



Ellington

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





ELLINGTON TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

P.O. Box 187 • 55 Main Street
Ellington, Connecticut 06029
(860) 870-3100
Ellington-ct.gov



Matthew D. Reed

Dear Ellington Residents,

The Town of Ellington continues to grow, and I am fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful and supportive community. Please take some time to read through this annual report and appreciate all of the volunteers who give so much of their time to serve all of you. From our two volunteer fire departments to our ambulance corps to the many elected and appointed board and commission members, Ellington is fortunate to have so many residents who have answered the call to participate.

The position of Town Administrator is a new one here in Ellington. For nearly a decade, town leaders have debated the implementation of a full-time administrator, a person with professional credentials and experience managing local government services. Finally, on May 8, 2023, the position of Town Administrator was approved at a special town meeting. On July 10, 2023, I was fortunate to be selected for the position from a pool of well-qualified applicants.

Prior to coming to Ellington, I was an attorney for the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the CT Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC). I also served for a period of time as the Assistant Director of Public Safety at UConn. My original career, though, was as a police officer and Chief of Police in nearby South Windsor where I served for nearly 28 years. All of these positions provide me with a wealth of experience that I think will benefit Ellington.

As our population grows towards 17,000 residents, it is important that we continue preparing for the future. The maintenance of our roadways, the weekly disposal of our household waste, the public safety needs of our residents, and the growth of our schools are only some of the issues we consider as we plan for Ellington through the next decade. I encourage you to embrace any opportunity to engage with your government and participate in the discussions and decisions that will help Ellington continue to thrive.

Together we all make Ellington a great place to grow!

Warm Regards,

Matthew D. Reed
Town Administrator



Douglas B. Harding
Chairman

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

PO Box 187
55 Main Street
Ellington, Connecticut 06029
(860) 870-3100
Ellington-ct.gov

BOARD OF FINANCE
Daniel Keune-*Vice Chairman*
Maurice Blanchette
Logan Johnson
Liz Nord
Barry Pinto

Dear Fellow Ellington Residents:

I would like to thank all of the residents of Town who volunteer their time to make our community a great place to live. I would also like to thank all of the Town's employees who work hard every day to keep our Town running.

The Town continues to receive unmodified opinions from our auditors. An "unmodified opinion" means that the auditor has found the town in compliance with approved governance principles and applicable laws. An unmodified opinion is the most favorable opinion issued by an auditor. In regard to our bond rating, in December 2023, Moody's raised the Town's bond rating by one notch to Aa2. In August 2024, Moody's affirmed that decision. This is fantastic news that will help the Town receive lower interest rates on the bonds that are being issued for the bonded projects that were approved by residents at referendum, including the Windermere School Project, Comprehensive Lighting Project and School HVAC Project.

However, the Town does face some challenges over the next few years that will have an impact on the budget and mill rate. First, the Town is seeing increases in the cost of goods and services, such as materials, office supplies, electricity, water, etc., that homeowners in town are also seeing. Second, debt is coming due to pay for the above-mentioned bonded projects. Third, the State of Connecticut has recalculated the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant that will reduce the annual grant the Town receives. While the Town was held harmless this past year, we cannot assume that the State will continue to hold us harmless in the future. The Town has received millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that have been used to pay for various capital projects over the past few years. However, these funds must be allocated by the end of 2024, so they will not be available to be used for capital projects in the future, meaning approved future projects may have to be added to the Town's annual budget if no other funding source is available.

This past year, the Town saw a significant decrease in our Grand List, which is the total amount of taxable property in town. The decrease was due to the decline in motor vehicle values. We can expect to see additional changes in the future as the State implements recently approved changes in how car values are calculated (See Public Act 23-204 Secs. 211, 212). New construction projects around town may help to offset some of these losses.

While these challenges may seem daunting, the members of the Board of Finance stand ready to meet these challenges head on and will continue to work hard to ensure the Town is in the best financial position possible. The Board of Finance encourages all residents to attend our meetings and share your thoughts, particularly during the budget process each spring.

Douglas B. Harding

Douglas B Harding, Chairman

"A great place to grow."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Board of Selectmen	3-6
Board of Finance	7
Town Assessor	7
Town Engineer	8
Land Records Inspector	8
Finance Officer/Treasurer	8-9
Tax and Revenue Collector	9
Town Clerk	10
Planning Department	10
Town Attorney	10

BOARDS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS

Planning and Zoning Commission	11
Inland Wetlands Agency	11
Ellington Sustainability Team	11
Economic Development Commission	12
Zoning Board of Appeals	12
Conservation Commission	12
Permanent Building Committee	12
Design Review Board	13
Water Pollution Control Authority	13
Ethics Commission	13
Registrars of Voters	13-14
Ad-Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee	14-16
Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee	16-17

PUBLIC SAFETY

Resident State Trooper	17
Building Official	17
Fire Marshal	17-18
Ellington Volunteer Fire Department	18-20
E911 Municipal Coordinator	20
Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department	21, 25
Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps	25-26
Animal Control Department	26-27
Public Works Department	27-28
Office of Emergency & Risk Management	29-30
Ad-Hoc Patriotic Committee	30

COLOR PHOTO GALLERY	22-23
-------------------------------	-------

TRASH & RECYCLING CALENDAR 2025	24
---	----

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks & Facilities Guide	30
Parks and Recreation Commission	31

HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY	31-33
---------------------------------	-------

SOCIAL SERVICES

Human Services	33-34
Senior Center	34-35
Youth Services	35

ELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education	36
Ellington High School Graduates 2024	37

PEOPLE SERVING YOU

Town Departments	38-39
Town Elected Officials	39
Appointed Boards and Commissions	40-41
Justices of the Peace	41

STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS	42
---	----

MAP OF ELLINGTON (with street index)	43
--	----

INFORMATION GUIDE	44
-----------------------------	----

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025	Inside Back Cover
-------------------------------------	-------------------

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY	Back Cover
-------------------------------	------------

*Cover design and page layout by Carl White
Photography by Fred Bird Photography and other sources
Printing by the Ellington Printery, Inc.*

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Board of Selectmen: Front Row (L-R) James M. Prichard, Lori L. Spielman, First Selectman; Deputy First Selectman David E. Stavens
Back Row (L-R) John W. Turner, Ronald F. Stomberg, Jamison J. Boucher, Mary B. Cardin

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Selectmen met at least once each month. There were a total of fifteen (15) regular meetings plus two (2) special meetings. Three (3) public hearings were held. The Board of Selectmen called seven (7) Town Meetings; the following are some of the primary items addressed by the Board of Selectmen during fiscal year 2023-2024:

AGREEMENTS

- Approved the one-year term extension to the Master Municipal Agreement for construction projects between the Town of Ellington and the Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Discontinued the option to rent the Ellington Senior Center Facility
- Authorized the First Selectman to sign an agreement between the Towns of Ellington and Vernon regarding the mutual waiver of building permit fees associated with the Water Pollution Control facility and the construction of a concession and restroom structure

CONTRACTS

- Awarded the contract for tree trimming, removal and maintenance services to Green Valley Tree, LLC of Chaplin, CT
- Ratified the contract between the Town of Ellington and Ellington Public Works Department and Custodians Local 1303-009 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, effective July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026
- Renewed the snow plowing services contract with All Source of New England, Ellington, CT for November 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

- Renewed the contract with Fuss & O'Neill Inc. as the WPCA on-call engineer for the period of August 15, 2023 through August 14, 2026 with two one-year renewal options
- Executed a contract with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of State Police, for the services of five (5) Resident State Troopers for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.
- Renewed the contract with Quality Data Service, Inc. of Waterbury, CT for one-year, effective September 12, 2023 with the Town having the option to renew for four additional one-year terms.
- Awarded the contract for health and benefits brokerage consulting services to USI Insurance Services, LLC of Meriden, CT for the term of August 30, 2023 to August 29, 2024 with the option to extend the contract for four additional one-year periods.
- Awarded the contract for pavement management services agreement to Beta Group, Inc. of Lincoln, RI for one year without the option to renew
- Awarded the generator service contract to F.M. Generator, Inc. of Canton, MA for one year with the option to renew for four additional one-year terms
- Awarded the contract to Associated Construction of Hartford, CT for the Vernon Pump Station upgrade
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of Connecticut contract to procure a police cruiser
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of Connecticut contract to procure a recreation vehicle
- Authorized the First Selectman to execute a contract with BP Energy Retail Company
- Awarded the contract for library catalog services to Bibliomation, Inc. of Waterbury, CT
- Awarded the contract to Weston and Sampson for the Crystal Lake and Tedford Park Master Plan
- Awarded the contract to Taxserv Capital Services, LLC for collection of delinquent taxes and other receivables until December 17th, 2024
- Renewed the contract with Tax Serv Capital Services, LLC
- Awarded Ricoh, USA Inc. the contract for Town photo copiers for the period of November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2028
- Executed a contract with Badge Six, LLC for Police accreditation consulting services
- Renewed the contract with Ellington Electrical Contractor, LLC
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the Massachusetts Higher Education Council Contract award number MC14-E05 to procure materials from Vulcan Security Technologies, Inc. for the upgrade of the Town Security Cameras
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of Connecticut contract to procure fitness equipment from Matrix Fitness for the Senior Center Fitness room
- Executed a contract with Wheeler Clinic, Inc. of Plainville, CT for employee assistance program services

- Executed a contract with New England Energy Controls of East Haddam, CT for mechanical services
- Authorized the Board of Education to retain the legal services of Chinni & Associates, LLC Ford Harrison LLP, Kainen, Escalera & McHale PC, Pullman & Comley LLC, and Shipman & Goodwin LLP to represent the BOE for collective bargaining/negotiations, labor relations/personnel issues, special education and other educational issues for the period of 2024-2026
- Waived the formal bidding process and Utilized the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Contract number PSE01 to procure Cardiac Monitors from Zoll Medical Corporation
- Endorsed the Department of Public Works to enter into a five-year agreement with the Capitol Region East Operating Committee (CREOC) to be reviewed annually
- Awarded the contract for the Ellington Ambulance Corp's replacement ambulance to Eastford Fire and Rescue of Eastford, CT
- Waived the formal bidding process and awarded the contract to Creative Recreation, under the State Procurement Contract for the installation of the outdoor fitness centers at the Ellington Senior Center and Arbor Park
- Awarded the contract for solar carport and EV charging stations to Earthlight Technologies, LLC of Ellington, CT
- Awarded the contract for Maple Street Landscape and Hall Memorial Library Garden to S+S Landscaping of Windsor, CT
- Awarded the contract for the Hall Memorial Library and Sidewalk improvements to Gerber Construction of Ellington, CT
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the Capitol Region Council of Government (CRCOG) EZIQ Program to complete the Senior Center Pavilion APRA project
- Awarded the contract for fiscal year 2024-2025 Capital Project for the reappraisal and revaluation for the October 2025 Grand List to Municipal Valuation Services, LLC of Fairfield, CT
- Awarded the contract for general insurance brokerage services to USI Insurance Services, LLC of Meriden, CT

EQUIPMENT

- Authorized the Director of Public Works to send the 2012 GMC Terrain to auction
- Authorized the Board of Education Director to dispose of the Board of Education maintenance vehicles

FINANCES

- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$1,100 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund for outreach and education initiatives surrounding the opioid crisis
- Adopted the resolution for a Daycare Tax Abatement Program
- Transferred FY 2022-23 from the following accounts: 1010-Contingency \$200,000; 5106-Ambulance fee fund \$9,895; 950-Insurance \$50,048 to the following accounts: 120-Board of Finance \$1,242; 121-Auditors \$10,158; 150-Town Counsel \$15,265; 320-Crystal Lake Fire \$16,512; 321-Public fire protection \$24,584; 331-Police Special Duty \$7,491; 333-Dare \$1,107; 360-Building Department \$215; 370-EVAC \$9,895; 451-Mun-solid/bulky waste curb \$59,852; 455-Sanitary Recycling \$43,388; 456-Household hazardous waste \$3,227;

512-Summer Playgrounds \$35,059; 513-Waterfront \$2,654; 536-Mini-Programs \$2,234; 838-EVFD Main St Building \$259; 910-Payment on debt \$21,420; 920-Interest on indebtedness \$3,306; 1030-Miscellaneous \$1,575; 1090-GIS \$500

- Appropriate an amount not to exceed \$97,500 for upfront costs for easements associated with LoTCIP State project no. L047-002 from the undesignated fund balance to the LoTCIP State expenditures account 410-60286, as approved by the Board of Finance
- Approved the budget execution or Fiscal year 2023-24 as prepared by the Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Treasurer
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$144 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund for the purchase of a banner
- Approved the transfer of \$124,872 for FY 2023-24 from account 1065 – Salary Adjustment to various Town departments' accounts to cover the cost of salary increases as specified in the salary adjustment schedule
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$273.00 from the Opioid Settlement Fund to cover fees related to correspondence with the Town Attorney regarding HIPAA and potential disclosure issues between EMS and Human Services
- Granted an abatement of taxes to Tracy French/Ellington Raquet Club for a period of seven years
- Approved the appropriation of \$1,500 for the Pinney House electricity for fiscal year 2023-2024
- Approved and authorized the Finance Officer/Treasurer to expend American Rescue Plan Funds for approved projects: Four Trail Kiosks-\$9,950; Fire Marshal Camera-\$7,995; Two Cardiac Monitors-\$85,670.24; Crystal Lake Drainage Study-\$24,900; ADA Door Opener-\$17,431; and reallocated \$75,000 for the Crystal Lake Water Study and \$63,000 for the Robert Tedford Memorial Park
- Appropriated \$115,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to fund the parking lot lighting project for Tedford Park and Pinney Street fields
- Appropriated \$10,246 from the unassigned fund balance to cover the increased cost of the purchase of the replacement ambulance
- Waived the collection of payments in lieu of taxes, PILOT, by the Ellington Housing Authority for all prior years through January 1, 2024
- Waived the collection of payments in lieu of taxes, PILOT, by the Ellington Housing Authority for a period of five years, effective January 1, 2024
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$5,5444 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund for costs related to a presentation on addiction and recovery at Ellington High School
- Waived the formal bidding process for the chip seal contract and awarded the contract to All States Construction, Inc. beginning June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- Waived the formal bidding process for the Payroll and Human Resource third party service contract and awarded the contract to Paylocity beginning May 23, 2024 through December 31, 2025
- Approved the appropriation of \$60,509.91 from unassigned fund balance to account 1000.11.01102.70.60750 Local Capital Improvement Program; further to increase the grant revenue

budget appropriation for account 1000.01.00000.00.40154 in the amount of \$58,828.91 thus resulting in a net total appropriation from the unassigned fund balance for local capital improvement program activity of \$1,681.00 for fiscal year 2023-2024

- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$8,413.80 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue fund to provide a grant to Ellington High School for Ongoing CPR, Opioid Awareness, Overdose Management and Narcan training as part of the PE/Health Curriculum
- Granted the abatement of taxes to Oakridge Dairy, LLC/The Modern Milkman for a period of seven years
- Increased the exempt salary classification minimum and maximum ranges for fiscal year 2024-2025 by 3%
- Approved the transfer of \$200,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024 from Account 1011-60851 Capital Reserve Fund to Account 1046-60250 Mill Rate Stabilization fund
- Closed out the following Capital Projects to the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance for FY 2023-2024; EVFD/CLFD-replacement fire hose \$63.36 and CLFD – SCBA Fill station replacement \$1,517.44
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$2,500 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund to cover costs related to a summer concert series

GRANTS

- Endorsed State Project L047-0003 Windermere Avenue, with 100% of relocation construction to be funded under the local transportation Capital Improvement program (LoTCIP) grant and with 100% of relocation design/engineering to be funded by the Town of Ellington.
- Endorsed State Project L047-0004 Somers Road Route 83 Sidewalk project
- Endorsed the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LoTCIP) project, Windsorville Road at Pinney Road intersection and pedestrian improvements, with 100% of the relocation construction to be funded under the LoTCIP grant and with 100% of relocation design/engineering to be funded by the Town of Ellington
- Supported the 2024 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposal – Window Replacement, Ellington Congregational Church
- Authorized the acceptance of a \$9,000 AARP Community Challenge Grant for the purchase of a greenhouse for the Senior Center

ORDINANCES

- Adopted the Local Property Tax Relief Program for Homeowners Aged 65 and Over
- Adopted the Waiver of Penalty on Income and Expense Reports Ordinance

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Adopted the Whistleblower Policy
- Adopted the new rules of procedure and agenda format
- Adopted the Snow and Ice Control Plan
- Approved the revisions to the Ellington Wall of Honor Policy
- Adopted the Purchasing and Policies Manual
- Adopted the Fair Housing Resolution, the Fair Housing Policy Statement and the Proclamation of April as Fair Housing Month in Ellington

PROPERTY

- Approved the use of 72-80 Maple Street by the Ellington Farmers Market granting exclusive use of the property between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM each Saturday running May through October, for five years
- Appropriated \$35,649.11 from the general fund unassigned fund balance to fund 5235 Oakridge Farmland preservation for the Town of Ellington 10% cost share of the purchase of development rights for 101.98 acres of farmland south of Meadow Brook Road
- Approved the purchase of open space at 79 Kibbe Road for \$300,000 to be funded through the Open Space Fund and will be comprised of recognition of grant revenue from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the amount of \$203,597 and the remaining from the committed fund balance of the Open Space Fund

STAFF

- Approved the revisions to the Youth Program Coordinator position
- Approved the revisions to the Lead Mechanic position
- Hired Marque Mercure, Youth Services Prevention Coordinator
- Acknowledged the resignation of Meganmarie Zito, Emergency Medical Technician, Full-time
- Promoted Taylor Olson from Lead Mechanic to Department of Public Works Foreman
- Promoted Thomas Modzelewski from Department of Public Works Foreman to Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator
- Hired Matthew Reed, Town Administrator
- Hired Gregory Miano, Maintainer I
- Approved the part-time Animal Control Officer job description
- Acknowledged the resignation of Erich Martin, part-time Emergency Medical Technician
- Promoted Jessica Maitland from part-time to full-time, Youth Services Program Coordinator
- Promoted Erin Meikle from part-time to full-time, Emergency Medical Technician
- Hired Kimberly Winalski, Emergency Medical Technician, per diem
- Hired Courtney Spazzarini, Assistant Town Clerk, per diem
- Hired Saxon Marselli, Lead Mechanic, Department of Public Works
- Hired Aiden Ghirolli and Olivia Alvesteffer, Emergency Medical Technicians, per diem
- Hired Kylie Logan, Emergency Medical Technician, part-time
- Acknowledged the resignation of Jacob Christopher and Anna Bahler, Library Pages, Hall Memorial Library
- Acknowledged the resignation of Pamela Scarfo, Emergency Medical Technician, Part-time
- Transferred Jim Lockhart, Assistant Animal Control Officer from part-time to per diem
- Hired Maura Armstrong, Hall Memorial Library Page
- Hired Gregory Doane, Assistant Animal Control Officer
- Hired Mark Estes and Jose Martinez, Police Officers
- Acknowledged the retirement of Michael Bard, Police Officer
- Acknowledged the retirement of Joann Bolles, Tax Clerk
- Hired Derek Wyse, Emergency Medical Technician, per diem

- Acknowledged the retirement of Gay Szumyk, Library Assistant I
- Acknowledged the retirement of Patricia Grundman, Children's Librarian
- Acknowledged the retirement of Francie Berger, Reference Librarian/Program Coordinator
- Acknowledged the resignation of Cody Langlois, Maintainer I, Department of Public Works
- Appointed Julia Connor as Recording Secretary and Rebecca Einsiedel as Deputy Recording Secretary to the Board of Selectmen
- Approved the revisions to the full-time Senior Center Administrative Assistant/Transportation Coordinator
- Hired Ben Pare, Maintainer I, Department of Public Works
- Hired Corey Maznicki, Recreation Program Assistant
- Approved the Hall Memorial Library Adult Programming and Technology Services Librarian position description
- Hired Evan Card, EVAC, EMT, per diem
- Hired Lauren Desrocher, HML, Library Assistant I
- Hired Ryan Ceritello, EVAC, EMT part-time
- Acknowledged the retirement of Kenneth McCarthy, Senior Center, Lead Van Driver
- Promoted Ashley Dabbondanza to HML Assistant Director/ Head of Youth & Family Services
- Promoted Patricia Brudz to HML Children's Librarian
- Promoted Louis Fleck to Senior Center Lead Van Driver
- Hired Mia Fiasconaro, Hall Memorial Library Page
- Hired Robert Baron, EVAC EMT Part-time
- Accepted the resignation of Collin Hall, EVAC, EMT, part-time
- Approved the Library Page job description revisions
- Hired Kim Scofield-Gamboa and Stephen Reid, Senior Center Van Drivers
- Hired Amanda Duhamel, Adult Programming and Technology Services Librarian
- Accepted the resignation of James Clyburn, Senior Center Van Driver
- Accepted the resignation of Jacquelyn Friedrich, Temporary Assistant, Town Clerk's Office
- Accepted the resignation of Corey Maznicki, Recreation Program Assistant
- Approved the Seasonal Tax Clerk job description
- Accepted the resignation of Robert Baron, EVAC, EMT part-time
- Hired Carlene Andrulat, Seasonal Tax Clerk
- Appointed Matthew Reed, Town Administrator as an alternate member of the Capitol Region Council of Governments Policy Board, representing the Town of Ellington
- Granted the request of the Winterfest Committee to hold the 2023 Winterfest on the Town Green on Saturday December 2, 2023
- Granted the request of the Ellington Recreation Department to close Town roads for the November 4, 2023 Road Race
- Adopted a resolution to appoint Matthew Reed, Town Administrator, as the local traffic authority for the Town of Ellington
- Reappointed Dorian Famiglietti of Kahan Kerensky & Capossela LLP, as the Town Attorney for a two-year term
- Reappointed the firm of Kainen, Escalera & McHale, PC as special counsel for all labor matters for a two-year term
- Reappointed the firm of Pullman & Comley LLC as Special Counsel for all bonding and ERISA matters for a two-year term
- Approved the revisions to the full-time Hall Memorial Library Children's Librarian job description, reclassifying the position from Exempt Level E-3 to Non-exempt full-time
- Approved the full-time Hall Memorial Library Assistant Director/Head of Youth and Family Services job description and classified the position as exempt Level E-4
- Approved the part-time Crystal Lake Fire Department fire station custodian job description
- Established a Charter Revision Commission
- Issued a Special Event License to Ellington Farmers Market
- Authorized the closure of Church Street during the 2024 Earth Day event
- Acknowledged the resignation of James Fay from the Board of Finance
- Appointment of Elizabeth Nord to the Board of Finance
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee for one year
- Approved the closure of Church Street during the Fair on the Green event, May 11, 2024
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Emergency Services Committee for one year
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Beautification Committee for one year
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Trails Committee for one year
- Terminated the Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation of the Pinney House
- Declared the interior of the Pinney House as a "work zone" and any activity, work or observation within the interior of the Pinney House meet OSHA requirements
- Established a Charter Revision Commission for a term of sixteen months
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee for one year
- Recommended to the State of Connecticut Airport Authority that the license to permit parachute jumping at Ellington Airport be renewed for one year
- Issued a Special Event License to Oakridge Dairy for a Farm Day Event
- Issued a Special Event License to Drew Estate for a Tobacco Educational Event
- Granted the request of the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department to use Robert Tedford Memorial Park for the annual EVFD Carnival

OTHER ACTIONS

- Re-classified the position of Assessor from exempt level E-5 to exempt level E-6
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture
- Selected Dr. Lenzy Wallace as the Wall of Honor recipient; honored at an induction ceremony on September 9, 2023
- Established a No Parking Zone and installed no parking signage around the cul-de-sac on Old Sandy Beach Road
- Re-classified the DPW Recycling/Refuse position from coordinator to manager and reclassified the position as exempt level E-4
- Re-established the Ad-Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion for one year
- Re-established the Ad-Hoc Drug free graduation committee for one year

BOARD OF FINANCE



Board of Finance: Front Row (L-R) Barry C. Pinto, Douglas Harding, Chairman; Elizabeth Nord
Back Row (L-R) Daniel Keune, Vice Chairman; Logan Johnson, Maurice Blanchette

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Board of Finance represents the taxpayer on all matters concerning the receipt or expenditure of taxpayer funds. The Board of Finance's principal responsibility is in the preparation of the annual budget, the Board works closely with the Finance Officer/Treasurer 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 more often toward assembling the annual budget.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold public meetings 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
- Member of Permanent Building Committee and Shared Services Committee
- Appropriations during public emergency
- Grant approval for which have potential to impose any financial burden on Town

TOWN ASSESSOR

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The primary function of the Assessor's Office is to complete the Grand List. The Grand List is the annual listing and record of all taxable and tax-exempt property in the Town of Ellington. The Grand List contains three components: real estate, tangible personal property and motor vehicles. The Grand List is based on an assessment date of October 1st annually. The staff in the Assessor's Office identifies and values all properties in Ellington for each of the three Grand List components. Exemptions are applied where applicable. The Grand List is completed each year by the end of January (or February if an extension is filed) after the assessment date. Property is valued in accordance with statutes and the state-mandated 70% assessment ratio is applied to calculate each assessment.

