exemplary program by Connecticut Association of Schools.

Center School's Celebrity Readers program was again a wonderful success. Over 48 community members and parents were invited to read to the students. The program is a great opportunity to show students that whether you are a fireman, policeman, banker or mom, everyone has to be able to read.

Crystal Lake fourth graders once again had the opportunity to participate in the Nutmeg Children's Book Award program. This program is a statewide initiative for students in grades fourth through sixth. Each year, ten books are nominated for the award. Students are encouraged to read them, chart their reading and vote for their favorite. Several teas were held through the year to discuss the books and encourage leisure reading.

The middle school's summer reading program completed its first year. All students are required to read at least one book from a selected list. For each book read, students were given a raffle ticket. A drawing took place in September and thanks to local businesses and individuals, students drew chances to win

a TV, DVD player, backpacks, CDs, gift certificates, etc.

Read at home programs continue at all three elementary schools. Students are rewarded for the number of hours they read. At Crystal Lake, kindergarten through grade two students had an after school party while grades three and four had a sleep over in the school gym. At Center School, students receive incentives for reading 20 minutes per night at home.

The Reading Recovery program had a successful ninth year at Crystal Lake School. Similarly, Math Recovery continued for a second year. Math support is offered to students in need, both on an individual and small group basis. The program, which is funded with Title I monies, has proven to be very effective with at-risk students. Center School and Windermere School also provide similar support programs for students.

Middle school students continued their tradition of raising money for the less fortunate. Over \$3,000 was raised through various fundraisers for local community organizations, the American Heart Association and children in need of medical surgery.

We are fortunate to have strong and supportive PTOs and booster clubs in our district. Through fund raising events, these volunteer organizations help enhance programs and provide enrichment activities for students at all grade levels. We thank you all for your continued support!

Once again, the middle school's spring Showcase was a big success. Students performed a musical entitled "Into the Woods." Parents visited classrooms and reviewed displays of their student's work. As usual, the eighth grade Connecticut projects drew large crowds. Grade 7 teachers organized a Coffee House activity in which students read poetry they wrote about family members.

Crystal Lake has a number of multi-age programs. The first and fourth grades have a buddy program. The classes meet weekly to work on shared curriculum areas such as an animal study in first grade and habitat study in fourth grade. Each second grader has a first grade reading partner. They meet weekly for second graders to read to first graders. The Young Authors and Readers Conference held each spring matches student sin multi-age groups to share their best writing of the year. A new collaboration this year was a technology project between second and fourth graders that included research and multimedia presentations on dinosaurs.

In June, 150 eighth grade students traveled to Washington, D.C. In addition to the usual sights and activities, students had the historical opportunity of viewing President Reagan's caisson pass by them during the funeral procession. This was the 35th year this wonderful learning experience has been offered to our eighth grade students.



EHS Tech Ed project - 1937 Chevy



9-12 PROGRAMS AND HAPPENINGS

In spite of the difficulties of the construction project, academics remained our highest priority and students and teachers met the challenge of focusing on teaching and learning even when conditions were far from ideal.

The high school spent time this past year working on the NEASC two-year report which will be due in October 2004. Five committees were established to address the significant recommendations of the visiting team. One of the recommendations was to lengthen class periods to provide additional time for more in-depth learning experiences and teacher collaboration. Professional learning groups were also established to promote dialogue about teaching and learning. A third committee addressed the commission's concern that the high school move to a more heterogeneous approach.

Core programs in math, English, science and social studies continue to provide ongoing opportunities for students to achieve at a high level.

The Opening Knight Players (OKP) had another very successful year. In October, the group produced "30X60," performing 30 self-written plays in 60 minutes. The performances involved a large number of students and content covered a wide range of topics. In December, the group produced *Everything I Know I Learned in Kindergarten* and Evenings of One Acts were held in March. Twelve members of the OKP participated in the Connecticut Drama Association's Play Competition. Ellington students performed an original work by drama teacher, William Prenetta, called *Disturbance*. Senior Derek Armstrong received the State's Best Actor Award and Ed Reed was named to the All-Connecticut Cast List. OKP's major production was held in June when the group produced their rendition of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. The level of student understanding, their ability to interpret and present the play while adapting it to today's audience was highly commendable. Through Mr. Prenetta's directing skills, students learned not only acting skills, but a true appreciation of Shakespeare that should enrich their personal lives.

Student Council assumed a stronger leadership role this year. Council members attended several leadership conferences and are developing ties with other student groups within the state. The group continued to represent EHS at the Connecticut Youth Forum. The Forum is an organization which gives high school students the opportunity to meet monthly with peers from over 50 public and private schools across the state to discuss significant issues that affect them including violence, leadership, relationships, communication skills and diversity.

For the twelfth year, EHS students involved in peer leadership and peer advocate programs participated in a leadership program at Camp Jewell. Students challenged their personal comfort zone while developing team-building skills.

Mr. McDuffee and his construction classes built new dugouts in preparation of the baseball season. The project served a dual purpose, providing the students with a better understanding of the field of construction, as well as, involving the students in a school/community service. Final assembly combined the efforts of the technology education teachers, members of the construction classes and the baseball team.