Tangible (business) personal property and motor vehicles are revalued annually. Real estate is revalued every five years, in accordance with statute. Ellington's most recent revaluation date is October 1, 2020. Real estate assessments also change due to physical changes to the property, as allowed by statute. Ellington's upcoming revaluation date will be October 1, 2025, and work on the 2025 revaluation is beginning in 2024. Preliminary analysis indicates that real estate values for residential real estate have increased significantly since 2020.

The Assessment staff also administers many tax exemption and tax relief programs that are permitted either in accordance with State statute or by local options approved by the Town of Ellington. There are tax relief or exemption programs available to many seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, charitable or religious users, manufacturers, farmers, and more.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Grand List of October 1, 2023 was signed on January 25, 2024.
- The Assessor's Office has been engaging in more outreach within the Ellington community to highlight and increase awareness to the available tax relief programs available in Ellington
- In 2024, the Town of Ellington adopted a new tax relief program for senior homeowners who meet the income qualifications established by the State of Connecticut for the senior homeowners' program. This program provides a \$200 tax credit for taxpayers ages 65 to 69, and a \$500 tax credit for taxpayers aged 70 and above.

TAX BASE

Grand List Totals	10/1/21	10/1/22	10/1/23
Real Estate	\$1,283,212,780	\$1,283,716,940	\$1,287,932,630
Personal Property	\$78,518,550	\$77,014,340	\$76,648,700
Motor Vehicle	\$196,264,700	\$207,017,080	\$196,450,330
TOTAL	\$1,557,996,030	\$1,567,748,360	\$1,561,031,660

TOWN ENGINEER

DANA STEELE, P.E.

J.R. RUSSO & ASSOCIATES, LLC

The Town Engineer is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to provide engineering consultation services to Town officers, departments, boards and commissions. During the past year as Town Engineer, J.R. Russo & Associates, LLC has provided the following services:

- Met with Town officers and prospective developers to discuss and provide guidance for preliminary development plans.
- Reviewed site design plans, traffic reports and drainage calculations submitted to the Planning Department, Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Agency in regard to Town requirements and sound engineering practice and provided written comments for consideration in the approval process.
- Prepared bond estimates and recommendation for reduction of bond amounts for erosion control on private projects and public improvements such as new subdivision roads.
- Reviewed as-built surveys for completed projects to verify conformance with the approved plans and recommend acceptance of completed public improvements.
- Assisted the Planning Department and Public Works in preparing plans for town infrastructure improvements:
 - Expand parking lot for Hall Memorial Library (completed)
 - Install sidewalks along West Road (Rt. 83) (DOT permitting progressing)
 - Culvert replacement at Burbank Road & Webster Road (grant funding progressing)
 - Somers Road (Rt. 83) sidewalks from Main Street to Maple Street (grant funding approved)
 - Windermere Avenue reconstruction & sidewalks (design progressing)
 - Athletic Field Lighting at High School, Tedford Park & Pinney Fields (under construction)
 - Police carport with solar charging station (bid awarded)
 - Windsorville & Pinney roadway improvements (grant funding approved)
 - Brush Dump Expansion (design starting soon)
 - Kibbe Road Improvements (permitting progressing)

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 Record documents prepared by the Town Clerk's Office have been inspected for the period from January 2023 through December 2023 the corrections and certification has been completed and sent to the Public Records Administrator.

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 include the 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:

- Increased credit rating to Moody's Aa2 with stable outlook
- Monthly close procedures in order to complete annual audit in compliance with State Statute
- Cyber Policy and required changes/additions
- Assisted in administration of Capital Projects
- Maintained monthly close procedure with Board of Education
- Closed out Capital projects to the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance
- CIRMA rates reduced flat due to Town proactive risk control enhancements
- LOSAP Administration
- Coordinated Budget Executions for all Town Departments
- Active role on the American Rescue Plan Advisory Committee
- Active role on the Shared Services Commission
- Assisted with the Windermere School Renovation/Addition
- Update Purchasing Policy and Procedures Manual
- Implemented Purchasing Card Program
- Implemented Streamlined AP Process

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

- Ellington Avenue Sewer Extension
- Hall Memorial Library Parking Lot and Renovations
- Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps Ambulance
- Maple Streetscape and Hall Memorial Garden
- Vernon Pump Station Upgrade
- Reappraisal and Revaluation
- Board of Education HVAC
- To Provide Food Services at Town Beach
- Board of Education Van
- Windermere School Phase 3 FFE and Technology
- Health and Benefits Brokerage Consulting Services
- Library Catalog Services
- Solar Carport and EV Charging Stations

The Finance Office requested, assisted and/or led the following contract ratifications:

- Award of Contract: Tree Trimming, Removal and Maintenance Services
- Contract Renewal: State of CT – Resident Troopers
- Contract Renewal: Quality Data Service
- Award of Contract: Crystal Lake and Tedford Park Master Plan
- Agreement: Tax Serv
- Agreement: Ricoh Copier Agreement
- Contract Award: Police Accountability Consulting Services
- Contract Renewal: Electrical Services

- Contract Renewal: Snow Plowing Services
- Contract Renewal: WPCA On-Call Engineer
- Contract Renewal: Wheeler Clinic Employee Assistance Program
- Award of Contract: Insurance Brokerage Services

The Finance Office assisted in the following Shared Service initiatives:

- Information Technology Services

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

- Budget preparation (tables and books) and capital improvement books
- Standardization of all budget documents
- Provided historical statistics for maintaining reserve and contingency funds
- Interim budget expenditures/revenue projections
- Tax Relief for Seniors
- Daycare Tax Abatement

The Finance Office assisted with the following grant administration:

- Local Capital Improvement Program
- LOTCIP Windermere Avenue
- Strawberry Road Bridge
- STEAP Grant – Hall Memorial Library Parking Lot
- State Bonding Grants – Metcalf Trail
- State Bonding Grants – Maple Streetscape
- State Bonding Grants – Hall Memorial Library Reading Garden
- State Bonding Grants – Tedford Park Equipment
- State Bonding Grants – Crystal Lake Playground
- State Bonding Grants – Arborway Carport
- State Bonding Grants – Main Street Lighting
- State Bonding Grants – Arbor Park Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- State Bonding Grants – Senior Center Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- State Bonding Grants – Crystal Lake/Tedford Park Master Plan
- ARPA – Vernon Pump Station
- ARPA – Police SUV
- ARPA – High School Track
- ARPA – EMS Elevator
- ARPA – DPW Pickup Truck
- ARPA – Senior Center Fitness Center
- ARPA – Infield Grooming Unit
- ARPA – Senior Center Exercise Equipment Concrete Pad
- ARPA – CLFD Extrication Tools and Rescue Struts
- ARPA – Upgrade Town Security Cameras
- ARPA – Arbor Park Exercise Equipment Concrete Pad
- ARPA – Recreation/Human Services/Youth Services Vehicle
- ARPA – EVAC Carpet Replacement
- ARPA – Trail Kiosks
- ARPA – Fire Marshal Camera
- ARPA – EVAC Cardio Monitors
- ARPA – Arbor Way ADA Door Opener
- ARPA – BOE In-District Transportation

TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Tax Collector is responsible for the billing and collection of the real estate, motor vehicle, personal property taxes, water assessments, sewer use and assessments. These responsibilities are governed by Connecticut State Statutes, Town Charter, and Town Ordinances.

A consistently high rate of collection is the key to fiscal stability for the town and remains the number one priority of the Tax Collector. Balancing the need to maintain a high rate of collection with the sensitivity necessary to deal with the individual taxpayer issues is an integral part of the tax collection function.

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Grand List was comprised of the following accounts:

6,076	Real Estate
954	Personal Property
16,671	Motor Vehicle
2,369	Supplemental Motor Vehicle

Totaling: 53,948,207

COMPARISON	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Current Collections	\$47,784,391	\$50,650,970	53,409,074
Back Collections	291,167	291,167	95,439
Interest, Liens & Fees	194,879	207,919	194,286
Collection Rate	99.3%	99.46%	99.25%

There are several statutory methods used to collect past due taxes. Liens are placed on all past due real estate accounts, demand letters are prepared and mailed and non-responsive accounts are referred to the Town Attorney for Tax Sales or foreclosure. UCC liens are filed with the Secretary of State on all past due personal property accounts. All past due motor vehicle accounts are reported to the State Department of Motor Vehicles, which prevents residents from renewing their registration.

The Tax Office provides ongoing technical information and assistance to taxpayers, attorneys, bankers, appraisers, and leasing companies. We deal electronically with escrow services and banks which make it more critical for the customer to ask questions if there is a discrepancy.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR

JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Estate 1st installment • Personal Property 1st installment • Motor Vehicle <i>single</i> payment
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer Usage Fee
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash Collection Fee
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real Estate 2nd installment • Personal Property 2nd installment • Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax <i>only if applicable</i>
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer Usage Fee
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer Benefit Assessment Fee • Dog License Fee

TOWN CLERK

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The duties and responsibilities of the Town Clerk’s Office consist of the following, most of which are governed by State Statute, others by Town Charter and the Board of Selectmen. The State Statutes govern the duties and responsibilities of the Registrar of Vital Records.

- 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 filing minutes and notices received from various Boards and Commissions, as required by the Freedom of Information Laws
- Preparation of absentee ballot election material for all elections, primaries, and referenda
- Registration of voters and accepting applications for voters wishing to change their party affiliation
- Issuance of marriage licenses, burial, cremation, and transit permits, and certifying copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates
- Annual registration of dogs
- Sale of Sportsman Licenses
- Aircraft Registration Official
- Recording and preparing minutes of Town Meetings
- Issuing and maintaining all Raffle & Bazaar Permits

All Town Meeting Minutes are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office. Also available are land record indexes and images as well as recorded survey and subdivision maps. These are available both for public retrieval in the Town Clerk’s office and on the Town Website under Land Records.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- **NEW IN 2023:** The Clerk’s Office now offers protection from property and mortgage fraud, free of charge, with Property Check. Sign up at <https://recordhub.cottsystems.com>
- Annual Dog License renewal is available on the Town Website – current rabies vaccination certificate must be on file at the Town Clerk’s Office to utilize this service.

Summary	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Births	139	128	115
Marriages	101	81	33
Deaths	123	117	144
Land Records Filed	2,089	2,357	1,999
Maps Filed	29	28	26
Trade Names	31	24	30
Dog Licenses	2,173	2,328	2,342
Kennel Licenses	8	8	5
Sports Licenses	291	341	386
Liquor Permits	11	13	12
Veteran Discharges Filed	22	35	35
Cemetery Deeds Filed	40	35	32
Aircraft Registrations	14	11	7
Bazaar & Raffle Permits	-	-	7
Notary Services	-	-	307

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Ellington Planning Department assists citizens, businesses, government officials, design professionals, and developers with general land use inquiries, permitting requirements, and compliance activities associated with zoning, subdivision, and wetlands regulations. Staff provides technical and administrative support to six permanent land use commissions: the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Inland Wetlands Agency, the Economic Development Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Conservation Commission, and the Design Review Board. In addition to carrying out planning, permitting and enforcement duties, the Planning Department helps direct long-range planning and local GIS (Geographic Information Systems). Department staff consists of a full-time Town Planner, a full-time Assistant Town Planner Wetland and Zoning Officer, a full-time Land Use Assistant, and a part-time Recording Secretary.

TOWN ATTORNEY

DORIAN REISER FAMIGLIETTI
KAHAN, KERENSKY & CAPOSSELA, LLP

The Town Attorney is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to be the legal advisor to the Board, the First Selectman and all Town officers, departments, boards and commissions in all matters affecting the Town. As Town Attorney, I have remained busy during this past year; however, I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome Matthew Reed, Ellington’s Town Administrator. He has been a pleasure to work with and, because of the experience he brings to this position, he has made my job a bit easier. So, thank you and welcome, Matt!

During this past year as Town Attorney, I have worked with the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and Finance Department on the creation of a new tax abatement ordinance for farms, approval of certain tax abatement agreements, and I have provided counsel on matters related to the Pinney House lease.

I have worked with the Public Works Department, Water and Sewer Department and Finance Department on streamlining the Town’s public bidding process and on bidding and contracting relative to various municipally required services and municipal improvement projects, including ongoing construction at Windermere Elementary School, the Ellington Avenue sewer extension and the construction of a solar carport and EV charging stations at the Ellington Police Station. In addition, I have worked with them on the Town’s transition to the Capital Region East’s household hazardous waste collection program.

I have counseled the Parks and Recreation Department in connection with the various programs it offers and I have worked with the Planning Department on new development proposals and conveyances to the Town in connection with approved developments.

Additionally, I have worked with the Assessor on certain property tax audits and to resolve the remaining tax appeals stemming from the 2020 Revaluation.

BOARDS, AGENCIES AND COMMISSIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION (PZC)

The PZC is responsible for maintaining and updating the Ellington Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD/Plan). The POCD is a policy document that guides land use, development patterns, preservation strategies, and capital investments for certain infrastructure and community facilities with a ten-year lookout. The last comprehensive update to Ellington's POCD was effective November 30, 2019.

The subdivision and zoning regulations are the main tools the PZC uses to implement long term planning policies and development practices. These regulations are living documents and amended from time to time in accordance with the goals and objectives of the POCD.

Zoning regulation text amendments for the past fiscal year include:

- Section 7.14.3 to expand the types of agricultural-related uses for farms.
- Section 7.15.7 to increase construction setbacks and buffer requirements for standalone ground-mounted solar arrays.
- Section 3.1.3 Accessory Uses/Structures, Section 4.1 Permitted Uses, and Article 10 Definitions for Child Care Center, Family Care Home and Group Care Home to comply with Public Act 23-142.

The PZC is also responsible for processing subdivision, site plan, special permit, and other development applications. With technical and administrative support from its staff, the PZC ensures developments comply with applicable regulations and approved plans. This is accomplished through plan review, site inspections, issuance of zoning permits and certificates of zoning compliance, and enforcement actions. Additionally, the PZC provides recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding improvements to public infrastructure and land transfers for consistency with long-term land use goals and objectives.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five (5) subdivision applications.
- Three (3) special permits pursuant to 3.1.3 Accessory Uses/Structures of the Ellington Zoning Regulations totaling 5,450 +/- sf of new construction.
- One (1) special permit and site plan approval for a retail and medical office at 135 West Road.
- Three (3) special permits for rear lots.
- Modification to existing special permit, 40 Lower Butcher Road, Valley Truck and Off Road.
- Modification to site plan to relocate and enhance access for 100 and 106 West Road.
- Special permit and site plan approval for a 29,650 sf personal storage facility for Stick It Here Storage, 25 West Road.
- Site plan for a 44,880 sf pickleball and tennis facility for Ellington Raquet Club, 55 Lower Butcher Road.
- Special permit and site plan approval for a 94,500-sf tradesmen rental facility for the rear portion of 50 West Road.
- PZC members completed over forty-three (43) hours of training to comply with Public Act 21-29.
- One hundred and fifty-seven (157) Zoning Permit applications processed.

INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY (IWA)

The wetlands and watercourses are an interrelated web of nature essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground water; to hydrological stability and control of flooding and erosion; to the recharging and purification of groundwater; and to the existence of many forms of animal, aquatic and plant life. Wetlands are defined by state law, and include certain soils that are poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial (found along a watercourse or water body), and floodplain soils. The IWA regulates direct-impact activity and activity within either one hundred (100) feet of a regulated area or two-hundred and fifty (250) feet to a mapped watershed. The IWA does this by way of approving permits in accordance with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, and enforcing the regulations through field inspections, permit suspensions or revocations, notices of violation, cease and desist orders, and if necessary, by fines. The regulations also permit some operations and uses as of right or as nonregulated however the IWA must be notified to make this determination prior to the commencement of the activity.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Twelve (12) Agency applications approved/approved with modifications or conditions.
- One (1) map amendment.
- Six (6) requests accepted for uses permitted as of right and nonregulated uses.
- Six (6) Administrative Agent applications approved/approved with modifications or conditions.

ELLINGTON SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

During this report period the town planner and public works director co-chaired the Ellington Sustainability Team. The TEAM was established by the Board of Selectmen to apply for voluntary certification with Sustainable CT recognizing communities that practice inclusive, resilient, and vibrant sustainable actions. After establishment, Team members met monthly to identify attainable certification actions and share the status of completed tasks. In April certification application was submitted and in June Sustainable CT awarded Ellington Bronze Level certification for the current three-year cycle for 24 sustainable actions in 12 categories. TEAM members were:

- John D. Colonese - Assistant Planner, Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer
- Rebecca Einsiedel - Admin. Assistant, Town Admin. Offices
- Barbra A. Galovich - Land Use Assistant
- Kristen Harp - Youth Services Director
- Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner & TEAM Co-Chair
- Dustin Huguenin, Recreation Director
- Tracey Kiff-Judson - Shared Services Commission, Board of Education Rep
- Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director, Veterans Service Rep
- Thomas Modzelewski, Director of Public Works, Water Pollution Control Authority Administrator & TEAM Co-Chair
- Sue Phillips, Library Director
- Samuel Saunders, Recycling & Refuse Manager
- Rebecca Stack, Human Services Director

A special thanks to all Ellington personnel and citizen volunteers that helped TEAM members accomplish sustainable actions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

The EDC is committed to fostering a pro-business environment which encourages a growing, sustainable, and diverse tax base. The EDC continuously looks to facilitate communication between businesses and town officials. The EDC adopts policies consistent with the Plan of Conservation and Development and strives to improve the quality of life in Ellington.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted the second annual Ellington Farm Day, September 23, 2023, an event promoting local farms and agricultural-related businesses.
- Hosted the fourth annual Shop Ellington Event, a two-week long buy Ellington campaign promoting local businesses in conjunction with Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and the holiday shopping season.
- Member of the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce with representation on the Chamber's Economic Development Committee.
- Representation at the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards Event and presentation of award to Ellington Agway for Corporate Citizen.
- Awarded Silver Certified Community for Best Practices in Economic Development and Land Use Planning by the Connecticut Economic Development Association (2022 – 2024).
- Established a Customer Service Satisfaction Survey.
- Referred a new ordinance to the Board of Selectmen pursuant to CGS §12-81m - municipal option to abate up to fifty percent of property taxes for dairy, fruit, vegetable, nursery, nontraditional, or tobacco farms.
- Submitted proposed revisions to the Ellington Zoning Regulations Section 7.14.3 to enable more agricultural-related activities for farms.
- Created and published a local business directory.
- Recommended a tax abatement agreement for a 44,880 sf pickleball and tennis facility for Ellington Racquet Club, 55 Lower Butcher Road.
- Recommend a tax abatement agreement for Oakridge Dairy and The Modern Milkman, for the construction of a bottling facility, 80 Meadowbrook Road.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)

The ZBA is a statutory required commission comprised of local volunteers who consider applicant's claims that they cannot comply with local zoning regulations because a regulation affects their land in some unique way. This land-based hardship can be the basis for granting a variance and allowing a provision of the zoning regulations to be modified. In addition, the ZBA considers appeals from people who feel the enforcement officer made an error in interpreting and applying a provision of the zoning regulations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Nine (9) variance applications approved/approved with conditions.
- Completion of commissioner training pursuant to Public Act 21-29.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CC)

The CC focuses on conservation planning. This includes planning for open space, farmland preservation and other conservation areas. The commission is advisory and does not issue permits for development, rather its members make recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Selectmen and others regarding planned open spaces, acquisition of farmland development rights and other conservation strategies.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmland easement recorded May 6, 2024, permanently protecting 102 +/- acres of farmland generally located south of Meadow Brook Road and west of Jobs Hill Road.
- Developed strategies to raise awareness about open space and farmland preservation.
- Supported revisions to the Ellington Zoning Regulations Section 7.14.3 – Special Permit Uses for additional agricultural-related activities.
- Approved revisions to the Plan of Conservation protected land inventory.
- Approved updates to Open Space and Farmland Preservation brochures.
- Supported conservation actions completed by the Ellington Sustainability Team for Sustainable CT certification.
- Supported the Ellington Trails Committee and efforts to create, maintain, and enhance trails throughout town.

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE (PBC)

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

In 2024 the PBC has completed a lighting project where several town athletic fields now have lighting for night use. Work is also ongoing at Windermere School with the new addition projected to finish in December 2024 and the renovation of the existing school scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2025. Both of these projects were approved by voters at referendum in 2022.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (DRB)

The DRB is advisory to the Planning and Zoning Commission and provides recommendations for exterior design elements for commercial, industrial, mixed-use, multi-family, and special permit uses in residential zones.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Review of site improvements for a pickleball and tennis facility for Ellington Racquet Club, 55 Lower Butcher Road.
- Review of site improvements for a self-storage facility for Stick It Here Storage, 25 West Road.
- Review of site improvements for a tradesmen rental facility for the rear portion of 50 West Road.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

The Water Pollution Control Authority is a five-member board with the responsibility for the administration and maintenance of the two sewer systems in the Town, the Hockanum Sewer System that collects residential and commercial sewage for treatment at the Vernon Sewer Plant and the Crystal Lake Sewer System that collects residential sewage for treatment at the Stafford Sewer Treatment Plant. All town sewer maintenance is handled by the Water Pollution Control Authority in conjunction with the Public Works Department.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Approved the 2024-25 Budget which is funded by user fees and included in the Town's budget reporting process.
- Set Sewer User Fees 2024-2025 for Hockanum and Crystal Lake systems:

Hockanum Sewer System

- Hockanum annual fixed fees (all users) \$250.00
- Hockanum annual variable fees (well users) \$420.00
- Hockanum price per 1000 gallons of water (CT Water Users) \$8.4092

Crystal Lake Sewer System

- Crystal Lake annual fixed fees (all users) \$264.00
- Crystal Lake annual variable fees (full-year users) \$600.00
- Crystal Lake annual variable fees (seasonal users) \$400.00

**Said charges will be effective October 1, 2024.*

- Continue to update AppGeo Sewer Layer for Ellington GIS MapGeo.
- Continued to monitor H2S levels at Pump Stations.
- Fuss & O'Neill projects-Flow Allocations, Vernon Pump Station Upgrade Project, I&I for southeast portion of Hockanum Sewer Service Area, lining of the clay sewer main in the Farmstead Ln. Moser Dr. area., engineered and bid the Ellington Ave. Sewer extension project.

ETHICS COMMISSION

The Ethics Commission is an independent Commission established to hear, review and evaluate complaints under the Code of Ethics, as well as respond to requests to render advisory opinions concerning the applicability of the Code regarding specific situations or circumstances.

The Commission is tasked to provide and maintain the Code in order to guide elected officials, appointed officials and employees in the proper discharge of their official responsibilities, and to prevent the misuse of an official position for personal financial gain. The Code, which was last revised in Fiscal Year 2022 with the review and advice of the Connecticut Office of State Ethics and the Town Attorney, is a critical link between persons subject to the Code and our residents' confidence in ethical Town governance.

The Commission welcomed two newly appointed members, Patience Turkson and Madelina Williams this year. The Commission received no complaints or requests for advisory opinions during the past Fiscal Year.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The two registrars are responsible for organizing and conducting elections, primaries and referenda. They are also accountable for registering and maintaining accurate voter records for the town. These activities include annually canvassing town residents who are on the voter rolls but have not exercised their right to vote in several past consecutive elections with the objective of updating active voter files. They also hold voter registration drives at the high school, and other locations.

The Republican Registrar, Wanda DeLand, has served the town in this capacity for 17 years and Democratic Registrar, Lois Timms-Ferrara, has held the position since April 2018. Both registrars have fulfilled all educational and training requirements and are certified by Connecticut's Secretary of the State. They are active in the Tolland County Registrars organization and have assumed committee positions in the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC) to an effort to advance the field.

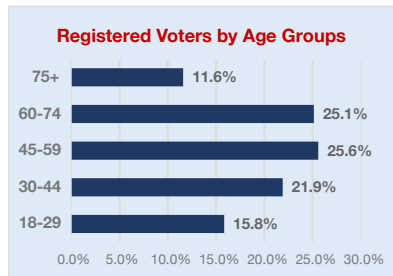
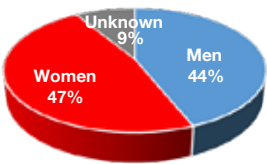
This year introduced Early Voting in Connecticut. The two April 2024 Presidential Primaries included four days prior to the election where voters were able to cast their votes at Town Hall. There was a light turnout, as anticipated, but the November 2024 Presidential election will likely see more voters taking advantage of having multiple days in which to vote.

VOTER TURNOUT

There are three voting districts in Ellington, Districts 1 and 3 typically vote at Ellington High School and District 2 votes at Crystal Lake School. Referenda are held at the Ellington Senior Center, and this year the Presidential Primaries were also held there since schools were in session. If you are uncertain about where to vote, call or stop by the Registrar's office in Town Hall or use the state portal to check: <https://portaldir.ct.gov/>.

During this fiscal year the office held the November 2023 Municipal election, two Presidential Primaries in April 2024 and two Budget Referenda in late spring 2024. Turnout in Ellington follows most towns in Connecticut with a greater number of voters participating in national and state elections rather than the local municipal elections and referenda.

Both in 2016 and 2020 the Presidential Elections brought more than 91% of town voters to the polls. And the 2022 Gubernatorial Election saw a 63% turnout.



The table above shows turnout for the elections/referenda held during this fiscal year.

ELLINGTON VOTER TURNOUT

Race	Turnout
Municipal Election November 2023	35%
Presidential Primaries April 2024	10.8% (R) 8.7% (D)
Budget Referendum I May 2024	13%
Budget Referendum II June 2024	12%

Here’s a bit of a view into some other characteristics of the Ellington electorate. There are slightly more women than men and more than half are in the 45-74 age cohort.

REGISTERED VOTERS

While there was only a modest increase in the number of registered voters over the last year (57), there are nearly 4,000 more registered voters today than in 2018, that’s a 49% increase in six years. Equally as remarkable is how stable the distribution of party affiliation has been over this same period.

ELLINGTON ACTIVE VOTERS BY MAJOR PARTY

	July 2024	%	July 2018	%
Democrats	2,729	24.7%	1,855	24.5%
Republicans	3,084	27.1%	2,072	27.3%
Unaffiliated	5,280	46.4%	3,529	46.5%
Other	185	1.8%	129	1.7%
Total	11,278		7,585	

LOOKING AHEAD

November 5, 2024 is the US Presidential election; there will be early voting for two weeks prior—including weekends: Monday October 21 through Sunday November 3. The times are 10am to 6 pm, except the last Tuesday (October 29) and Thursday (October 31) when the hours are 8 am – 8 pm.

If you are interested in registering to vote or wish to update your name, address or political party affiliation on your voter registration file, you may do so online at <https://portaldir.ct.gov/> or drop by town hall at 55 Main Street to complete a registration card. There are also registration cards available at Hall Memorial Library that may be dropped off or mailed to the Registrar’s Office. To learn about more election-related information, the Secretary of the State’s website goes into detail on several topics: www.sots.ct.gov.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The democratic process is made possible in Ellington by the hard work of so many. The registrars wish to thank the polling officials who make the time to train and work at the polls ensuring that qualified, bonafide voters are allowed to make their voices heard during election time. This year, with the introduction of early voting more of our neighbors have answered the call to serve our community in this way. Please, use kindness and appreciation when interacting with our polling officials who uphold our national and state laws.

AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE

SUCTION HARVESTING

New England Aquatic Services (NEAS) spent seven (7) days beginning on July 31, 2023 using two boats with two divers and two crew members on each boat, providing 197 hours of Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting. They were removing Variable-leaf Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and Ribbon-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton epihydrus*) from various areas in the lake. On the first day of the project Boat 1 began work in the Dam Area harvesting milfoil and preparing the area for benthic barriers. “Annual Maintenance” was conducted by Boat 2 which consisted of checking the lake proper for new areas of Milfoil growth. No new areas were identified so the crews began harvesting Ribbon-leaf Pondweed from the Western Shoreline. Day 2 was spent with both boats in the Dam Area harvesting and cleaning up mats while Boat 2 also removed pondweed from the westerly shoreline just south of the Dam Area. Day 3 was spent installing 8 existing mats and 10 new mats in the Dam Area, followed by Boat 1 commencing work in the Northeast Cove Area and Boat 2 in the Aborn Cove Area. On Day 4 both boats continued working in the respective cove areas. On Day 5 each boat spent a few hours harvesting in the coves before moving to the Town Beach Area to harvest milfoil. On Day 6 Boat 1 continued in the Northeast Cove Area then again moved to the Town Beach Area, Boat 2 spent the entire day in the Town Beach Area. On the final day, Day 7, both boats began in the Town Beach Area where Boat 1 remained all day. The last hour of the day Boat 2 re-swept the Aborn Cove Area.

Over the course of the 7-day project, 386 bags of milfoil and pondweed were removed from the lake and approximately 3.43 acres were cleared. The total project was 197 hours (Annual Maintenance–21.5 hr, Northeast Cove–21 hr, Dam Area–27 hr, Town Beach Area–88.5 hr, Aborn Cove–19 hr and mats–20 hr).

IN LAKE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Water Quality monitoring was performed by the Crystal Lake Association (CLA) and evaluated by Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) from April to November in 2022 in the open water areas of the lake. Parameters being tested are water clarity, phosphorous, dissolved oxygen and temperature.

Water Clarity: Water clarity was satisfactory in 2023 and remained better than 3 meters for the entire season. The best clarity was 4.6 m, recorded on April 15th. The worst clarity was 3.1 m, recorded on November 14th. Every Secchi disk reading except for April was either the same as, or worse than the long-term averages for each month. Clarity gradually worsened from the best value of the season of 4.6 m in April to 3.3 m in July. Water clarity improved slightly during August and early September, then decreased in October. The clarity in 2023 was generally worse compared to 2022, when clarity was excellent. There were a number of storm events that caused severe erosion and subsequent discharge of sediment into the lake.

Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature: The lake was fully oxygenated in April and the difference in water temperature at the surface and the bottom was already large, approximately 9 degrees C. At that time of year, the water temperature should be the same from top to bottom. By May 22nd, the water below 13 m was anoxic, meaning oxygen concentrations were less than 1 mg/L. The anoxic boundary rose to a maximum height of 8.9 m on October 15th. This is almost equivalent to the maximum height in 2022 of 9 m in September. During the November visit, the bottom 2.5 m at the deep spot remained anoxic. Water column dissolved oxygen profiles also show mid-depth

anomalies occurring anywhere between 4 and 9 m where there is an increase in DO in May (5 m) and June (8 m), a decrease in DO in July (5 m), increased DO in August (8 m), and a slight increase in September (9 m). Anomalies of increased concentration are caused by photosynthesis of mid-depth plankton assemblages that thrive in low light and use density gradients to keep from sinking. It will be a concern if these populations are increasing over time.

Nutrients: Total Phosphorous (TP) remained below 20 ppb in the top and middle of the lake, except for in April and September. TP in the surface water was 27 ppb in April and spiked to 72 ppb in September, probably due to stormwater loading. The bottom water TP concentrations were elevated in July due to internal nutrient release during periods of anoxia at the lake bottom. Nutrient concentrations then decreased until the end of the year. Bottom total nitrogen (TN) concentrations were high for most of the season, especially in July, August, October, and November.

Stormwater Sampling Analysis: Aborn Brook: Inlet samples were analyzed for total phosphorous (TP) and total nitrogen (TN) in 2023. Aborn Brook total phosphorous (TP) concentrations were highest in July and August. However, Aborn Brook had lower TP and TN than any of the stormwater sampling points.

Watershed Analysis: The stormwater sampling analysis program was continued this year to determine if nutrients from stormwater runoff are adversely impacting the water quality in Crystal Lake. Eight locations identified by NEAR in 2020 have samples collected by volunteers from the Crystal Lake Association (CLA) during the beginning of major rainfall events for laboratory analysis by NEAR for nitrogen and phosphorous. Samples were collected for some of the locations for rain events on May 20 and June 24, 2023. TP and TN were extremely high at Waypoints 1, 8, 9 and 11 during both storm events. This information is shared with the Town of Ellington Department of Public Works for use in the CT DEEP required MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) reporting. Collection of stormwater samples was ceased as of August 31, 2023 due to an accounting error which removed approximately \$2,500 from the budget. This sampling will resume in FY 2024-2025.

Aquatic Plants: Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) performed a pre-management aquatic plant survey of the lake on July 11, 2023. They documented 26 plant species along with filamentous algae. Two invasive species were found: *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* (variable-leaf milfoil) and *Glossostigma cleistanthum* (mudmat). *Nitella* (Stonewort), *Sagittaria teres* (Quill-leaved Arrowhead) and *Potamogeton epiphydrus* (Ribbon-leaf Pondweed) were dominant, meaning that they were present at greater than 20% of waypoints.

Myriophyllum heterophyllum (Variable-leaf Milfoil) was once again present in the lake's three coves. It was particularly dense and widespread in the northern part of the lake in the Dam Area.

Following the suction harvesting of the milfoil plants, a second plant survey was conducted on September 7th and September 22nd. Twenty plant species were documented during this survey. Variable-leaf Milfoil, Muskgrass, Ribbon-leaf Pondweed, Quill-leaved Arrowhead, and Mudmat were dominant post-management.

Variable-leaf milfoil remained present in all the coves. Several very sparse beds were also found in other areas in the littoral zone. The average density of milfoil did not significantly change pre- and post-management. The increase in Mudmat was primarily due to increased efforts searching for the plant.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2024 – 2025

- Continue water sampling and testing of the lake waters from March through November

- Continue the annual maintenance in the main body of the lake.
- Continue milfoil removal from the Dam Area at the north end of the lake.
- Continue milfoil removal in the Town Beach Area
- Continue milfoil and pondweed removal off of the Northeast Cove.
- Remove pondweed at various locations in the lake.
- Continue the bottom barrier placement to control milfoil in the Dam Area and possibly in Aborn Cove near the mouth of Aborn Brook, as required.
- Conduct a pre-harvest plant survey.
- plant survey in July 2023.
- Perform a comprehensive lake wide aquatic plant survey in the fall of 2023.
- CLA volunteers to continue collecting stormwater samples during major storms for analysis. Sampling during five storm events would be desirable but this will depend on the rainfall events.
- NEAR to conduct an additional stormwater evaluation and testing during a rainfall event.
- NEAR to coordinate Stormwater sampling and results with Town DPW for their MS4.
- Collect and test bottom sediments in the Dam Area to determine their extent and composition and if a dredging project in that area might be beneficial to the lake and the control of invasive plants. If feasible and beneficial, the availability of a Grant will be investigated.

Suction harvesting is anticipated to begin in August, 2023.

SEDIMENT IN CRYSTAL LAKE:

The Ad Hoc Milfoil Committee is concerned about the degradation of water clarity and water quality caused by sediment in the stormwater runoff entering Crystal Lake. We applied for funding and received a grant for approximately \$25,000 through the Town and the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) to update the 2002 Crystal Lake Drainage Study. Cardinal Engineering Associates of Meriden is presently working on this update. The goal is to identify and propose cost effective solutions to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts caused by sediment in the stormwater runoff entering Crystal Lake.

WARMER WEATHER AND COST OVERRUNS:

The warmer winter temperatures and the lack of ice and snow cover on Crystal Lake have eliminated the winter dormant plant period causing excessive milfoil growth.

The monthly in-lake water testing for the past 20 years has been from April to November. In 2024 the testing was started in March because in April 2023 the lake was already had a 9 degree centigrade temperature difference from top to bottom. It is important to get the water quality parameters prior to the lake warming from top to bottom. The Rockville Fish and Game Club provided a boat and driver for the March testing because the homeowners do not typically have their boats and docks in the water that early in the season.

Near the end of May the Committee members and lake residents began noticing excessive milfoil growth in several areas and large (3' to 5') pieces of milfoil floating to the west shore from the Dam Area. To counteract this abnormally large rate of growth the committee contacted NEAS (suction harvesting divers) and moved the normal August work period to July. We also requested NEAR to advance the pre-harvest plant survey so the divers would know where to work.

The plant survey, among other things, noted excessive milfoil growth in the Northeast Cove Area and the Dam Area. The Dam Area was extremely dense with most of the plants extending above the surface of the water and were flowering. This was VERY BAD since the flowers produce seeds that drop into the

lake and spread the milfoil. NEAR stated that this should be addressed SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. To make the situation even worse, there is heavy kayak and paddle board traffic through this area from people entering the lake from a parking lot by the dam. Paddling through this area has been breaking the dense growing milfoil and causing it to spread to other areas of the lake and revegetate.

The chairman of the committee visited the area by boat and photographed the surfacing milfoil and presented it to NEAS with a request for 24 hours of Emergency Suction Harvesting for July 1, 2 and 3, 2024 (FY 2024-2025). The intent was to open a channel for the paddlers to use to minimize the breaking and spreading of milfoil during the anticipated hot July 4th holiday period and throughout the summer. The majority of the suction harvesting would begin on July 22, about three weeks later. When the owner and president of NEAS saw the photos he stated that in 20 years of removing milfoil he had never seen anything that bad. All of his crews were assigned to projects but he would try his best to provide this Emergency Suction Harvesting. His crew arrived and removed milfoil in the Dam Area to successfully provide a channel for the paddlers on June 24 – 26 (FY 2023-2024).



This photograph shows the milfoil at the Dam Area on June 19, 2024 prior to the Emergency Suction Harvesting. Note the surfacing of the milfoil throughout the area.

The Crystal Lake Association had already had discussions with the Town Financial Officer to cover a portion of the June water testing because of the FY 2023-2024 budget shortfall discussed in the Stormwater Sampling Analysis section of this report. The CLA also covered the cost of the plant survey that was shifted to this fiscal year due to the warmer weather. A check for \$2,738 was given to the Town to balance the budget for 585 Water Quality.

Since the FY 2023-2024 budget had been exhausted the Emergency Suction Harvesting was contracted by the CLA directly with NEAS. This money was in our FY 2024-2025 budget but the timing would not allow. The cost of this service was approximately \$5,000.

PROJECT ADJUSTMENTS:

To counter the warmer weather and excessive milfoil growth the Milfoil Committee is reserving 45 hours of our FY 2024-2025 suction harvesting money to use to knock down problem milfoil areas in the spring prior to the main harvesting in the summer. We are also going to apply for ARPA funding for additional suction harvesting hours (the proposal period has reopened for a short period and closes July 26, 2024). We are also considering having two main suction harvesting periods: one the end of May and the second in late August or September to be more efficient and cost effective.

AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

The Ellington Trails Committee continues to work to improve, highlight, and educate the community about our trails. We have developed several great partnerships over the years and will highlight one of them below.

Improvements and Maintenance of Ellington Trails: Work was done this past fiscal year on all of Ellington's trails. Many, many thanks to our Committee members, Town of Ellington Department of Public Works, Ellington Public Schools' Green Earth Club, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, business Johnny Appleseed, Key Bank employees, local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts (more below), and several volunteers for their work.

- **Batz:** Planting of wildflowers; weeding and mulching gardens; pruning of fruit trees
- **Crystal Ridge:** Second bridge installed; general clean-up; bridge work; lay down of pavers
- **Kimball:** Realignment and stabilization of bridge that was washed out two years ago
- **Metcalf:** New gravel; new fence; new bench; general clean-up
- **Windermere:** Raising of bridge to allow for clear passage due to excess water; removal of invasive knotweed near pond

Educational Programs: The Trails Committee co-hosted several educational programs this year with great attendance.

We continued to collaborate with our great partner, Hall Memorial Library to co-sponsor six lectures by Ginny Apple on fishers; bats; black bears; turkeys; squirrels and chipmunks; beavers, muskrats, otters, and minks; and reptiles/amphibians. In addition, we also partnered with the Library on a program with four raptors from Ashford's Horizon Wings, and a session with Xen's Critters where participants were able to interact with a sand snake, hedgehog, tortoise, and a 65-pound Burmese python, among other animals.

Hikes: This past spring, the Committee held its CT Trails Day hike at Windermere, and bird watching at Batz with birding expert Denise Anamani. In the fall of 2023, the Committee hosted a foraging walk at Batz with the 3 Foragers leading the way and teaching the group about how to identify, prepare and cook wild edibles. Our traditional hike around Snipsic Lake was held over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Getting the Word Out: In an effort to continue to get the word out on our trails, the Committee had a table with maps and information about our trails at the Town's Earth Day event in April, and the Ellington Farmer's Market in August. The Trails Committee continued to assist the Ellington Centennial Lions Club with the traditional Trail of Treats. Thank you to the Lions Club for taking on this very popular community event!

Thank You to Our Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops: We want to extend a special thank you to the many members of our local Boys and Girl Scout Troops both on a troop level and individual members. From building bridges, benches, picnic tables, a tool bin for community gardeners at Batz, bluebird houses, and toad houses - to blazing trails - to clean-up of our trails - to preparing wildflower seed bombs, members of the local troops have done an amazing job! The Committee's partnership with the Troops has been on-going and growing since we started collaborating with them a few years ago. We hope their experience has been gratifying and worthwhile as it has been to us!

Looking Forward – Pathways to Success: Some of the major projects we are undertaking now and over the next few months will provide further direction and information about our trails including: new brown road signs directing visitors to Batz, Crystal, Kimball, and Windermere trails (already in place); kiosks at all our trailheads; and maps for the Crystal Ridge Trail and upcoming Ellington

Highlands Trail (to be blazed in the coming months), completing our series of maps for all our trails.

In addition, we are also working on revised emergency trail signs to assist emergency services with locating any lost or hurt hiker. The signs will include specific codes which will be familiar to emergency personnel to guide them to the hiker.

For an updated list of happenings, go to our Facebook page or the Town of Ellington website under the Calendar of Events section. Or email Linda Anderson at andylin49@earthlink.net if you would like to volunteer, receive email updates or if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

PUBLIC SAFETY



RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS

The Ellington Resident State Troopers Office serves as the primary Law Enforcement contingency for the Town of Ellington. The State Police team consists of Resident State Trooper Supervisor Sergeant Brian Santa #165, TFC Tyler Burnell #1091, Trooper Justine Cedergren #619 Trooper Joseph Fratini #899 and Trooper Stefanie Gurski #1140. The Ellington Town Police Officer team consists of fourteen sworn Police Officers. Officer Joseph Decker CC25 serves additionally as the Police Support Specialist. The Resident State Troopers Office also provides Marine Patrol support on Crystal Lake using three certified Marine Patrol Officers. The Resident State Troopers Office is supported by Troop C in Tolland for all daily operations. The team is backed up by the entire State Police Department and its specialists which include Major Crime Squad, Forensic Laboratory, Fire Marshals Unit, Emergency Services Unit(s), Statewide Narcotics/Gangs Unit, Canine Unit, Bomb Squad, Traffic and Truck Squads.

JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD

The Ellington RTO serves as host and lead agency for the Tri-Town (Ellington, Stafford and Somers) Juvenile Review Board (JRB). The JRB consists of TFC Burnell (Ellington RTO), sworn member of Somers RTO, sworn member of Stafford RTO, member of Youth Services and a member of State DCF. The JRB is intended to divert from Juvenile Court children who have committed minor delinquent acts or whose behavior at home or school indicates they are at risk of delinquency. The board meets the first Thursday of each month in Somers.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COLLECTION

Prescription medications are collected from the Prescription Drug Collection Box and transported to the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) for destruction. Over 1000 lbs. of prescription drugs have been collected for destruction.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The Resident State Troopers Office continues to staff the Ellington Public School system with a School Resource Officer. For the 2024/2025 School year Officer Jeff Duda will fill the SRO position.

DARE PROGRAM

The Resident State Troopers Office continues to provide two DARE Officers for the 2024/2025 School Year. Trooper Cedergren #619, Trooper Fratini #899 and Trooper Gurski #1140 have been selected to teach the DARE curriculum.

MAJOR ACTIVITY (August 2023 - August 2024)

Totals Calls	8,548
Accidents	171
DUIs	18
Burglaries	8
Alarms	273
Larceny	33
Traffic Stops	318
Medical	163
Disturbances	137
Weapons	14
Suspicious Incident	207
Patrol Checks	5,222

BUILDING OFFICIAL

The Building Official is responsible for 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 completed within one or two days of an inspection request.

ACTIVITY REPORT

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
New Single Family Homes	22	9	13
New Commercial Buildings	6	4	8
New Multi-Family Buildings	0	0	0
Residential Alterations & Additions	70	66	87
Repairs/Replacements to Existing	357	252	279
Mechanical/Electrical	715	608	658
Other	129	52	63
Totals	1,299	991	1108
Field Inspections	1,228	1077	1116
Estimated Construction Value	\$29,436,422	\$24,468,676	\$92,091,450
Permit Fees Collected	\$483,962	\$378,653	\$499,838



FIRE MARSHAL

The Department of Town Fire Marshal performs both investigative and code enforcement roles within our community. Direct responsibility for the investigation of all fires, explosions and hazardous materials incidents and code compliance inspections of most properties (single and two-family residential properties are exempt) are mandated by Connecticut General Statutes. Applications for administrative and criminal search warrants and for arrest warrants are filed with the court system when determined by investigation to be appropriate.

Annual code compliance inspections are conducted of all special events and all permanent or temporary buildings, occupancies, facilities, whether new, existing or under construction or renovation.

In cooperation with the appropriate state agencies, permits are processed for all liquor establishments, day care centers, group day care homes, explosives operations and open burning. Construction plans for buildings and occupancies regulated by the Connecticut Fire Safety Code are examined for approval prior to the issuance of building permits and certificates of occupancy are approved following completion of that construction.

In late 2022, Connecticut adopted a new State Fire Code. This new code enacted stringent requirements for existing buildings including a 10-year lifespan for smoke alarms. These changes have increased the number of enforcement citations in certain occupancies.

The Department of Town Fire Marshal also participates in public outreach programs to promote fire safety throughout our

community. These include the Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest and events such as Earth Day and the Trail of Treats.

In the Poster Contest, elementary school students design posters with fire safety messages and compete at the town, county, and state levels. Winning posters are then featured in calendars and fire prevention media in the next year. One of Ellington's winning posters in 2023 received recognition at the state level for its exceptional design, quality, and message.

During the year the Department of Town Fire Marshal acquired a Matterport lidar camera which allows for the 3D imaging of a space. The technology creates a digital clone of a building for users to "walk through" on a computer without the risks of visiting active construction areas or fire scenes. This camera has a variety of uses including scene preservation during investigations, creating virtual tours, or documenting progress at a construction site.

Comparison statistics are provided below as an aid in determining the effects of the past twenty years of town growth and the Town's ability to meet its lawful obligations to fire investigation and code enforcement functions.