Our guidance department has worked to increase its range of student services. Sophomores completed the PLAN program which included a career interest inventory and academic testing component. Results of this process assist students in planning their schedules and examining post secondary school options. Junior and senior planning focused on post graduation plans, including job shadowing experiences by matching students with someone in their proposed career area. This year students shadowed professionals in the areas of interior design, culinary

arts, aerospace engineering, veterinary medicine, architecture, accounting, education, photography and social work.

Child care and development classes at EHS and two kindergarten classes at the Silver Lane School in East Hartford created a partnership through the Sister Schools program. The program brought together 54 students from diverse backgrounds to gain multi-cultural awareness and share integrated learning experiences.

EHS athletic programs continue to thrive and grow. The girls' lacrosse club gained varsity status this year and the boys' lacrosse club played a very successful first season. NCCC championships were won by the boys' soccer team, the girls' cross country team, the boys' and girls' indoor track teams and the boys' and girls' outdoor track teams. Many of the teams qualified and competed in CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) state tournaments, with the golf team winning the state title.

At the high school, Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) scores and data are one measure of academic achievement. With an 83.9% participation rate for the Class of 2003, our average SAT scores were 546 in math and 529 on the verbal section. This compares to a Connecticut average of 512 for math and 514 for verbal, and a national average of 519 for math and 507 for verbal.

Another assessment is the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), which is given to all grade 10 students. In 2003, between 58.9% and 68.2% of Ellington students reached goal in each individual area and 38.2% of our students reached goal in all four areas of the test: mathematics, science, interdisciplinary and language arts. Beginning with the Class of 2006, students must attain a score of three or better on the CAPT in order to meet the graduation performance requirement.

The Business Law Class, accompanied by Board of Education chair, Attorney Dale Roberson, visited the Civil and Criminal Courts in Rockville during December. Students observed actual ongoing criminal trials, toured the civil facility and were given the opportunity by Judge Ed Graziani to sit in the jury box while he spoke about careers in law.

EHS Latin students accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Amy White, participated in CT State Latin Day. This was the 23rd annual celebration of Ancient Rome and took place in Cheshire. Over 2300 students from 61 schools took part in Roman style athletic contests, workshops and Latin language contests, making this the second largest school event in the state.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

In May, 32 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Selected students must demonstrate high standards of scholarship, leadership, character and service.

Elementary art teacher, Steve Bernard offered an art club for students who had difficulty with fine motor and art activities.

Kelly Munson and Audrey Resutek were selected to appear on the cover of Next Step Magazine. These two students were selected based on their volunteer work, extracurricular activities, academics, work ethic and all-around character. They appeared on the front cover of the New England Super Teens issue.

During April vacation, 73 EHS music students traveled to Epcot Center to participate in a clinic which addressed several national music standards. As a culmination, the students recorded a Disney medley to accompany a videotaped movie.

Crystal Lake staff held its 29th annual pancake breakfast. This has become a much anticipated event by both students and staff. Staff members cook breakfast for the students and then the entire school meets in the gym for a sing along and to read.

Andrew Duguay and Dory (D.J.) Manfre were selected to represent EHS in the Capitol Region Inter-district Leadership Academy. The academy held this summer included an all expenses paid trip to Colorado to participate in a week-long Outward Bound experience. The students will continue to work with the academy to develop leadership skills by working on community-based service learning projects throughout the 2004-2005 school year.

Latin teacher, Amy White, was elected President of the Board of Directors of the Classical Association of CT. Mrs. White also won the 2004 Renata Poggioli Award and a grant from the Fulbright Commission of the U.S. Department of State. The award and grant covered tuition and travel expenses for a six week intensive study at the Classical Summer School of the American Academy in Rome and a two week program conducted by the Vergilian Society at Cumae.

Several students were selected to attend the Eastern Regional Festival Concert held in January at UCONN. Kim Harte and Bob Ondek participated in the CT Eastern Region Band; Robert Eckert, Adam Lobaugh, Matthew Luginbuhl and Jenny Mackintosh participated in the CT Eastern Region Chorus. The New England Music Festival was held in March. Participants included: Shelley Guerin, Jim Honda, Erika Keith, Matthew Luginbuhl, Jenny Mackintosh, Colleen Quinlan and Adam Zylberman.

Thirty-nine EHS students participated in the 2004 National Latin Exam. Over 130,000 students from the United States and nine foreign countries took the exam. This year, fifteen students received special recognition in various categories, including one freshman, Sarah McCabe, who received a perfect score: Latin IV: Megan Halpin (*maxima cum laude*), Timothy Goric and Elisabeth Ballassy (*magna cum laude*), Thaddeus Fox (*cum laude*); Latin III: Jordan Pike (*cum laude*); Latin II: Kathryn Stein (*magna cum laude*), Jennifer Sherwood and Audrey Purnhagen (*cum laude*); Latin I: Sarah McCabe (*summa cum laude*), Kellie Bostiga and Andrew Duguay (*maxima cum laude*), Edward Reed, Zachary Zwiesler and Andrew Sheridan (*magna cum laude*), and Jennifer Ferreira (*cum laude*).