SUMMARY OF FIRE MARSHAL SERVICES

	2003-2004	2013-2014	2023-2024
Investigations	64	43	49
Criminal (Felony and Misdemeanor ¹)	24	10	0
Non-Criminal	40	31	38
Undetermined	0	2	11
Fire Casualties: Fatal	0	1	0
Non-Fatal	4	0	0
Building Fires	26	15	5
Motor Vehicle Fires	8	5	4
All Other Fires	23	14	11
Non-fire Incidents	-- ²	-- ²	24
Hazardous Materials Incidents	7	8	3
Fire Losses, Total (X \$1000)	\$411.2	\$224.4	\$665.65*
Criminal	\$19.0	\$0.5	0
Non-criminal	\$392.2	\$223.9	\$665.65
Undetermined	0	0	*
Value of All Properties	\$2,679.4	\$4,988.2	\$24,107.3
Exposed to Loss (X \$1000)			
Enforcement Inspections	528	996	1,776
Commercial	99	112	163
Public Assembly	51	42	27
Educational	13	18	5
Residential (Multi-family)	310	801	1,327
Hazardous Materials	24	5	16
Other	31	19	40
Life Safety Systems	-- ²	-- ²	22
Drills	-- ²	-- ²	43
Burn Inspections	-- ²	-- ²	13
Enforcement Citations Issued (Misdemeanor)	690	202	685
State Licenses and Permits Approved	44	43	25
Open Burning Permits Processed/ Approved	26	11	13
Arrests or Referrals	6	1	5

¹ Misdemeanor violations cited as a result of code enforcement inspections are not included here; they are shown at Enforcement Inspections.

² Not administered or recorded by this department at that time.

* Loss data unable to be obtained for certain investigations. Number presented is lower than actual loss values.



ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

CHIEF: Robert A. Smith

ASSISTANT CHIEF: Karl S. Neubecker

DEPUTY CHIEFS: Cole Prato, Thomas Adams

CAPTAINS: Peter Hany, Jr., Regan Toomey

LIEUTENANTS: Jared Fongemine, Katherine Hany, Jacob Light

SECRETARY: Michael D. Varney

TREASURER: Adam D'Agostino*

MEMBERS

Valerie Adams	Frederick Bird (A)	Brendan Burke
Joseph Carilli	Jordan Chamberlin	Dominick Cristelli
Steven Dze	Elizabeth Feldman	Gary T. Feldman, Sr.
Kieran Foster	Michael Gallagher	Vince Gambacorta
Barndon Hill	John Hogan	Greg Larensen
Erich Martin	Jacob Micelli	Kaila Morrow
Tom Palshaw (A)	Daniel Parisi	Jake Raber
Randy Smith	Dennis Varney	Aaron Virkler
Frederica Weeks	Spencer Woll	

LIFE MEMBERS

Jonathan Allen	Bryan Blotniski	Steven Breault, Sr.
Arthur Caldwell	Daniel Connors	Richard Daugherty
Leonard Descheneaux, Sr	Kevin Gambacorta	Kimberly Gambacorta
Allan Lawrence, Jr.	Robert Levandoski	Jack A. Rich
Jack Rich, II	Robert Sandberg, Sr.	Allen Smith
	John W. Turner	

CADET MEMBERS

Landon Chapman	Sujay Chava	Cameron Cheney
Levi Connors	Joshua Davis	Kaitlyn Delaney
Logan Herrick	Jaidyn Morrow	Jack Spanswick

HONORARY MEMBERS

Stephan Chase	Ted Graziani
---------------	--------------

*2023 Firefighter of the Year

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was organized in 1928. We are proud to recognize 96 years 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. Currently the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department is rated by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) as a class 5/8B. During the past several years, the types of incidents, their added frequency and growth within 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 sick or 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 sick and injured. For those patients in need of advanced life support or trauma team services, multiple area paramedic programs are used, frequently supported by the Life Star Helicopter transport team, are requested.

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. formally signed a multi-year agreement in 2009 to provide services to the Town of Ellington as outlined in the Town of Ellington Charter as revised.

INCIDENT REPORT SUMMARY

Below is a summary of emergency response statistics for the time period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. During this period, the department responded to 1040 emergency calls



Fire Marshal York utilizes the DTFM's Matterport Pro3 camera at the Windermere Elementary construction site to capture the progress.

Photo Credit:
Ellington Department
of Town Fire Marshal

totaling 548 hours, which equated to more than 4599 donated man-hours for emergency services.

Significant incident activity for the year included multi-family structure fires and several large mutual aid fires.

The following outlines the emergency activity and related services provided by the department to the Town of Ellington:

Fire, Explosion	24
Structural/building fire	4
Cooking fire	1
Chimney fuel burner/ Boiler malfunction or fire confined	1
Vehicle/mobile property fire	4
Forest, brush, grass fires	2
Refuse, construction, dumpster, landfill fire	9
Outside fire other	1
Fire other	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1
Rescue, Emergency Medical Service	766
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	699
Vehicle accident, extrication from vehicle	54
Search for person in water	1
Extrication, rescue other	1
Rescue standby or other rescue	11
Hazardous Condition, Standby	37
Hazardous condition other	1
Flammable/combustible liquid spill	3
Refrigeration leak	1
Carbon monoxide incident	8
Electrical equipment problem/overheated motor	5
Power line down	13
Arching, shorted electrical equipment	2
Vehicle accident no extrication	4
Service Call	71
Service call, other	4
Person in distress	5
Lock out	12
Water or steam problem/water evacuation	11
Smoke, odor removal	3
Animal problem	1
Public service assistance/assist invalid	9
Assist police or other government agency	1
Unauthorized burning	1
Cover assignment, standby, move up	24
Good Intent Call	40
Good intent call, other	14
Cancelled enroute, wrong location	22
Authorized controlled burning, prescribed fire	2
Hazardous materials investigation	2
False Call	98
False call other	10
Alarm system malfunction	31
Unintentional alarm	51
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	5
Malicious false report	1
Other	4
Severe weather or natural disaster standby	3
Lightning strike (no fire)	1
Citizen complaint	0
Totals	1,040

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

MEMBERSHIP TRAINING & ACTIVITIES

During the year, Ellington firefighters spent over 4500 hours in departmental training activities. Several officer drills were conducted in the area of planning, management skills, interoperable communications, incident command and regional response plans. Training sessions were also conducted throughout the year with surrounding mutual aid fire and rescue departments in topics such as: National Incident Management System (NIMS), Rural Water Supply and Live Fire Training. The Ellington Fire Department also hosted and sponsored several courses this past year including Hazardous Materials and OSHA reviews.

Attendance at regionally sponsored training programs included classes in the following skills; firefighting, hazardous materials, emergency medical training, incident command, live burn exercises, decontamination, management and planning, water rescue, and several areas of technical rescue. The Connecticut Fire Academy, Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Office of Emergency Medical Services, National Fire Academy, or other recognized organization/agency, accredited all courses attended.

Members of our department also attended specialty courses held at the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis, IN, and several conferences hosted by the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Kansas City, MO and Clearwater, FL.

Live burn exercises were conducted regionally by EVFD personnel for area departments utilizing the departments live burn trailer, which was funded by a federal grant. A new forcible entry training tool was purchased this year to support firefighter training.

We are extremely 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 Training programs.

Members currently hold many national certifications in the following levels: Firefighter I,II, III, Fire Service Instructor I, II, III, Fire Officer I, II, III, IV, Pump Operator, Aerial Operator, Health and Safety Officer, Hazardous Materials Technician, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), and Emergency Medical Services Instructor (EMSI).

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 were necessary to meet these regulations due to the age of the front line apparatus. Examples of specific annual tests include: annual apparatus safety inspections, ladder, hose, pump, SCBA, SCBA cylinders, and all fire extinguishers.

This year we continued a program with the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps to consolidate the purchase of our respective agencies' emergency medical service equipment and supplies. This promotes standardization of equipment and the leverage of bulk purchases.

This year Ellington Volunteer Fire Department purchased 5300' of replacement 5" supply hose for our pumping apparatus.

FACILITY

The center fire house, located at 29 Main Street, houses 6 vehicles, several trailers, and most department offices, equipment and records. Department meetings and trainings are also conducted at this facility. During this year we continued with our regular maintenance and safety inspections. This facility has had, and continues to receive, renovations to address upgrades and storage issues. This past year the HVAC system was upgraded and modernized to replace several outdated systems and improve efficiencies.

The departments south end station, located at 6 Nutmeg Drive, houses 5 vehicles including the departments aerial, an engine, a service vehicle with the Hazard Materials trailer, and UTV.

SPECIALTY TEAMS

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department members are active participants in several regional and statewide teams supporting regional emergency service activities. Members participate on The Capital Regional Hazardous Materials Response and Incident Management Teams in addition to the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service Dive Team and Search and Rescue Team. The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department also actively participates on several State Fire Rescue Disaster Plan, Coordinators, Strike Teams, and Task Forces. Responses of our members of these teams included several incident management team activations around the state, hazardous materials incidents in the capitol region, dive team responses throughout the Tolland County area as well as Strike Team and Task Force deployments in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

CADET FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

The Cadet Program is open to youths between the ages of fourteen and nineteen. Cadets have the opportunity to participate in the same programs and training as the regular membership in addition to their own dedicated training and activities. Their participation at emergency incidents is restricted to assure they are not exposed to hazardous activities. The insights and support they bring to the fire department represent a valuable part of our organization. As they grow in experience and age they are brought into the organization where their training continues.

FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Team had another busy year. Over 12 public education programs were conducted including presentations at Kindergarten through Grade 2 elementary schools, Pre-K programs in addition to other area nursery schools. The presentations were designed for younger children with the emphasis on attempting to build a comprehensive understanding about fire and awareness of safety. During the year we also provided several tours to groups at our firehouse and spoke to other organizations on fire and safety related issues. Please contact us at publiceducation@ellingtonfire.org if you would like to set up an appointment for us to host or speak to your organization.

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 a program to provide 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 the inception of the program, the program has benefited the town by attracting more members and increasing the activity of the existing staff.

FUTURE PLANNING

The town continues to experience an increased growth rate and we have continued planning to meet the needs of our community in the years to come. The need for improved existing and an additional facility to adequately provide protection to the community, apparatus replacement and relocation, are areas of immediate concern. The town has appointed an emergency services committee and had previously hired a consultant to review the services provided to the town by the emergency service agencies to address these areas which need improvement.

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 our 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 visit the Ellington Center Fire House on Main Street, or visit us online at: www.ellingtonfire.org, facebook.com/ellingtonfd or leave us a message at 860-870-3190.

Thank you for your continued support, respect and help in making this, the 96th year of our service to the community, a safe and successful year for everyone.

E911 MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR

This office has several key functions that help to deliver efficient emergency services to the citizens of Ellington. 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 ensures that all streets and all street numbers assigned to properties on those streets are within the parameters of the E911 database guide. New streets are added to the database at the time of construction. Existing streets are adjusted for extensions or additional lots. Several times during 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 ensures the efficient handling of all 911 calls for assistance. As a member town of a regional dispatch center that serves as our Primary Service Answering Point, PSAP, the Town of Ellington can provide a professional answering and dispatch service at a very economical rate.

Legislated financial support for regional dispatch centers and 911 PSAP's distributes funds for the continued operation of these vital communication centers. Funds collected from telephone user fees are distributed to all eligible dispatch centers across the State of Connecticut. The funding formula for distribution of these revenues supplement operating expenses, capital improvements and dispatcher training.

The member towns of the regional center continue to supplement the operational expenses for the dispatching services. A change in the municipal assessment for dispatching services has been implemented and will be phased in over three years. It will more accurately assess the municipality for the services it uses.

Increase usage of the system, communications coverage and inter-operability between jurisdictions and agencies continues to be a priority and a challenge for the county planning committee as they move forward to implement the long-range plan. Dispatch software upgrades, base radio replacements, communication links across the region and working through the sunseting of the low band communications network are challenges that are being addressed. A Bond Grant from the State of Connecticut will help to facilitate some of the infrastructure up-grades.

A Mobile Command unit has been outfitted for field service assignment for large and lengthy duration events.



CRYSTAL LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF: Timothy Seitz

ASSISTANT CHIEF: Robert Edwards

DEPUTY CHIEF: Michael D'Averso

FIRE CAPTAIN: Annmarie Seitz

EMS CAPTAIN: Fred Sharpe Jr.

1ST LIEUTENANT: Bryan Harvell

2ND LIEUTENANT: Douglas Gebhardt Jr.

SECRETARY: Annmarie Seitz

TREASURER: Bryan Harvell

MEMBERS

James Adkins	Douglas Gebhardt Sr.	Annmarie Seitz
Michael Allen	Bryan Harvell	Timothy Seitz
Brett Cowhey	Christopher McCue	Fred Sharpe Jr.
Michael D'Averso	Corey Pyles	Scott Small
Britney Edwards	Alberto Rivera	Brooke Souliere
Robert Edwards	Cindy Rivera	John Streiber
Douglas Gebhardt Jr.	Douglas Rogala	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jessica Harvell Krystina Adkins

LIFE MEMBERS

William Morrison Charles Pippin

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairmen: Mike Bialozynski

Co-Chairmen: Mike Discenza

Clerk: Annmarie Seitz

Board: Annmarie Seitz, Patricia Wendell, Robert Edwards

The Crystal Lake Fire Department (CLFD) continues to serve the Crystal Lake Community with premier fire and emergency medical services while also providing assistance to surrounding communities through a county mutual aid agreement. The department members have proudly volunteered to serve their community for the last 90 years. The primary mission of CLFD will always be the protection and preservation of life and property during each fire, medical, or rescue related emergency. The department is staffed by trained volunteers who are state and nationally certified Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Emergency Medical Responders. All members operate out of "Station 42", which is located at 316 Sandy Beach Road, and is home to all of the department's apparatus and equipment. Annually the members volunteer thousands of hours of their personal time, which is time away from their homes and families, to keep their neighbors and community safe. The success of the department is testament of the dedication and commitment of the membership and their families.

The Crystal Lake Fire Department responded to a total of 325 calls for service, totaling 2,056 hours volunteered to fulfill the emergency needs of the community. The Crystal Lake Fire District continues to provide automatic mutual aid to the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department. CLFD provides this response Monday-Friday from 6am-6pm to add increased manpower and equipment needed for mitigating certain incidents. This has been great for both departments as we have been able to work together more often making us a stronger and more collaborative team. CLFD is remains prepared to respond to and mitigate numerous types of emergencies, including structure fires, vehicle fires, hazardous materials emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, emergency medical incidents, water emergencies, and technical rescues.

In order to effectively operate at various emergency scenes each member has to maintain, often exceeding, the strict skills and certifications required by the State of CT and the department.

This is done through in-house training drills/classes and by attending courses offered by the Connecticut Fire Academy, Hartford County Regional Fire School, Eastern Connecticut Fire School, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Our members participated in a total of 1,617 hours of training during the course of the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Some of the courses that our members typically complete include: Fire Officer, Fire Service Instructor, Firefighting, Hazardous Materials, Emergency Medical Services, Incident Command, Incident Safety Officer, Live Burn Exercises, Rapid Intervention Team, Extrication, Search and Rescue, Scuba Diving, and Technical Rescue.

This year we returned to Crystal Lake Elementary School and do our annual fire safety presentation for the kids. This is a time where the members get to interact with the youth of the town and shed some light on what the fire department does for the community and allows the youth to bring some fire safety tips home. We delivered the program to approximately 350 children from Pre-K- 4th grade. This is always a treat for the kids of the community and for our membership.

Medical emergencies make up the largest portion of our call volume in district. Crystal Lake residents have become accustomed to receiving a quick response from a trained professional providing the best care possible whenever a 911 call has to be made. This is what we always strive to provide at every call, every time. Our highly trained medical personnel, consisting of Emergency Medical Technicians and Emergency Medical Responders, work seamlessly with multiple agencies, including Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, to ensure the best pre-hospital medical care possible. If a patient should require a more advanced level of care, members will work closely with an Advanced Life Support provider, known as a Paramedic, usually provided by American Medical Response (AMR) or Ambulance Service of Manchester (ASM). At times, CLFD will request a Life Star Helicopter should a patient sustain an injury or illness requiring rapid transport to a specialized facility that provides a higher level of care. Our main concern is always making sure our patients receive the best pre-hospital care possible in a timely manner.

Station 42 continues to be dispatched by Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service, where they handle all of its emergency communications. The department also continues to participate in the county wide emergency task force through our mutual aid agreements providing manpower, equipment, and water to our surrounding communities should the need arise.

The dedicated Fire Officers of the Crystal Lake Fire Department have completed 5,811 hours of administrative and support work including, completing all incident reports, equipment testing, and town required paperwork. The Officers serve the department in a supervisory role at all emergency calls in and out of district and are in charge of running meetings and routine operations at the station. The Officers are also responsible for making sure there are always members available to provide proper coverage of the Crystal Lake district ensuring the residents receive immediate service when they are in need.

The Crystal Lake Fire Department currently has 20 members and is always looking to expand its membership with new residents who take an active interest in the fire or medical services. Training is provided by the department for new dedicated volunteers! If you would like to receive more information about volunteering please stop into the fire station Mondays at 7pm and speak with a member, visit www.crystallakefire.org, or call (860)870-3174. CLFD offers a junior membership program to the youth of the community. This provides a perfect avenue for the youth of the community to learn about fire and medical services. In addition to the training they receive they also will assist in operations at the scene of emergency incidents while under the supervision of an advisor.

ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE







TRASH & RECYCLING

2025 COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Recyclables are collected every other week. Shaded weeks = pick-up weeks

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			D	D	D	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					

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	D	D	D	D	D	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					

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	D	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		

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
	D	D	D	D	D	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				

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	D	D	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	D	D	27
28	29	30	31	D	D	

D = One-day delay in pickup

(New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day)

All items must be placed outside by 6:00 am on pick-up day for curbside collection.

Bulky Waste Pickup: 860-289-7850

While we hope that the residents will never need our assistance in the upcoming year, we continue to remain prepared to respond to emergencies for the residents of the Crystal Lake Fire District and any surrounding communities that need us.

SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

Fires and Explosions Total	17
Structure Fires	10
Off Road Vehicle, Heavy Equipment Fire	2
Rubbish, Trash, or Waste Fire	1
Forest, Woods, or Wildland Fire	1
Natural Vegetation or Brush Fires	2
Outside Equipment Fire	1
Rescue Call Total	168
Emergency Medical Incident or Assist	122
Emergency Medical Service Incident, Other	19
Motor Vehicle Accident/ Vehicle Extrication	22
Trapped by Power Lines	1
Search for Person in Water	4
Hazardous Condition Total	17
Chemical Spill or Leak	1
Carbon Monoxide Incident	1
Power Line Down	12
Electrical Problem/ Arcing Electrical Equipment	3
Service Call Total	21
Lock-out	1
Smoke Odor Removal, Water Removal	2
Assist Police	2
Public Service Assistance	8
Unauthorized Burning	2
Cover Assignment, Standby	6
Good Intent Call Total	76
Good Intent Call, Other	2
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute	71
No Incident Found Upon Arrival	3
False Alarm Call Total	26
False Alarm or False Call, Other	5
Smoke Detector Activation	16
CO Detector Activation	4
Alarm System Malfunction	1
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0



ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

PRESIDENT/CHIEF: Peter Hany, Sr.

VICE PRES./ASSIST. CHIEF: Bruce Hoffman

TRAINING/DEPUTY CHIEF: Nicole Caron

SECRETARY/CAPTAIN: Melissa McCann

TREASURER/CAPTAIN: Joshua Rosenfeld

SCHEDULER/LIEUTENANT: Alisa Smith

SUPPLY: Nicole Caron

MAINTENANCE: Peter Hany, Sr.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/LIEUTENANT: Committee

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Megan Bradway	Rebekah Gerber	Melissa McCann
Nicole Caron	Peter Hany, Sr.	James O'Donnell
Dorota Gdula	Isabella Kupferschmid	Faizdeenkhan Pathan
Douglas Gebhardt	Mitch Laforge	Joshua Rosenfeld

PAID STAFF

Chad Adams	Mike Girard	Rachel Sollima
Olivia Alvesteffer	Collin Hall	Caitlin Sutyak
Evan Card	Deborah Landry-Schiessl	Noah Welti
Kerri Cushing	Kylie Logan	Jennifer Wells
Abigail Edelstein	Jack Maloney	Kim Winalski
Kimberly Gambacorta	Kaila Morrow	Derek Wyse
Aiden Ghiroli	April Phelps	Vikas Kumar
	Erin Riordan	

LIFE MEMBERS

Ray Close	Dan Flanagan	Krista Schulz
Doreen Connor	Bruce Hoffman	Alisa Smith
Jean-Marie Currier	Steve Kratzke	John Streiber
Renee Cyr	Denise Rioux	Greg York
	Angela Sandberg	

HONORARY MEMBERS

Tonya Glomboske	Tom Palshaw	Kim Courville
-----------------	-------------	---------------

LAST CALL

None

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

The Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC) has been providing emergency medical services to the Town of Ellington and its surrounding communities for the past 62 years.

All crews and equipment meet or exceed the State of Connecticut requirements and remain fully licensed through examination and inspection.

An active first response system allows EVAC and both fire departments to render immediate lifesaving care when it is needed most. All EVAC members that live in Ellington are provided with first responder medical supplies and are encouraged to respond whenever possible. Where necessary, EVAC works with regional paramedic providers and aeromedical response services.

In this past fiscal year alone, EVAC responded to 1,749 calls. We strive to provide the best possible care, and are always training for the next call.

EVAC continues its commitment to continuing medical education with online training assignments and monthly training drills, at which both fire departments are now invited so we can train together. There are many opportunities for additional training and courses with local hospitals and our partners in the region.

EVAC not only has American Heart Association CPR and First Aid qualified instructors on staff to offer training to various organizations and individuals in our community, but also has 6 State of CT certified EMS Instructors, who can teach a magnitude of knowledge to our members as well as individuals and the community. EVAC personnel are also trained as state examiners for skills testing. This year, EVAC EMS Instructors ran an EMR class for local high school students. 100% of students in the class passed both their state practical exams and national written exams. Many



students from that class are part of Rescue Post 512, and now serve alongside our members on the ambulance during the day. Two of these EMRs have bridged over to their EMT.

As a responsible municipal member of the Town of Ellington, EVAC is working in conjunction with the other emergency departments to streamline services and reduce costs to taxpayers whenever possible. EVAC is the central purchasing point for all EMS supplies for the town-wide fire and rescue services, as well as for AEDs and supplies within municipal buildings.

EVAC further provides CPR and First Aid training to town employees "at cost," ensuring our colleagues within public works, recreation, public schools, and more are prepared for emergencies, while keeping costs for the town low. Additionally, money generated by ambulance billing fees help offset the annual town budget, in addition to funding the purchasing of vehicles like our ambulances, resulting in no cost to the taxpayer.

EVAC, along with Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Crystal Lake Fire Department, Ellington CERT, Connecticut State Police, and Ellington Police continue to train annually for Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response. Members across all three Ellington emergency service departments, alongside our law enforcement partners, are trained in Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC). TECC, a civilian adaptation of Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) from the US military, is designed to ensure those affected by a high-threat event receive prompt, quality medical care even while the event is still unfolding. While we hope to never require these skills, we remain committed to being ready when we are called.

EVAC participates in the national awareness campaign called Stop The Bleed, which trains bystanders in the basics of bleeding control. Classes have been completed for all of our current members, offered to all new providers, and are available to the community as needed.

We have also equipped our Rescue Post 512 members with stop the bleed kits to carry within Ellington High School.

EVAC also completed some significant upgrades in the past couple years. Using ARPA funds, we were able to replace a 10+ year old carpet in our training room, purchase a new digital white board to enhance our training capabilities, and two Zoll X-series cardiac monitors.

Using savings from bulk medical supply purchasing and better coordination between the three departments, EVAC was able to use funds to purchase a new full-body manikin. This manikin provides for improved simulation for both our classes and training, including anatomically realistic airway management, blood pressure auscultation, pulse monitoring, IM injection, and more. Unlike our existing torso-only CPR manikins, this full-body manikin can also be used to practice patient lifting and moving, spinal motion restriction, use of backboards, and more.

EVAC was also one of many recipients of The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grant. This funding was used for training equipment.

EVAC members also maintain a presence on the national Emergency Medical Services stage by serving on various national committees, including the National Association of EMTs, International College of Advanced Practice Paramedics, and the American Heart Association.

Members are also involved locally, within the CT OEMS Region 3 Committee and the Tolland Windham County Mutual Aid Ambulance Association. Members are engaged in speaking activities at a wide array of local and national conferences.

EVAC would like to congratulate the 2024 Volunteer of the Year, Nicole Caron, for her exceptional service, and to all our members reaching milestones of 5, 10, 20, and more years of service.