Two freshmen honors biology students participated in the CT State Science Fair at Quinnipiac College. Megan Sirag was awarded second honors for her project on West Nile Virus. Elena Fader, who entered a project on the antibacterial effects of garlic, was selected as a finalist and was awarded both a medal and two other special awards.

In March, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members attended the FBLA State Leadership Conference. Eleven students competed in a variety of business events with hundreds of other FBLA members from across the state. Jason Josephiac won 5th place in Accounting II; Megan Connolly and Allison Croft, 3rd place team in desktop publishing; Jamie Harding, 2nd place in word processing; and Anna Littizzio, 1st place in business calculations.

In May, the EHS student council sponsored a Senior Citizen Luau. Forty seniors enjoyed this inter-generational activity which included a wonderful cookout and dancing.

Former EHS teacher John Watts was recognized at a ceremony celebrating "State Ship Day" at the Historic Ship Nautilus and Submarine Force Museum in London this past May. In 1983, Mr. Watts and his American government class were responsible for the passage of a bill that named the U.S.S. Nautilus, the first nuclear powered submarine, as Connecticut's State Ship. A plaque recognizing this accomplishment has been presented to Ellington High School.

Congratulations to the 177 Ellington students who graduated on June 18. Eighty-nine percent will go on to two or four year colleges. The Class of 2004 valedictorian was Kathryn

Angeloni. Katie, a member of the national honor society, was named Outstanding Honors Physics Student in 2003 and received the Harvard-Radcliffe Book Award and Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award. Katie will attend the honors program at Providence College in the fall. This year's salutatorian was Anna Littizzio. Anna, a National Honor Society member, received the Holy Cross Book Award and several Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) awards. Anna will attend Bentley College where she will major in marketing.

Congratulations also to Liana Boop who graduated from the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy (CIBA) in East Hartford. Liana is Ellington's first magnet school graduate.

DISTRICT NEEDS

Again this year, the Town and the school system experienced continued and steady growth making Ellington one of the fastest growing communities in Tolland County. A School Facilities Study Committee (SFSC) made up of town officials, staff and community members, under the leadership of Board of Education member, Maurice Blanchette, met throughout the year. The SFSC submitted a preliminary report and hopes to complete the study in November 2004. The final report should give the Town and the Board of Education an idea of the future student population growth of the schools, the system's capacity to cope with the growth and some recommendations on meeting school space requirements for the next five to ten years. It will also address the status of Crystal Lake School, as the remaining school needing renovations and/or additions.

Maintaining financial support throughout the budget process continues to be a concern for the Board of Education. Three budget referendums were required last spring to pass the budget, with significant reductions to the Board of Education's 2004-05 budget. As a result, no new programs were added other than classroom teachers needed to maintain appropriate class sizes at the elementary level. Requested, but not obtained, were positions needed to address several important areas. These included: two teachers at Ellington High School, a grades K-12 English Language Learner teacher, an additional .5 high school instrumental music teacher, .5 guidance counselor and a .5 custodian, as well as, several instructional aide positions. The Board of Education also reduced all new equipment and technology requests from the 2004-05 budget.

Ellington Public Schools also felt the first impact of the No Child Left Behind legislation this past school year when the subgroup of Ellington special needs students were cited as not meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP) on State administered tests. This occurred in 91 districts in Connecticut which had over 40 special needs students not meeting proficiency on the CT Mastery Tests (CMTs) the previous year. To compound the problem, the 2003-04 mastery tests results were not received by districts until late June 2004. The results are normally received in January. This scoring "snafu" did not allow Ellington or other school districts time to determine areas needing improvement for the CMTs to be given in September 2004. The Commissioner of Education has addressed this problem with the test scoring company, and it should not occur in the future.

Despite the scoring errors of the mastery tests, the disruptions of the building projects and financial concerns mentioned above, students enjoyed great success in 2003-04. This is due to the hard work and dedication of staff and the close working relationship with Ellington parents. As the district struggles to address the needs of continued growth, it looks forward to support from the Ellington community which has been extraordinarily supportive over the past decade.

2004 GRADUATES ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Shelley Guerin
VICE PRESIDENT: James Honda
SECRETARY: Kristen Savage
TREASURER: Kathryn Angeloni
SOCIAL CHAIR: Caitlin Kehoe

David T. Abel
 James Lee Adkins
 Arthur Clifford Allegra
 Jason Tyler Amos
 Kathryn Nicole Angeloni†*
 Christina Lynn Anselmo*
 Derek Anthony Armstrong
 Allison Marie Arnone*
 Kyle Arvisais
 Elisabeth Anne Ballasy†*
 Carolyn Theresa Bars
 Michael R. Berube
 Andrew Blovisch
 Liana Marie Boop
 Kristine Lee Boucher
 Hilary Patricia Brady
 Danielle S. Bussiere
 Matthew J. Cagnetta†*
 Erik M. Campbell
 Stacey Lynn Capella
 Gregory A. Caron
 Jonathan Ryan Caron
 Stephanie Erin Carver†*
 Katherine Elizabeth Cheesman*
 Brittany Anna Conklin
 Melanie Elizabeth Conklin*
 Megan Elizabeth Connolly†*
 Jessica Lynn Crickmore
 Allison Margaret Croft*
 Jessie Marie Cusson
 Jennifer Lee Daleb
 Chad E. Danchunk
 Nicole Ashley Descheneaux
 Christopher J. Dube
 Nicholas Matthew Dubiel
 Kittl Ilona Dubran
 Heather Lynn Ellis
 Kali Renee Fader
 Mathieu R. Fauteux
 William Wesley Febres
 Mitchell S. Ference
 Peter Samuel Fischer
 Timothy James Flint
 Janelle Colette Foltz
 Amber Dawn Foss
 Gregory B. Fowler
 Marie Elizabeth Francis