EVAC would also like to congratulate John Streiber, Bruce Hoffman, Nicole Caron, and Mitchell LaForge for their heroic efforts for a successful save of a cardiac arrest. They were recognized by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, a representative for our Philips AED vendor, the Town of Ellington, and the State of Connecticut.

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our families, friends, neighbors, and the Town of Ellington for your continued support throughout the year. We are always appreciative of the many businesses, individuals, houses of worship, and other organizations that have been very generous in providing monetary donations, meals, and many words of encouragement. We have been extremely lucky to have such a generous community and can not thank each of you enough. Your support is so important to us as we strive to make our community a safer place to live.

Like any active organization, EVAC is always looking for new motivated members. Prospective members must be committed to providing high quality emergency care. EVAC provides uniforms, continuing education, and equipment to all members at no cost. Not yet an EMT? EVAC has programs to cover the cost of initial training as well.

For additional information, please call us at 860-870-3170 visit our website at www.ellingtonambulance.org, or email us at information@ellingtonambulance.org. Check out our Instagram @ellingtonambulance or Facebook @ellingtonamb to learn more about us and all of the exciting things that we do!

ELLINGTON ANIMAL CONTROL

PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS

Ellington Animal Control is responsible for the enforcement of the Connecticut State Laws pertaining to domestic animals. This department responds to complaints of violations of animal control laws, maintains the animal control facility as well as enforcing the State dog licensing regulations. The officers also investigate complaints of vicious, diseased or neglected and abused animals as well as impounding stray and roaming dogs. Impounded animals are cared for at the animal control facility 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 for the year, a search for unlicensed dogs and any delinquent dog licenses begins. There is a penalty for failure to license under CT. Statue 22-349 which is a \$75 fine per dog. The penalty for failure to vaccinate for rabies is \$136.00 under the CT. Statue 22-339b*.

The Officers do assist the police and the public with animal emergencies. The Animal Control Department makes every effort to ensure 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.

The Animal Control Department consists of Animal Control Officer, Barbara Murdach, Assistant Animal Control Officers, Kathy DiBacco and Gregory Doane and newly hired per diem Assistant, Karen Picard. The shelter is open to the public seven days a week but since we do work part-time, we require appointments to see the animals available for adoption or to redeem your dog. To reach Animal Control, please call (860) 870-3155. The Animal Control Facility, which is located on Main Street behind the Fire Station, is the holding quarters for stray, roaming and relinquished dogs and quarantined dogs and cats.

Nuisance wildlife calls are handled through the State of CT D.E.E.P. Wildlife Department. That phone number is (860)424-3333. They also have a website that gives information on wildlife rehabilitators and nuisance wildlife. Our department does respond to sick or injured wildlife and any wildlife that exhibits signs of rabies. We also advise the public on ways to resolve issues with wildlife living in their neighborhood.

Ellington Animal Control helps the community so that pets and people can co-exist safely. An important role of this

department is to work closely with the public to educate about laws, solve problems and offer advice on the care and concerns of pet ownership.

Ellington Animal Control has a Facebook page with animal care information, lost & found animals and pets available for adoption. We are very grateful for the support and help we get through our network of friends. Keeping the community involved and up to date on current events and news is extremely important for our department. We do ask that you please contact our office directly by telephone for complaints and reports of lost & found animals, so we can attend to them properly.

The State of CT Animal Population Control Program offers a Low-Income Pet Sterilization voucher when funds are available. This program helps Connecticut low-income residents by providing vaccination/sterilization vouchers for their pets. An application must be completed and submitted to the CT State Animal Control Division. Applications are available at our office or online. To qualify, the applicant must already qualify for one of the low-income state assistance programs listed on the application. For more information, please call the State Animal Population Control Program Unit at: (860) 713-2507.

Ellington Animal Control has a web page to view adoptable shelter pets on Petfinder.com. This website has greatly increased our ability to find our homeless pets a new home, as well as posting found animals in search of their owners. The adoptable animals are spending less time in the shelter waiting to be adopted. The internet has offered us greater exposure for advertising these homeless pets. Dogs and cats are adopted under the Connecticut Animal Population Control Program. This program is for unaltered pets adopted from a Connecticut municipal shelter and provides two vaccinations and assists with the costs of 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 under this program is \$50 which includes the voucher.

HIGHLIGHTS

There has been changes made by the State of Connecticut regarding quarantine orders for animals that bite or attack humans or any domestic animals. The changes are to the duration and location of quarantine. The quarantine period for a dog, cat or ferret that has bitten or attacked a person, or another animal is shortened from 14 days to 10 days. If the animal has a current rabies vaccination, a biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret may be quarantined on the premises of the animal's owner if the ACO determines the premises are adequate for quarantine purposes. However, if the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, a biting or attacking dog, cat or ferret must be quarantined in a public dog pound, veterinary hospital or commercial kennel approved by the state veterinarian and must receive a rabies vaccination on the 10th day of quarantine. It is very important to keep your pets Rabies vaccinations up to date.

Ellington Animal Control has now transferred our emergency dispatching system to the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Services. This service includes computer-aided dispatch (CAD) software and a records management system that will track the officer's activity as well as offering better communication with the 911 dispatchers.

On a final note, Ellington Animal Control is very grateful to all the local town people, the Girl Scouts and the local businesses that have made donations to benefit the animals that come through the Ellington Animal Control Facility. It is wonderful to work for a community that cares so much for animals.

*"If you don't believe dogs have souls,
you haven't looked into their eyes long enough."* –Unknown

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

- **Street and Public Way Maintenance:** Maintain, repair, clean, and remove snow/ice from all public streets and ways.
- **Storm Sewer and Drain Management:** Maintain and operate storm sewers and other drains.
- **Town Building Maintenance:** Care for and maintain all town buildings except those under the Board of Education.
- **Infrastructure Projects:** Prepare or supervise plans and specifications for the construction or reconstruction of streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, drains, public buildings, and other structures. Construct or supervise the construction of these projects.
- **Parks and Public Grounds:** Care for parks, grassed areas in streets, and public grounds, including athletic fields under the Board of Education and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **Tree Care:** Plant and care for trees within the street line.
- **Ordinance Enforcement:** Enforce ordinances requiring property owners to construct and maintain sidewalks, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, and drains.
- **Water Pollution Control Authority Collaboration:** Contract with the Authority for the maintenance and/or repair of its facilities, grounds, and infrastructure.

HIGHLIGHTS

ROAD WORK/SIDEWALKS/PARKING LOTS

- Resident Concerns: Responded to various residents' concerns, potholes, sign repairs, and tree requests.
- Traffic Control: Monitored traffic control signs for mandated MUTCD requirements.
- Speed Data Collection: Continuously relocated three speed limit monitoring signs to collect speed data.
- CYBDs for DPW: Initiated and renewed all necessary CYBDs.
- Rain Event Management: Monitored waterways and catch basins during rain events.
- Tree Issues: Reviewed, cleared, and cleaned up various tree issues from weather events.
- Dirt Roads: Maintained dirt roads, grading, and sealing with calcium when necessary.
- SPCC Inspections: Conducted monthly inspections and initiated program updates.
- MS4 Inspections: Worked on catch basin inspections and outfalls.
- Roadside Maintenance: Continued mowing town roadways and tree trimming along roadsides.
- Beaver Dam Management: Cleaned and monitored beaver dams on Ladd Road and Tripp Road.
- Roadway Improvements: Completed improvements to Highland, Miller, Rosa Court, and Bronisz roads.
- Tree Elevating: Continued annual right-of-way tree elevating.
- Weather Response: Responded to weather events as necessary.
- Highland Road Project: Completed basin repairs, milling, paving, and curbing repair.
- Minor Road Work: Rebuilt two catch basins and cleaned drainage ditch.
- Road Markings: Re-painted all town stop bars and crosswalk bars.
- Drainage Installation: Installed new drainage outfall pipe at 23 Standish Road.
- Sidewalk Installation: Installed 350 feet of sidewalk along Abbott Road across from school.
- Gate Installation: Installed gate on Porter Road where the dirt section starts.

ENGINEERING AND BUILDING PROJECTS

- Athletic Field Lighting: Actively working on the project and attending meetings.
- Windermere School Upgrades: Working with the Permanent Building Committee.

- Route 83 Sidewalk: Met with JR Russo and the CRCOG Consulting Engineer CHA on plans.
- Private Well Concerns: Continued work with CMG Consultants and DEEP.
- Strawberry Road Bridge: Coordinated and held meetings for the project.
- Maple Street and Library Planting: Held bid advertisement and pre-bid meetings and completed the project.
- Comprehensive Lighting Project: Held bid opening and pre-bid meetings and started work.
- Vernon Pump Station Upgrade: Held pre-bid and bid opening meetings and started work.
- Police Carport: Held bid advertisement and pre-bid meetings; project awarded.
- Library Parking Lot Expansion: Held bid advertisement and pre-bid meetings; project awarded and in progress.

SNOW/DEBRIS REMOVAL

- Snow Day Training: Held annual training and route review event.
- Snow Callouts: Responded to six callouts for 18 inches of snow.

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

- Town Facilities: Continued maintenance and minor repairs.
- Recycling Shed Operations: Daily operation, including electronics and waste oil handling.
- Safety Inspections: Completed AED and fire extinguisher monthly and annual inspections.
- Sports Fields: Maintained fields, installed nets and equipment, and responded to Trails Committee requests.
- Safety Data Sheets: Continued monitoring for all facilities.
- Mail Service: Daily pickup and delivery to Town Hall.
- Service Calls: Responded to various service calls at all facilities.
- Fire Inspections: Completed inspections at DPW campus.
- Trash Patrol: Conducted patrol at all locations.
- Field Work: Painted fields for games, installed new office setups at Town Hall, and reorganized the recycling facility.
- Fence Repair: Conducted repairs as needed.
- Weekly Mowing and Field Painting: Continued regular maintenance.
- Game Preparation: Daily preparation for sports events.
- Irrigation Maintenance: Maintained systems as needed.
- Landscaping Projects: Completed DPW landscaping project and beach opening/closing.
- Waste Oil Tank Replacement: Replaced single wall tank with a double wall tank in parks building.
- Bench Installation: Installed new benches at Metcalf trail.
- Catch Basin Replacement: Replaced two catch basins at Longview middle school soccer field.
- Bridge Repair: Repaired walking bridge at Tedford Park.
- Drainage Installation: Installed drainage around the Dek Hockey rink.
- Field Maintenance: Filled low spots on fields, aerated and seeded all sports fields, and performed townwide leaf cleanup.
- Seed and Landscaping Work: Seeded areas around the Recreation building, Arbor Park, and Library.
- Equipment Inspections: Conducted bleacher and playground inspections and repairs.
- Facility Winterization: Winterized the Tedford Pavilion and water lines.
- Equipment Service: Completed winter service for small equipment.
- Facility Improvements: Installed new trail indication street signs, guide rail at Stein Rd parking area, and completed various other improvements and repairs.

MAINTENANCE GARAGE AND FLEET

- Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance: Serviced and maintained rolling stock and equipment for various departments.
- Generator and Police Vehicle Inspections: Completed weekly inspections.
- Fuel Supply Management: Monitored and maintained vehicle fuel supply.
- Spill Prevention Plan: Continued with monthly inspections and containment measures.
- Equipment Repair: Continued service and repair of mowing equipment replaced hydraulic motors, and serviced snow removal equipment.
- Fleet Management: Implemented new software and conducted vehicle inspections.
- Auctioning Vehicles: Retired and auctioned off old vehicles and received and upfitted new ones.
- GPS Demonstrations: Participated in demonstrations and training programs.
- Supervisory Meetings: Attended weekly meetings to coordinate efforts.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

- Inflow & Infiltration Project: Worked with town engineers Fuss & O'Neill on this ongoing project.
- Collection System Inspections: Conducted daily and weekly inspections of the system and pump stations.
- Emergency Responses: Responded to grinder pump/pump station emergencies.
- Call Before You Dig: Marked out requests and attended board meetings.
- Sewer Connections and Repairs: Inspected new connections and repairs and coordinated manhole rehab.
- Pump Station Upgrades: Assisted with control panel installations and other upgrades.
- CCTV Inspections: Conducted inspections for sewer main lining and damage assessment.
- Annual Cleanings: Attended and inspected wet well cleaning of all pump stations.
- Safety and Training: Conducted inspections, attended flagger certification, and completed various safety trainings.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

- Sustainable Materials Management: Attended CCSMM and other related meetings.
- Public Outreach: Organized recycling presentations, booths, and roundtable discussions.
- Food Waste Programs: Met with vendors and school clubs to discuss future services.
- Recycling Center Operations: Improved operations, designed new signs, and changed schedules.
- Community Events: Attended and participated in Earth Day celebrations and other events.
- Contract and Agreement Management: Managed leaf disposal agreements and trash cart arrangements.

FISCAL YEAR TONNAGE

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Trash	4,701	4,613	4501	4,123
Bulky	528	443	394	369
Recycling	1,280	1,201	1,119	994
Recycling Center	40	38	68	85
TOTAL	6,549	6,295	6,082	5,570

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY & RISK MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency & Risk Management (OERM) consists of; the Emergency & Risk Management Director, two Deputy Emergency Management Directors and the Ellington CERT Team under the direction of a Deputy Director. The Unit's mission is to prepare the Town to respond to all emergency incidents; weather related, hazmat issues, and human initiated mass casualty events. The primary goals of the OERM Office are; the preservation of life, recovery from emergency incidents, the education of the Town residents, schools and businesses in preparing for an emergency incident, limiting liability to the town, and preservation of the physical and human assets of the Town of Ellington for the successful continuation of its operations.

PURPOSE

The OERM develops, maintains and updates Emergency Operation Plans. The plans enable the Town to respond to all emergency incidents in an expeditious and coordinated manner. Preparation for emergency incidents entails; training drills, testing equipment, response time, coordination with fire, police, ambulance and hospitals in the Tolland County area. During an actual Emergency Incident, the First Selectman is the Director of the emergency response. It is OERM's responsibility to have current data concerning the Town's; businesses, schools and population areas. This information provides the scope of an Emergency Incident. The OERM manages Town resources during a disaster. The OEM is the conduit between the Town, and the State and Federal Government, when assistance is needed during disasters.

PREPARATION, TRAINING, ACTIVITIES

The OERM participated in the Governors Statewide Planning & Preparedness Initiative, (EPPI). This year's drill was conducted at the town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This year's drill dealt with multiple scenarios that could affect the Presidential Elections this November, Town departments who participated in this year's drill were, Emergency management, CERT, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Town Clerks Office, Registrar of Voters, and Ellington Board of Education Facilities.

The OERM worked with the Board of Education, Police and Fire Departments in conducting monthly Lock-Down and Fire Drills at the Ellington School Facilities. The OERM Director attends districtwide and facility specific school safety and climate meetings. The OERM Director is working with the Resident Troopers Office and Board of Education (BOE) Central Office Staff to update and conduct school based emergency response training programs for staff and students. Continual working with BOE facilities director and the Resident Troopers Office to ensure all school emergency equipment, protocols, and devices are working effectively and making repairs and changes as necessary. OERM worked with the Resident State Troopers office on a project to identify solutions to address communication dead zones located in the High School. The

necessary equipment to eliminate this issue was identified and will be installed utilizing funding provided through a regional communication grant which was awarded to the Town of East Windsor and Ellington.

During large scale Emergency Incidents, Ellington High School and Crystal Lake School are the primary Town Emergency Shelters. The Middle School is the back-up Emergency Shelter. Each shelter has an emergency generator providing full power to each facility. Each facility is able to provide; heat, food, showers and overnight stays for residents in need, during an Emergency Incident. The Emergency Shelters are able to provide care for a resident's household pet.

The Ellington CERT team operates the shelters during activation. An Ellington Ambulance member and a Police Officer are assigned to the shelter when it is open.

The Office of Emergency Management applied for and was approved for the following grants; Emergency Management Performance Grant and Homeland Security Grant. The money from these grants will be applied to the Town Budget.

The Director of Emergency Management is a committee member of and attends meetings regularly with the Connecticut Interlocking Risk Management Associations (CIRMA) Operations and Underwriting Committee, CIRMA's Risk Management Advisory Committee, Capitol Region School Emergency Management, Connecticut Region 3 Emergency Management, CCROG – Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council, Ellington's Emergency Services Committee, Co-Chair of Ellington School's Safety and Climate Committee, Chair of Ellington's Emergency Management Advisory Committee, Chair of Ellington Safety and Health Committee, and Chair of Ellington's Ad Hoc Long Term Recovery Committee.

OERM has worked with the First Selectman's office, Town Administrator, the Human Resources Coordinator, Department of Public Works, and the Finance Department on several initiatives and incident responses to eliminate and reduce the risk of liability to the Town of Ellington and its taxpayers. The office has assisted in implementing best practices and streamlining efficiencies. Through its partnership with CIRMA, the OERM continues to identify programs that will benefit the town of Ellington and reduce overall liability and risk. The town underwent and successfully passed an onsite review of our Risk Management practices conducted by CIRMA. This year in coordination with the Safety & Health Committee, First Selectmen's Office and Ellington Volunteer Ambulance, we provided CPR and AED training to our municipal employees.

The OERM Director also serves as the Municipal Veterans Representative and is certified by the State of Connecticut to assist town veteran residents in dissemination of veteran benefits and information. Some areas of interest are VA health care, VA survivors and burial services, disability compensation, aid & attendance, medal replacements, and more. Also in collaboration with the Ellington Human Services Department holds Veteran's Coffee Houses monthly. The program's intention is to bring all veterans together in a comfortable setting to meet, socialize, seek and share information on their military experiences, learn about local and State Veteran's benefits and services and to enjoy a cup of coffee.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (C.E.R.T.)

The Ellington CERT team is composed of volunteers from Ellington and surrounding Towns. The CERT Team has thirty-four members. The Team is supported by Federal and State funds. CERT members receive training in; fire safety, basic first aid, and Ham Radio and traffic management. Members provide traffic and crowd control at; parades, fireworks displays, Fairs and other activities in Ellington, and Towns in the Tolland county area. Additionally, CERT provides assistance to first responders and assists in non-hazardous search and rescue incidents. The Ellington CERT program has a Ham Radio Team that has the capability to provide communications during Town Emergency Incidents. The Ham



PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS & FACILITIES GUIDE

Radio Team provides communication assistance to other Towns in the Region during emergency incidents. During the Holiday Season, the CERT Team worked with the Human Services Dept. and adopted needy seniors and a needy family. CERT members also attended training sessions and monthly meetings. The Ellington CERT members are to be congratulated for their outstanding service to Ellington and surrounding Towns. If you want information to become a member of this outstanding group; email Deputy Emergency Management Director John Streiber at: jstreiber@ellington-ct.gov. You must be 18 years of age, pass a criminal background check and successfully complete the 24-hour CERT Basic Training Course to become a CERT member.



CRYSTAL LAKE SCHOOL HOUSE

The Crystal Lake School House, located across from Sandy Beach, continues to serve the Parks and Recreation Department for regular use. This includes summer hours at the schoolhouse and offers middle school and preschool programming.


ARBOR PARK

Arbor Park, situated on Main Street in the heart of town, provides a pleasant area for walking. This park is not managed by the recreation department. Reservation inquiries should be directed to the Office of the First Selectman. Additionally, Arbor Park now features an outdoor fitness center equipped with a variety of accessible functional weight apparatus. The fitness station has a poured-in-place safety surface and QR code guides that help instruct proper form and provide training ideas. The equipment is free to use and available from dusk till dawn.

BATZ PROPERTY

Located at 97 Shenipsit Street, Batz Property encompasses 44.86 acres of mixed forest, wildflowers, and a grassy parking lot. This is the location of the sensory garden, community garden plots and outdoor amphitheater.

ELLINGTON AD HOC PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE



The Ellington Patriotic Committee is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-politically-affiliated organization of local citizens with the goal of promoting PATRIOTISM, in various forms, among the residents of Ellington. Some of our members are veterans of America's Armed Forces; some are members of various civic organizations. Some are regular, everyday people. All of the members share a desire to be involved in our community: Ellington, the place we call home.

Our agenda is simple: to promote patriotism in all manners and means, to support and honor America's veterans and their families, remembering their sacrifice, so that we, as Americans, can live free, and to foster a sense of pride and belonging among all of Ellington's residents.

What We Do: The Ellington Patriotic Committee is involved in many events and observances in our town dedicated to promoting Patriotism, and remembering the sacrifice of our active-duty military personnel and veterans, both living and those who have fallen. Chief among these are:

- Flag Retirement Ceremony (in cooperation with the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department)
- Memorial Day Observance and Parade
- Wreaths Across America
- Placement of Veteran Medallions and Flags at Cemeteries

Members are appointed for one-year terms. We are currently seeking new members; please join us in our efforts. For more information and to become a member, please contact the First Selectman's Office at 860-870-3100 or email info@ellington-ct.gov.

Our Mission Statement: "To develop, plan, arrange, supervise, and conduct programs and activities that foster pride and patriotism among the citizens of the Town, and to make recommendations for such programs and activities to the Board of Selectmen for approval."



ROBERT TEDFORD MEMORIAL PARK

Robert Tedford Memorial Park is located on Route 140, approximately two miles from the center of town. This facility features baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields, as well as a tennis court, pickleball courts, a playground, a volleyball court, a covered pavilion, and a dek hockey rink. The pavilion can be rented for small gatherings.

ELLINGTON SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Recreation Department utilizes Ellington Public Schools for many programs, offering gym space for basketball, volleyball, and other indoor activities. The schools also provide softball and baseball fields during the season.

SANDY BEACH

Sandy Beach, located on Crystal Lake on Route 140 in the northern end of town, offers recreational swimming and sunbathing opportunities on hot summer days.

SCHWARTZ PARK

Schwartz Park is located at Ellington High School at 37 Maple Street and houses four full-sized tennis courts and a covered gazebo.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 860-870-3118.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Parks and Recreation Commission and recreation staff provide a wide range of quality programming year-round. Efforts are made to create and offer programs for all age groups, including special events and family-oriented activities.

STAFFING

The department is staffed by three full-time recreation professionals and two part-time administrative assistants. Additional part-time positions, generated by revenue, include athletic officials, special skills instructors, water safety instructors/lifeguards, day camp counselors, and program supervisors. Town of Ellington applications are available at the recreation office during normal business hours and on the Parks & Recreation website.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Volunteer assistance is crucial within the community, and the department recruits, secures, and approves over 300 individuals who volunteer annually.

PROGRAMS

The department offers a variety of indoor and outdoor activities year-round, using locations such as Robert Tedford Memorial Park, Sandy Beach, Pinney Street Fields, and public-school facilities. Programs include youth and adult athletic team sports, special skills classes, fitness classes, and special events. Preschool programming for ages 2 through 5 has been particularly successful.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The recreation department offers travel teams, recreational teams, and instructional leagues, promoting participation in athletics regardless of age or ability. The Recreation Commission is committed to encouraging good sportsmanship among coaches, players, and spectators.

SHARED SERVICES

The recreation department collaborates daily with the Board of Education's business office, school staff, and custodial staff, as well as the Department of Public Works (DPW). The support provided by these agencies is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Additional gratitude is extended to the Hall Memorial Library for hosting various preschool events.

MASTER PLAN

The department undertook a comprehensive master plan that provided conceptual improvements to both Robert Tedford Memorial Park and Sandy Beach at Crystal Lake. This extensive process involved hundreds of labor hours and garnered thousands of pieces of feedback, which were instrumental in shaping our vision for the future.

ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTS

Athletic field lights have been added to all town parks, including Pinney Street Fields, Robert Tedford Memorial Park, and the Ellington High School athletic fields.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 860-870-3118. Visit our website at parkrec.ellington-ct.gov and like us on Facebook. Our office is located at 31 Arbor Way, next to Arbor Park and the Ellington Center Fire Department. Office hours are Monday 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. You can also reach us by email at recreationstaff@ellington-ct.gov. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

LIBRARY



HALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MISSION

The Hall Memorial Library provides diverse opportunities through services, resources and experiences for enrichment, education and community engagement for all Ellington residents.