Eric J. Fries
 David D. Frish
 Allison Sherri Gadbois
 Jaclyn Joline Gagne
 Nicole Ann Giard
 Cody Michael Giroux
 Christopher Scott Glaser
 Thomas Joseph Gleason
 Alexander John Glomb
 Lauren Christine Goric
 Timothy Peter Goric
 Kyle Christopher Goulet
 Steven Henry Graczewski
 Nicole Marie Green*
 Brandon Paul Grey
 Daniel A. Grundman
 Shelley Marielle Guerin
 Daniel Hall
 Megan Joanne Halpin
 Jamie Diane Harding*
 Tricia Elizabeth Heavisides
 Cassidy Marie Hebert
 Ryan Alan Henderson
 Jeremy Steven Hines
 Christopher John Hodgdon
 Christopher Hodge
 Deborah Kay Hoffman†*
 Christopher Andrew Holiday
 James Thomas Honda†*
 Latasha Monique Jarrett
 Jason John Josephiac*
 Sharan Kaur Jutla
 Caitlin Foley Kehoe
 Erika Renae Keith
 Stefanie N. Kennedy
 Michelle Elizabeth King*
 Erick Joseph Knickerbocker
 Peter Thomas Korzeb
 Jakub Dane Koziara
 Jennifer Ann-Marie Krupski
 Timothy John Lally
 Kristen Lee Landry
 Jessica Cynthia Lannan
 Mallory Marie LaVigne
 Elizabeth Anne Lavoie
 John Kevin Lee
 Steven M. Levesque

Danielle Renna Limberger*
 Daniel Scott Lippman
 Anna Marie Littizzio†
 Adam T. Loos
 Walter Erik Loteczka
 Thomas Jeffrey Luce
 Milan James Lucic
 Alisha Florine Luginbuhl
 Jenna Lynn Luginbuhl
 Matthew Phillip Luginbuhl†
 Nicholas Andrew Mace
 Jenny Elise Mackintosh
 Ryan David Magoon
 Michael George Marino
 Thomas Albert Martin
 William Edward McDonald
 Curtis David McKeegan
 Douglas Robert McKinney
 David William Metzger
 Melissa Louise Michaud
 Veronica Pearl Mickelson-Decker
 Christopher J. Mirabello
 Ashley Elizabeth Moreau
 Kelly Ann Munson
 Stephen A. Munson
 Steven Thomas Norris
 Gregory Michael Norton
 Justin P. Norton
 Jacquelyn L. Olmstead
 Shannon M. Ouellette
 Sarah Ann Panjian
 Pratik S. Patel
 Matthew Carl Patterson
 Stephanie Patricia Pellegrino
 Thomas Frank Pereira, Jr.
 Jordan David Pike
 Danielle Anton Poirier
 Benjamin Andrew Priest
 Audrey J. Purnhagen
 Colleen M. Quinlan
 Stefan G. Regele
 Audrey E. Resutek
 Sarah Anne Richard
 Natalie Meagan Riemer
 Rhiannon Paige Robert
 Michael Rooney

Aaron Jacob Rossow
 Chauncy Roy
 Christopher Daniel Roy
 Robyn Deanna Ruitto
 Justin C. Russell
 Vanessa Anne Russell
 Brian Joseph Sardinha
 Kate Emily Savage
 Kristen Marie Savage
 Jennifer Ellen Schaller
 Neal Joseph Schindler
 Patrick M. Scully
 Jennifer Lynn Sherwood
 Joseph Elliot Silverstein
 Christopher Frank Singarella II
 Dannie Taylor McIntosh Smith
 Hilary Paige Somers
 Todd Edward Stacy
 Michelle Dianne Stone
 Robert Hugh Streiber
 John William Swayner
 Michael Richard Szafir
 Briana Taupier
 David A. Taylor
 Melissa Sue Timura
 Robin Nicole Tripp
 Todd David Tully
 Brittney Lee Vallee
 Lindsey Elizabeth Vallee
 Joshua Vargas
 Melissa Villodas
 Christopher Joseph Vince
 Amanda Dee Walker
 Justin Warren
 Kristen Kathleen Wasielewski
 Marie Nicole Wilcox
 Joseph Reinhard Zethner
 Adam Jordan Zylberman

HONORARY DIPLOMAS

Foreign Exchange Students
 Felipe Saramagao Albuquerque
 Rafael Jurema DeAssis Correa
 Friederike Lintze

† Students recognized as Class Scholars

* Denotes the graduates who have attained the Honor Roll each quarter during their high school career.

Members of the Robert W. Murphy Chapter of the National Honor Society wore Gold Honor Cords.

Members of Troupe 5226 of the International Thespian Society wore Blue/Gold Honor Cords.

People Serving You

STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS

CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative - 57th Assembly District

Ted Graziani 240-8585
State Capitol Room C-110
Hartford, CT 06106
or
14 Punkin Drive 871-6323
Ellington, CT 06029

Senator - 3rd Senatorial District

Gary LeBeau 240-0511
State Capitol Room C-110
Hartford, CT 06106
or
4 Gorman Place 528-5818
East Hartford, CT 06118

Senator - 35th Senatorial District

Tony Guglielmo 240-8800
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106
or
100 Stafford Street 684-4878
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Representative - 2nd Congressional District

Rob Simmons 860-886-0139
2 Courthouse Square
Norwich, CT 06360
(Washington) 202-225-2076
(Enfield) 860-741-4053

Senators

Christopher J. Dodd 1-800-334-5341
100 Great Meadow Road
Putnam Park, Suite 205
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Joseph Lieberman 1-800-225-5605
1 Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103-1803

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Barbara Murdach
Assistant: David Yoho

ASSESSOR: Rhonda McCarty

Deputy Assessor: Patrick Sullivan
Assessment Clerk: Mary Thiesing
Assessment Clerk: Jacqua Reno

BUILDING OFFICIAL: Peter Rafe Williams
Secretary: Maureen O'Neil

BURNING OFFICIAL: Allan Lawrence

CONSTABLES, ROAD:

Bart Alexander
Michael Bard
Arthur Carlson, III
Michael Caron
Michael DuBois
Joseph Grayeb
Robert Hoffman
Maureen Lowe
Sebastian Magnano

CONSTABLES, MARINE:

Allen Bump
Thomas Davenport

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Director: Donald Davis

FINANCE OFFICER:

Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr.
Deputy Treasurer: Andrea Salemi
Administrative Assistant: Lynn M. Young

FIRE MARSHAL: Allan Lawrence

Deputy Fire Marshal: Robert DaBica
Deputy Fire Marshal: Kevin Regan
Fire Inspector: Donald Maguda

FIRST SELECTMAN: Dennis C. Milanovich

Executive Assistant: Carol York
Administrative Assistant: Marie Sauve

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:

Program Manager: Fran VanTreese
Program Assistant: Diane Fiore

HUMAN SERVICES:

Human Service Director: Doris Crayton
Senior Center Director: Erin Graziani
Senior Center Program Assist: Noreen Staiger
Senior Center Van Drivers: Clay Farnham and Paul Sawyer
Senior Center Receptionist:
Mary Ann Mandell (*Green Thumb Enrollee*)
Elderly Outreach Caseworker: Anna Turner
Youth Services Worker/Coordinator:
Diane Lasher-Penti
Secretary: Donna Sullivan

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Anna Turner

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR: William Blitz

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Peter Michaud
Administrative Assistant: Lori Smith
Working Foreman: Robert Willis
Crew Chief/Safety & Hazmat Coordinator:
Jack Rich
WPCA Crew Chief: Leonard Descheneaux
Mechanic: Barry Glazier
Maintainer II: William Basch
Maintainer II: Franz Redler
Crew Chief: Rosario Raia
Maintainer I: Robert Morganson
Maintainer I: Mark Lavoie
Maintainer I: Jon Godek
Maintainer I: Joshua Hebert

Laborer II: Thomas Descheneaux

Laborer II: Ronald Moser

Laborer II: Jason Suchecki

Custodians: Lisa Oleksiw and Kim Willis

RECREATION DIRECTOR: Robert Tedford

Recreation Coordinator/Supervisor:

Mary Bartley
Secretary: Donna Sullivan

RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Peter Michaud

REFUSE/BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL:

Peter Michaud

RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS:

Sgt. William Konieczny
TFC Michael Hesnan
TFC Thomas Clark
TFC Greg Deslandes
TFC Todd Harmon
Police Support Administrator: Maureen Lowe

SEWER MAINTENANCE: Peter Michaud

SPECIAL COUNSEL:

Day, Berry & Howard (Bond Counsel)
Shipman & Goodman
(Special Ed. Counsel for Board of Education)
Siegel, O'Connor, Schiff & Zangari
(Negotiations Counsel for Board of Education)
Thomas P. Byrne (Zoning Counsel)
Patrick McHale
(Negotiations Counsel for General Government)

TAX COLLECTOR/

WPCA ADMINISTRATOR:

Pamela Lombardo
Deputy Tax Collector/WPCA Administrator:
Lori Colbert
Tax Clerk: Brenda Strong

TOWN CLERK/

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS:

Cynthia Lacapricia
Assistant Town Clerks/Registrars
of Vital Statistics: Diane McKeegan and
Sheila Bailey

TOWN COUNSEL: Susan Boyan, Esq.