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Hall Memorial Library is a welcoming community resource for all residents seeking reading materials in various formats, research materials for school projects and life-long learning, items for leisure and entertainment, access to computers and the internet, opportunities for arts and cultural experiences, and other great programming for all ages. The friendly staff provides personalized services to aid in research, assist with computer skills or find that just-right book. But there is so much more that happens here!

The Library has long served as the community center for Ellington. Residents come to the library for more than just the items on the shelves or even the programs offered here. Community groups hold their meetings here, tutors teach their students here, students of all ages work on their group projects here, and friends and neighbors meet and catch up here. They enjoy and use the library as a space to collaborate, interact and connect.

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

SERVICES

The Hall Memorial Library, as the principal public library for the Town of Ellington, provides all residents with materials and opportunities for education and entertainment. The collection consists of items in many formats, including books, periodicals, newspapers, eBooks and eaudiobooks, digital magazines, music and audiobooks on CDs, DVDs, puppets, online databases and reference materials, and non-traditional items such as cake pans, board games, jigsaw puzzles, lawn games and even a telescope. For materials not found in these collections there is an interlibrary loan service that facilitates loans from libraries around the state or the country, including multiple copies of titles for book discussion groups and materials for genealogy research. Also available are computers for word processing and Internet access, black and white and color photocopiers and printers, digital scanners, fax machine, digital microfilm reader/printer, computer lab, notary service, passport acceptance service, exam proctoring, and meeting spaces for formal and informal gatherings. The friendly, well-trained staff is available to help find information, answer questions, recommend reading materials, and assist with usage of computers.

The Library provides a variety of programs for residents of all ages. Story time sessions are offered for children from 9 months to 5 years old. Activities 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, creative projects and their own summer reading activities. For adults, there are book discussion series, reading programs, cultural programs, crafts and hands-on learning experiences, concerts, movies, and speakers on a range of topics, both informative and entertaining.

For those patrons who are unable to come to the Library, outreach services are provided via the homebound delivery program and programs offered at offsite venues.

HIGHLIGHTS

Programs and Services: A full range of programming for all ages was provided for our 77,712 visitors during FY23-24.

Summer programming, with the theme of “Reading is Out of This World”, featured fun activities for all ages. All summer programming was once again generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

For children, preschool story hours were held, and the Reading to the Dogs program continued to be a hit. The annual Holiday Ornament Workshop was held on Winterfest weekend. The Chess Ninjas kids’ chess club was led by members of the Ellington Chess Mates from the Senior Center. Lego Club and Pokémon Club were popular, and Nintendo and Minecraft clubs were added. And Santa’s helpers answered children’s letters to Santa. A Chat and Craft group was formed for homeschooling families.

Teens participated in the Teen Advisory Board, providing ideas for programs and materials, and volunteering at community events. The reclassification project of the Young Adult book collection that generifed titles for easier access was completed. Colorful, modern furniture was added to update the Young Adult area.

For adults, a variety of informational and entertaining programs were offered. Topics included intros to reiki, tai chi and qi gong, retirement and estate planning topics, recycling and electric rates, summer chess meet-ups, Tick Talk, Your Dog’s Body Language, and a series of animal/nature programs in conjunction with the Trails Committee. The Historical Society presented an informative programs about the history of the Crystal Lake community and the immigration of Eastern European Jewish Famers. Movie showings, cooking classes, quilting workshops hosted by members of the Ellington Country Quilters, the creative writing group and the ever-popular Friday night Coffeehouse musical series were offered. The garden seed swap was held again, and the spring plant swap also. A “Cozy Winter Reading” challenge for adults was a big hit. The Mysteries and More HML Book Discussion group read a series of books about the influence of books in people’s lives. The Knit and Natter handcraft group and the Bridge Club met weekly, and the Veteran’s Coffeehouse met monthly.

In April, the Library held the “Ellington Eclipse Extravaganza”. Over 300 people joined us on the front lawn for crafts, snacks, games and of course viewing of the near-total solar eclipse—a true community adventure.

The Ellington High School Art students hung their annual exhibit in the Library hallway exhibit space again in the spring, and the Art Honor Society held their induction ceremony in the McKnight Room. Quilts from the Ellington Country Quilters also decked the halls, and model planes from the NCRCC graced the airspace. Representative from the club presented demo sessions of the art of flying these planes that included practice on a flight simulator.

Waldo visited the Library as our scarecrow in the Town scarecrow contest and won the “Town Department” category. There was also a “Where in the Library is Waldo” contest.

In the Reference Room the Librarians assisted patrons with their computer and internet needs, including navigating the unemployment benefits system, job searching and resumes, mastering Zoom meetings and ebooks, and the always challenging income tax filing season. An area for patrons to conduct job interviews via Zoom was offered in the meeting room.

Technology Services Librarian Amanda Duhamel introduced Tech Tuesdays, a drop-in tech help service, and also a monthly Tech 101 program that focuses on a specific technology-oriented skill in each session.

In the Library of Things, the collection of lawn games was refreshed with several new games. New Adventure Kits were added, including cultural explorations of Japan and Spain, a backyard camping kit complete with tent, casino night, and outdoor movie night with projector and screen. Other new things in the Library of Things include an ice cream maker, food dehydrator, magic kit and a video camera.



Where's Waldo? At the Library!



Refresh

Staff: Several longtime staff members retired this past year. Library Assistant Gay Szumyk, Reference/Programming Librarian Francie Berger, and the beloved Children’s Librarian Pat Grundman left after serving a combined total of almost 75 years. Trish Brudz, Children’s Services Librarian, Amanda Duhamel, Adult Program and Technology Services Librarian, and Lauren Desrocher, Library Assistant I joined the team. Teen Librarian Ashley Dabbondanza took on duties as the Assistant Director.

Building and Grounds: The long-awaited parking lot expansion was constructed in spring and summer 2024, doubling parking capacity. A reconfigured layout and expanded lighting create a safer and more efficient area for library patrons and those visiting the town green. The sidewalks were also replaced and landscaping refreshed, providing a fresh new look to the campus.

The Library routinely serves as the community cooling or warming center during times of extreme weather. With the sporadic power outages caused by bouts of severe weather throughout the year, the Library welcomed residents and served as a work place, electronics charging place, cooling/heating center and even fresh water source.

Collaborations: The Library is pleased to continue to collaborate with and host the activities of the Veteran’s Coffeehouse, Ellington Unified, the Parks and Rec Department, the Board of Education, Youth Services Department, Human Services Department, Ellington Trails Committee, Family Get Together Group of Vernon Regional Head Start, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion as well as the wide variety of community groups and organizations who use the meeting rooms.

Library continued to work with the school media specialists to provide both physical and digital materials for students and teachers, and to issue library cards for access. The first grade classes from Crystal Lake School visited for a tour and students received library cards. Staff from the Human Services Department held office hours in the McKnight Room once a month. The Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and the Library hosted monthly Sunday afternoon family movies in the spring. The Library is pleased to host students from the Ellington High School ECLIPSE program, a program for students with special needs that provides real-world job experiences.

As a collaboration with the CT Office of Early Childhood, and for the convenience of our residents who work in child care, the Library hosted 211 Child Care fingerprinting sessions. This program is contracted by the State to collect fingerprints from childcare providers as part of their background check process.

The Friends of the Library continued to be an integral part of the library operation, funding the summer reading programs and subscriptions for passes to area cultural attractions, maintaining the armillary planter, and providing funding for new projects, such as the furniture for the Young Adult area.

Outreach: The Library participated in the Ellington Historical Society Fall Festival, the Trails Committee/Lions Club Trail to Treats, Trick or Treat at the Y, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, and the Tolland County Senior Fair. At the Earth Day booth, participants explored ways they could be more “green” and lawn games were enjoyed by all. Children’s Librarian Pat Grundman did summer story hours at Educational Playcare and sessions at the Recreation Department summer day camp.

SOCIAL SERVICES

HUMAN SERVICES

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

Ellington's Human Services is the primary agency addressing the social service needs of families, adults, and seniors in the town. The department offers various forms of assistance, including heating and food support, back-to-school and holiday programs, advocacy, referrals, and help with state and federal benefits. The Human Services team comprises a full-time Director, a full-time Elderly Outreach/Social Worker, and a full-time Administrative Assistant.

DIRECT SERVICES

The department offers a range of direct services through active, hands-on involvement in processing information and determining eligibility for various programs. These programs include:

- Energy Assistance
- Renters Rebate
- Food Bank, including a summer CSA Fresh Produce program
- SNAP (food stamps)
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Fuel Bank (fuel delivery or shut-off assistance)
- Benefits Counseling (Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid)
- Back to School Assistance
- Holiday Assistance
- Camperships
- Salvation Army support
- Other discretionary programs

Most programs require income and residency verification, and some also require proof of assets.

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

Residents have access to quality community services not directly offered by Human Services staff. These additional supports, some available 24 hours and others by appointment or referral, include advocacy, domestic violence prevention, legal counseling, case management, transportation, health assessment and education, and sheltering. Key service providers include:

- Hockanum Valley Community Council: Transportation, Counseling, and Food Pantry
- Interval House: Domestic Violence Shelter
- YWCA: Sexual Assault Crisis Services
- Cornerstone Foundation: Homeless Shelter, Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry
- Amplify, Inc. (formerly North Central Regional Mental Health Board): Mental Health & Addiction Services
- Access Community Action Agency: Nutrition Programs, Affordable Housing Programs, and Job Readiness

ELDERLY OUTREACH

The Human Services Elderly Outreach Social Worker supports elderly residents and their families by helping them learn about and access community resources, and by publicizing available benefits. This role also includes assisting with applications for federal and other benefits and conducting outreach efforts which include weekly office hours at the senior center.

The Human Services Director, who also serves as the statutorily required Municipal Agent for the Elderly, reports to the chief elected official or chief executive officer of the municipality and the Connecticut State Department of Aging and Disability Services. The Director's responsibilities include addressing the needs and issues of the elderly and providing recommendations for improving services.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY (Grandma's Pantry)

Grandma's Pantry, dedicated in memory of Estelle Williamson—an Ellington resident for 57 years and a lifelong advocate for those in need—continues her mission to ensure no one goes to bed hungry. Available 24/7/365, the Food Pantry serves anyone with emergency

Winterfest was held on Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3, and the Library once again served as an anchor point. The festivities kicked off with a concert of holiday music presented by the Ellington Singers. Saturday's events drew a festive crowd on the Green and at the various venues around the town center, while at the Library music students from the high school and Windermere performed and the Library Board served refreshments.

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

November 11, 2023 marked the 120th anniversary of the dedication of the original Hall Memorial Library. Built as a free public library, the library was a state-of-the-art facility that quickly became a community gathering place. Much has changed in those 120 years, from books to computers to the internet, DVDs and ebooks, databases and Zoom. At the heart of it all remains the dedication of the staff and Board to our community and their information and reading needs.

Looking forward, the library staff and Board of Trustees undertook a strategic planning process in the early part of 2024. The planning committee gathered input from patrons, staff, Board members and Town officials and reviewed the information gathered in the recent community survey. This process resulted in a plan with six strategic initiatives that focus on library spaces, collections and materials, programs and services, communication, and development opportunities for the staff and Board. The enthusiastic staff stepped right up, rearranging and refurbishing the Young Adult area, refreshing areas in the children's section, and initiating programs to aid in digital and technological literacy. And more is planned. Exciting things are happening here!

We are proud to continue the dream of Francis Hall to provide the best library services for our great town and to serve as a valued community resource and destination.

STATISTICS 2023-2024

CIRCULATION

Adult Books and Periodicals.....	31,529
Young Adult Books and Periodicals	2,685
Children's Books and Periodicals.....	28,415
Audiovisual and Miscellaneous Materials	12,067
Digital (ebooks, eaudio, etc.).....	19,615
Museum Passes.....	373
TOTAL.....	94,384

COLLECTION

Adult Books and Periodicals.....	31,623
Young Adult Books and Periodicals	2,653
Children's Books and Periodicals.....	21,593
Audiovisual and Miscellaneous Materials	8,753
Databases	22
TOTAL.....	64,654

REGISTERED BORROWERS

Adults.....	4,986
Young Adults	346
Children.....	1,083
TOTAL.....	6,415



A fresh new look for the Young Adult area, funded by the Friends of the Library.



Ellington Eclipse Extravaganza!

food needs. Its consistent usage demonstrates its value as a vital community resource. Human Services deeply appreciates the kindness and generosity of community members who continually stock the pantry with nonperishable foods.

SUMMER PRODUCE STAND

Ellington Human Services now offers a variety of fresh produce to residents in need. This program, which began as a pilot in July 2022, was very well received. In June 2024, a permanent structure built by Public Works was unveiled outside the Human Services building to support this initiative. The fresh fruits and vegetables are generously donated by community members.

VETERANS COFFEEHOUSE

The Veterans Coffeehouse is a monthly gathering for Veterans from all branches of military service to enjoy coffee and conversation. Each month features a different guest speaker who discusses a variety of topics. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. at Hall Memorial Library. LuAnn's Café & Bakery generously donates coffee and pastries for the event.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

According to the Town Charter, the Human Services Commission advocates for the physical and mental health needs, as well as the social service needs, of the community. They investigate these needs and assist both public and private agencies in procuring health and social services for town residents, provided such assistance is requested. Additionally, the Human Services Commission reviews funding requests from various service providers to ensure the delivery of quality services that meet the needs of residents.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (Ellington for Everyone)

Their mission is to promote a community that ensures welcoming attitudes, inclusion, equity, affirmation, and respect of diversity in Ellington. In June 2024 the committee organized their third successful Signing Day Event at Ellington High School. Signing Day celebrates all students' post-graduation endeavors.

NOTABLE STATISTICS FOR 2023-2024

- Food Bank Usage: An average of 43 families/individuals utilized the Food Bank monthly.
- Thanksgiving Support: 161 families/individuals received food baskets or grocery gift cards.
- Holiday Assistance: 57 children and 55 seniors/disabled individuals received department store gift cards, and 104 families/individuals received grocery gift cards.
- Energy Assistance: 208 applications processed.
- Renters Rebate: 86 applications processed.
- Community Outreach Events: 18 events held, including Earth Day, Farmer's Market, Trail of Treats, Medicare, Fraud/Scam Alert, Financial Education, Community Food Assessment, and Produce Stand Ribbon Cutting

ELLINGTON SENIOR CENTER

It has been a year of growth, accomplishments, and unwavering dedication to our mission of enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. Through the collective efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, we have continued to provide essential services, foster social connections, and promote the overall well-being of our senior population.

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Ellington Senior Center welcomes individuals to join us at 40 Maple Street who are at least 55 years old. Our mission is to help participants maintain their independence, dignity and self-respect and productivity through participation in recreational, social, nutritional, educational, and informational programs that promote healthy aging.

CONTACT US

Please contact the Senior Center at (860) 870-3133 for further information.

Monday: 8:30am-6:00pm Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm, Friday: 8:30am-12:30pm

The monthly newsletter and calendar, "Maple Street Monthly is available on the town's website <http://seniorcenter.ellington-ct>. If residents do not have access to the website, please call us to request a copy mailed to you. Copies are also available at the Senior Center during business hours or in a drop box in the front of the center. You may also find us on Facebook and YouTube.

HIGHLIGHTS

Two grants were awarded from North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc., for EMATS, The Ellington Medical Transportation Appointments Services and The Maple Street Café, meals program under The Nutritional Partnership Project. The Senior Center also receives a 5310 grant from the DOT for a 12-passenger mini-bus and monies from a Municipal Grant Program for the transportation program. The Senior Center also was awarded a grant from AARP for a greenhouse and obtained outdoor and indoor fitness equipment utilizing ARPA funding. The indoor fitness center will open in September and will accept Silver Sneakers and Renew Active. The indoor Fitness center has 12 pieces of Cardio equipment, 4 stand alone weight stations, a band station and free weight area.

STAFFING

The Senior Center is staffed by a full-time Director, Assistant Director and an Administrative Secretary. Part-time staff includes Transportation Drivers, Program Assistant and a Kitchen Manager. Several volunteers also perform a variety of duties to support the center.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Transportation services are offered to residents who are age eligible. To meet the age eligibility requirement a person must be at least 55 years old or between the ages of 18-59 and receive Social Security Disability benefits. Transportation services for residents include rides for social, nutritional, recreational and educational programs. Transportation services include rides to grocery stores, banking, post-office and for non-emergency medical appointments. The Senior Center has provided 2244 rides.

NUTRITION

The Maple Street Café is open September – June and serves lunch three days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Meals are cooked in house by staff and volunteers. All meals are cooked to order and are a \$6.00 suggested donation. During the month of July and August the Senior Center does weekly Ice Cream Socials and Pizza Parties. Le Petit Café is a standalone self-service venue that allows individuals to purchase items at a low-cost fee. Such items are snacks, drinks, baked goods etc. The Senior Center also offers breakfast Monday mornings. The Senior Center has a Holiday Dinner and St. Patrick's Day Dinner and a summer cookout every year which provides a meal and entertainment.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Monthly Podiatry clinics. Fall Prevention Classes are held quarterly. Flu Shot/Vaccination Clinics are held in the fall sponsored by Urgent Care of Ellington. A local hairdresser offers haircuts monthly, weekly Hand Massages and Blood Pressure Clinics are offered. Several seminars that focus on Health and Wellness topics that are related to the senior population are offered several times throughout the year. The Senior Center has a Medical Loan Closet where individuals can borrow durable medical equipment to offset medical costs.

FITNESS PROGRAMS

Walking, Hiking, Meditation, Yoga, Chair Yoga, Chair Exercises, Balance classes, Chair Volleyball, Stretch and Strengthen Exercises, and Tai Chi are offered. Forever Fit Fitness Center is located on the facility and Outdoor Fitness Stations are located on the outdoor grounds of the Senior Center.

SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Ellington Singers, Spring Musical and Winterfest Performances, Carving Club, Knitting, Crafts, Creative Writing,

Bridge, Setback, Billiards, Shuffleboard, Chess, Horseshoes, Ladder ball, Corn Hole, Board Games, Movies, Voice and Piano Lessons, Acrylics on Canvas, Wii Bowling, and Adult Coloring. Trips are offered for day outings, overnight excursions, and cruises. Concerts and cookouts are held during the summer along with Pizza and Ice Cream Socials.

EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS

State Legislative Informational Updates, Elderly Social Worker Informational Sessions, AARP Smart Driver Education Classes, AARP Income Tax Preparation, History for Fun and TED (Technology, Education, and Design) Talks. Lending Library, Ask the Realtor, Ask the Financial Advisor, Ask the Insurance Agent and Ask the Lawyer, Medicare Seminars, Will and Estate Seminars, IPAD Lending Program, One-on-One Technology assistance. Book Signings by local authors. Representatives from town departments present programs on services offered by the town.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The Senior Center staff is grateful for over forty active volunteers who do a variety of tasks and programs. Our volunteer base grew, enabling us to extend our reach and enhance the quality of services. Volunteers played a crucial role in organizing events and assisting with daily operations.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Attendees

Arts and Crafts	863
Cards and Games	4,499
Fitness, Health and Wellness	5,827
Nutrition	5,609
Recreation	190
Social	1,112
Special Event	1,717
Technology Assistance	41
Trips	108
Transportation	2,244
Total Event Sign-Ins	20,803
Total Hours	42,327

YOUTH SERVICES

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

Ellington Youth Services' mission is to provide programs and services, while building relationships which bond youth in a positive way to their families, schools, peers, and community. The staff of Youth Services is here to support and assist children from birth to young adults through their life transitions. Youth Services provides programs that strengthen and develop life skills needed to succeed in the many challenges facing the youth of today. The staff of youth services consists of a full-time director, a full-time youth assistant director, a full-time program coordinator, a part-time prevention coordinator, playgroup instructors, program instructors, Ellington Unified advisors, and volunteers.



HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Services provides a wide range of programs in areas of community services activities, after-school programs, mental health services (individual, family and group), and volunteerism. For the 2023-2024-year, Youth Services and The Council for Developing a Positive Youth Culture (DPYC) had a total of approximately 14,000 children and their families participate in the following programs in school presentations, afterschool programs, outreach, and other events.

Programs: We provided 134 programs for 2023-24 year with about 2,300 participants and 26 large group events throughout the year with approximately 3,750 participants.

In-school Services: We worked with six K-2 classrooms utilizing our Kind Farm program that helps students learn to cope with everyday feelings as well as self-regulation tools. The Gizmo program, which is a mental health awareness program, was presented to all 3rd grade students in the Ellington School District which has about 170 students. Our Empower program was completed in four 4th grade classrooms. This program continues the conversation of understanding our own emotions and the emotions of those around us. Mind Up which helps promote and develop mindful attention by learning about the brain and how it functions was completed in ten 5th and 6th grade classrooms. Additionally, the SOS Program, Suicide Prevention Program was presented to in person students in 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades about 1200 students. We also started a new Mindful Monday group at the middle school working with 7th and 8th graders weekly during lunch and culminating with a teambuilding canoe field trip. We also worked in the BASES program throughout the year.

Outreach to the Community is a very strong component of Youth Services. This past year we, tables at Farmer Markets to distribute resources, Pride Bridge in Arbor Park, You are Not Alone Mural, Earth Day, Social Media Campaigns and Screenagers viewings. We had many of our materials shared and used by community members. We were at open houses at middle and high school giving out about 300 informational bags, parenting series including topics of anxiety, marijuana, screentime, and vaping. In addition, we continued to work with athletics to focus on mental health in athletics through Change the Game. EYS Staff is also a part of the Opioid Settlement Committee working with other departments and community members to bring awareness to the Ellington community.

Juvenile Review Board and Truancy Board: Youth Services director is a member of Juvenile Review and truancy boards. These boards meet once a month to help members of the Ellington Community in assessment, case management and referrals. Additional EYS Staff work with the JRB to conduct prevention sessions throughout the school year. The EYS Staff work on approximately 15 case management and referrals this year.

Ellington Unified believes that everyone should have a sense of belonging and a part within our community. By connecting families, schools, and community through activities, advocacy, and support. Our hope is to strengthen the Ellington Community for youth with disabilities and their families. This year we were able to expand upon our Unified programming by providing a six-week basketball program. This program in the first year had 16 participants and an additional 12 buddies to support the students.

The Ellington Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture (DPYC) is a long-standing group that has been coordinating prevention services for the youth of Ellington for over 20 years. The group's mission is to create and sustain a positive youth culture for Ellington's youth through collaboration among the community, schools, and town agencies. Membership includes key stakeholders in the community, including Ellington Youth Services, Ellington Human Services, Ellington Public Schools, Ellington Recreation Department, Resident State Troopers, faith and business community leaders, and student and parent representatives. This year we sponsored programs at the middle school, as well as purchasing parent and student presentations on screentime. Additionally, we sponsored the sixth-grade field day at Crystal Lake School and the Ellington Community Theatre program. In addition, this year the 7th-12th grade students completed the Youth Voices Count survey that is done every two years to track trends in substance use, extracurriculars, bullying, etc.

EYS Alliance is a group of high school students in Ellington with a mission of offering high school students the opportunity to learn and apply leadership skills along with being role models to their peers and youth continued in its 13th year. This year the group ran activities at trail of treats and the annual middle school dodgeball tournament. This year there were 105 middle school participants in the dodgeball tournament. They also started a new partnership with the senior center and ran a game night with members of the senior center.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Ellington schools, in partnership with parents and the broader community, worked hard to engage all students in meaningful and rigorous learning this year. The following is a summary of action steps and strategies from the 2023-24 school year.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- New reading program was piloted in one grade at Crystal Lake and Windermere and two grades at Center. PD was provided on the science of reading. Piloting teachers and literacy specialists trained all K-5 teachers in the program for next year. Intervention process was refined K-6 with pre-meetings to reflect on new district-wide and school-wide data. Data collection initiated on student time in intervention and students exiting and entering. Alignment initiated to distinguish between academic needs and needs related to behavior and attendance.
- Math instruction was enhanced through training in elementary grades on fluency, conceptual understanding, problem-solving, and application of skills and concepts in authentic settings. Building Thinking Classroom strategies were provided and piloted K through High School, including vertical surfaces and student dialogue. Illustrative Math curriculum piloted in grades 4-5. Alignment from EMS to EHS initiated, especially through grade 10.
- Teacher collaborative time was standardized within each elementary school, supported by principals and specialists. Expectations for high school PLC's were clarified and meetings facilitated by teacher leaders. High school curriculum submittals were reviewed for patterns to identify professional learning needs for 2024-25.
- District data team initiated. Middle School visualization tool implemented and adjusted. District team planned for development of elementary tool to complement the new digital literacy data tool (Acadience). New tool is under development in summer 2024.
- Educator evaluation process was updated, approved by BOE, and submitted to the state for review. Feedback from administrators after the pilot showed increased focus, aggressive goals and targets, increased reflection and depth of dialogue with teachers on areas for growth, and ability to evaluate critically for teachers not meeting standards of excellence.

CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

- Ellington Unplugged elements were taught, promoted, and practiced at all schools. Some activities were classroom-based, including silent reading, games, cooking, and other structured activities for students to interact and connect with each other. Guidance and front offices promoted unplugged activities and spaces at school and in parent communications.
- RULER was implemented with students across the schools, with variation based on grade bands, enhancing existing practices such as morning meeting, home room, and advisory. Discipline referrals continued a downward trend, especially at EMS and EHS. Classrooms referenced class charters, mood meter, and meta moments to re-center students and increase academic focus.
- The Seeds of Civility were leveraged in constructing classroom norms, teaching students how to improve behavior, setting ground rules for discussions of difficult issues, and resolving peer to peer problems. The Seeds were promoted and practiced in morning meeting and advisory activities. The Seeds were also referenced for potentially-heated adult conversations.
- Library catalogs remain online and are updated with new books. EMS and EHS syllabi were reviewed to ensure naming of units studied and were posted online. Book clubs with titles were communicated to parents in advance. Parent communications from teachers were promoted and monitored by principals. District communication included state assessments, class rank adjustment, summer learning activities for K-3, and a new reading program.
- Four administrator Learning and Action Committees were established. Two were particularly successful—one on district data use and one on instructional design based on Building Thinking Classrooms Model. A third led to events for increased interaction of Ellington resident and Hartford resident families and identification of professional learning on cultural responsiveness. A fourth committee on teacher evaluation.

EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

- School security was enhanced by hiring a third School Security Officer (retired Chief of Police), creating a stipend for School Security Coordinator, revamping the district's all-hazards plan, completing building security assessments, ensuring student safety during Windermere Project, and implementing a model "man-trap" vestibule at a first school.
- Shared services with the town were enhanced by doing a joint bid on electricity services, exploring sharing payroll and human resources services, exploring composting, exploring using town mechanical staff for maintenance of school district vehicles, and considering using out-of-service town vehicles for BOE (van and truck).
- Windermere construction project was advanced by pursuing legislation for expanded grant funding and weekly meetings with PBC chair and other stakeholders. Project is currently on time and under budget.
- BOE completed revision of Policy Series 9000, Board By-Laws.

EPS VISION

Ellington Public Schools grows exceptional learners and leaders who are courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world.

EPS MISSION

Ellington Public Schools creates a culture of learning that challenges and inspires all students on their personalized educational journeys.

EPS CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

- We empower students and staff with the skills to discover and pursue their own passions and to embrace opportunities to be courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world.
- We create an equitable, inclusive and supportive culture where people are safe, accepted, and valued.
- We value learning as an enlightening, lifelong process that happens in multiple ways.
- We believe that positive relationships among all stakeholders create synergy and are the foundation for our learning community.
- We celebrate innovation, collaboration, creativity and multiple forms of success.
- We ensure that our learning environments are flexible spaces that encourage interaction, co-creation, and independence.
- We have an unrelenting commitment to the belief that everyone can continually learn and grow.

ELLINGTON VISION OF THE GRADUATE

Ellington Public Schools' Graduates will develop the skills that will allow them to be exceptional learners and leaders who are courageous, reflective, and contributing citizens of the world.

Ellington Public Schools develop students who are:

Self-directed and Reflective Learners

- Pursues learning in areas of personal interest
- Sets goals to advance learning based on reflection and feedback
- Demonstrates perseverance and flexibility in pursuing goals

Involved Citizens

- Participates and contributes to the enhancement of community life
- Pursues opportunities to learn about other cultures and different points of view
- Demonstrates awareness of the impact of personal actions on others and the world

Co-Creators and Collaborators

- Works synergistically and equitably to achieve a common goal
- Recognizes their own and other perspectives to enrich their learning

Problem Solvers and Innovators

- Engages in inquiry around real-world problems
- Translates ideas into actionable solutions
- Takes intellectual risks
- Thinks divergently

Effective Communicators

- Communicates ideas in compelling, impactful ways
- Demonstrates an awareness of audience and adjusts style and tone accordingly

ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2024



Ellington High School Class of 2024 graduated on Friday, June 7, 2024. Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, presented diplomas to 195 graduates. The statistics for the Class of 2024 are as follows: 117 graduates plan to attend four-year colleges, 36 plan to attend two-year colleges, 6 plan to attend technical school, 2 plan to join the military, 2 exchange students, 12 graduates plan to join the workforce and 20 will pursue other opportunities or are undecided.

The following class scholars represented the highest five percent of the Class of 2024: David Pack, *Valedictorian*; Preeti Baiju, *Salutatorian*; Juliana Barbosa, Sahasra Darisi, Jenna Garrow, Megan Kellam, Noelle Krawczynski, Richard Murray, Tyler Smith, and Shivam Viroja.

CLASS OFFICERS

Kelsey Harnois Krithika Karthi Richard Murray Keira Warner

Eva A. Alberto	Megan Duskocy	Elise Rose LaPlante	Joshua Rockefeller
Thomas Shaun Ameral	Steven G. Dzen	Jillian M. LaPlante	Jonah Rodriguez
Aaron A. Asante	Brynlee Eckels	Cole Leavitt	Natalia Rodriguez
Megan Elizabeth Audet	Shane Engler	Haley Kathleen Lenz	Katya Lauren Rogers
Reese A. Bader	Lexie Marie Fazzina	Alexander Brian Lettieri	Cecilia Marie Rosander
Brooke Mckenzie Bahler	Rylan John Fischer	Sarah C. Levy	Dylan Roy
Preeti Baiju+	Keyleigh Flaherty	Kendyl R. Lohrman	Zahnovia Denise Darriel Russ
Kylie Michelle Balsom	Joshua Thomas Fleury	Jack E. M. Lomot	Ryan P. Sakos
Juliana Buzzo Barbosa+	Derek Fox	Carlitos Lopez Diaz	Anthony Salzillo
Reagan J. Bauman	Jaela Rose Garrow	Bridget Theresa Lucey	Kamryn Senberg
Sourya Venkata Beesabathuni	Jenna Marie Garrow+	Alyssa Vittoria Mainville	Conor Short
Lyric Ayauna Bell	Kalani Paige Gerhauser	Jalena S. Martin	Mason A. Siegel
Joshua D. Berardo	Julia K. Goric	Colleen Patricia McGrath	David Slotter
Christopher Neil Boan	Lucas R. Grass	Tara C. McLean	Tyler J. Smith+
Lindsay Dorinne Bock	Ashleigh P. Griffith	Timothy McMenamin	Henry Smyth
Grace Katherine Bontempo	Kelsey Ann Harnois	Tate Rose McNamar	Gianna Hope Soto
Kaitlyn Christina Boone	Minna Hasoon	Nora Joy Miller	Laela F. Soto
Sophia Rose Bourgoin	Zahwa S. Hasoon	Christian D. Miranda	Jacob R. St. Pierre
Caden Charles Branon	Mackenzie Holden	Mason A. Mongeau	Isabella Hannah Svalestad
Meaghan C. Bucklin	Aubriannah Jadae Hopkins	Emma Violet Montanari	Abigail Grace Tishon
Li Adrienne Bierras Burce	Jake Ryan Hurlburt	Landon Moreau	Krish Tomar
Connor C. Cain	Katie Elizabeth Hurlburt	Rose Marie Moreau	Trajan Nicholas Trantolo
Spencer David Campise	Trinity Jablonowski	Hayden S. Morin	Jayde Elise Tremonte
Kyle Patrick Casey	Anthony Gordon Jarvis	Charlotte D. Mund	Matthew J. Ulery
Zoe Cayo	Jada Rachael Jenkins	Alexander J. Munroe	Brady Vale
Sidhartha Chamuturi	Olivia Joy Jenkins	Kaitlyn Jayne Murphy	Matthew K. Varga
Emily Jane Charbonneau	Ayva Renee Johnson	Lucas Eoin Murray	Morgan Ella Kate Veach
Evan R. Charette	Elijah Johnson	Richard William Murray+	Akshith Velagapudi
Iram Chaudhry	Jayshawn Johnson	Ava E. Naumec	Zion Imawe Vernette
Tianna Marie Conaci	Angela Josevski	Tristan J. Neville	Aayush Vincent
Angelica Marie Cone	Ryan M. Kaczmarek	Daniel Nicolescu	James Kenneth Virkler
Elisabeth Couzens	Polina V. Karpenko	Layla A. Nieves	Mollie Kathleen Virkler
Ella Lee Crocker	Krithika Karthi	James O'Connor	Shivam S. Viroja+
Bryanna H. Cromwell	Jessica Kearney	Everly Ann Oliver	Keira Ann Warner
Caroline Mae Cuthbert	Megan S. Kellam+	Benjamin A. Ouellet	Emily Rose Wegiel
Katherine Margaret Czyz	Brogan Lanz Kent	Carina Anne Overgaard	Kayleigh Sue Wiegand
RJ Dabate	Kaitlyn Olivia Kerstetter	David Russell Pack+	Charles Williams
Jackson R. Danahy	Victoria Ann Kessel	Seth Paolo Pagsanhan	Chloe E. Williams
Sahasra Venkata Ravi Darisi+	Andrew Kilgore	Anjali Paruchuri	Kaitlyn Elizabeth Wisneski
Ishan Das	Jasmine Kim	Tristan T. Patterson	Liam Joseph Wrynn*
Joshua C. Davis	Kyra J. Kobak	Luke J. Pereira	Jedidah Xu
Ersilia De Angelis	Cooper R. Koehler	Gina Bell Perkins	Colin Yeager
Allison Louise Dearborn	Cooper H. Koehnke	Joshua S. Pierson	James Shipman York III
Rena Bliss Delap	Hannah Elizabeth Kozik	Mackenna Olivette Platt	Giada Jamie Zaffanella
Lakshmi Priyaa Devaraj	Noelle T. Krawczynski+	Joshua Plattner	Hassan Zahedi
Ansh Dharmadhikari	Juliana Marie LaFleche	Ian Poland	Cassidy Jo Zahner
Julian N. Diamond	Travis Raynold Lambert	Pranav. P. Rangaswamy	Darren Paul Zahner
Isabella Maria Dowd	Monica Lancedelli	Nathan Rawlinitis	Roy Zhang
Allyson Sonia Dubord	Joseph Lang	Samuel E. Reed	

† Class Scholar

Students who attained honor roll status each quarter during his/her high school career are wearing Silver Honor Cords

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

Students who attended National History Day in Washington, D.C. are wearing Black/Yellow/Red Honor Cords

Members of Troupe 5226 of the International Thespian Society are wearing Black/White Honor Cords Members of the Société Honoraire de Français are wearing Blue/White/Red Honor Cords

Members of the National Art Honor Society are wearing Rainbow Honor Cords Members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society are wearing Pink Honor Cords

Student Council Officers are wearing White Honor Cords Senior Class Officers are wearing Black Honor Cords Link Crew Members are wearing Navy Cords

National Latin Society are wearing Purple/Gold Cords La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica are wearing Red/Gold Cords Best Buddies are wearing Yellow/Orange Cords

**Congratulations to Private Liam Wrynn for Enlistment, Basic Training and Graduation in the United States Marine Corps.*

PEOPLE SERVING YOU

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

First Selectman: Lori L. Spielman
Town Administrator: Matthew D. Reed
Executive Assistant/Communications Coordinator:
Julia Connor
Human Resources Coordinator: LouAnn Cannella
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary:
Rebecca Einsiedel
Recording Secretary, Permanent Building Committee:
Christina Shackford

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control Officer: Barbara Murdach
Assistant Animal Control Officer (PT): Kathy Kane-DiBacco
Assistant Animal Control Officer (PD): Gregory Doane

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Assessor: John Rainaldi
Deputy Assessor: Laura Plona
Administrative Assessment Technician: Holly Petronella

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Official: Raymond F. Martin, III
Administrative Secretary II: Ginger MacHattie

ELLINGTON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORP

Emergency Medical Technicians: Deborah Landry-Schiessl (FT),
Erin Riordan (FT), Evan Card (PT), Kerri Cushing (PT),
Abigail Edelstein (PT), Derek Wyse (PT)
Per Diem Staff: Chad Adams, Olivia Alvesteffer, Abigail
Edelstein, Kim Gambacorta, Michael Girard, Aiden Ghiroli,
Kaila Morrow, Rachel Oakes, April Phelps, Caitlin Sutyak,
Noah Welti, Kimberly Winalski

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency & Risk Management Director: Walter Lee
Deputy Directors: John Streiber, Frederica Weeks

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Officer/Treasurer: Tiffany Pignataro
Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Treasurer: Felicia LaPlante
Accounting/Payroll Specialist: Scott Naylor
Accounting Assistant: Patricia Choiniere
Recording Secretary, Board of Finance: Elizabeth Phelps

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Fire Marshal: James York
Deputy Fire Marshal: Sydney Kern
Fire Inspector II: Gary Buzzell
Burning Officials: James York, Sydney Kern, Gary Buzzell

HUMAN SERVICES

Director of Human Services: Rebecca Stack
Elderly Outreach Social Worker: Stephen Clapp
Human Services Assistant: Kelly Luginbuhl

LIBRARY (Hall Memorial Library)

Director: Susan Phillips
Assistant Director/Head of Youth & Family Services:
Ashley Dabbondanza
Children's Librarian: Trish Brudz
Adult Programming & Technical Services Librarian:
Amanda Duhamel
Library Assistant II: Lisa Kuraska, Lisa Giaquinto
Library Technical Assistant: Cheryl Chamberlin
Library Assistant I: Tara Clynch, Lauren Desrocher,
Lindsay McKeegan, Heather Nosack, Luci Pantuosco,
Laurie Wormstedt
Reference Librarian: Linda Callahan, Michelle Farella
Bookkeeper/Recording Secretary: Rhonda Villanova
Pages: Maura Armstrong, Mia Fiasconaro, Xavier Riddle

MUNICIPAL AGENT: Rebecca Stack

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Director of Health: Patrice Sulik, MPH, RS

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Director of Recreation: Dustin Huguenin
Assistant Director of Recreation: Mary Bartley
Recreation Coordinator: Kevin Barrett
Administrative Secretary I: Tina Modzelewski

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

Town Planner: Lisa M. Houlihan
**Assistant Town Planner and Zoning and
Wetlands Enforcement Officer:** John D. Colonese
Land Use Assistant: Barbra Galovich
Recording Secretary: Nathaniel Trask

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident State Troopers:
Resident State Troopers' Office Supervisor: Sgt. Brian Santa
TFC. Tyler Burnell
Tpr. Justine Cedergren
Tpr. Joe Fratini
Tpr. Stephanie Gurski
Town Police Officers:
Bart Alexander, John Barth, Aaron Blank, Theodore Branon,
Donald Bridge, Arthur Carlson, III, Edward "Joe" Decker,
James Desso, Jeffrey Duda, SRO, Mark Estes, Stephen Estes,
Kevin Furbush, James Keeney, Jose Martinez
School Resource Officers: Jeffrey Duda
Marine Police Officers: Allen Bump, Sebastian Magnano,
John Streiber
Police Support Administrator: Edward "Joe" Decker

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Director of Public Works: Tom Modzelewski
Administrative Assistant II: Carolyn Kidney
Foreman: Taylor Olson
Assistant Foreman: Kevin Gambacorta
Crew Chief/Grounds: Bob Ouellette
Recycling and Refuse Manager: Samuel Saunders
Lead Mechanic: Saxon Marselli
Mechanic II: Perry Dikeman

Maintainer II: Patrick Roy, Ronald Moser
Maintainer I: Colton DuBois, Denis Giroux, John Hoffman,
Spencer Hutchinson, Keith Jarvis, Gregory Miano,
James Muratori, Benjamin Pare, Christopher Stanley,
Jason Suchecki

WPCA Tech/Maintainer I: Samuel Hubbard

Lead Custodian: Kim Gallicchio

Custodian: Dana DiNallo, Gary Berube, Victoria Brooks

Brush Drop-off Facility Attendant: Michael Messier

SENIOR CENTER

Senior Center Director: Sheila Grady

Senior Center Assistant Director: Samantha Baer

Senior Center Administrative Secretary II/

Transportation Coordinator: Erica Botti

Senior Center Program Assistant: Marjorie Richardson

Senior Center Kitchen Manager: Michael Castro

Senior Center Lead Van Driver: Louis Fleck

Senior Center Van Drivers: Eugene Allard, James Clyburn,
Stephen Reid, Kimberly Scofield-Gamboa

TAX DEPARTMENT

Tax and Revenue Collector: Ann Marie Conti

Deputy Tax and Revenue Collector: Ashley Bastien

Tax Clerk: Carlene Andrulat

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics: Donna G. Hosey

Assistant Town Clerk/Registrars of Vital Statistics:

Margaret Schmidt

Assistant Town Clerks (Per Diem):

Suzanne Litwin, Courtney Spazzarini

TOWN COUNSEL

Dorian Reiser Famiglietti, Esq.,

Kahan Kerensky & Capossela LLP

SPECIAL COUNSEL

Day Pitney LLC (*Bond Counsel*)

Shipman & Goodman (*Special Ed Counsel for
Board of Education*)

Kainen, Escalera & McHale (*Negotiations Counsel for
General Government and Board of Education*)

TOWN ENGINEER: J. R. Russo Surveyors • Engineers

TREE WARDEN: Tom Modzelewski

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (WPCA)

Administrator: Tom Modzelewski

Crew Chief/WPCA: Phillip Kidney

WPCA Technician/Maintainer I: Sam Hubbard

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Services Director: Kristen Harp

Assistant Youth Services Director: Kayla Bahler

Prevention Coordinator: Marque Mercure

Program Coordinator: Jessica Maitland

TOWN ELECTED OFFICIALS

(as of June 30, 2024)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Lori L. Spielman, *First Selectman*

David E. Stavens, *Deputy First Selectman*

Jamison Boucher

Mary Cardin

James M. Prichard

Ronald F. Stomberg

John W. Turner

TERM EXPIRES

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

BOARD OF FINANCE

Douglas Harding, *Chairman*

Daniel Keune, *Vice Chair*

Maurice Blanchette

Logan Johnson

Elizabeth Nord

Barry C. Pinto

December 2025

December 2027

December 2027

December 2027

December 2025

December 2025

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Dzen, *Chairman*

Kerry Socha, *Vice Chairman*

Gary Blanchette

Marcia Kupferschmid

Angela Moser

Jennifer Mullin

Miriam Underwood

Steven Viens

Lenora Williams

Michael Young

November 2025

November 2027

November 2025

November 2025

November 2025

November 2027

November 2027

November 2025

November 2027

November 2027

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Wanda Deland (*Republican*)

Lois Timms-Ferrara (*Democrat*)

January 2027

January 2027

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary E. Blanchette, *Chairman*

Peg Busse

Mary Cone

Pam McCormick

Judy Stomberg

Janet Wieliczka, *Treasurer*

December 2027

December 2027

December 2027

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Arlo Hoffman, *Chairman*

Sean Kelly, *Vice Chairman*

F. Michael Francis

William R. Hogan

Jonathan Moser

Robert C. Sandberg, Jr.

Michael J. Swanson

December 2025

December 2027

December 2025

December 2025

December 2025

December 2027

December 2027

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Sulakshana N. Thanvanthri, *Chairman*

Katherine Heminway, *Vice Chairman*

Kenneth M. Braga

Miranda Graziani

Subhra Roy

December 2027

December 2025

December 2025

December 2027

December 2027

APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

(as of June 30, 2024)

(Term Length – Month of Reappointment)

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

(One year - September)

Brian Cocuzzo, Chairman Lenora Williams
Jaimee DelPiano Anthea Grotton
Juliana Barbosa, Student Representative

AD HOC COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPING

POSITIVE YOUTH CULTURE (One year - August)

Kristen Harp Rebecca Stack
Mary Bartley Robin Johnson
Michael Nash TFC Tyler Burnell
Amy Darling John Lally
Marque Mercure Tracy Kearcher
Sgt. Brian Santa Scott Raiola
Julia Jasica Tara Moule
Leanne Mason Doughty Leah Coughlin
Oliver Burton, Student Representative

AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE

(One year - May)

David Arzt, Chairman Leon Veretto
Jean Burns Rodger Hosig
Victor Laptik

AD HOC ELLINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

(One year - April)

Katherine Heminway, Chairman Kay Luginbuhl
Carole Gerber Alyce Mayer
Karen Hunt Jennifer Wells
Aarti Nathan

AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

(One year - April)

Linda Anderson, Chairman Valerie Amsel
Cynthia van Zelm, Vice Chairman Deanna Wambolt-Gulick
Judi Manfre Donna Allen
Lindsay Neubecker Tom Palshaw
William Schultz Dan Chamberlin
Robert Barone Ann Harford

AD HOC EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

(One year - February/through December 2025*)

John Turner, Chairman, Board of Selectmen Representative*
Douglas Harding, Board of Finance Representative*
Robert Edwards, Crystal Lake Fire Department Representative
Gary Feldman, Sr., Ellington Volunteer Fire Department Rep.
Jack Rich II, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department Representative
Jamison Boucher, Board of Selectmen Representative*
Timothy Seitz, Crystal Lake Fire Department Representative
Bruce Hoffman, Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Representative
Walter Lee, Emergency Management Director
Peter Hany, Sr., Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Representative

AD HOC PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE (One year - December)

Christian Sauer, Chairman John Takach, Vice Chairman
Christian Cuthberg Bruce N. Warkentin
Sara K. Landon Cheryl Samborski
Rhonda Villanova, Secretary Joseph Boucher
James Lavey Robert Poggie
Jacob Cawthorn
Steven Villanova, John Takach, Logan Takach, Student Reps

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PINNEY HOUSE (One year - July)

Warren McGrath Matthew Shea
Dale Roberson Evin Roberson
Marcia Kupferschmid Debby Wallace

TERM EXPIRES

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS (Three years - January)

Aston Blake 2027
Suren Thirumappan 2026
 Alternates (Two years)
Joseph Malone 2026
Norman Perkins 2025

BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS (Five years - April)

Dennis Milanovich 2026
Donald Gobeille, Jr. 2027
Howard D. Reckert 2028

CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT

(Three years - June)

Jacob Nadeau 2026

COMMUNITY VOICE CHANNEL ADVISORY COUNCIL

(Two years - June)

Marc Diwinsky 2026

CT WATER COMPANY CUSTOMER ADVISORY COUNCIL

(One year - August)

Lois Timms-Ferrara (Alternate) 2025

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Four years - March)

Rebecca A. Quarno, Chairman 2027
David H. Bidwell, Vice Chairman 2025
Sean Dwyer 2026
James Gage 2027
George Nickerson 2025
Robert E. Zielfelder, Jr. 2026
Laurie Burstein 2028

Alternates (Two years)

Jonathan Kaczmarek 2026
Ann Harford 2025

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (Four years - June)

Michele Beaulieu 2025
Gary Chaplin 2025
Ronald F. Stomberg 2028
Katherine Heminway 2025
Landon Barlow 2028

DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF VOTERS (Four years - January)

Lois Goodin (Republican) 2027
Elizabeth Nord (Democrat) 2027

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

(Four years - July)

Sean Kelly, Chairman 2028
Donna Resutek, Vice Chairman 2025
Christopher Todd 2027
David Hurley 2026
Cynthia Soto 2026

Alternates (Two years - January)

Amos Smith 2025
Sam Chang 2025
Michael Swanson 2025

TERM EXPIRES

ETHICS COMMISSION *(Four years - January)*

Charles McCleary, <i>Chairman</i>	2025
Derek Reed, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2027
Deb Lynch	2028
Patience Turkson	2028
Madelina Williams	2026