TOWN ENGINEER: James Thompson,
Buck & Buck Engineers

TOWN PLANNER: Matthew J. Davis
Assistant Town Planner: Reanna Goodreau
Secretary: Kristin Michaud

TREE WARDEN: Peter Michaud

ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Richard Kalva

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	TERM EXPIRES
Dennis C. Milanovich, First Selectman	December 2005
Dennis F. Frawley, Deputy First Selectman	December 2005
Peter J. Charter	December 2005
Mark D. Leighton	December 2005
A. Leo Miller	December 2005
Michael P. Stupinski	December 2005
Nancy O. Way	December 2005

BOARD OF FINANCE

Michael P. Scudieri, Chair	December 2005
Robert J. Clements	December 2007
Vaughn E. Gerber	December 2007
Mark A. Joyse	December 2005
Robert K. Pagani	December 2007
Barry C. Pinto	December 2005

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dale C. Roberson, Chair	November 2007
Maurice W. Blanchette	November 2007
Gary J. Blanchette	November 2005
Kimberly F. Cleverdon	November 2005
Howard Friedman	November 2007
Louise Gerber	November 2007
Daniel C. Keune	November 2005
Sean Millane, Sr.	November 2005
Kathleen L. Perrier	November 2005
Rachel Wheeler-Rossow	November 2007

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Susan Luginbuhl (<i>Democrat</i>)	January 2007
Margaret Weekes (<i>Republican</i>)	January 2007

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beverly B. Lewis, Chair	December 2005
Carolyn E. Cook	December 2005
Sheila Frawley	December 2007
John Halloran, Jr.	December 2007
Nancy J. Pagani	December 2007
Henry F. Szemplinski	December 2005

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Emery L. Zahner, Chairman	December 2005
Clifford L. Aucter	December 2007
Mort Heidari	December 2005
Robert G. Hoffman	December 2007
Geraldine R. Kupecky	December 2005
Lori L. Spielman	December 2007

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mary B. Cardin, Chairman	December 2007
Kenneth M. Braga	December 2005
Richard J. Cleary, Jr.	December 2005
Alfred Francis	December 2005
Robert R. Palozej	December 2007
Mark R. Spurling	December 2007

APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

AD HOC YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE (1 yr.)

Leo Arnone	August 2004
Mary Bartley	August 2004
Yale Cantor	August 2004
Doris Crayton	August 2004
Chantal Haracsy	August 2004
Todd Harmon	August 2004
Eileen Kouba	August 2004
Diane Lasher-Penti	August 2004
Tomasia Raver	August 2004
Sue Stack	August 2004
Rev. Jeffrey Stalley	August 2004

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS (3 yrs.)

Thomas J. Stack, Chairman	January 2006
Marie Bedor	January 2005
Kimberly Bechard	January 2007
ALTERNATES	
<i>Vacant</i>	January 2006
<i>Vacant</i>	January 2005
<i>Vacant</i>	January 2007

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Daigle	2004-05 Budget Season
Joseph Snyder	2004-05 Budget Season

BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS (5 yrs.)

James Alexander	April 2005
Thomas Connelly	April 2006
Donald Gobeille	April 2007
Howard D. Reckert	April 2008
<i>Vacant</i>	April 2009

CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT (3 yrs.)

Pamela Amodio	June 2005
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COMMUNITY VOICE CHANNEL ADVISORY COUNCIL (2 yrs.)

Carl Slicer	June 2006
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION (4 yrs.)

Shawn Costello, Chairman	March 2006
Jesse Amsel	March 2006
Glenn Eberly	March 2007
James Gage	March 2007
David Hurley	March 2008
Walter Moody	March 2005
<i>Vacant</i>	March 2005

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION (4 yrs.)

Paul Recker, Chairman	February 2005
Pamela Amodio	February 2008
Denise Archibald	February 2007
Jeanne Gessay	February 2007
Ellen Karadimas	February 2005
Ronald Small	February 2005
Patricia Wassey-Stoughton	February 2007
Dr. Julius P. Williams	February 2005
<i>Vacant</i>	February 2008

DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Debra A. Riley (<i>Democrat</i>)	December 2007
Mary E. Blanchette (<i>Republican</i>)	December 2007

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (1 yr.)

Doris Crayton	August 2004
Eileen Kouba	August 2004
Diane Lasher-Penti	August 2004
Peter Martin	August 2004
Nancy Netherwood	August 2004
Barbara Ripa	August 2004

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (4 yrs.)

Richard J. Cleary, Chairman	July 2006
John Luginbuhl	July 2004
Eric Santini	July 2006
Laura Sherman	July 2005
Anna Sanko	July 2006
ALTERNATES (2 yrs.)	
Tim Olmsted	January 2005
Kelly Peck	January 2005
George Vartanian	January 2005

HOCKANUM VALLEY COMMUNITY

COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS (3 yrs.)	
Yale Cantor	March 2006
Susan Stack	March 2006

HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 yrs.)

Stephen Schindler, Chairman	June 2007
Margaret C. Bean	June 2009
Edward Jeski	June 2005
Irene Lagasse	June 2008
Lois Matczak	June 2006
Alex Ross, Executive Director	

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (4 yrs.)

Yale Cantor, Chairman	January 2006
Melinda Ferry	January 2006
Helen Filloramo	January 2008
Cynthia Heidari	January 2006
Sandra-Anne Orsini	January 2008
Hassan Salley	January 2006
Sharon Schall	January 2008
Susan Stack	January 2008

INLAND/WETLANDS AGENCY (4 yrs.)