HOUSING AUTHORITY *(Five years - June)*

Robert C. Sandberg, Jr., <i>Chairman</i>	2028
Michael Swanson, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2027
Atherton "Joe" Ryan, <i>Secretary</i>	2025
Dennis Varney	2026
Deborah Newton	2029

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION *(Four years - January)*

Gayethri Narayanswamy	2028
Hocine Baouche	2026
Rajee Assudani	2028
Deanna Wambolt-Gulick	2028
Lenora Williams	2026
Deborah Newton	2026
Patricia Szafir	2026
Diane Harding	2028

INLAND/WETLANDS AGENCY *(Four years - January)*

Jean Burns, <i>Chairman</i>	2025
Katherine Heminway, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2027
Kenneth Braga	2027
Ron Brown	2025
Landon Barlow	2027
Hocine Baouche	2025
Steven J. Hoffman	2027
Alternates <i>(Two years)</i>	
Jonathan Kaczmarek	2026
Ryan Orszulak	2025

INSURANCE ADVISORY BOARD *(Four years - April)*

Audrey Kubas, <i>Chairman</i>	2027
Mark Boone	2027
Elizabeth Nord	2025

MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL # 15 *(Three years - January)*

John H. Lally	2025
---------------	------

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS *(Three years - June)*

Dianne Trueb	2025
Fred Journalist	2025

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION *(Four years - January)*

Gordon Oliver, <i>Chairman</i>	2028
Thomas Boscarino	2028
Cynthia Costanzo	2028
Shay Drake	2026
Kevin Hayes	2026
Cheri Murphy	2028
Tara Kozik	2026
Sherryl Kraus	2026
Christopher Weitz	2026

TERM EXPIRES

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

(Four years - February/through November/December 2025**)*

Peter W. Welti, <i>Chairman</i>	2026
Gary Magnuson, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2028
Thomas Adams	2026
Gary T. Feldman, Sr.	2026
Dale Gerber	2028
Patrick Stavens	2026
Brian Chamberlin	2028
Ronald Stomberg <i>(BOS Representative)**</i>	2025
Gary Blanchette <i>(BOE Representative)*</i>	2025
James Fay <i>(BOF Representative)**</i>	2025
Sean Kelly <i>(P&Z Representative)**</i>	2025
Tom Modzelewski, Public Works Director <i>(Ex-officio)</i>	

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ALTERNATES

(Two years - September)

Rachel Dearborn	2025
Jeremiah Williams	2025

SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION

(Three Years - October/through November/December 2025**)*

Christopher Socha, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2026
Tracey Kiff-Judson	2024
Sharon McLaughlin	2024
Peg Busse	2026
Jennifer Dzen <i>(BOE Representative)*</i>	2025
Daniel Keune <i>(BOF Representative)**</i>	2025
David Stavens <i>(BOS Representative)**</i>	2025

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

(Four years - April)

Daniel J. Parisi, <i>Chairman</i>	2025
Paul F. Gilbert	2026
Shawn Koehler	2028
Aaron Foster	2026
Tom Walker	2027

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATES

(Two years - August)

Ronald Brown	2025
Rodger Hosig	2026
Ronald F. Stomberg	2026

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

DEMOCRAT

Hocine Baouche
Cynthia Costanzo
Thomas Curtiss
Keith Durao
Rachel Durao
John M. Giordano
Pamela Foster
John M. Halloran, Jr.
Lois Timms-Ferrara

REPUBLICAN

Nicole S. Albano
Maurice W. Blanchette
Peter J. Charter
Christopher C. Davis
Ann L. Harford
Wayne G. Johnson
Sean C. Kelly
Daniel C. Keune
Laurie Lemek
Sharon J. McLaughlin
Lori L. Spielman
David Stavens
Ronald F. Stomberg
Rhonda Villanova

UNAFFILIATED

James Darby
Kiel S. Miller
Christina Marie Morin
Sylvie Nadeau
Bettie Jeanne Rivard-Darby
Elizabeth C. Waters

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE

GOVERNOR

Ned Lamont

State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 566-4840 • (800) 406-1527
Fax (860) 524-7397
www.portal.ct.gov/office-of-the-governor

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Susan Bysiewicz

State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue, Room 304
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 524-7384
Fax (860) 524-7304
www.ct.gov/office-of-the-lt-governor

SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Stephanie Thomas

PO Box 150470
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000
Hartford, CT 06115-0470
(860) 509-6200
Fax (860) 509-6209
www.ct.gov/sots

STATE TREASURER

Erick Russell

165 Capitol Avenue, 2nd floor
Hartford, CT 06106
(860)-702-3000
Fax (860) 618-3404
www.ott.ct.gov

ATTORNEY GENERAL

William Tong

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 808-5318
Fax (860) 808-5387
www.ct.gov/AG

REPRESENTATIVE (57th DISTRICT)

Jaime Foster

Legislative Office Building, Room 4009
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-8585 • (800) 842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Foster

SENATOR (3rd DISTRICT)

Saud Anwar

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-0347 • (860) 240-8600
www.senatedems.ct.gov/anwar

SENATOR (35th DISTRICT)

Jeff Gordon

Legislative Office Building, Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-8800 • (800) 842-1421
www.ctsenaterepublicans.com/home-gordon

SENATOR (7th DISTRICT)

John Kissel

Legislative Office Building, Room 2503
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-8800 • (800) 842-1421
www.ctsenaterepublicans.com/home-kissel

FEDERAL

SENATOR

Richard Blumenthal

90 State House Square, 10th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 258-6940
Fax (860) 258-6958

706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2823
Fax (202) 224-9673
www.blumenthal.senate.gov

SENATOR

Chris Murphy

120 Huyshope Avenue
Colt Gateway, Suite 401
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 549-8463
Fax (860) 524-5091

136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4041
Fax (202) 224-9750
www.murphy.senate.gov

CONGRESSMAN (2nd District)

Joe Courtney

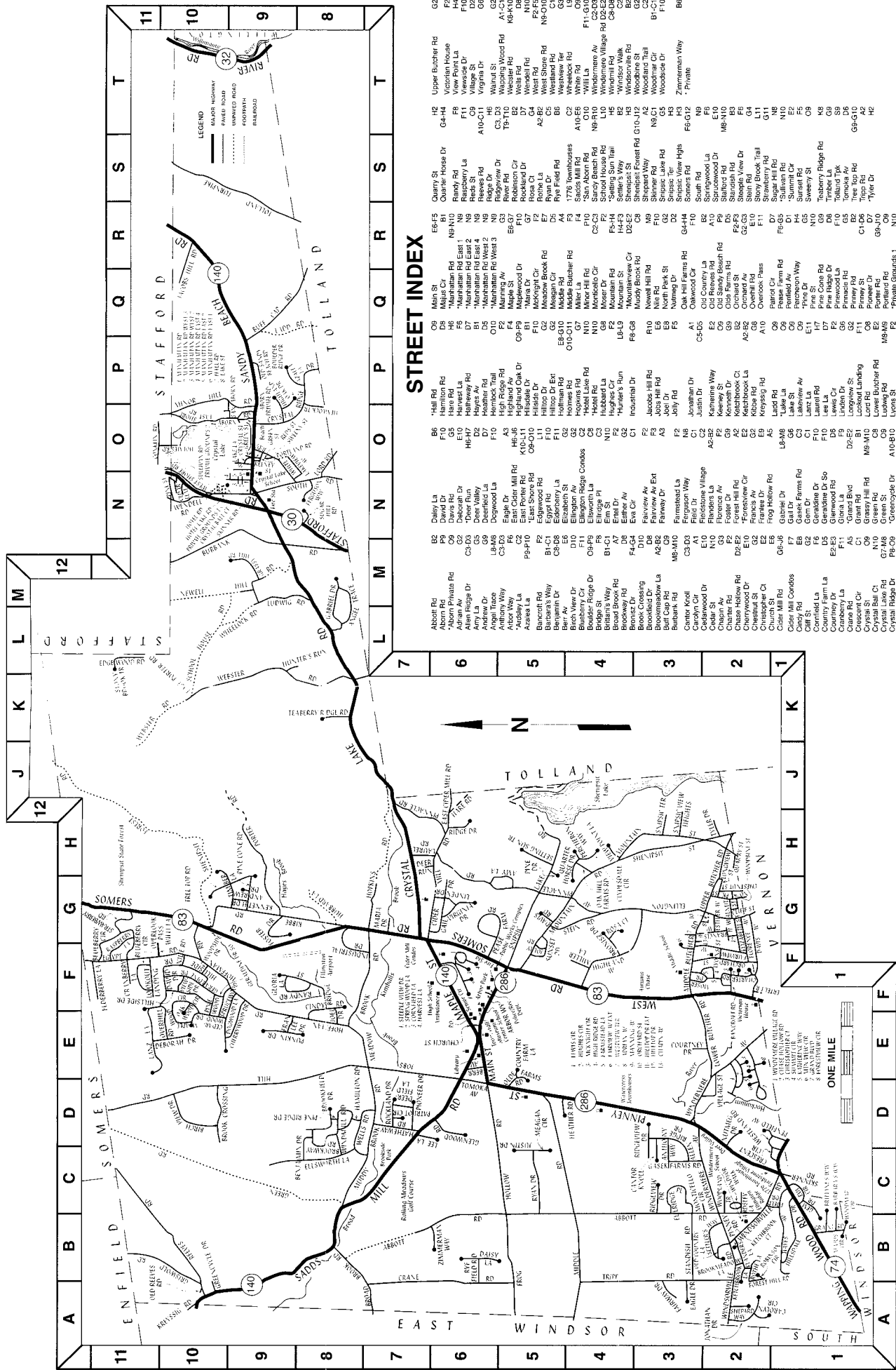
77 Hazard Avenue, Unit J
Enfield, CT 06082
(860) 741-6011
Fax (860) 886-6036

2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2076
Fax (202) 225-4977
www.courtney.house.gov

PRESIDENT

Joseph Biden

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414
www.whitehouse.gov



STREET INDEX

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|------------|-----|---------------|----|-------------|
| A | Abert Rd | B6 | High Rd | BE | Galley La | B2 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| B | Aborn Rd | B7 | Hilltop Dr | B3 | Davis Rd | B3 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| C | Adrian Av | B8 | High Ridge Rd | B4 | Deborah Dr | B4 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| D | Adrian Rd | B9 | High Ridge Rd | B5 | Deborah Dr | B5 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| E | Adrian Rd | B10 | High Ridge Rd | B6 | Deborah Dr | B6 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| F | Adrian Rd | B11 | High Ridge Rd | B7 | Deborah Dr | B7 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| G | Adrian Rd | B12 | High Ridge Rd | B8 | Deborah Dr | B8 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| H | Adrian Rd | B13 | High Ridge Rd | B9 | Deborah Dr | B9 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| I | Adrian Rd | B14 | High Ridge Rd | B10 | Deborah Dr | B10 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| J | Adrian Rd | B15 | High Ridge Rd | B11 | Deborah Dr | B11 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| K | Adrian Rd | B16 | High Ridge Rd | B12 | Deborah Dr | B12 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| L | Adrian Rd | B17 | High Ridge Rd | B13 | Deborah Dr | B13 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| M | Adrian Rd | B18 | High Ridge Rd | B14 | Deborah Dr | B14 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| N | Adrian Rd | B19 | High Ridge Rd | B15 | Deborah Dr | B15 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| O | Adrian Rd | B20 | High Ridge Rd | B16 | Deborah Dr | B16 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| P | Adrian Rd | B21 | High Ridge Rd | B17 | Deborah Dr | B17 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| Q | Adrian Rd | B22 | High Ridge Rd | B18 | Deborah Dr | B18 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| R | Adrian Rd | B23 | High Ridge Rd | B19 | Deborah Dr | B19 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| S | Adrian Rd | B24 | High Ridge Rd | B20 | Deborah Dr | B20 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| T | Adrian Rd | B25 | High Ridge Rd | B21 | Deborah Dr | B21 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| U | Adrian Rd | B26 | High Ridge Rd | B22 | Deborah Dr | B22 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| V | Adrian Rd | B27 | High Ridge Rd | B23 | Deborah Dr | B23 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| W | Adrian Rd | B28 | High Ridge Rd | B24 | Deborah Dr | B24 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| X | Adrian Rd | B29 | High Ridge Rd | B25 | Deborah Dr | B25 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| Y | Adrian Rd | B30 | High Ridge Rd | B26 | Deborah Dr | B26 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |
| Z | Adrian Rd | B31 | High Ridge Rd | B27 | Deborah Dr | B27 | Book Crossing | DE | Chastnut Ct |

INFORMATION GUIDE

AREA

Ellington is located 17 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. According to Department of Public Health estimates, the population was approximately 16,994 as of July 1, 2023.

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 94 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 36.0 mills applied to the 2023 Grand List at 70% of Fair Market Value of real estate and personal property. The tax rate for motor vehicles is 32.46 mills.

SEWERS

The Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority manages two major sewer systems: 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 CT Water Co. 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 2023-24 is 2,547 students. Within a 20-mile radius the Town has access to the University of Connecticut, Manchester Community Technical College, Eastern Connecticut State University, Trinity College and Asnuntuck Community Technical College.

INCOME

The Median income per household was \$124,495 as of the 2022 Census.

HOUSING

As of the 2020 Census, the Town of Ellington had 7,418 housing units, including 462 condominiums. There are 11 apartment complexes, 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, and the State of Connecticut maintains a public boat launch at the lake. The Pavilion at Robert Tedford Memorial Park was completed in 1991, equipped with restrooms and a concession stand, and is available for local groups to reserve through the Parks and Recreation Office. In 2004, a new playscape was constructed for elementary children at Center School. In 2012, four new tennis courts were completed at Schwartz Field next to Ellington High School. The Pinney Street fields, which include lacrosse and soccer fields, were constructed and completed in 2015. In 2023, two outdoor pickleball courts were constructed at Robert Tedford Memorial Park, and the Ellington High School track was resurfaced, ensuring safer and more efficient use for athletes. In 2024, we enhanced our recreational facilities by adding state-of-the-art athletic field lights to every facility in town, improving usability during evening hours. Additionally, publicly and ADA-accessible outdoor fitness equipment was installed at Arbor Park, promoting health and wellness for all community members. Arbor Park, located on Main Street, features a walking course, two gazebos, picnic and chess tables. The Town also maintains athletic facilities at each school, Robert Tedford Memorial Park, and Pinney Street Fields, ensuring well-maintained playing fields for our community.

LOCAL BUSINESS

The Ellington business community is currently a blend of agriculture and small commercial and industrial enterprises. The local dairy industry continues to be a major producer of goods. The top industries in Ellington include Food and Beverage Stores, Machinery Manufacturing, Specialty Trade Contractors, Health Care and Social Assistance. The Ellington Farmers Market runs Saturdays from May - October; 9am -12:00pm at 72 Maple Street and the Winter Market typically runs November thru February at Ellington High School.

SENIOR CENTER

The Ellington Senior Center is located at 40 Maple 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.-12:30 p.m.



ELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District School Calendar

First Day: August 29, 2024
181st Day: June 11, 2025

2024 – 2025

AUGUST 2024							(2)
S	M	T	W	TH	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	

(18)							FEBRUARY 2025	
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S		
						1	Half Day – PD	14
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	President's Day	17
9	10	11	12	13	14★	15	Full Day – PD	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28			

SEPTEMBER 2024							(20)	
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S		
2	Labor Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25	Half Day – PD	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25★	26	27	28
		29	30					

(20)							MARCH 2025	
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S		
						1	Half Day – PD	26
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		

OCTOBER 2024							(22)
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
11	Half Day – PD		1	2	3	4	5
14	Columbus Day	6	7	8	9	10	11★
		13	14	15	16	17	18
		20	21	22	23	24	25
		27	28≈	29≈	30≈	31±	

(18)							APRIL 2025		
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S			
		31	1	2	3	4	5	Half Day – PD	11
6	7	8	9	10	11★	12	Spring Break	14-17	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Good Friday	18	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30						

NOVEMBER 2024							(17)
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
1	Full Day – PD				1	2	
5	Election Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
27	Half Day	10	11	12	13	14•	15μ
28-29	Thanksgiving Break	17	18	19	20	21	22
		24	25	26	27★	28	29

(21)							MAY 2025	
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S		
				1	2	3	Half Day – PD	23
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Memorial Day	26
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23★	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

DECEMBER 2024							(15)
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
20	Half Day	1	2	3	4◇	5◇	6◇
24-25	Christmas Break	8	9	10	11	12	13
23-31	Winter Vacation	15	16	17	18	19	20★
		22	23	24	25	26	27
		29	30	31			

(8)							JUNE 2025	
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Projected Last Day*	11
8	9	10	11★	12	13	14	EHS Graduation*	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30							

JANUARY 2025							(20)
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	
1	New Year's Day		1	2	3	4	
17	Full Day – PD	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	MLK Jr. Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
		19	20	21	22	23	24
		26	27	28	29	30	31

(8)							JULY 2025	
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	Ind. Day Observance	3-4
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					

- Schools Closed
- Schools/District Closed
- Professional Development Days/Schools Closed

- ◇ Early Dismissal Day – Elementary
- Early Dismissal – EHS
- ≈ Early Dismissal – EMS
- ± Late Opening – EMS
- μ Late Opening - EHS
- ★ Early Dismissal Day

SEE REVERSE FOR A LIST OF SCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSAL/LATE ARRIVAL DAYS, INCLUDING A LIST OF 2024-2025 HOLIDAYS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

*EHS Graduation will take place on June 13, 2025. This graduation date will remain June 13, 2025 in the event school closings push back the 181st day. *The last day for students will be on June 11, 2025 *In the event of excessive snow days, a decision regarding April vacation will be made as early in March as possible.

NOTE: PD date (1/17) may be moved to 1/2 based on the Windermere Building Project. TBD.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

(Area Code 860)

IN AN EMERGENCY (POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE) DIAL 911

Non-Emergency Calls		Visit the website at ellington-ct.gov	
Ambulance	Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps 41 Maple Street, P.O. Box 71	870-3170	Town Hall Address: 55 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 187, Ellington, CT 06029 Town Hall Hours Monday 8:00 am to 6:30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Friday <i>Closed</i> <i>*Public Works, Hall Memorial Library, and the Senior Center have different operating hours; check the website for details.</i>
Fire	Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department 316 Sandy Beach Road	870-3174	
	Ellington Volunteer Fire Department 29 Main Street, P.O. Box 911	870-3190	
Police	Resident State Troopers' Office 33 Arbor Way, P.O. Box 187	875-1522	
	State Police Troop C 1320 Tolland Stage Road, Tolland CT	896-3200	
ADMINISTRATION, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 187		870-3100	SCHOOLS website: ellingtonschools.org Scott Nicol, Ed.D., Superintendent, 47 Main Street 896-2300 Tracey Deptula, Assistant to the Superintendent 896-2312 (Fax) Jennifer Brown, Human Resources Coordinator 896-2300 Special Education Services 896-2300 Center School (Michael Verderame, Principal) 896-2315 Crystal Lake School (John Powell, Principal) 896-2322 Ellington High School (John Guidry, Principal) 896-2352 High School Guidance Office 896-2357 Ellington Middle School (Michele Murray and Michael Nash, Principals) 896-2339 Windermere School (Jennifer Hill, Principal) 896-2329 SENIOR CENTER, 40 Maple Street 870-3133 Sheila Grady, Director 870-3136 (Fax) Samantha Baer, Assistant Director Erica Botti, Administrative Secretary Transportation 870-3133 SEWER ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE 870-3140 Tom Modzelewski, Director & WPCA Administrator Emergency Sewer Maintenance Number 870-3145 STATE ROADS East Windsor DOT Garage 623-4473 Vernon DOT Garage 875-4993 TAX DEPARTMENT, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 158 870-3113 Ann Marie Conti, Tax and Revenue Collector 870-3704 (Fax) Deputy Tax and Revenue Collector Tax Clerk TOWN CLERK/VITAL STATISTICS, 55 Main Street 870-3105 Donna G. Hosey, Town Clerk 870-3721 (Fax) Margaret Schmidt, Assistant Town Clerk TOWN PLANNER, 57 Main Street 870-3120 Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner 870-3122 (Fax) John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner Barbra Galovich, Land Use Assistant TREE WARDEN, 21 Main Street 870-3140 Tom Modzelewski, Tree Warden VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVE 870-3182 Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management 870-3103 (Fax) VOTING, (Registrars of Voters) 55 Main Street 870-3107 Lois Timms-Ferrara, Democrat, Registrar of Voters 870-3108 (Fax) Wanda DeLand, Republican, Registrar of Voters YOUTH SERVICES, 31 Arbor Way 870-3130 Kristen Harp, Director 870-3198 (Fax) Kayla Bahler, Assistant Youth Services Director Marque Mercure, Prevention Coordinator Jessica Maitland, Program Coordinator ZONING/WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT, 57 Main St. 870-3120 John Colonese, Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement Off. 870-3122 (Fax)
Lori Spielman, First Selectman		870-3102 (Fax)	
Matthew Reed, Town Administrator			
LouAnn Cannella, Human Resources Coordinator			
Julia Connor, Exec Assistant/Communications Coordinator			
Rebecca Einsiedel, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary			
ANIMAL CONTROL, 21 Main Street		870-3155	
Barbara Murdach, Animal Control Officer		870-3554 (Fax)	
ASSESSOR, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 199		870-3109	
John Rainaldi, Assessor		870-3197 (Fax)	
Laura Plona, Deputy Assessor			
Holly Petronella, Administrative Assessment Technician			
BUILDING DEPARTMENT, 57 Main Street		870-3124	
Raymond Martin, Building Official		870-3122 (Fax)	
Ginger MacHattie, Administrative Secretary			
BURNING PERMITS, 57 Main Street		870-3126	
CEMETERIES, Rachel Dearborn		875-8204	
ELDERLY OUTREACH, 31 Arbor Way		870-3131	
Stephen Clapp, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker			
EMERGENCY & RISK MANAGEMENT		870-3182	
Walter Lee, Emergency & Risk Management Director		870-3103 (Fax)	
FINANCE, 55 Main Street		870-3115	
Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer		870-3158 (Fax)	
Felicia LaPlante, Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Treasurer			
Patricia Choiniere, Accounting Assistant			
Scott Naylor, Accounting & Payroll Specialist			
FIRE MARSHAL, 57 Main Street		870-3126	
James York, Fire Marshal		870-3122 (Fax)	
Sydney Kern, Deputy Fire Marshal			
HEALTH-North Central District Health Department		745-0383	
Patricia (Patrice) Sulik, M.P.H., R.S. Director of Health			
HOUSING AUTHORITY, 20 Main Street, PO Box 416		872-6923	
HUMAN SERVICES, 31 Arbor Way		870-3128	
Rebecca Stack, Director		870-3198 (Fax)	
Stephen Clapp, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker			
Kelly Hearn, Human Services Assistant			
LIBRARY, HALL MEMORIAL 93 Main St, PO Box 280		870-3160	
Susan Phillips, Director		870-3163 (Fax)	
MUNICIPAL AGENT, 31 Arbor Way		870-3128	
POLICE, 33 Arbor Way		870-1698	
Sgt. Brian Santa, Resident State Troopers' Office		870-3152 (Fax)	
POST OFFICE, 6 Church Street		875-6391	
PROBATE COURT, 14 Park Place, Vernon		872-0519	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 21 Main Street		870-3140	
Tom Modzelewski, Director & WPCA Administrator		870-3147 (Fax)	
Taylor Olson, Foreman			
Carolyn Kidney, Administrative Assistant			
RECREATION, 31 Arbor Way		870-3118	
Dustin Huguenin, Director		871-3198 (Fax)	
Mary Bartley, Assistant Director			
Kevin Barrett, Recreation Supervisor			
Tina Modzelewski, Administrative Secretary			
Recycling and Refuse 870-3140 Samuel Saunders, Recycling & Refuse Manager Department of Public Works		Trash or Bulky Waste Pickup Information call All American Waste (860) 289-7850 Visit www.ellington-ct.com/hhw for Hazardous Wastes Information	



www.Ellington-ct.gov



townofellington



@townofellington



townofellington