Kenneth Braga, Chairman	January 2007
Mary Bertelsen	January 2007
Sanford Cohen	January 2007
Kim Flannery	January 2005
James Maitland	January 2005
Margo Wheeler	January 2007
<i>Vacant</i>	January 2005

ALTERNATES (2 yrs.)

Jean Burns	January 2006
Donald McConnell	January 2005

INSURANCE ADVISORY BOARD (4 yrs.)

John Rachek, Chairman	April 2007
Jonathan Allen	April 2005
Mark Boone	April 2007
Audrey Kubas	April 2007
Diane O'Hagan	April 2005
Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr., Finance Officer	
<i>(Ex-officio)</i>	

LAND RECORD INSPECTOR

Nancy Lemek	September 2004
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MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL #15

Beryl Cantor	January 2007
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NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(3 yrs.)

John P. Golon	June 2007
<i>Vacant</i>	June 2007

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

(4 yrs.)

Gordon Oliver, Chairman	January 2008
Thomas Boscarino	January 2008
Neal Breen	January 2008
Hunter Giroux	January 2006
Kevin Hayes	January 2006
Robert Larew	January 2008
Thomas Neeson	January 2006
Michael Pantuosco	January 2006
Thomas Stauffer	January 2006

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

(4 yrs.)

Robert Thiesing, Chairman	February 2006
Paul Critchley	February 2008
Douglas Flamino	February 2006
Katherine Heminway	February 2006
Gary Magnuson	February 2008
Daniel Tutko	February 2008
Peter W. Welti	February 2006
Dennis Frawley	December 2005
(Board of Selectmen Representative)	
Gary Blanchette	November 2005
(Board of Education Representative)	
Lori Spielman	December 2005
(Planning & Zoning Representative)	
Robert Clements	December 2005
(Board of Finance Representative)	
Peter Michaud, Public Works Director	
<i>(Ex-officio)</i>	

PLANNING AND ZONING ALTERNATES (2 yrs.)

Arlo Hoffman	September 2004
James Prichard	September 2005
Ronald Small	September 2005

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION (3 yrs.)

Richard Allen, Chairman	September 2004
Michael R. Bard	September 2005
Ernest Boothroyd	September 2005
Michael Canavan	September 2006
Gary Feldman, Sr.	September 2006
James McGrath	September 2005
Corinne Sandberg	September 2006
William Trisler	September 2006
Morris Webber	September 2004

VERNON AREA CABLE TV ADVISORY COUNCIL (2 yrs.)

Carl Slicer	June 2006
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VISITING NURSE & HEALTH SERVICES OF CT., INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(1 yr.)

Jenifer Eukers	June 2005
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WATER POLLUTION CONTROL**AUTHORITY (4 yrs.)**

Mark Spurling, Chairman	April 2007
Edward Duell	April 2006
Stacie Mikol	April 2006
Rex Myers	April 2008
Daniel Parisi	April 2005

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**ALTERNATES (2 yrs.)**

Adam LeFleche	August 2004
Joseph Snyder	August 2005
Robert Wambolt	August 2004

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: REPUBLICAN

Clifford L. Aucter	January 2005
George A. Baker	January 2005
Kenneth M. Braga	January 2005
Peter J. Charter	January 2005
Robert J. Clements	January 2005
Brenda A. Draghi	January 2005
Ann L. Harford	January 2005
Leonard A. Johnson	January 2005
Robert K. Pagani	January 2005
Cathy Pinard	January 2005
Barry C. Pinto	January 2005
Lorette R. Starr	January 2005
Nancy O. Way	January 2005
Donald M. Weekes	January 2005

*(Five Republican vacancies exist)***JUSTICES OF THE PEACE: DEMOCRAT**

David G. Alter	January 2005
Yale Cantor	January 2005
Thomas J. Connelly	January 2005
Thomas J. Dzicek	January 2005
Glenora G. Forbes	January 2005
Dennis W. Frawley	January 2005
Vaughn E. Gerber	January 2005
Frank C. Graziani	January 2005
John M. Halloran, Jr.	January 2005
Marion W. Hoffman	January 2005
James R. Josephiac	January 2005
Edwin M. Lavitt	January 2005
Pamela B. Lombardo	January 2005
Thaddeus J. Okolo	January 2005
Paul H. Prokop	January 2005
Michael E. Riley	January 2005
Hassan W. Salley	January 2005
Janet E. St. Clair	January 2005
John S. Watts	January 2005
Rachel Wheeler-Rossow	January 2005

Ellington Public Schools

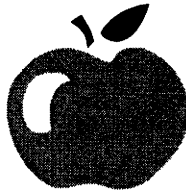
August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2004-2005 School Calendar



DATES

First Day of School Aug 30

Last Day of School* Jun 15

* Tentative

☐ ☐ **NO SCHOOL** ☐ ☐

Convocation Aug 25
 Teacher Inservice Aug 26-27
 Labor Day Sept 6
 Columbus Day Oct 11
 Teacher Inservice Oct 12
 Teacher Inservice Nov 2
 Veterans' Day Nov 11
 Thanksgiving Nov 25-26
 Christmas Recess Dec 24-31
 Martin Luther King Day .. Jan 17
 Presidents' Day Feb 21
 Winter Recess Feb 22-25
 Good Friday Mar 25
 Spring Recess Apr 18-22
 Memorial Day May 30

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

○ ○ EARLY DISMISSALS ○ ○

7-8 Conferences Nov 16-18
 9-12 Inservice Nov 18
 K-6 Conferences Nov 17-19
 ½ Day - All Schools Nov 24
 K-8 Inservice Jan 14
 9-12 Jan Inservice T.B.D.
 7-8 Conferences Feb 16-18
 K-12 Inservice Mar 24
 K-6 Conferences Apr 6-8
 Last Day * June 15
 High School Exams T.B.D.
 (4 days in January & June)
 Graduation* June 15

* Tentative

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

❄ ❄ NOTE ❄ ❄

Make-up days will be scheduled after June 15th. If more than five school cancellations occur, the days may be made up during the April vacation beginning with the first day of the week. This decision will be made by April 1, 2005.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

IN AN EMERGENCY POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE DIAL 911

NON EMERGENCY CALLS		TOWN HALL	
AMBULANCE:	870-3170	55 Main Street, PO Box 187	
FIRE: Crystal Lake Fire District	870-3174	Ellington, CT 06029	
Center Fire Department	870-3190	Hours: Monday 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM	
RESIDENT STATE TROOPER:	875-1522	Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM	
STATE POLICE – TROOP C	896-3200	Friday – 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM	

ADMINISTRATION:		POST OFFICE:	875-6391
Dennis C. Milanovich, First Selectman	870-3100	PROBATE COURT:	872-0519
General Information:		PUBLIC WORKS:	
Carol York/Marie Sauve	870-3100	Peter Michaud	870-3140
Selectman's Office Fax	870-3102	Public Works Fax	870-3147
TDD/TT Phone for Hearing Impaired	870-3196	RECREATION:	
ANIMAL CONTROL:		Robert Tedford	870-3118
Barbara Murdach	870-3155	Recreation Fax	870-3198
ASSESSOR:		RECYCLING COORDINATOR/	
Rhonda McCarty	870-3109	REFUSE & BULKY WASTE:	
Assessor Fax	870-3197	Peter Michaud	870-3140
BUILDING PERMITS:		Waste Management (Contractor)	528-7000
Peter R. Williams	870-3124	SCHOOLS:	
BURNING PERMITS:		Superintendent's Office	896-2300
Allan Lawrence	870-3126	Superintendent's Office Fax	896-2312
CEMETERIES:		Special Services	896-2300
Ellington-Connie Nichols	872-2595	Center School	896-2315
Crystal Lake-Mark Hoffman	875-9021	Crystal Lake School	896-2322
COMMUNITY SERVICE:		Ellington High School	896-2352
Hockanum Valley Community Council	872-9905	Guidance Office	896-2352
CONSERVATION OFFICER:		Ellington Middle School	896-2339
Laura Gregonis	424-3333	Windermere School	896-2329
ELDERLY OUTREACH CASEWORKER:		SENIOR CENTER:	
Anna Turner	870-3131	Erin Graziani	870-3133
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:		Sr. Center Fax	870-3136
Donald Davis	870-3182	SEWER ADMINISTRATION:	
FINANCE:		Pamela Lombardo	870-3145
Nicholas J. DiCorleto, Jr., Finance Officer	870-3115	SEWER MAINTENANCE:	
Bills And Accounts: Andrea M. Salemi	870-3115	Peter Michaud	870-3146
Finance Fax	870-3158	STATE ROADS:	
FIRE MARSHAL:		East Windsor Garage	623-4473
Allan Lawrence	870-3126	Vernon Garage	875-4993
HEALTH:		TAXES:	
North Central District Health Department:		Pamela Lombardo	870-3113
Director: William Blitz	745-0383	Tax Fax	870-3197
Visiting Nurse & Health Services, Inc.	872-9163	TOWN CLERK/REGISTRAR VITAL STATS:	
HOUSING AUTHORITY:		Cynthia Lacapruca	870-3105
Alex Ross, Executive Director	872-6923	Town Clerk Fax	870-3197
HOUSING REHABILITATION:	870-3132	TOWN PLANNER:	
HUMAN SERVICES:		Matthew J. Davis	870-3120
Doris Crayton	870-3128	Town Planner Fax	870-3122
Human Services Fax	870-3198	TREE WARDEN:	
LIBRARY, HALL MEMORIAL:		Peter Michaud	870-3140
Susan Phillips	870-3160	VOTING:	
MUNICIPAL AGENT:		Susan Luginbuhl/Margaret Weekes	870-3107
Anna Turner	870-3131	YOUTH SERVICES:	
POLICE:		Diane Lasher-Penti	870-3113
Resident Troopers' Office	875-1522	ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:	
Raffle/Pistol Permits: Maureen Lowe	870-3154	Richard A. Kalva	870-3120

HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TEL: 870-3160 – FAX: 870-3163 – E-mail: hallmlib@biblio.org

93 Main Street, PO Box 280

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Fri: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Closed Saturday in July & August)

HOUSING AUTHORITY - 872-6923

20 Main Street, PO Box 416 – Monday, Wednesday & Friday – 9:00 AM to Noon